

"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 Kostka



New Stan

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

Summer / Verano 2018

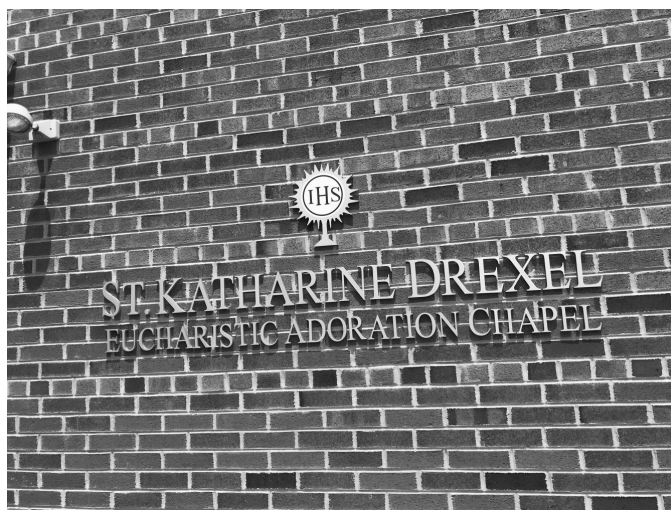
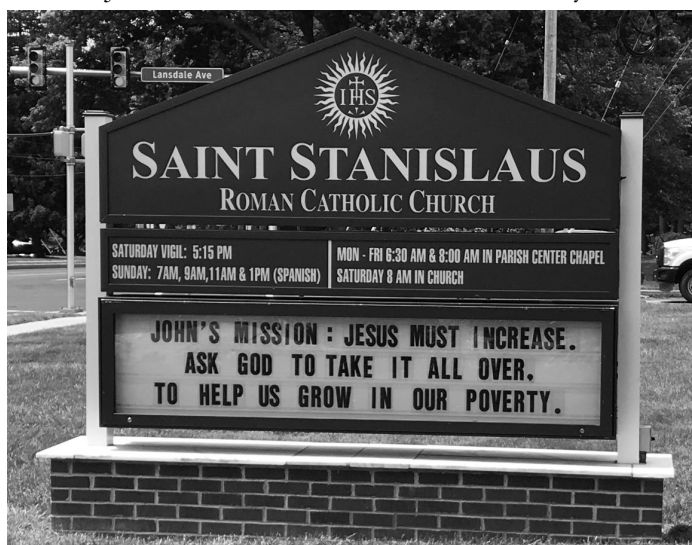
Parish Signs of the Times

by Dan Miller

People are always looking for signs to guide them through life. Quite often, these are actual brick-and-mortar (or even paper) signs, giving people directions, rules, and other helpful information. Here are just a few of the signs one can see around St. Stanislaus Parish. How many do you recognize?

Parish Church Sign

Located prominently near the corner of Main St. and Lansdale Avenue, this would probably be considered a necessity for any church building! The sign lists the parish's name, our Mass times, and often delivers a message related to our weekly Gospel reading. Did you know that the letter "IHS" at the top of the sign represent the name of Jesus? It is an abbreviation of His Greek name, used as a symbol or monogram, often shown surrounded by the Sun. This is a symbol of the Society of Jesus, of which St. Stanislaus Kostka was a novice. St. Stanislaus Parish is always on a mission to continue the work of Jesus and His followers in our community.



St. Katharine Drexel Eucharistic Adoration Chapel

Our parish is fortunate enough to have a special place for perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, our Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. This chapel is a place to go to be with Our Lord, for special prayers and intentions, to find peace and solace, and to give glory to God. Countless parishioners have given testament to the wonderful experiences they have had at the Adoration Chapel – it recently celebrated its 15th anniversary! People are always welcome to visit the Adoration Chapel for an hour, but the parish is always looking for volunteers for weekly devotions and substitutes. We are especially in need of nocturnal hours for those available. You can contact the Parish Center if you are interested. There is no greater gift than to spend time with God!

