

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

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Weekend Mass
Saturday 4:00pm
Sunday 8:00 and 10:00am

Penance
Saturday 3:00 - 3:30

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

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St. Stanislaus Church Bulletin
St. Stanislaus Church
398 Superior Street
St. Paul, MN 55102

September 6, 2020
Issue No. 422

Let us start with "The reign of God is **within.**"

The reign of God is the persuasiveness of Love. This reminds us that this wondrous, infinite, compassionate, merciful, understanding, healing, forgiving and energizing Love is deep inside us. Indeed I would say that is who we really are. And as that Love grows within us, we are gradually becoming who we really are. That is why only love (Love) can make us deeply happy.

Remember, Love respects our freedom. That is why we must be willing to allow Love to transform us. We resist because it means letting go (usually gradually) of the selfish, unhealthy things within us. We cling to those parts even though they are destructive. This applies to all of us. It often takes a crisis to shock us out of our stubbornness. Love helps us to be willing to be changed, and even works through the painful shocks in our lives.

An essential part of this process is seeing ourselves as we really are. This means seeing the deep goodness in the depths of our being. This can be hard when our background has filled us with shame, guilt and self-hatred. We can also be misled by thinking that our goodness is because of our success, our talents, our position of power, our virtuousness, our religiosity and who knows what else.

Whether we live out of inflated ego or deflated ego, we are called and energized by Love to see our true goodness. When this happens we slowly receive the gift of gratitude and humility.

More to come.

Smile, God loves you,
Father Clay

Dear People Whom God Loves,

Kingdom (Reign) of God Is Among (Within) You

"The Kingdom of God is among you." Reflecting and meditating on these words of Jesus can transform us. What I mean is that letting these words sink into us can change the way we think and the way we live.

To clarify, either the word kingdom or the word reign can be used. I personally prefer the word reign. Why? Because the word kingdom makes us think of God as a king. That might have been valuable in former times, but the idea of God as a king doesn't seem positive to me in our times. A king has power. That power is interwoven with the ability to use force or punishment to make people do as he commands. The power of force seems to me to be a poor metaphor for God who is Love. (The scriptures tell us, "God is Love.")

Love and force don't seem to fit well together. Love is a gift. It comes from free will. A person can be forced to do some things, but a person cannot be forced to love. A person may be forced to say they love someone or pretend that they love someone, but that is not love. There is no love without freedom. That is why I see king as a poor metaphor for God.

How about the word reign? This to me is better because it more closely resembles the way I see God. God (LOVE) is the source of all of creation, the source of people, yes, but source of all creation. Love is not only the source but also lives in and pervades everyone and everything. Love (God) is not the universe but is the source. At the same time Love (God) is intimately in the universe. I believe that the intimacy is in us in a deeper way than in the rest of the universe. But we must not forget that Love (God) is throughout everything.

To continue, the Greek preposition with can be translated by the word among or the word within. I see either translation as emphasizing in different ways what the reign of God is like.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

Women's Spirituality Group: 6:00-7:30pm, on Tuesday, September 22. The group meets on the church lawn or via online. Please call Lindsay Lopez at 651-292-1913 with any questions.

THURSDAYS

Women's Spirituality Group: 10:00-11:30am on Thursday, September 24 on the church lawn or via online.
Centering Prayer: 7:00-8:00pm online.
Lectio Divina: 6:00-6:50 pm currently meeting online.
Please call Lindsay Lopez at 651-292-191 with any questions or information to join meetings online.

SATURDAYS

Penance: 3:00-3:30pm
Mass: 4:00pm

SUNDAYS

Mass: 8:00am and 10:00am

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

- ❖ Sought Through Prayer and Meditation Workshop: Step 9, Tuesday, September 8, 12:00pm—1:30pm, online. Please contact Lindsay Lopez 651-292-1913 or lindsay@ststans.org for information on how to join the virtual meeting.
- ❖ Fall Fundraising Special \$10,000 Raffle: Sunday, September 13 at 11:00am on the Church Lawn.
- ❖ Red Cross Blood Drive: Friday, September 18, 9am-3pm at Church.
- ❖ Women's Tuesday and Thursday Spirituality Groups: begin this month on September 22 and 24 respectively.

