

*God has promised...
We have been waiting...
He has come...*



*Now we must go...
and be like him to others...*

*The Catholic Community of St. Stanislaus Kostka
celebrates CHRISTMAS 2017*

Dear Parishioners and Visiting Relatives...

Each year, we put this bulletin together for several reasons...

- to wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and a blessed new year!
- to acknowledge the many gifts that we, as a parish, have shared with others in honor of our new-born King
- to say thank you for your great generosity to our community.

Sharing gifts, passing on blessings are two of the major themes of this Christmas season which is why our season begins with God's gift to us, his Son, and ends with our gifts to God, represented by the gifts of the three Wise Men on Epiphany.

With that theme of sharing in mind, we remind you of a valuable gift that our parish has been given, for us to pass on to you, a free subscription to **FORMED.org**. This offers you the ability to, in the privacy of your home, watch movies... listen to talks... read a book or an article... or take a course on a variety of subjects that will energize your own faith and the faith of your family. There are offerings of interest for the old, the young, the married or the single – every member of our parish community. All you need to do is go to the website (formed.org) on your computer, cell phone or tablet, enter your name and our parish code (**63VQRV**) and you are all set. From that time on, just go to the website and you are automatically ready to go... Visitors to our parish today are free to share in this gift when you get home. This is our way of hoping that we all will become FORMED in our Catholic faith and traditions.

This past year we participated in the Diocesan Program ***Renew & Rebuild***. We have received almost 1 million dollars in pledges so far. These generous donations will enable us to carry out the ***Rebuilding*** phase by allowing us to prepare to completely redo our parking lot and sidewalks (scheduled for the spring) and hopefully solve our long-standing water problem. Using these funds to do this has freed up other funds which allowed us to

- purchase new chairs and tables for the Hall
- install LED lighting in the Church and Hall
- restore the floor in the Hall and Hall entrance-way
- clean the carpeting in the Church and altar area
- install a new sound system
- remove the old building at the entrance to the parking lot
(which still causes many of us to miss the entrance!)

In the coming year, we are planning to work on the ***Renewing*** phase by providing family education to help us share the gift of Christmas with all God's people by continuing and hopefully expanding all the outreach work you will find in the next few pages, with a renewed group of volunteers and helpers. We also intend to continue plans to keep the great spirit of St. Stan's alive for years to come and to do what we can to take Jesus from this Church and into the streets where his people live.

To do this, we need you to join with us and ***live Christmas*** at Mass... at home... at work... and school and at the marketplace. This is a big task but it can be done if we all share our gifts of time, talent, and sacrifices of all kinds with one another and with the one who is the source of all blessings – in heaven and on earth...

May God bless us – everyone...

Fr Jay

Please join us next weekend in this renewal by celebrating
The Feast of the Holy Family
Saturday evening at 5:30pm and Sunday at 8:15am & 11:00am
and next Monday, January 1
The Feast of Mary, Mother of God
at 11:00am...

We Celebrate...

11 infants were Baptized

28 children received First Eucharist

26 Ninth Graders were Confirmed

Many enjoy monthly Fellowship following the 11:00 AM Mass

In September, we began our school year with a wonderful Parish Picnic to welcome all back from a restful summer. The event included delicious food provided by Parishioners and by the Knights of Columbus, many fun games and activities for people of all ages, and a ministry fair. It was a wonderful way to build community and kick off another year of Faith Formation for the whole parish.

75 students and adults participated in our Annual Celebration of Life Prayer service in October

30 people attended the Annual Pallottine Teenage Federation Conference

Our first annual Adventure to Bethlehem was a huge success – scripture came alive for the children of our parish as we watched the stories of the Annunciation, the Visitation, and the Roman Census portrayed by volunteers. All who attended left with a promise to share God’s love with others.

100+ Volunteers were honored at the Annual Volunteer Dinner in September

One of our parishioners, who joyfully entered the Sisters of Life Religious Community last year, received her habit as Novice.

We Teach...

There are 115 families – 181 students in our Faith Formation Program – with 18 catechists and 10 aides supporting this Ministry.

There are 7 children in our GIFT Programs (Growing in Faith Together) – with 2 catechists supporting these Ministries.

We began our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd – for little ones – with 5 Pre-K students

Children’s Liturgy of the Word is being celebrated monthly during the 11AM Mass

For adults, Monday evening “Opening the Word” scripture discussion through FORMED

18 attend weekly to study the upcoming Sunday readings

Our Bi-Annual Family Catechesis Program hosted a total of 124 families equaling 454 people-

Spring 2017 – Information on Formed - to help make religious formation lifelong

Fall 2017 – God Guides and Provides – we “journeyed” through the desert with the Israelites, learning that God never abandons us

70 children were inspired by this year’s Vacation Bible School, Maker Fun Factory.