"Door is Unlocked": Parish Center Doors

This sign welcomes anyone visiting the St. Stanislaus Parish Center. It's not always up, as we do have the main door locked sometimes, but during Mass times and other busy times, parishioners are able to go right in! Our Parish

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Parish Signs

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Center is the place to go for information about the parish. One can come in to get registered for the parish, to get information on sacraments, sign up for a program, or come for a meeting, like for *NewStan!* (We meet once every quarter to plan our new issue!). The Parish Center houses the offices for our parish priests, and also is home to our food cupboard, providing for the Parish Social Ministry. And of course, it leads right into our church sacristy!



School Crossing Sign

Sometimes, signs don't even need words to deliver their message! One can see a sign like this near any school, as it is an important symbol that tells drivers to look out for children crossing. This particular sign is just as important to our parish as any, as it leads people to cross the street to MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL. MATER DEI is our community's school for children in grades Pre-K through 8, and is a major part of our Parish community. Children from MATER DEI often cross the street to attend Mass at St. Stanislaus. It is important for us to keep these children safe, and on the path to God, so this sign can lead them in the right direction, and ensure that others are staying safe as well.



Signs for the School Rain Garden

These signs give information on a somewhat lesser known feature of the school grounds: the rain garden. This rain garden was created in 2011 in partnership with the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. This sign and another near it detail the purpose of this garden and others like it: they collect water and runoff from nearby buildings when it rains, and uses it for plants in the garden. This is not only good for the garden, but it is also helpful in preventing flooding, and in improving water quality in nearby areas. The garden is a great place for students and others in the community to learn more about nature and science, working right into MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL's STREAM academic (Science-Technology-Religion-English-Arts-Math) program. Our parish community is lucky to be able to have a beautiful area like this nearby.



There is plenty to see around St. Stanislaus Parish, and we have these and other signs to help us find what we are looking for. Next time you're looking for a sign from God, you might just be able to find a physical one right in front of your face! ❖

ERRATUM

In last issue's census data, the names of one of the couples in the Weddings list was misspelled. We corrected the error on the website copy of the issue, but it was too late for printed copies. We have re-listed the couple in this issue's Weddings list and *NewStan* sends its sincere condolences – and congratulations – to Kathleen Fischer and Francisco Acosta. ❖

Parishioner Spotlight

Cat Mattingly

by **Norman Berger**

Catherine “Cat” Mattingly is one of the newest additions to the St. Stanislaus Parish staff. She was appointed to the position of Communications Coordinator by Father Forlano while he was serving as Parish Administrator after our former Communications Coordinator, Maureen Fillenwarth, retired from the position. Cat manages putting together each week’s Church Bulletin in concert with John Patrick Publications and helps coordinate the production of our own *NewStan* newsletter. Cat also maintains the parish website and does work with the Parish Facebook page. I’d say she has her hands full!

But let’s back up now to see how Cat came to our Parish. Originally from the Woodbury area of South Jersey, she earned her Bachelor’s degree in History from the then-named Beaver College. After five years of “bouncing around” as she refers to it, Cat felt that her next step should be to work toward a Master’s degree so she entered Indiana University of Pennsylvania. It was there that she not only obtained her Master’s degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education, but also met a fellow student named Scott who was also working towards the same degree. She remembers that they didn’t really get along very well at all, but, being in the same department, they worked on the same projects. It took a good while to, maybe “knock off the rough edges,” but the magic of propinquity brought them to the point where they started dating...and eventually they got married.

After graduation, they both looked to the Philadelphia area to find jobs in higher education because this area has so many colleges and universities. Cat wound up back at her Alma Mater (now called Arcadia University) with responsibilities for residence life, campus life and conduct, and emergency response. She worked there for thirteen years becoming adept at handling student crises. She then moved on to work at Immaculata University in Chester County. Meanwhile, Scott found work in administration at DeSales University where he is currently associate dean of

academic affairs. They lived in campus housing for a good while at Arcadia as it was required for her job working with students. However, when the couple decided that Scott would pursue a doctorate in higher education administration at Temple, they put all their financial “eggs in one basket.” And Scott obtained his degree in 2012. Then, “surprise, surprise” as Jim Nabors’ Gomer Pyle character used to say: children began to enter the picture. Their first child was Thomas, who is now 10, followed by Jack, who will be 8 in October. While pregnant with Jack, Cat and Scott decided to look for a house. They hoped to find something not too expensive.

