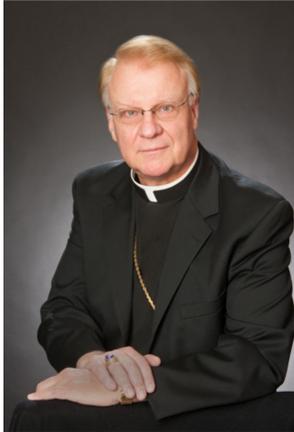




# St. Stan's News



## Do you hear what I hear?

So, what does Newtonian physics have in common with the call of Jesus to the first four of the twelve disciples and to all of his followers down through the centuries as well?

Well, the common thread between them is Sir Isaac Newton's First Law of Motion.

You might have heard of it: *A body at rest will stay at rest until [it's moved] by outside forces.*

Basically, it says that nothing moves until it's made to. On reflection, this may explain why a man can 'stay at rest' all Sunday afternoon in an armchair with his TV remote control and Cheetos, and keep at it until an outside force moves him, like his loving wife, screaming at him to take out the garbage.

It's also an outside force that moves the disciples *from* a condition of stability and balance *to* one of creative and soul-saving chaos. And the exertion of this life-changing outside force springs from Jesus when he leaves his hometown to begin his ministry in the Sea of Galilee region and comes upon two sets of brothers who are fishermen: Simon and Andrew, James and John.

All four men experience an irresistible outside force when Jesus calls them to drop their nets, leave their occupations, and walk away from their families to follow him.

And they do! They actually follow him!

What becomes evident to them later is that Jesus hasn't asked them to do anything he wasn't already doing himself. He modeled for these fishermen the discipline and the sacrifice that he would ultimately require of them.

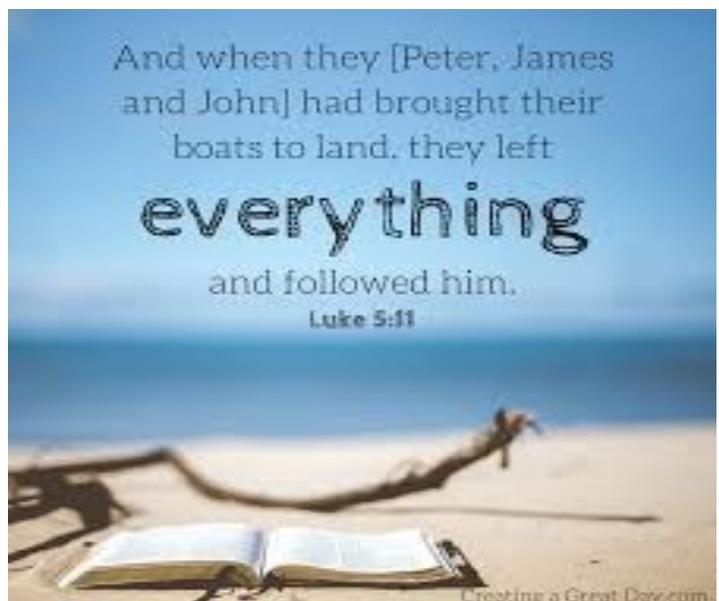
Jesus himself abandoned the comfort and in-

come and security of a carpenter's shop for the uncertain path of God's call. This couldn't have been an easy thing overall. Leaving the carpenter's shop meant leaving a predictable income, along with his neighbors and friends and family. And most of all, his departure meant leaving his mother, Mary, without his direct care.

And what was Jesus leaving all this for? Did he understand fully his role as Messiah, with the demands of ministry, and eventual torture and crucifixion? It took a huge leap of faith for him, too, to step away from Nazareth, his hometown. He *was* human, too, after all.

It was completely consistent with everything Jesus himself had already done, to call these brothers to leave their nets, their homes of origin, and *the plans that they had for their lives.*

Indeed, Jesus' call acted on these men's lives to move them from safety and self-sustenance to journey with him, to work with him in ministry, and *to redirect their personal plans for the future.* In a word, to exchange all they knew in order to undertake a journey with him without maps. Those simple fishermen, in accepting his call, stepped into the forefront of the most sweeping change in human history.



