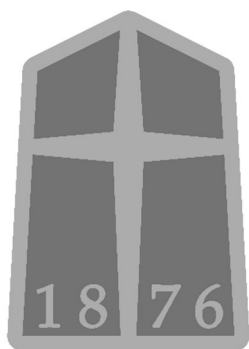
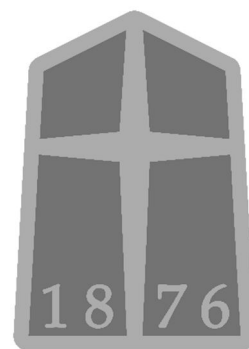

"I shall reflect on myself and ask: 'What have I done for Christ?
What am I doing for Christ? What ought I do for Christ?'" -St. Stanislaus



NEWSTAN



The Newsletter of St. Stanislaus Parish
El Boletín de la Parroquia de San Estanislao

Winter 2023

St. Stanislaus Parish Grateful for Tony Melendez Concert

by **Francia Perez**

St. Stanislaus Parish has had the privilege of enjoying for the second time the concert and life testimony of Tony Melendez. Last year the Hispanic community was delighted by Tony, and his visit was so gratifying and inspiring for everyone, that our pastor, Father Sean, wanted this year not only the Hispanic community but also the Anglo community to witness the wonderful show and testimony provided by this famous Catholic singer.

When we talk about a message of hope it is necessary to talk about the singer Tony Melendez, because he is a true exponent of hope and faith. Undoubtedly, he is a man who inspires and motivates everyone around him to fight day after day to get ahead. There is no doubt that God has a purpose for each of his children. Tony Melendez is the living example of that, because despite his physical condition and the various situations and circumstances



experienced, he is a fighter and bearer of God's love and mercy through his faith and his gifts.

It is important to highlight the impact of this majestic activity for all participants, because joy, spirituality, gratitude and faith were some of the many beautiful feelings experienced with the concert and testimony of life of Brother Tony Melendez in our parish St. Stanislaus last September 27. It is the people themselves who, moved and full of admiration, express their fascination when they see the feat performed by this man.

Some expressed that their hearts were overflowing with emotion when they saw how perfectly Tony plays the guitar with his feet and even more emotion when they heard his

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The Show Must Go On: October Family Fest

by Phil Ricciardi

The ability to quickly pivot to adapt to changing circumstances is a hallmark of any successful organization. St. Stanislaus Parish certainly demonstrated this ability as the October Family Fest celebration date of October 7 approached. While we had planned to hold the event outdoors under a large tent, the threat of severe weather forced us to cancel those plans. However, our Legacy Committee quickly determined that the Mater Dei School Gym and Cafeteria were available the next day, so the entire event was moved indoors.

On Sunday October 8th dozens of parishioners streamed into the cafeteria to enjoy a delicious meal of hot dogs, sausage and peppers, pasta salad, coleslaw, and the main attraction, pulled pork sandwiches with provolone and broccoli rabe from Esposito's in South Philly. Those in attendance had the added treat of having their pork

sandwich constructed by Father Sean himself, who stayed at the pork station until everyone was served!

