

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](http://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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Twin Cities, MN  
Permit No. 3643

Dear People Whom God Loves,

### **Why Suffering?**

Why is there suffering? I suppose that we won't fully know the answer in this life. I have a partial insight that is helpful to me. Perhaps it will be helpful to you. I want to hold together the knowledge that suffering is real and the belief that we are infinitely loved.

We start when there was no universe and there was no time. We don't have words adequate to express this. These words try to express what existed before time, but the phrase before time is inadequate because the words before and after presume that time is present.

I mention this to help us realize that we are dealing with mystery. When we speak about mystery, the best we can do is get a pointer to the mystery. The best we can hope for is an inkling of what the mystery is. I would like more, but an inkling is enough. Holding on through faith (trust) does the rest.

LOVE (God) exists. There is nothing else. LOVE (God) is not a being. LOVE (God) is spirit. There is nothing material. Some use the phrase loving energy to refer to LOVE (God). I don't see that as an adequate expression. There is physicality to energy. LOVE (God) is subtle and works vastly different than the way we creatures do things. It is beyond physicality and our reason cannot explain it.

Reason can only go so far. We all have to make a leap of faith. Some of us will choose to believe that there is something more. Some of us will choose to believe that there is nothing more.

Another way of putting it is this: Is there ultimate meaning or is there not? Is love ultimate or is it not? I choose to believe that love and meaning are ultimate.

LOVE (God) gives birth to the universe. This means that the universe is always dependent for its existence on the sustaining power of LOVE (God). Without that sustaining power, we and the rest of the universe would not exist. We call this creation "from nothing", a good but inadequate phrase to

## **SEPTEMBER 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

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 & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday mornings between Sunday mass times from 9:15-9:45am, Parish Center.

### **SEPTEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS**

- ❖ Fall Festival & Turkey Dinner: Sunday, Sept 8, 11am-5pm
- ❖ Religious Ed Youth preschool-Grade 6 Registration: Sept 7 & 8; 14 & 15, after mass times.
- ❖ Intro to Centering Prayer workshop: Saturday, Sept 14 9:30am-2:30pm Parish Center library.
- ❖ Knitting & Crocheting Group: Sat, Sept 14, 9:30am, Parish Center
- ❖ *World Day of Migrants and Refugees*: Saturday, Sept 28, 4:00pm mass and dinner in church hall following mass
- ❖ Youth Group Registration: Grades 7-12, Wednesday, Sept 25, 6-8pm, church hall

### **MASSES—AUGUST 31—SEPTEMBER 8**

Sat. 4:00 Clarice Gombold

Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, Sun. 8:00 Jim Hertel

10:00 Steve Johnson Family

Sat. 4:00 Success of Fall Festival

Sun. 8:00 Success of Fall Festival

10:00 Success of Fall Festival

**LECTIO DIVINA** *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.*

express the mystery. Creating from nothing is quite different from causing something.

LOVE (God) is continually allowing us to be. This means to me that LOVE (God), though different from the universe, lives in the universe and is mysteriously active in the universe.

Since we humans are made in the image and likeness of God, that living in and acting in us is deeper than it is in the rest of the universe. The closeness between LOVE (God) and us humans can hardly be exaggerated, as long as we recognize that we are not God.

When we speak of LOVE (God) as giving birth to us and everything, we call GOD, Father. Interestingly, Our Father is Our Mother.

More to come.

Smile, God loves you,  
Father Clay

### **RECENT NEWS AT ST STANS**

*A letter was made available in July at church with news of the thefts that occurred here at St. Stan's. The letter is available in church or please feel free to call Kim Myers, parish administrator 651-224-7998, for a copy or any questions. Rather than a separate mailing we thought we would include portions of the communication in this bulletin:*

It is with much sadness we write to you today to inform you about two recent thefts at our parish.

The first happened after Mass on Sunday, July 14, when someone broke into our parish offices through the side door and stole \$1,400 from the office safe. The second happened the following Sunday, July 21, when the thieves broke into the office through the garage and took the safe and an old laptop. Thankfully, the safe was empty and the laptop was old and of little value.

We contacted the St. Paul Police and our insurer immediately after each incident. While police investigated the crimes, they authorized us to work closely with our insurance company to review our security procedures to protect the donations you entrust to us for the operation of the parish and the many ways we reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have already implemented operational changes to make sure our parish and offices are more secure now and in the future. Our insurance company and law enforcement are working collaboratively with the parish to ensure we are made whole as promptly as possible.

