

We
Praise
Thee!

O GOD!



**HOLY IS ANY PLACE WHERE IT IS SAFE TO TELL YOUR STORY,
HOLY IS ANY PLACE THAT CREATES JUSTICE.**

ST. STANISLAUS CHURCH
398 SUPERIOR STREET
ST. PAUL, MN 55102-2925

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ST. STANISLAUS CHURCH
398 Superior Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102
www.ststans.org

Parish Office – 651-292-0303

Father John C. Clay
Pastor – 651-964-2812

Margaret Sanchez
Secretary – 651-224-8454

Chris & Kristine Ranweiler
Youth Workers – 651-292-1390

Frank Caruso Jr.
Custodian – 651-247-3582

Dolores Hunstad
Pastoral Worker – 651-964-2808

Lindsay Lopez
Director of Education – 651-292-1913

Kim Velasquez
Education Assistant – 651-238-3098

Patricia Heroff
Administrative Assistant – 651-964-2808

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

RECONCILIATION (penance)

Saturday 2:30 to 3:00 p.m.

BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS

Father John C. Clay - 651-964-2812

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Dear People Whom God Loves,

Struggling with Sin

The reading from the Book of Genesis 3:9-15, 20 struggles with the problem of evil. How can there be an all good God when there is evil and sin? Today let's focus on the notion of original sin, which is part of the bigger picture of evil. We'll talk evil another time.

The apostle Paul drew his idea about original sin from the Book of Genesis. Saint Augustine carried this further by adding sexual content to it from his own personal bad experiences.

So we have this doctrine of original sin, which says there is something wrong with us. We're drawn to sin. We're drawn to destruction. There are all kinds of things that just don't work right. This seems to point to a larger truth.

Now the authors of the Book of Genesis told a story to try to make some sense of this truth. How can we have a God who is all good when there is so much sin in the world? How does that fit together? All the authors of Genesis could do was use the knowledge that they had. Of course their understanding of the world was very different from ours. They thought that the world as we know it was made by God. God made the mountains, the rivers and the oceans just as they are. This reality is what the authors of Genesis knew and what they had to draw from. They did not realize that long before their own time, the entire terrain of the world was totally different. As they saw it, God made everything just as we see it today. God made the dogs and cats and cows and trees. God made them just as they are today. He plunked all of these things down into this world.

Of course, a world made by an all perfect God had to be perfect and wonderful, so it was called paradise, the Garden of Eden. Then God made human beings and put them into this beautiful garden. Everything was harmonious. Everything was wonderful. Everything was magnificent. And then they sinned. And because they sinned, this gets passed down to all of us. So we have what we have today—all of these terrible propensities to do

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

MONDAYS

Al-Anon: 11:30am-12:30pm, Parish Center

TUESDAYS

Women's Spirituality Group: 5:00-6:30pm, Parish Center

WEDNESDAYS

Youth Group: Meets at 6:30pm, Grades 7-12, Parish Center.

THURSDAYS

Women's Spirituality Group: 9:30-11:00am, Parish Center

Centering Prayer: 12-1:00pm; 7-8:00pm, Parish Center

Lectio Divina: 6:00-6:50 pm, Parish Center Library, Meets 1st & 3rd

Thursdays of each month.

Scriptural Rosary: Parish Center chapel 11-11:45am.

SATURDAYS

Penance: 3:00-3:30pm (**please note change in time**)

Mass: 4:00pm

SUNDAYS

Mass: 8:00am and 10:00am

Centering Prayer: 1st & 3rd Sunday mornings between Sunday mass times from 9:15-9:45am, Parish Center.

FEBRUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

- ❖ Caramel roll Sunday: Sunday, February 3 after 10am mass
- ❖ Spiritual Growth series: Sunday, February 10 & 24, 11:30am-1:00pm, *Everything Ablaze*, Parish Center
- ❖ Religious Education classes: Sundays, February 10, 17 & 24, Parish Center.
- ❖ Banner Making Potluck: Sacraments religious education class. Sunday, February 17 after 10am mass, Church Hall
- ❖ Catholic Services Appeal commitment weekend: February 23 & 24

MASSES—FEBRUARY 2—FEBRUARY 10

Sat. 4:00 Wendy Willman

Sat. 4:00 People of St. Stans

Sun. 8:00 Joyce Fournier

Sun. 8:00 People of St. Stans

10:00 Clarice Gombold

10:00 People of St. Stans

wrong, to hurt each other and so on.

That is the story the authors of Genesis told, because they had to tell it out of their own perspective. But the story points to a larger truth. Remember, the stories are not the truth; they point to a truth that is deeper. The problem today is that the story of Genesis doesn't work very well anymore, because we know from science that this is not the way things happened. So we need a different kind of story to point to the very same truth that this original story was pointing to.

How do we account for sin? It didn't start with people. All of the behaviors that we call sins are found in the animals. Aggression, exploitation, deceit, theft, warfare and cannibalism can all be found in the animal kingdom—even pride. And yet we think that all this came from us. Chimpanzees do things to save face. That's pride. In other words, all of the impulses toward these kinds of behavior, which we now call sin when they are done by people, existed long before there were any people on the earth. All the animals came from a different branch of the tree than human beings, so sin precedes us. In fact, these propensities we call sin all go back to the beginning of life on our planet. As things developed and evolved, the animals did all of these awful, terrible things, but we don't call it sin because there is no moral responsibility in animals. They were just doing what they do.