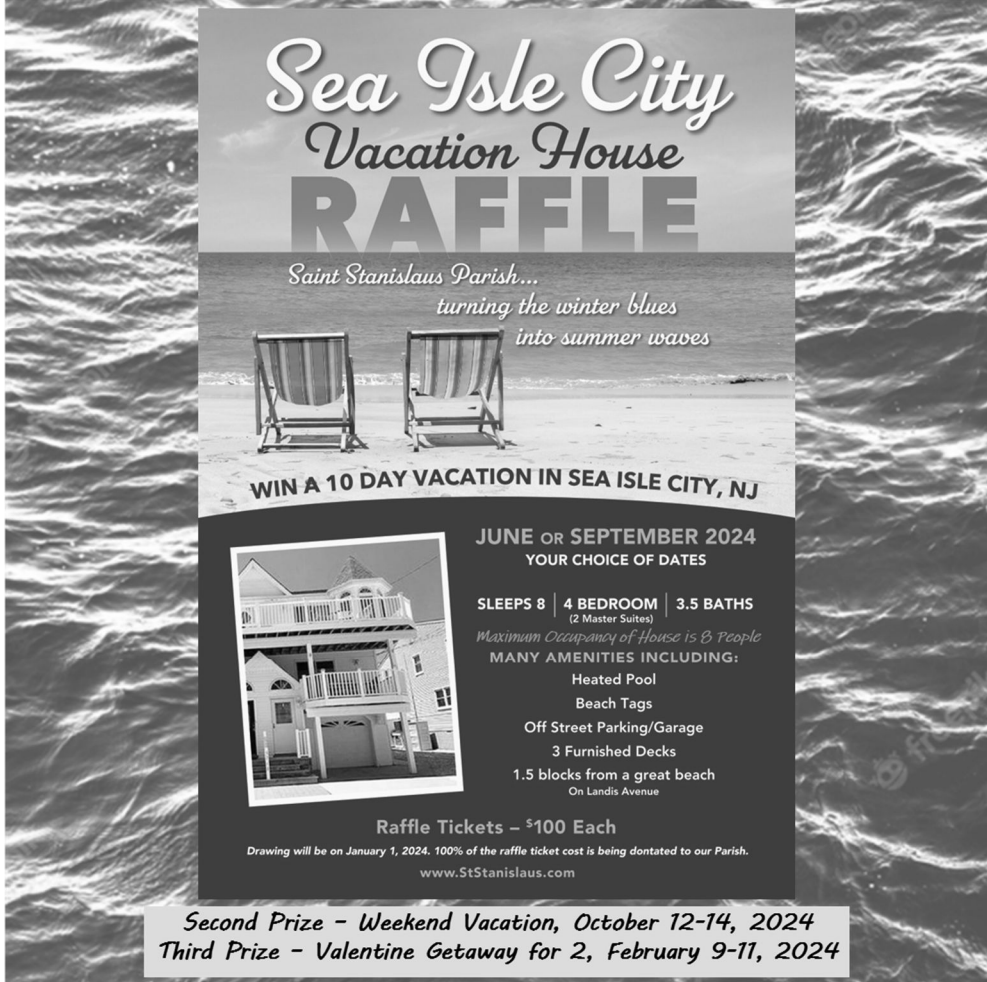
Attendees scattered about the cafeteria and gym enjoyed the big feast and engaged in lively conversation while chowing down and watching some football. Father Sean realized the rescheduled event would have an Eagles game starting right in the middle of it, and he certainly did not want to see most of the folks head home to watch the game. A knowledgeable parishioner was able to set up a projection system so we could all watch football on a big screen hung in the gym. For the littlest attendees, a bounce castle was provided just outside in the parking lot, and some of the older kids and adults set up a face-painting station to amuse the smaller children. I had one little boy with orange and black stripes on his face come up to me and growl like a tiger. You have to love a child's imagination.

As the Eagles game approached halftime, the sound was turned down on the TV and Father Sean, assisted by one of the children as his ticket puller, announced the winners of the door prizes. Some of the goodies given away included a drone, a GoPro action camera, neck fans, an iPad tablet, and a pizza oven.

One lucky winner took home the grand prize, a 65" color TV!

Unfortunately, the Legacy Committee had to cancel the planned second part of the event, a family movie night, but they hope to be able to reschedule that sometime soon.

Our thanks go out to all who quickly changed their plans to move the event from Saturday to Sunday. Please check the bulletin for future Legacy Committee events that will help build our parish community spirit!✂



Sea Isle City
Vacation House
RAFFLE

Saint Stanislaus Parish...
turning the winter blues
into summer waves

WIN A 10 DAY VACATION IN SEA ISLE CITY, NJ

JUNE OR SEPTEMBER 2024
YOUR CHOICE OF DATES

SLEEPS 8 | 4 BEDROOM | 3.5 BATHS
(2 Master Suites)
Maximum Occupancy of House is 8 People

MANY AMENITIES INCLUDING:
Heated Pool
Beach Tags
Off Street Parking/Garage
3 Furnished Decks
1.5 blocks from a great beach
On Landis Avenue

Raffle Tickets - \$100 Each
Drawing will be on January 1, 2024. 100% of the raffle ticket cost is being donated to our Parish.
www.StStanislaus.com

Second Prize - Weekend Vacation, October 12-14, 2024
Third Prize - Valentine Getaway for 2, February 9-11, 2024

Parishioner Spotlight

Bob DeVico

by **Dianne Spotts**

Robert DeVico (Bob) is in his 26th year as both an Orientation & Mobility Instructor and a Teacher of the Visually Impaired with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. He covers ten school districts, a considerable distance to do the work he loves. He was recently the recipient of the 2023 Annie Sullivan Award from the board of directors of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

It was his experience serving as an aide at Overbrook School for the blind prompted him to seek this as his life's work.

Bob earned a teaching degree from Kutztown University, where he completed his undergrad studies. He earned a Master's degree from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in North Philadelphia.

Bob grew up in the Overbrook Section of West Philadelphia, in Our Lady of Lourdes parish, and attended Archbishop John Carroll High School.