It happened that a house in Lansdale looked promising: it was in foreclosure, so the price was right. But Cat told me that the house was a mess. Nevertheless, they bought it and since Scott was preoccupied with his job and studies, Cat, herself, did much fix-up work laying flooring and doing other work, all while pregnant. After they moved in, they became parishioners at St Stanislaus. They’ve been in this house for eight years. A third son, Leo, was born after they moved in and just recently turned four.

The picture began to change last summer when Cat gave birth to a girl. It was gradually discovered that Charlotte Rose had a rare genetic condition and was in and out of hospital. Cat was spending so much time with Charlotte during hospital stays that her mother came to help with the three boys. Neighbors helped by leaving daily meals at their door. Much of her neighborhood consists of fellow St Stanislaus parishioners and she is so grateful for their help and for her and Scott’s relationships at MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL which all her boys attend.

Cat chose to leave higher education to focus on Charlotte and her family. That’s when Father Forlano hired her for the vacant Communications Coordinator position which made things easier for her and her family. Charlotte’s condition subsequently worsened, and she died in January of this year. Father Forlano had become a good friend of



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Our Pastor's Pen

Dear friends / Mis amigos queridos,

Signs point to realities that may be obvious and clearly visible, or unseen and/or unnoticed. As you see from reading this edition of the *NewStan*, signs can be directional, prohibitive, and informational. We constantly see signs to simplify communication: road signs, badges and logos, signs that point to a simple, fixed, reality. We also use more complex symbols, signs that are multidimensional, pointing to and manifesting another reality.

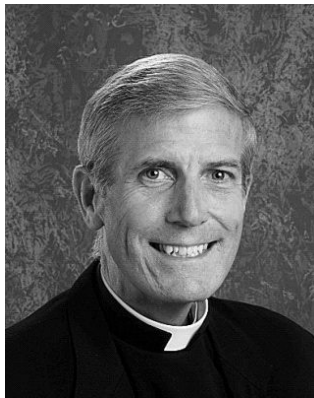
Signs are very much a part of the foundation of our Church's doctrine. Much of the Catholic sacramental system is based on signs. Many of us remember the classic definition of a sacrament from the Baltimore Catechism: "an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace." Each sacrament is an efficacious sign; i.e., the visible sign actually affects in us the invisible reality that it signifies. At Baptism, for example, water is the visible sign, which indicates cleansing. Baptismal cleansing happens on the physical level (the skin is cleaned) and on a spiritual, invisible level (the cleansing by Christ's grace which washes away sin). We celebrate the seven sacraments as a believing community to keep the memory of Jesus alive and to remember God's living and loving presence within and among us.

Signs are present not only in the ritual action of the Church, but also to assist people in prayer and devotion (such as holy water, palms, ashes, relics, blessed oils, etc.). These are called sacramentals. By our using them, they become signs of an invisible reality that is operative on the level of our inmost being.

When reflecting on the spiritual side of signs, we need to be ready allow the symbol and ritual to shake us, to enliven us, to question and recognize the depth of their meanings. Shaken by the sacramental encounter we can be ready to enter ever more fully, that relationship of love with God into which Christ invites us. We must be courageous in our willingness to be transformed by the graces we receive!

I hope to see lots of you at the St. Stanislaus Summer Festival during the week that Assumption is commemorated (this year August 14 – 18). Now in its 57th consecutive year, the Festival is a great time to meet friends and neighbors and simply enjoy summer time. Consider volunteering for an evening or two; I will be in the Food Booth again for four nights and serving cold brew in the beer garden for one. Thanks for your support! ✦

Msgr. Joseph Tracy



Surfing Around?

This issue's book review gives a sampling of sources of inspiration texts including the Jesuit magazine *America* whose website is completely free. You can visit it at www.americamagazine.org.

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 Monsignor Tracy 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



Have a question about St. Stanislaus Parish, or about the Catholic faith in general? Forward questions to the *NewStan* mailbox in the Parish Center, anonymously if desired. We will get them to the right person and publish the answers in a future issue.