I said at the outset, that the call of Jesus was not only made to the first twelve disciples but to all his followers down through the centuries, including you and me. And as you consider your response to that call, you know well that you don't make any kind of a difference in your life or in someone else's if you're a body at rest, living your life only from within the security, comfort and safety of your armchair, outfitted with the TV remote and some Cheetos.

Those of you who are making a difference in your own life and in someone else's, know full well there's always some leap of faith, there's always some risk-taking if any progress is to happen and any goals be achieved. In baseball, even I know you can't steal second base while keeping your foot on first.

So the four fishermen followed Jesus, and entered into a lifetime of motion, instead of remaining at rest within the status quo of the sameness and the reliability of being at home with their nets. They realized, as we do today, that following Jesus entails action; that following Jesus involves daring, movement (both physical and psychological), and readjustment (in many ways). Following Jesus is not at all sedentary. Following Jesus is not at all an inactive life.

"Follow me," he said. And they *did!* And Jesus still makes that same call to you; yes, with all it entails.

Do you hear - what I hear?

*Bishop Bernard*



## Stewardship Pledge

The 2022 Stewardship Pledge statements have been sent out to all our parishioners, along with a new pledge form for 2023.

Our new pledge system seems to be working well thanks to your generous and faithful contributions.

We ask all parishioners to submit their Stewardship Pledge for 2023 as soon as possible, hopefully by the end of February. You can send the form to the Cathedral address, drop it off at the Parish Office or put it in the collection basket on Sunday.

If you have any questions, please stop by the parish office, see a Parish committee member or call the office during the week.

Thank you for your generous contributions this past year, and as you pledge for 2023, remember the needs of our church for the coming year.

## Welcome New Members

We wish to extend a warm welcome to Cindy Noldy as a new member of St. Stanislaus Cathedral.



Cindy is a friend of Michael Cole and has decided to join us here at St. Stanislaus. She was officially accepted as members of St. Stanislaus at the January meeting.

Congratulations to Cindy and we are looking forward to worshipping and working with you.

## 2023 Offering Envelopes

There are still some offering envelopes left. Please pick yours up after Mass on Sunday in the parish hall. You may also make arrangements to pick them up during the week by calling the Parish Office at 570-961-9231 Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



If you see someone's envelopes who can not make it to church and you live close by, please consider dropping them off at the parishioner's home. It would be greatly appreciated.

## YMS of R Happenings

### Annual Meeting

The YMS of R held its annual meeting on Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at Dooley Pub and Eatery. The following men were elect-



ed for this coming year: Joe Nasser, president; Frank Gerardi and Jake Stankowski, vice-president; Jerome



Hughes, treasurer; Nick Gerardi, financial secretary; Dr. Mike Umerich, secretary; Bob Seliga, sick committee and

Ed Meleski, refreshment committee. After the meeting, the members enjoyed the refreshments and comradery.

### Hoagie & Pizza Sale

On January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, the YMS of R prepared and distributed the hoagies and pizza. Because the sales have been successful (ready for football



games), Branch 1 is holding another Hoagie and Pizza sale for Super Bowl Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup>.



They will be making 12" Italian or turkey hoagies, as well as take and bake plain and pepperoni square pizzas.

**Pick up will be on Sunday, after Mass.**

The price for the hoagies will be \$10.00 each, which includes lettuce, tomato and onion, as well as condiments (oil/vinegar, mayo or spicy

mustard), all prepackaged on the side. Pizzas will be 12-cut square and are \$17.00 for plain and \$20.00 for pepperoni.

The deadline for orders is Tuesday, February 7, 2023 using the signup sheet in the lower church hall or by calling Frank Gerardi at (570) 587-3672. Please indicate the type and number of pizzas and/or hoagies desired (as well as the appropriate number and types of condiments for any hoagies). Thanks in advance for your support.