Bob enjoys watching the faces of people when he tells them he met his wife Heather at St. Charles Seminary. (That's a small peek into Bob's personality. At the time, the Seminary offered a camp for inner-city children from all areas of Philly. Both Bob and Heather were lifeguards there I enjoyed a few of his hearty laughs during our interview).

Heather grew up in Good Shepherd parish before the family moved to St. Helena's parish in Blue Bell. Heather was also a teacher for 14 years in the Wissahickon school district, but had to leave teaching due to multiple sclerosis (MS) and has been on disability for the past 15 years. Heather has required a wheelchair for the past 22 years. She was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis 34 years ago (which makes her very sensitive to summer heat).

They married in St. Anthony's in Ambler (before the fire, which prompts Bob to laugh that their paperwork went up in smoke, but they're married for the long haul!). Unlike Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Anthony's had air conditioning. Priests from both parishes were very cooperative with that decision. Heather's entire first grade class attended their wedding.

Heather and Bob have 3 children: Kiley, a hairdresser, RJ who attends Loyola University in Maryland, but who is currently studying in Ireland, and Grady, a freshman at Pope John Paul II High School.

Bob goes the extra mile in his life, when it comes to volunteering. He has played guitar with a band, and for many years has helped with the sound system for theater shows at Mater Dei. He has also been involved with CYO having coached basketball, softball, baseball, hockey and swimming.

He has biked to Ocean City NJ for the MS 150 City to Shore annual event with his team, Heather's Helpers.

Bob has served on the Festival Committee for at least 10 years. He loves the community aspect of the annual event - and appreciates all of the hard-working people, all united

for a good cause, putting in hours of labor and elbow grease to make the Festival happen.

He is in his 25th year as a parishioner in St. Stanislaus, where he is currently a Eucharistic Minister. He has also lent a hand with the Youth Ministry group, in past years. Bob recollects fond memories of their trips to the Steubenville Youth Conference at St. John's University in the Bronx.

Bob is also 4th degree Knight, in the Knights of Columbus Council 4396 that serves both St. Stanislaus and St. Maria Goretti parishes.



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Father Sean Says

This edition of the *NewStan* is a reflection of the good people of St. Stan's parish. From those who work so hard on producing this publication, to those who are in the spotlight for their service and love of the Church. Any Catholic parish is meant to be the place of encounter with our Eucharistic Lord. I believe these community events are essential to bringing people to our place of Encounter, the source and summit being the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. I commend all those who selflessly serve our brothers and sisters in our local community, with the hope that all in our parish will meet Jesus at St. Stan's.

Highlighted in this issue are our Hispanic Community, Legacy Committee, and the Knights of Columbus, among others. Individuals in these groups sought to bring about fellowship-creating events, and took the initiative to plan and carry-out those events. Over the last few years, the Legacy Committee has worked tirelessly behind the scenes with the goal of creating fellowship while also encouraging stewardship.

You won't see Helen Daly's name in many of the articles, but the idea for this committee came for her desire to increase this essential part of parish life. This is how a parish lives and thrives. I am grateful for all of our volunteers, but most especially because they do not see themselves as volunteers. They are St. Stan's parishioners who love their church and want to take an active part in making the encounter with Christ a little easier for those who may have fallen away. I hope that more are inspired to speak their ideas into existence here in the years to come. You have great ideas, insights and inspirations from the Holy Spirit.

In closing I echo one of the most repeated lines in scripture when it comes to people receiving missions for spreading the Gospel, "Do not be afraid!"✠



Surfing Around?

Did you miss out on Tony Melendez visit and interested in learning more about him after our article? You can learn more about him as well as where he is appearing at <https://www.tonymelendez.com>.



NEWSTAN

MISSION STATEMENT

In response to the St. John Paul II's call to evangelization, St. Stanislaus Parish started publishing *NewStan* to serve members of the parish community and the community at large, to inform parishioners and members of the North Penn region about new developments in the parish, and to serve as a channel for communications among St. Stanislaus parishioners and benefactors.



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Those who wish to contribute items for publication should forward them to the NewStan mailbox in the St. Stanislaus Parish Center. The inclusion of submitted material is subject to the judgment of the editors in consultation with Father Sean and the St. Stanislaus Communications Director. The editors reserve the right to edit all submitted material for length and content.

Visit St. Stanislaus Parish on the web at

www.ststanislaus.com

Follow us on Facebook: St. Stanislaus Lansdale



Do you have a question about St. Stanislaus Parish, or about the Catholic faith in general?

Forward your questions to the *NewStan* mailbox in the Parish Center, anonymously if desired. We will direct the questions to the right person and publish the answers in a future issue.