This very popular activity cannot take place without the support of numerous adult and teen volunteers as well as multiple donations by our parishioners.

We Pray & Reflect...

Our parish is currently comprised of 1150 registered households.

We welcomed 15 new families who registered in 2017.

82 Liturgical Ministers serve on 4 Liturgical Teams for our Masses.

We have 18 Lectors, 28 Eucharistic Ministers, 16 Ushers and 20 Altar Servers.

2 different music ensembles are part of our Music Ministry.

Our Adult Choir sings at the 5:30pm Mass and our Folk Group sings at the 11:00am Mass.

More than 300 parishioners participated in the Mass celebrated by Cardinal Timothy Dolan for our St Stanislaus Celebration in November and wonderful fellowship which followed.

14 Masses of Christian Burial were celebrated in our church this year.

Each month Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on the First Friday, after the 9 AM Mass.

Stations of the Cross are held on Fridays during Lent

50 teens, members of the Pallottine Teenage Federation (PTAF) and Confirmation candidates attend retreats and a prayer day. 25 9th Graders attended 2 overnight retreats – one being a 24hour Fast

28 2nd graders also attended a First Eucharist retreat day.

We Share...

A Parish Council has been formed and is comprised of committees that work to enhance parish life, such as Liturgy, Social, Outreach, Finance, Education, and Buildings and Grounds.

Once a month a group of retired parishioners gather and assemble over 100 sandwiches and large trays of pasta to be taken to the Lunch Box in the City of Poughkeepsie. These same individuals host a Mass followed by a hot luncheon for 30 disabled Catholics from all over Dutchess on the First Saturday of February.

Our PTAF (Pallotine Teenage Federation Teen Club) has 35 members and 5 adult volunteers. Once a month a group of teens prepare dinner and serve 60+ at the local Homeless Shelter. In addition they participate in helping to provide sandwiches and other small necessities to those served by the "Taking it to the Streets" initiative in Poughkeepsie, which is also well supported by the Parish in general. On Superbowl Sunday, our Teens collect spare change for the "Souper Bowl" and donated over \$700 to our local homeless shelter. Each year 15 + adults and teens from St Stans attend the annual March for Life in Washington DC They assist at various parish activities wherever they may be needed, including Faith Formation classes, and have continued to support their "adopted" child, Alexis, from Africa. Great job teens!

For two weeks in January, St. Stanislaus participates in "Feeding Our Neighbors", the diocesan-wide food campaign to help provide hope and help to those less fortunate. In 2017 we collected what translated into over 640 pasta dinners, 280 lunches, and 510 breakfasts. In addition, multiple desserts, coffee/tea, condiments, and toiletries were collected. That was 500 more meals than 2016! We look forward to next year's collection.

30 parishioners volunteer once a month at the Pleasant Valley Ecumenical Food Pantry and many parishioners donate food which is delivered to the Pantry on a weekly basis.

Over \$1,900 was collected through the generosity of our parish families and donated to Good Counsel Home for unwed mothers via the annual Baby Bottle Coin Collection in October.

Each October St. Stanislaus participates in the Dutchess Outreach Coat Drive, collecting an exceptional number of winter coats for those in need in Dutchess County

Through the purchase of homemade jellies and condiments as well as knitted items our parishioners contributed over \$2400 directly to the Newburgh Ministry.

Each week 7-10 parishioners volunteer for two hours at the Lutheran Care Center. They transport residents from their units to the Chapel, as well as assist Father as he celebrates Mass. Annually, many parishioners donate gift items to the residents for their Christmas party.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry, dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, comprised of 12-15 ladies (and one man) knit and crochet shawls and lap blankets for those needing to be "wrapped in our Lady's mantle of love." Last year over 50 shawls and blankets were given for comfort, including 30 given to the group of disabled Catholics who attended Mass and a luncheon here in February.

Members of our Garden Club faithfully and tirelessly share their time and talent in beautifying our parish campus. We are always looking for more help!!

Approximately 70 men are active members of the St. Stanislaus Chapter of the Knights of Columbus. Some of their activities include running a Blood Drive twice a year. The Knights have generously shared their time and talent with the Faith Formation Family Catechesis and Vacation Bible School Programs. They are tireless in taking on the task of repairing and setting up the large outdoor Nativity and indoor tree. The men have fundraised by Garage Sale, Fish Fry, and Pleasant Valley Days, to be able to generously donate monies for an annual scholarship to a graduating senior, as well as scholarships for parish youth to attend retreats and support vocations both in our parish as well as on a diocesan level. Recently, they hosted a free cinnamon bun breakfast after Sunday Masses in thanksgiving for parish support of their charitable activities.