



HOLY IS ANY PLACE WHERE IT IS SAFE TO TELL YOUR STORY.

HOLY IS ANY PLACE THAT CREATES JUSTICE.

St. Stanislaus Church

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St. Stanislaus Church Bulletin

October 4, 2020

Issue No. 423

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

Dear People Whom God Loves,

We now turn to listening in a religious setting. I believe that we grow deeply spiritual (that is, we let the Holy Spirit transform us) when religion helps us to be more peaceful within ourselves and with each other. (As a disclaimer, I myself am not always peaceful about religion. I pray that the Holy Spirit will lead me in that direction.)

It is quite obvious that religion is often the source of serious conflict. Many wars have religion as a major component. I kill you for God who is on my side. How much hatred is because of religion? I hate you because you are believing wrong. My belief is the whole truth. God is on my side.

Why is there this seeming contradiction between religion and peace?

One reason is that our image of God does not lead us into peace. An example is the popular hymn, "Onward, Christian Soldiers, Marching as to War." What image of God is behind that? We might say we are marching in a war against evil. Perhaps, but the trap I see is that we see ourselves as the good guys and the others as the bad guys, the enemy. I think that when we are in that mode, some form of hate is almost certain to arise.

Further, let us suppose that our image of God follows the scripture that says God is Love. I see Jesus following that scripture, reminding us that our heavenly Father allows the sun to shine on the "good" and the "bad." Also, Jesus says to love your enemies. Again, take the log out of your own eye and then you will see straight enough to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Having the image that God is Love is certainly a wonderful way to start. However, it won't do a whole lot of good unless we allow that infinite, merciful, understanding, healing and forgiving Love to transform our inner self. We allow this to happen when

we surrender everything, including our most cherished beliefs and habits, to Love to be purified. Even our most virtuous parts must be purified, not to mention the rest. When we surrender to Love, we will be purified. We will be transformed. It will be painful because we have a hard time letting go, but it is worth it.

Let us continue to discuss the seeming contradiction between religion and peace. Without any bad motive, it is possible for us to perform religious rituals and practices without inner transformation taking place. I think this was what Fr. Richard Rohr meant when he said, "Religion is a wonderful place to avoid God."

Religion can become just another way of boosting our ego. This happens not because we are bad, but because ego is so tricky. We are really not consciously aware of what is going on deep inside us.

More to come.

Smile, God loves you,
Father Clay

OCTOBER CALENDAR

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

Women's Spirituality Group: 6:00-7:30pm. 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 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 (live streamed on our Facebook page)

SUNDAYS

Mass: 8:00am and 10:00am

OCTOBER SPECIAL EVENTS

- ❖ Joint Pastoral Councils Meeting: Sunday, October 4 11:00am, via GoTo Meeting.
- ❖ Sought Through Prayer and Meditation Workshop: Step 10, Tuesday, October 13, 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.
- ❖ Religious Education Registration: Kindergarten through 12th grade weekends of October 3 and 4 and 10 and 11 after each mass time.
- ❖ Youth Group 1st Meeting and Parent Registration: Wednesday, October 7 at 6:30pm in the Church Hall.

MASSES—OCTOBER 4—OCTOBER 11

Sat. 4:00 John Clay

Sat. 4:00 James Oden

Sun. 8:00 Joe Stemig

Sun. 8:00 Francis Kittock

10:00 John Clay

10:00 Clarice Gombold

LECTIO DIVINA

Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

SOUGHT THROUGH PRAYER AND MEDITATION WORKSHOP

This workshop continues to meet 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 10 on Tuesday, October 13, from 12-1:30pm. To register call or email Lindsay Lopez at 651-292-1913 or lindsay@ststans.org.

FALL FUNDRAISING SPECIAL RAFFLE

All 350 special raffle tickets were sold! We thank you dearly for your support and participation! The sale of all 350 tickets less the \$12,500.00 winnings total amounts to a fundraising total of \$22,500.00 for the continued operations at St. Stan's! We look forward to another exciting raffle this spring in lieu of our Spring Fling event. We will keep you posted about such an event moving forward. **Special Congratulations to the following Winners: \$10,000.00 prize to Jennifer L.; \$1,000.00 prize to Kathy D.; \$500.00 prizes to Kathy M.; Mary O.; and Mike T.** Again, your support and enthusiastic participation made the Fall Special Raffle a sound success! We are very grateful.

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 following each mass. 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 Wednesday, October 7 at 6:30pm in the Church Hall.

ST. STAN'S SATURDAY 4:00PM MASS NOW BEING LIVE STREAMED ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE. FIND THE VIDEO ON FACEBOOK (@saintstanislauschurch) or by visiting our website at ststans.org.



FATHER CLAY'S LAST MESSAGE TO ALL OF US

You have been my family since 1975. You have been the major part of my growing wisdom and love. I am grateful to you.

I leave with you the words of the legend of St. John the Apostle. When carried in on a stretcher Sunday after Sunday to give the sermon, he would say "my little children, love on another." Then they would carry him out.

One day someone asked him why that was the only thing he would say. He responded, "That is the only thing that matters." That is my final message to you.

I would add not only love one another,

Love people of all religions

Those who have no religion

Those who believe in God

Those who do not believe in God

Those who struggle with belief in God.

The Love that God is, is infinite. It embraces all people that have ever been or ever will be. We are all God's Kids. There are no exceptions.

Please pray for me. Perhaps, I will be able to help you in the next life much more than when I was here.

Smile God Loves You,

Father Clay