MASSES—SEPTEMBER 5—SEPTEMBER 13

Sat. 4:00 Tom Strafelda	Sat. 4:00 Ernie Heroff
Sun. 8:00 People of St. Stan's	Sun. 8:00 Robert Keane
10:00 Success of our Raffle	10:00 Clarice Gombold

LECTIO DIVINA

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

OPEN WIDE OUR HEARTS: THE CATHOLIC CHURCH CONFRONTS RACISM

Wednesday, September 9, 10 a.m.-noon (Feast of St. Peter Claver)

Zoom Webinar – Registration & details www.MNCatholic.org/openwideourhearts

The tragic death of George Floyd has ignited a public conversation about ongoing racial inequity and injustice in America. How can the Church uphold the dignity of all human persons and foster the common good during these contentious times? What issues do we need to address with our own Church that prevent an appropriate response? The Minnesota Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Minnesota, is hosting this forum on the memorial of St. Peter Claver to provide an opportunity for formation and reflection on these critical issues in our community, and how we as a Church can respond.

Featured speaker: Bishop Shelton Fabre, Bishop of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux and Chairman, USCCB Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism Panelist: Damen Owens, international speaker and evangelist and executive director of Joyful Ever After. More panelists to be announced.

FALL FUNDRAISING SPECIAL RAFFLE

As we have communicated, in lieu of our Fall Festival and Craft Fair events this fall, we are offering a **Special Raffle with a Grand Prize of \$10,000.00!!**



The Special Raffle works by selling 350 tickets at \$100.00 each. That gives you a 1 in 350 chance of being a winner! In addition to the Grand Prize of \$10,000, the Second prize will be \$1,000.00. Third prize will be \$500.00. Fourth prize will be \$500.00. Fifth prize will be \$500.00. The drawing for this Special Raffle will take place on our Fall Festival date of Sunday, September 13. The drawing will take place on the church lawn at 11:00a.m., following our 10am mass. You do not need to be present to win.

To ensure all 350 tickets are sold we are opening the raffle to everyone: employees, volunteers, parishioners and their families and friends. Sale of the raffle tickets will be first come, first served. To date we have sold about 200 tickets, so tickets are still available for sale but they are going quickly!

Please contact Lindsay Lopez at 651-292-1913 or lindsay@ststans.org to purchase tickets or if you have any questions.

SOUGHT THROUGH PRAYER AND MEDITATION WORKSHOP

This workshop is still meeting once a month on the second Tuesday of each month from 12pm-1:30pm but is now meeting online. 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. This workshop will be facilitated by Mary Lapham and Lindsay Lopez. This month the virtual meeting will be on Step 9 on Tuesday, September 8, from 12-1:30pm. To register call or email Lindsay Lopez at 651-292-1913 or lindsay@ststans.org.

SEPTEMBER 18 RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

St. Stan's will again be hosting a blood drive to support the Red Cross, **FRIDAY, September 18 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

Registration for all youth religious education Kindergarten through 12th grade will be the weekends of October 3rd/4th and 10th/11th in the parish center. Please call Lindsay Lopez at 651-292-1913 or email: lindsay@ststans.org if you have any questions. **ST. STAN'S YOUTH GROUP** first meeting and Parent Registration on October 9 at 6:30pm in the Church Hall.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUPS

St. Stan's Women's spirituality groups will begin a new year this month of September. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please contact Lindsay at 651-292-1913 or lindsay@ststans.org.

ST. STAN'S FINANCIAL PROFILE

As you know in 2019 we experienced an alarming operations funding shortfall and in an effort to address our financial situation we eliminated two staff positions, reduced hours with our part-time staff and reduced employee benefits coverage for our remaining full-time staff. We also determined it would be an appropriate time to sell the residential property we owned at 402 Superior Street.

The changes made are reflected in our 2019-2020 Fiscal Year results noted below. We ended the Fiscal Year with a positive \$107,778.82! Detailed reports will be posted in the church vestibule, and we welcome any

questions or concerns you may have about our ongoing financial position. We continue to have solid investments in place, and we have no debt. We thank you all for your continued generous support of our St. Stan's community. However, our work continues. Our challenge remains to attract new members. St. Stan's parish offers a unique and welcoming home to the spiritual community. Please help us share the word about our parish community. 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. St. Stan's is a special community!

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)/ Overage
Fiscal Year 7/1/18-6/30/2019	\$504,202.10	\$695,189.06	\$(190,986.96)
Recent Fiscal Year 7/1/19-6/30/2020	\$497,160.74	\$604,939.56	\$107,778.82