Signs and Wonders

by Nancy Viola

In the Gospel of John, 1:38, two disciples were following Jesus. He turned to them and asked, "What are you looking for?" Looking for signs and wonders is part of our human makeup. Throughout all of recorded history, mankind has been looking for someone who holds the concrete answers to our basic questions of, "Who are we?" "Why are we here?" and "Where are we going?" Our faith tells us that we are going to live forever. We look for signs to tell us beyond a shadow of a doubt, of this truth. We want to see this for ourselves, with our physical eyeballs. But God has a better idea, beyond what we can ask or imagine. (*Jeremiah 29:11*)

The good news is that looking for signs and wonders isn't a bad thing. Anything that is part of human nature was put there by God for a reason. The Bible contains numerous scripture verses that speak of signs and wonders in both the Old and New Testaments. The very first sign by God is mentioned in Chapter 1:14 in Genesis, where God put the stars and the moon up in the sky to show us signs of the coming season. In the Book of Acts, there are 18 verses that mention Signs and or wonders. For instance, after Pentecost, the Holy Spirit provided signs to show those gathering around the Apostles that what they were doing and saying were coming from the Living God.

You might be thinking, "But that was back then. What about now?" What about THIS generation of people?

The fact is, the signs we need to see have already happened and have been recorded in the Bible! In John 20:29, Jesus tells the Apostle Thomas, "Do you believe because you have seen? Blessed are those who have not seen and believe." Jesus is talking about you and me! All that we are looking for has already been revealed to mankind. He gave us another Sign of His existence AND His tremendous love. At the Last Supper, He gave us the Eucharist. He gave us His precious Body and Blood, and invited us to partake in this Heavenly feast.

God knew that mankind needed a sign that He really does exist. And so we have been given this awesome sacrament, an EVER PRESENT SIGN of God's existence.

The signs and wonders of God's existence are before us all in the crucified Jesus Christ. It is now up to us to believe what we are seeing. Stay alert to all the signs and wonders of God's omnipotence and tremendous love, for you and for me.✠

In Memoriam: Ed Kunze

by Paul Cutajar

Just before this issue went to print, we learned the sad news that Ed Kunze, who served as Staff Photographer for *NewStan* since 2004, passed away.



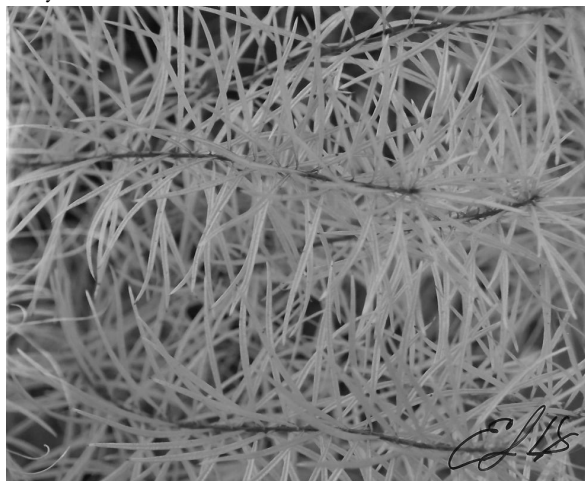
Edward J. Kunze III was a lifelong St. Stanislaus parishioner. A graduate of Lansdale Catholic, he later was a toxicologist for Rohm & Haas. He was very

involved in the Parish variously as a Pastoral Care chaplain, a Eucharistic Minister, in the Legion of Mary, on Landings, and of course as a sometimes writer and sole photographer on our quarterly newsletter.

Ed loved photography and this showed in every picture he took. Ed was always willing to take any picture we asked of him – be it of our featured Parishioner, of club members in action, of various Parish locales, or in response to a unique vague 'something in the theme?' request. Yet he did it not as a "reporter" but as a real artist. He always worked to get the angle, the careful shadow, or the specialized arrangement of items to not just illustrate, but illuminate.

Last Christmas, Ed gave me with a photo of petals as a present. His inscription read, "It has always been an honored privilege to work with you to benefit *NewStan*." It stands prominently in our family room, and I am privileged to have it and will always think fondly of Ed when I see it.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ed's entire family. Ed, speaking for myself and the *NewStan* staff, we will miss you, my friend. God bless.✠

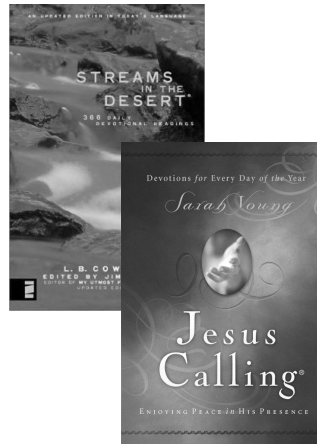


NewStan Book Review

Devotional Readings by various authors

by **Lorraine Miller**

We all look for direction in our daily lives. Each of us wants to become the best possible version of ourselves. When we have difficulty succeeding on our own, we look for help. Here are some suggestions to aid in that search.