Saint Cecelia

by Sandy Sasso

St. Cecelia, (also spelled Cecilia) was born in Rome around 200 AD. She is venerated in Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, and some Lutheran churches, such as the Church of Sweden.. The Santa Cecilia in Trastevere, Rome, founded in the 3rd century by Pope Urban I, is believed to be on the site of the house where she lived and died.

According to her story, despite her vow of chastity, her parents forced her to marry a pagan nobleman named Valerian. She is the patron saint of musicians since it was written that as musicians played at her wedding, Cecelia “sang in her heart to the Lord.” When the time came for her marriage to be consummated, Cecelia told Valerian that watching over her was an angel of the Lord, who would punish him if he forced himself on her, but would love him if he respected her virginity. When Valerian asked to see the angel, Cecelia replied that he could see the angel if he would go to the third milestone on the *Via Appia* and be baptized by Pope Urban I. After following Cecelia’s advice, he did see the angel standing beside her, crowning her with a chaplet of roses and lilies.

The martyrdom of Cecelia is said to have followed that of her husband Valerian, and his brother, at the hands of the prefect Turcius Almachius. Her death, as legend would have it, says that after being struck three times on the neck with a sword, she lived for three days and asked the Pope to convert her home into a church. She was buried in the Catacomb of Callixtus and later transferred to the Church of Santa Cecilia in Trastevere, reputedly built on the site of

the house in which she lived. The original church was constructed in the 4th century

During the 9th century Pope Paschal I was said to have moved her remains there. In 1599, while leading a renovation of the church, Cardinal Paolo Emilio Sfondrati had the remains excavated and reburied, and she was found to be incorrupt, seeming to be asleep.

Musical compositions are dedicated to her, and her feast day of November 22nd is the occasion of concerts and musical festivals. The first record of a music festival in her honor was held at Evreux in Normandy, France, in 1570.

The Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome is one of the oldest musical institutions in the world. It was founded by the papal bull, *Ratione congruit*, issued by Sixtus V in 1585, which invoked two saints prominent in Western musical history; Gregory the Great, after whom Gregorian chant is named, and Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of music.

St. Cecelia is frequently depicted playing the viola, an organ, or other musical instruments, evidently to express what was often attributed to her, namely accompanying the musicians with her singing at her nuptials. A miniature St. Cecelia beneath Worcester Cathedral was featured on the reverse side of the Sir Edward Elgar 20 Franc banknote, which was withdrawn by the Bank of England in 2010.✠



St. Cecilia from stained glass detail from a window at the very top of one of the apse windows in the Rosary Shrine in London (photo credit: Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P.)

Christmas Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 24):

✠ Masses at 7:00AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM;
✠ Spanish Mass at 1:00PM

Christmas Eve Vigil Masses (December 24):

✠ Masses at 4:00PM, 6:00PM
✠ Spanish Mass at 8:00PM

Christmas Day Masses (December 25):

✠ Masses at 12:00Am (midnight),
9:00AM, and 11:00AM.

Advent Confessions:
December 21st at 7:00PM.✠



Afternoon Tea with the Legacy Committee

by Megan McIlvaine

The idea for a tea started in the back of Church last spring while I was selling tickets for Monte Carlo Night, along with fellow Legacy members Helen Daly and Cathy McDonald. I happened to mention I passed a tea house the previous day. Cathy remarked she loves tea and I said, 'Let's have a tea.' We looked at Helen who heads up The Legacy Committee and with her big charismatic smile she said "Sure, why not."

Along with the three of us, a subcommittee was formed with fellow Legacy members Debbie Eble, Eileen Rodgers, Fran Fiordimondo, Karen Kelly and Linda McNulty. Then Cathy brought in our ace in the hole, Lorraine Biffar, who used to help run teas for the North Penn Junior Women's Club. Everyone on this subcommittee put a lot of hard work into it and did an AMAZING job.

We knew we needed A LOT of supplies for this and so many generous St. Stan's parishioners delivered. Several parishioners donated all sorts of China. One even purchased a whole china set for us. Pat Stortenbecker who runs the garage sale for the festival, kept a look out for us on the China and glasses front. My mom and I shopped at local thrift stores for tea pots and other odds and ends.

When it came to the menu Cathy, Linda and Lorraine took over the baking duties for our scrumptious desserts. We

Bob DeVico

continued from page 3

The 4th is the top degree in the Knights. He's reached the top. However, I came to learn that he has other places to reach – the main one being Greece at Christmas, with his wife and family. The plan is for RJ to leave Ireland to meet them for their extensive travels, including London.