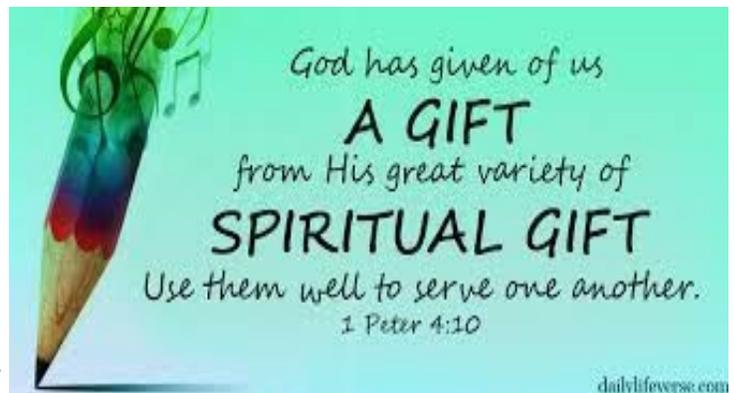
### Winter Clothing Drive

Branch #1 Y.M.S. of R. would like to thank everyone who donated to the United Y.M.S. of R. Winter Clothing Drive.

There were many bags dropped off and many items of clothing in each bag. The items were counted by Frank and Nick Gerardi. Here was the total: 39 coats; 75 sweaters/sweatshirts; 22 pairs of pants; 149 shirts/t-shirts; 6 winter hats; 15 pairs of gloves; 28 pairs of underwear; 8 under shirts; and 74 pairs of socks. Other items were 2 pairs of slippers; 8 scarves; 2 blankets and 1 winter face covering. Our grand total was 3,280 points.



All items were donated to the Salvation Army, dropped off by Frank and Jake Gerardi. Even if the Parish doesn't place in the contest, we can be proud that we are helping those in need in our community. Again, thank you!



## Music Scholarship Sunday

Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Music Scholarship Sunday. We are happy to announce that two of our parishioners, Kaitlyn Gigerlowski and Leslie Doyle, have received a Music Scholarship from the program to assist in their musical pursuits.

At the beginning of Mass, Leslie addressed the parishioners on the advantages of singing in a church choir and what the music ministry at St. Stanislaus has meant to her. Becky Elfman, our organ-



ist and music director then presented both Leslie and Kaitlyn a certificate and small gift from the Cathedral Chorale. During mass Kaitlyn, on her violin, accompanied the Chorale on their anthem *When In Our Music*

*God Is Glorified* and concluded the service with the Postlude, *Sonata in F Major - 3. Allegro* by G. F. Handel.

Kaitlyn is pursuing a degree in Music Therapy at Marywood University. A talented violinist, Kaitlyn has played on several occasions here at the Cathedral. We look forward to hearing her again in the future.



Leslie is a member of the Cathedral Chorale and has also accompanied the choir on her guitar. She is using her scholarship toward guitar lessons. We are glad that Leslie is using her talents with the choir.

Please be as generous as you are able in supporting the Music Scholarship Program and the Music Ministry of our Cathedral. Applications for 2023 scholarships are currently available at [nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com](http://nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com). The deadline for applying is May 1, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact the Scholarship Administrator at [nucscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:nucscholarship@gmail.com).

## Our Pre-Lent Devotional Booklet

The Reverend Doctor Scott Lill of our Buffalo Pittsburgh Diocese has prepared for all of us an excellent devotional for the season of Pre-Lent. This devotional effort of his is entitled *The Season of Pre-Lent: A Time of Preparation for Polish National Catholics*. This small reader is available to you starting Sunday February 5<sup>th</sup> which is the first day of the season of Pre-Lent. Please take one home with you from the stand in the lower narthex as you enter the Cathedral. Use it daily, following its suggestions for activities, readings, meditations and self-reflective periods in Catholic Christian spirituality.

Through these efforts, we'll prepare ourselves to "undertake the Lenten Journey of transformation" and "arrive at our celebration of our Lord's resurrection" with "faith strengthened, hope fortified, and divine charity fully ablaze within us .... by the aid of God's grace ...." (pre-lenten devotional booklet, p. 5).



## Epiphany/Presentation of the Lord

The solemnity of the Epiphany or the Three Kings was celebrated on Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> with Mass at Noon in the Cathedral. Before Mass, the traditional blessing of incense, charcoal and chalk was held.



The solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord or Candlemas Day was celebrated on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> with the blessing of candles. The celebration took place in the lower chapel because of some "renovations" taking place in the cathedral proper. More to come on this project next month.



## Annual Parish Meeting

The annual parish meeting is being scheduled for its usual time on the first Sunday in March, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

There will only be one mass on that Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and the annual meeting will commence after mass in the parish hall. Annual reports will be placed in the parish hall for all parishioners to obtain. They will be available in the later part of February before the meeting.