### FALL FESTIVAL SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 2019

Please join us for our annual Fall Festival, on Sunday, September 8 from 11am-5pm. The event will feature bingo, wheel of fortune, mini golf, cotton candy, kid store and games, live music, beer and hotdogs, white elephant garage sale, variety booth, silent auction, jar bar, bakery, and our famous turkey dinner with all the trimmings! *Bring your friends and family!*

### FALL FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 8 VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We are inviting all interested volunteers that would like to assist with the Fall Festival to please contact committee chair Tim Lucas at 651-336-7072 or at [timlucas75@gmail.com](mailto:timlucas75@gmail.com). You can also sign up on the postings in the church vestibule. As in years past, we have a number of openings for volunteer help. Jobs big and small are available! This is a great opportunity for community fellowship, fun and service to St. Stan's parish.

### FALL EDUCATION REGISTRATION

Registration for all Youth Programming will be the weekends of September 7 & 8 and 14 & 15 after each Mass, in the Parish Center. Programs include Sunday School, Religious Education: Kindergarten – Sixth Grade, and Sacrament Classes.

### WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Pope Francis has invited the whole world to celebrate **World Day of Migrants and Refugees—“it’s not just about migrants.”** During mass times the weekend of August 17 & 18, Parishioner Mary Ryan addressed this upcoming event and how St. Stan's can participate. Here at St. Stan's we will celebrate on Saturday, September 28 at our 4pm mass. Following mass, please join us for a dinner in the Church Hall for more dialogue and community as people of God. All are welcome.

### ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD—UPCOMING PRAYER AND LISTENING EVENTS

What's working and what's not in the Archdiocese? Archbishop Hebda wants to hear from you! Please prayerfully consider attending an upcoming Prayer and Listening Event, as part of the Pre-Synod Process and make your voice heard. Your input will help guide the Archdiocese over the next 5-10 years. First three events: **Tues., Sept. 24, 6-9 p.m. at St. Victoria (St. Victoria); Sat., Sept. 28, 9 a.m.-noon at St. Michael (St. Michael); Fri., Oct. 11, 6-9 p.m. at Guardian Angels (Oakdale)**

Learn more about the Synod and see a full listing of Prayer and Listening Events at [archspm.org/synod](http://archspm.org/synod).

### YOUTH GROUP REGISTRATION

Youth Group registration will be on Wednesday, September 25, 6-8pm in the Church Hall. Grades 7-12.

### INTRODUCTION TO CENTERING PRAYER WORKSHOP

We are offering an introduction workshop to Centering Prayer on Saturday September 14 from 9:30 am -2:30pm in the Parish Center Library. We hope you can join us. The workshop will cover everything you need to know to get started as well as continue on with your journey in Centering Prayer. This workshop will be facilitated by members of the **Minnesota Contemplative Outreach**. A light lunch will be served. To register or if you have any questions call Lindsay Lopez at 651-292-1913 or email [lindsay@ststans.org](mailto:lindsay@ststans.org). Suggested donation \$30.00.

### ST. STAN'S FINANCIAL PROFILE

As we had communicated, we anticipated an alarming shortfall for the **2018-2019 Fiscal year**, and our result is outlined below. This has been a time of transition for St. Stan's with Fr. Clay's retirement. Staffing was the primary driver of our expenses, and as we have shared with all of you we did proceed with a reduction in force in May. In addition, hours and benefits were reduced for remaining staff. \*Additional financial detail will be provided by a separate communication.

We continue to have solid investments in place, and we have no debt. However, our work continues. We must draw in new members, and we need everyone's support to remain an independent parish. St. Stan's has much to offer the West 7<sup>th</sup> and surrounding communities! It is truly up to each one of us to keep St. Stan's financially viable going forward!

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. St. Stan's is a special community! 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, *Accept* everyone regardless of their background and to *Provide* a safe haven for all in a Christian faith-sharing community.

	Money collected from contributions	Money spent performing St. Stan's mission	Funding Shortfall
<b>Fiscal Year</b> 7/1/17-6/30/2018	<b>\$679,069.49</b>	<b>\$724,918.55</b>	<b>\$(45,849.06)</b>
<b>Recent Fiscal Year</b> 7/1/18-6/30/2019	<b>\$504,202.10</b>	<b>\$695,189.06</b>	<b>\$(190,986.96)</b>