Streams in the Desert: 365 Daily Devotional Readings by L.B.

Cowman, edited by Jim Reimann was originally published in 1925 when Cowman and his wife were missionaries in Japan. It was updated and revised by Reimann in 1996, who found it to be helpful when his son was stricken with a brain aneurysm. Each day's reading starts with a scripture verse and proceeds with analysis and personal reflection. The book includes a contributors, scripture, and subject index. My copy was given to me by my daughter-in-law in 2009, and has helped me to begin each day with prayer.

Jesus Calling by Sarah Young is another choice of devotions for every day of the year. It utilizes a different approach. Each daily reading begins with a short conversation with God, and is followed by scripture references to help expand our understanding of the thoughts that ensue.

Both guides lead to prayer. Spiritual reading gives the reader assistance in beginning a day in the Presence of the Lord. Ten or fifteen minutes is enough to start us with a calm, clear mind, and a clear direction. The world can be confusing and chaotic. The workplace can be a challenge. However, asking for His assistance as we prepare to face the day will smooth the way.

Another source of information and assistance is the Jesuit magazine, *America* published approximately every 3 weeks. This journal "provides smart Catholic content on faith and culture across a variety of platforms." It includes compelling editorials and features about today's issues and events. Subscribers can receive articles through e-mail, or via iPhone and iPad before the actual print version arrives. There are videos and podcasts including Q&A sessions and interviews. The feature, "Your Take," allows subscribers share their views on various topics. Gerard O'Connell, *America's* Vatican Correspondent, keeps readers

up-to-date about Pope Francis. Analyses of Sunday in Ordinary Time scripture are written by Michael Simone, S.J. who teaches Scripture at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. It is one of my favorite features.

No matter which method you select, choose one to assist you. Remember, Jesus is always with us, loves us, and is more than willing to support us.✠

Festival Signs

by **Lino Viola**

By now you have seen the signs in our neighborhood, signs telling about an annual event that has great music, great food, great fun, and even great bargains. The signs I am talking about are the ones that advertise the St. Stanislaus Summer Festival: a wonderful way to spend a few summer evenings with family and friends.

Come and enjoy the food; burgers, hot dogs, pizza, wings, pierogies, hoagies, sausage sandwiches, French fries, fresh lemonade, water ice, funnel cake, and baked goods.

There will be various rides and games for the children including face painting. Each night there will be a few people to target at the dunk tank – come and try to dunk them! If you are feeling lucky, try your hand at Bingo. You can even purchase raffle tickets for a chance at winning prizes and cash.

Follow the signs to the area of the Garage Sale. You never know what treasures you will find there. You may even find something that may be brought to PBS' "Antique Roadshow" for appraisal.

There is more than one way to partake of the Festival. Volunteers are always needed in the various booths. You can sign up on the parish website: www.ststanislaus.com This is a great way to meet new people while helping support the longest-running festival in the area!✠



Parishioner's Pondering

Horror-scope Signs

by Dianne Spotts

Many years ago, my sister Lynda planned a special surprise for my birthday. Unfortunately it became a regrettable experience. My gift was a horoscope chart developed by “Wendy” and “Peter” (not their real names), who had done her chart. When I learned that Peter was an alleged psychic and that Wendy had left her husband and four children for him, I should have been smart enough to ask that we leave. But this was my sister’s present: how could I refuse?

She had provided them with the date, place, and time of my birth and from that information they developed my ‘chart.’ This sent me down a slippery slope. During the reading of my chart, I was told something about myself that I hadn’t yet discovered, and my dislike of this activity due to my religious beliefs was nudged aside by my curiosity.