One important item on the agenda will be a change to the amount of dividends and interest that can be drawn from the Endowment Fund.

If anyone is interested in joining the parish committee for this year please contact Carol Nasser (570-840-5502), Linda Vitcavage (480-329-7021) or the parish office 570-961-9231).

Please keep this date open to participate in this important meeting.



## Mass Schedule Change

### Change of Mass Times

Please note that in the upcoming weeks there will be a few changes of mass times.

The first is **March 5<sup>th</sup>** which is the Annual Congregational Meeting. There will only be one mass on that day at **9:00 a.m.**

The second change will be during the Lent and Easter season **Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.** and **Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.**

Please mark your calendars to be aware of these changes



## Another Baby is Splashed!

Lincoln Anthony Meleski was welcomed into the Christian faith on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Lincoln is the son of Toni Anne Meleski and brother to

Alex Meleski. Godparents are Adam Weaver and Lindsey Duffy. Lincoln's grandparents are Carl Weaver and the late Gracie Weaver, and Ed and Janet Meleski.

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky performed the baptism. The family received a prayer shawl to wrap Lincoln in God's Love and the initial Splash Program from the School of Christian Living to help them grow in faith.

Congratulations and may God bless little Lincoln Anthony and his family!



# St. Stan's News

## Youth Center Roof is Completed

Finally, the lower back youth center roof project has been completed. Greg Slack's Roofing started on the project in the later part of October when most of the supplies became available. But the project could not be completed until the middle of January because of the metal cap that goes around the edge of the roof. The metal was in short supply and we had to wait for the supplies to come in and the cap to be formed.



Good news!  
Everything is now completed.



## Youth Basketball is back at St. Stanislaus!!!

Signups up are now underway to begin our Youth Basketball League on Friday nights in our Youth Center located next to St. Stanislaus Cathedral. Play began on Friday, January 20th and we welcome anyone interested in being active on a Friday evening during these long cold months of winter!



Please contact Art Golembeski (artbowl@msn.com) with any questions.



## Can You Coffee??

Over the next few months we would love to see you help with running our "after 9:30 am Holy Mass coffee hour". Coffee hour is a great fellowship time that we all know and love. Like many things we are short-handed and want to keep this favorite event going. Would you like to sponsor and run a coffee hour? The Cathedral covers all costs and we can even give you a list of what gets done or you can do your own thing! We are placing a sign up sheet in the church auditorium where you, family, and friends can sign up to be the "Coffee Hour Sponsor of the Week". Any questions can be directed to the Parish Office.



## The Fresh Grocer Cards Are Here

Gerrity's Fresh Grocer gift cards are here in the Parish Office for sale. You can get your \$25 gift card during the week by calling the parish office (570-961-9231) and arranging to pick them up or you can stop in the parish office on Sunday.



## Meditation for Thursday's Solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord

*offered by Father Janusz, February 2<sup>nd</sup>*

Let us begin our meditation with a story written by Ashley Russell.

When the author, Ashley Russell, she was ten years old, her parents organized a roller blading party for her. Unfortunately, she fell and broke her wrist. Her parents didn't cancel the party, though, because everything for it was already prepared. The invitations were sent, the food ordered, and the invited guests were expected: Ashley's teachers, friends, and neighbors.

On the day of her party, Ashley was standing by the front door greeting her friends and guests. When her friend, Sarah, came, it was obvious she was limping. Sarah told Ashley that while she can't roller blade, she can still be with her, to talk with her and spend time with her. Sarah stayed with Ashley the whole time.

A few weeks later Ashley's mom saw Sarah's mother at the store and asked her if Sarah's leg was better. Her mom looked incredibly surprised and said she didn't know about any such leg problem. She said that Sarah had never hurt her leg. When Ashley found this out, she realized that Sarah had stayed with her just to make her feel better. Her devoted friend, Sarah, had given her the best present of all.

My dear brothers and sisters, I brought this story to you as it's based on the readings at Mass for today. I want to ask you to pay attention to two things. One is friendship and the second is the privilege it is to belong to the Church.