Then human beings arrived on the scene. They did not arrive into paradise. They arrived into this mess with all of these propensities we call sin. As the mind grew, human beings began to develop some sense of responsibility and morality. The doing of these behaviors became sin, because people did them knowing they were evil. When animals do the same wrong behavior as we do, we don't call it sin, because there is no moral responsibility. But to the degree that we do these behaviors freely and know what we are doing, we give them the name sin.

So this propensity toward evil did not start with human beings, but we do continue it. We've got all of these things inside of us and we make choices, sometimes very knowingly and deliberately, that are destructive and harmful, just increasing the mess.

More to come.

Smile, God loves you,
Father Clay

LECTIO DIVINA

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious education classes meet this month on February 10, 17 and 24.

- Sacraments class meets for two hours on February 10 and 17.
- Sunday February 17, First Communion Banner Making Potluck in the church hall from 11am-12:30pm for all students making their First Communion in May.

ST. STANS IN WINTER! OUR PAINTING AND PRINTS FUNDRAISER CONTINUES!

We are very grateful to parishioner and artist Tom Dimock who created a lovely winter landscape of our beloved St. Stan's. As part of a way to raise funds for our St. Stan's community, we are offering Tom's original painting for bidding as a blind auction. We will also be selling 5x7 and 8x10 signed, limited edition prints of the original painting. Parishioner Nora Hamberge writes "I'm grateful for how St. Stan's continues to bless my life. Father Clay's vision for St. Stan's of 'welcoming everyone' resonates deeply within me and challenges me to grow spiritually in the very best way. As our spiritual home, we contribute to St. Stan's however we are able. One way could be purchasing the gorgeous new St. Stanislaus print by Tom Dimock. It makes a perfect gift to benefit, honor and love the community we hold so dear." Please see the painting, prints and details for this special fundraiser in our church vestibule. 5x7 prints are available for \$30.00 and 8x10 for \$60.00.



MAKE SOMEONE'S BIRTHDAY SPECIAL

The 5th and 6th grade Religious Education students are collecting Birthday Party Items. They will be collecting cake mixes, frosting, and birthday candles. These items will be given to the local food shelf in a decorated bag wishing everyone a *Happy Birthday*.

Donations will be accepted the weekends of February 9 & 10; and 16 and 17. Please look for the decorated Birthday Barrels in the back of church to drop off your donation. Thank you!



MARCH 23 RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

St. Stan's will again be hosting a blood drive to support the Red Cross, **Saturday, March 23 from 9am-3pm.** There will be a Red Cross blood mobile in front of the church. To sign up contact Mark Thiel at 651-647- 6675 or mmmka@comcast.net. You may also register at www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code "St Stan". Drop-ins are also welcome. Refreshments will be provided, also inside the blood mobile.

LENTEN SCHEDULE ACTIVITIES COMING UP IN MARCH

March 6: Ash Wednesday, mass at 5:30pm.

March 8, 15, 22 and 29: Quiet Centering Prayer, 10m-11am in church.

March 8, 15, 22 and 29: Stations of the Cross, 11am-12pm in church.

March 13: Soup Supper at St. Mark's, 6pm.

March 20: Soup Supper at St. Stan's, 6pm.

March 27: Soup Supper at St. Mark's, 6pm.

Easter is on April 21 this year.

DONATIONS COME IN MANY FORMS

Holy is any place where it is safe to tell your story. Holy is any place that creates justice. You can contribute to St. Stan's mission via automatic Bank Withdrawal, Offering Envelopes, Collection Basket, Charitable Annuities, Estate Giving and by the **Donate** link on our website. Please feel free to contact Kim Myers, Parish Administrator at 651-224-7998 with any questions. We thank you so very much for your continued support and generosity. We remain committed to our mission to *Experience* God's love on our spiritual journey, to *Accept* everyone regardless of their background and to *Provide* a safe haven for all in a Christian faith-sharing community.

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

In response to the Gospel call to serve the poor and spread the Good News, the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation of the Saint Paul and Minneapolis Area (CSAF) works as Christ's hands and feet throughout the 12-county Archdiocese. An independent non-profit organization, CSAF partners with 20 varied outreach ministries, thousands of individual donors, and over 185 Catholic parishes to serve the poor, support life, and strengthen the Catholic faith. We invite you to learn more about each of the vital ministries supported by the Foundation, and to join us in transforming lives through the Gospel. Visit www.csafspm.org to learn more. We will kick off the 2019 Catholic Services Appeal at St. Stan's on the weekend of February 23 & 24.

WWW.STSTANS.ORG

Did you know you can find information on the St. Stan's church and community online? We also post all bulletin monthly mailers, calendar events, ministry and volunteer opportunities and more. Check out our website! We have added daily mass readings. St. Stan's is also on Facebook, and you can follow Father Clay on Twitter! We welcome any suggestions or ideas for our online presence! Please feel free to contact Kim Myers at 651-224-7998 or kimmyers@ststans.org with any suggestions or ideas.