Later, when I told my friends, a domino effect began: they wanted their charts done. A meeting was set up and Wendy came to our neighborhood, armed with the needed information. Six of us hung on her every word as she talked about each one of us. During our first session, we learned that she came alone because Peter had died – of an overdose of psychotropic drugs.

Day after day, for weeks, it was: Wendy said this, Wendy said that. Was she our new guru? Dawn finally broke! I was horrified by what I had done; I had a guilty conscience. I was a fool. We had become consumed with this nonsense. This experience brought home very clearly the truth about what the Bible says: Delving into the occult is sinful (*Deuteronomy 18:10, 11*). My fascination and curiosity soured, replaced by guilt and the desire to make things right. I was so wrong to bring Wendy’s “horror-scopes” into my friends lives; I apologized to each one and told them about paragraph #2116 of the Catholic Catechism warning against any kind of divination including horoscopes.

“Oh, don’t worry Dianne,” one said. “It’s just harmless fun.”

“NO it isn’t,” I replied. “We were wrong to do this; I was wrong to bring Wendy here. Listen to us quoting her – like her word was Gospel truth. How can we trust someone like that? I should have known better! And more

importantly, this takes us away from the Lord and His truth. I am so sorry!”

It wasn’t very long before my sister confided that she also regretted our step into the occult. We talked about the driving need to ‘know’ our future and the error of not relying on our faith for what lies ahead, agreeing that this insults our Lord who alone can be trusted.

When the *Philadelphia Catholic Standard & Times* was still in print, they published this in an article:

To divert us from Jesus, Satan counterfeits the true gifts of Jesus’ kingdom. For bible texts, Satan substitutes horoscopes. For prophecy, Satan substitutes fortune tellers, palm readers, psychics, ouija boards and tarot cards. For the Communion of Saints, Satan substitutes mediums and séances, which supposedly communicate with the dead (but really do not). Satan also substitutes his dogmas: for eternal life, he substitutes reincarnation. Instead of personal judgment, Satan devised ‘after death’ teaching that somehow we are all saved no matter how we’ve lived.

I know who holds my future and trust Him to work things out as He sees fit. Consulting God’s Word reinforces me to stay on the right path:

For I know well the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, plans for a future filled with hope. (Jeremiah 29:1)

No more horror-scopes! ✕

Editor’s Note: The Parishioner’s Pondering feature was started in NewStan to give a forum to anyone in the Parish who has a reflection or experience to share. If you are inspired, submissions should be up to 750 words and sent to ts.cutty@verizon.net or dropped in the NewStan mailbox in the Parish Center.

Cat Mattingly

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theirs and was the celebrant at Charlotte’s funeral. Her many associations at MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL where Scott holds the position of Enrollment Chair on the Board of Limited Jurisdiction, and her neighborhood friends, stood her and her family in good stead during this trying time.



She continues to treasure her committed hour at 1:00am in the Chapel before her Lord in the Eucharist and her work as an assistant coach with the North Penn Little League.

God bless you, Cat, and your family. ✕

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Parish Census Data for March – May 2018

	Matthew Michael Hawley William Clarence Jaber	Cassidy Betty Jean Pritchard Charlotte Rose Przasnyski	 Welcome Our New Members	Anna Marie Farragher David & Lauren Gers	John & Catherine Lombardi Thomas & Julia McGinniss
Yojary Anahy Almendarez Declan Forbes Avey Teigen Matthew Boyle Theo Daniel Burns Xavi Alexander Castro	Yale Sebastian Jones- Botello Miriam Sara Lemailloux Elizabeth Raye Lockhoff	Jayla Marie Quindi Arty Robert Saboe Sawyer Ann Schweihofer Charles Joseph Sulzbach	Jonathon & Lauren Affleck	Michael & Jessica Heidorn Anne Hoffman William & Stacey Hogan	Damon & Alicia Newman Tyler & Megan Noles James & Joanne Riley III
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Emily Rose Dunstone	Annamae Grace Potemski	Marilyn Lizeth Zavala	Joseph Esposito Angie Galofre	Letteriello Frank Lodanosky	



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Kathleen Fischer and Francisco Acosta
James Guerra & Jennifer Lynn Pangborn
Tina Gulick & Andrew Walker
Julia Kirby & Thomas Alan McGinniss



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