Why do you think there are not so many people in church on Sunday? Why do you think there are more empty pews? I think all the people do not understand the words from today's Gospel where it says, "Behold this child is des-



tinued for the fall and rise of many in Israel and will be a sign that will be contradicted." I think many people do not have problems participating in church events, but they have problems participating in Holy Mass and liturgies. I think the friendship with Jesus Christ is not real. Many people forget that Jesus is our Salvation. We are not good witnesses of our friendship with Jesus.

Dear brothers and sisters, another thought for today is Simeon's and Anna's from the gospel today. They were elderly people, but they were so proud that they belonged to the temple, and that they could spend time there as well. In that time, they did not have many temples like we have today. We can come to the Cathedral, go to Dupont, Dickson City, but let us ask ourselves, are we proud of that? For Simeon and Anna, being the temple of God was a privilege.

So may we today understand what Simeon said when said to God, "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared on the side of all people." A light for revelations to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." So, our eyes, too, have seen God's salvation here in the Cathedral at Mass, and hopefully, in each other actions, too.

## Mark Your Calendars!

Here are some of the upcoming events, so mark your calendars to keep them in mind.

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Presentation of our Lord  
Candlemas Day Holy Mass 12 Noon

Noon till 1:00 p.m.

**February 4<sup>th</sup>** – [One Hot Meal Take out only](#)  
Noon till 1:00 p.m.

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Palm Sunday Masses at **8:00 a.m.** and **10:00 a.m.**

**April 4<sup>th</sup>** – Holy Tuesday  
ChrisM Mass—Time to be announced

**February 12<sup>th</sup>** – Scout Sunday

**February 16<sup>th</sup>**—Anniversary of the Death of  
Bishop Hodur 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass

**April 6<sup>th</sup>** – Holy Thursday  
Mass of the Institution of the Eucharist  
7:00 p.m.

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Ash Wednesday  
Holy Mass and distribution of ashes at  
Noon and 7:00 p.m.

**April 7<sup>th</sup>** – Good Friday  
12 noon to 3:00p.m.  
Holy Hour  
Litany of the Passion  
Mass of the Pre-Sanctified  
Opening of the Tomb  
7:00 p.m. Tenebrae

### During Lent

**Wednesdays** – 7:00 pm – Stations of the  
Cross with Benediction,  
**Upstairs in the Cathedral**

**Fridays** – Noon – Stations of the Cross,  
**Lower chapel**

**March 4<sup>th</sup>** - [One Hot Meal Take out only](#)  
Noon till 1:00 p.m.

**April 8<sup>th</sup>** - Holy Saturday  
Blessing of Easter Food in the Cathedral  
9:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.  
4:00 Vigil of the Risen One

**March 5<sup>th</sup>** – Annual Parish Meeting after **9:00** a.m.  
Mass

**April 9<sup>th</sup>** – Easter Sunday  
Resurrection Mass **8:00** a.m.  
Holy Mass **10:30** a.m.

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** - 126<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Polish National Catholic Church

**May 14<sup>th</sup>**—Mother's Day

**March 18<sup>th</sup>** – Lenten Retreat 11:00 a.m.  
Providence of God Lithuanian Parish  
North Scranton

**May 28<sup>th</sup>** – Pentecost Sunday

**April 1<sup>st</sup>** - One Hot Meal Take out only

**May 29<sup>th</sup>** – Memorial Day Mass at the Cemetery  
10:00 a.m.

### February Birthdays



**Feb 1** – Stacey Shrive

**Feb 2** – Michael Umerich

**Feb 3** – Jake Stankowski  
Kylie Patrick

**Feb 5** – Gloria Makowski  
Mary Coloma

**Feb 6** – Jacob Gerardi  
Joanne Edwards

**Feb 12** – Michael Meleski

**Feb 14** – Susan Raub  
Christine Ostroski  
Donald Blackledge

**Feb 15** – Caroline Golem-  
beski

**Feb 16** – Donald Godek

**Feb 18** – Linda Umerich  
Marlene Yaron

**Feb 20** – Maryanne Nole

**Feb 21** – Patricia Kanton

**Feb 23** – Brenda Karsnak

**Feb 24** – Kate Boczar-  
Matza

**Feb. 25** – Colton Thomas

