

We
Praise
Thee!



**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,

The Jesus Story

Jesus invited people to enter the reign of God. I understand this as Jesus inviting us to see things as God sees them, to become more like God in our actions, to treat each other as God treats us. He was calling us to repent, calling us to metanoia, calling us to change our minds and hearts, calling us to be, as the Eastern church Father called it, divinized.

This, of course, can only be brought about by the Divine Love that is in us, around us and through everything. Since Love allows us to be free, we have to be willing. But Love will also help us to be willing, while allowing us to be free.

We are invited to be willing to see honestly the dark parts that are in us and to be willing for Love to heal our spiritual woundedness. It is important to remember that Love is holding us, smiling at us and cherishing us through the whole process.

Let us now see what Jesus was getting at when he invited people into the reign of God. As Christians we believe that Jesus' words and actions firmly show us what it means to live like God in our human lives.

In Luke 15:11-32 we are called to imitate the mercy and forgiveness of God. Jesus tells the parable of the Lost Son. It could also be called the Forgiving and Merciful Father.

Tax collectors and sinners are drawing near to listen to Jesus. Seeing this, the Pharisees and scribes complain and say, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

In our story, the son is obviously a sinner. He ran off and wasted his inheritance in a wild, sinful life. He then got a job caring for the pigs. He was hungry, but no one would even give him the food of the pigs to eat. The son represents us, mired deeply in little, big or in-between sins. We are certainly guilty.

JANUARY 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

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.

JANUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

- ❖ New Year's Day, Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Mass: Wednesday, January 1, 10am.
- ❖ Caramel Roll Sunday: Sunday, January 5, after Mass times
- ❖ Religious Education: Classes meet on Sundays, January 12, 19 & 26.
- ❖ Knitting & Crocheting Group: Saturday, January 11, 9:30am, Parish Center
- ❖ Sought through Prayer and Meditation Workshop: begins Tuesday, January 14 from 12pm-1:30pm. Register with Lindsay Lopez.
- ❖ Youth Group Adult Trivia Night: Saturday, January 25, 5:15pm, Church hall

LECTIO DIVINA

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.



The father represents God. The father is looking for his son and hoping that he will come home, just as the great Love we name God reaches out to us in the depth of our sins to heal us and bring us home. The reign of God is our home.

Now back to our story. The son on his way home is scared. How will his father react when he sees him? Aren't we at times scared when we think about meeting God? Like the son, we don't fully comprehend the mercy, understanding, compassion and healing power of Love.

When the father sees his son a long way off, he is filled with compassion and runs to him and hugs him, kisses him and throws him a party to rejoice that his son is back home safe and sound.

Let us ponder this in the depths of our soul. I suggest reading the parable slowly and quietly. If we don't identify with the sins of the younger son, we have the opportunity to identify with the sins of the older son. The older son struggled with resentment at obeying all of his father's commands, and with his feelings of righteousness that kept him from having compassion toward his brother. I find some of each son in me, but no matter which way we sin we are loved by Love.

More to come.

Smile, God loves you,
Father Clay

MASSES—JANUARY 4—JANUARY 12

New Year's Day Jan 1 10:00 People of St. Stan's

Sat. 4:00 Julie Hanson

Sat. 4:00 Bob Gatti

Sun. 8:00 Aloysius Svobodny

Sun. 8:00 Veronica Kraft

10:00 Clarice Gombold

10:00 Paul Sirba

Experience God's love on our spiritual journey. At St. Stan's we accept everyone, regardless of their background. We provide a safe haven for all in a Christian faith-sharing community.

Please share what we have at St. Stan's with someone this year!

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Happy New Year Everyone!

YOUTH GROUP ADULT TRIVIA NIGHT

Please join us for Adult Trivia Night on **Saturday, January 25, 2020**. St. Stanislaus lower level Church Hall. Cost is \$15.00 per person, must preregister. Cost includes snacks and soft drinks and a whole lot of laughter! Beer and wine will be available for purchase.



Registration and food at 5:15 p.m.; Trivia begins at 6:00 p.m. Proceeds will go to the St. Stanislaus Youth Group Mission trip this summer. To register, please contact Kristine Ranweiler at 651-292-1390 or kristine@ststans.org by Monday, January 20.

SOUGHT THROUGH PRAYER AND MEDITATION WORKSHOP

This workshop will meet once a month on the second Tuesday of each month from 12pm-1:130pm in the Parish Center library beginning January 14. Each month we will discuss one of the 12 Steps and look at how Step 11 plays a role in our understanding of that step. Each session will consist of a 20 minute centering prayers sit, as well as a conversation surrounding where our prayer lives may be leading us. This workshop will be facilitated by Mary Lapham and Lindsay Lopez. To register call or email Lindsay Lopez at 651-292-1913 or lindsay@ststans.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Just a reminder for our religious education students pre-school through sixth grade; the children's religious education program will be on winter vacation beginning Sunday, December 29 through Sunday, January 5, 2020. Classes resume on Sunday, January 12.

2020 DONATION ENVELOPES FOR THE NEW YEAR

For those who use envelopes, 2020 boxes will be available in the church vestibule in February this year. Our vendor had production problems so our 2020 envelopes will be delayed. In the meantime, the vendor will be providing us with general giving envelopes to use until the numbered envelopes arrive. Please be sure to add your name or envelope number to these general giving envelopes so they can be properly credited. If you would like to start using envelopes, blank boxes will also be available. Remember, you are always welcome at St. Stan's, regardless of your financial contribution.

AL-ANON

Is your life affected by someone else's drinking? To help them, you have to help yourself first. Al-Anon--help for families and friends of alcoholics. An Al-Anon group meets Mondays 11:30am-12:30pm in the Parish Center. Please contact Lindsay Lopez at 651-292-1913 or lindsay@ststans.org for information.

IN FOLLOW UP TO *LOOKING FOR "YOU"*

Last July we invited our parish community to an informational meeting on the various volunteer ministry opportunities over the weekend of July 20 & 21. We thank you for considering the many volunteer areas available at St. Stan's. At that time we did make mention of a plan to host a similar event in the fall of 2019. In lieu of a specific fall weekend for the event, we are still wanting to follow-up on our commitment to offer opportunities for volunteers. We have many places where your time and talents can help the St. Stan's Community grow in spiritual growth, hospitality and service such as Greeters, Ushers, Choir members, and Money Counters. We will post sign-up sheets for our current needs in addition to a place for your thoughts and ideas in our church vestibule. To keep St. Stan's a happy, healthy, welcoming church will require all of us working together. We are looking for "You." Thank you!

ST. STAN'S FINANCIAL PROFILE

	Money collected from contributions	Money spent performing St. Stan's mission	Funding Shortfall
Last Fiscal Year 7/1/18-6/30/2019	\$504,202.10	\$695,189.06	\$(190,986.96)
Recent Fiscal Year 7/1/2019-10/31/2019	\$313, 364.04	\$205, 945.89	*\$107,418.15
*driven by the sale of our 402 residential property			

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! 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.

WE CARE...

Do you have a family member, friend or neighbor who is ill, lonely, or grieving, who would appreciate a friendly call, and a listening ear? Father Dennis will make the initial contact, and depending on the circumstances, a member of St. Stan's would follow up with subsequent calls. Just a call, letting someone know we care, can help! Please contact Kim Myers at 651-224-7998.