Previous travel memories include going to Rome when Pope John Paul II canonized St. Katherine Drexel. He, his mom, his aunt, and Heather were privileged to receive Papal blessings, experiencing close encounters of the best kind.

Regardless of where Bob travels, what he experiences or lends his talents to accomplish, I am convinced he will do it with appreciation, enjoyment and 100% of his ability – always going the extra mile.

God bless you and your family, Bob!✠

used fellow parishioner Helen Lojewski's catering company for all the other delicious food.

We sold out the tea in three weeks. It was a resounding success and everyone seemed to have a great time. It's been incredible how many compliments

we've received. The subcommittee can't thank the attendees enough for being so nice. It was a pleasure to serve them.✠



Tony Melendez

continued from page 1

life testimony. Others said that witnessing and realizing for themselves who Tony Melendez is inspired and motivated them to be resilient and optimistic in any circumstance.

Thank you, mentor and role model Tony Melendez, for showing us that if we fix our eyes on God, if we fill ourselves with good attitude, discipline, and perseverance, and if we fight with tenacity and determination, we can fly high and be successful people. Thank you for instilling us with so much spirituality, and for strengthening our faith in God through such a beautiful testimony of life. Thank you for showing us that by holding God's hand, we can move forward and for reminding us that God is wonderful and is always with us at all times!✠





All Saints

It's a long-standing tradition at Mater Dei Catholic School on Halloween you won't spot little witches or zombies or even Pokémon characters. What you will see are saints, saints, and more saints. This was the case again this year when our 1st graders and their 7th grade prayer partners marched over from school to St. Stanislaus church for the All-Saints Day Prayer Service on Tuesday, October 31, 2023.

Do you have a little future saint at home? Registration has begun for the 2024-2025 school year already. Don't miss out on the chance of seeing your son or daughter in next year's parade!✠



Photos thanks to Ms. Elizabeth Waltrich



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Parish Census Data for June 2023 – August 2023

Charlotte Mary Adams	Henry Joseph Graber
Ariana Camila Amaya Reyes	Jameson William Johnston
Lucas Lionel Barragan	Connor Jesus Mayllazhungo
Rose Margaret Bonner	Loja
Leslie Maravilla Chavez	Gavin Michael O'Donnell
Joseph Lee Check	Ryan Henry Parzych
Bradley Lukas Correa Garcia	Alana Giselle Pena Pineda
Rhomy Valentina Correa Garcia	Eloise Nichole Przasnyski
Brody Michael Coyne	Aitana Michelle Reyes
Ryan Patrick Daley	Rita Grace Rush
Wyatt Evans	Liam Patrick Shane
Dimotsis	Sofia Grace Stangler
Cole Urban Dressel	Dean Eugene Thomas
Lucas John Duke	Joslyn Anne Wehmeyer
Brooks Tyler Duke	Jordan Lynn Wehmeyer
Elias Erazo-Tequianes	Matteo Zavaleta
Ethan Alexander	
Felipe Garcia	
Caroline Joyce Gilroy	

Welcome Our New Members

Nathan & Isabelle Arnold	John & Udhayaremi Jayachandran	Jacqlyn Ross
Maureen Boland Bintner	Christine Loughery	Anthony & Audra Scalfaro
Patrick Boyle	Rob & Sheila McKeta	Joseph & Rebecca Siravo
Krystle Contreras-Dubnow	Steve & Katherine Molyneaux	Nicholas Speranza
Christopher & Megan Fujimoto	Jose & Isamari Pagan Cruz	Ryan & Bethany Squillante
Stefan & Leslie Goetzinger	Daniel & Cristina Ramirez	Kaya Swanek
Jeffrey & Brianna Gudowski	Remy & Shaliny Rodrigues	Migdalia Migda Vergez
Hunter Hoffman		Brian & Elizabeth Ward
		David Wilson

IN MEMORIAM

Carmela Benjamin	Florence Kollmar	Rita Taylor
Eileen Bureau	Marian Martocello	Vincenzo Tecce
Earl Caffrey Jr.	Gloria Nolan	Elwood Thomas
Ellen Carney	Michael Panunto	Anne Zeltner
Peter Curato	Albert Puzano	
Edward Curry	Lewis Reid	
Marvin Alexan	Eleanor Rinedoller	
Fernandez Chicas	Robert Ryan	
Martin Gourke	Helen Sjogren	

Jose Alexis Flores Zavala & Ilce Madai Trinidad Perez
 John Paul Gaus & Nicole Elizabeth Hetzel
 Andres Lector & Mayra Reyes
 Thomas Francis Repsik & Jennifer Elizabeth Miller
 Richard Joseph Farina Jr. & Meghan Theresa Hadalski