



***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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**John 1:1-4**

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God  
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation  
of the God.

and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came  
to be. What came to be through him was life and this life was the  
light of the human race.”

I can see the beginning of what becomes our doctrine of the Blessed Trinity. The Son  
(Word) was with God and the Son (Word) was God, sameness and separation at the  
same time. This is a mystery. I see the mystery pointing to the beautiful truth that  
the one God who is other is also intimate with us. Creation came through the Son.  
This was long before Jesus was born. This tells me that we should not confine the  
work of the Son to the years when Jesus walked on our earth. The Son brought life  
to the human race.

For us to be saved and made whole was what God always wanted. I see salvation as  
being drawn into the love and mercy that makes us more closely resemble the love  
and mercy that God is. To phrase this another way, the one God who is other than  
the world and us humans is also intimate with us and the world and wants our  
salvation.

More to come.

Smile, God loves you,  
Father Clay

**2020 FOOD DRIVE COLLECTION RESULTS**

Thank you all for your generosity! The St. Stan’s Food Drive yielded 300 pounds of  
food and \$2,550.00 to the Salvation Army on West 7<sup>th</sup> Street which exceeds our  
2019 donation! The Salvation Army buys food at a discount through Second Harvest  
Heartland. Your donation of \$2,550.00 will allow the purchase of more than 7,650  
meals for West Seventh Community Families in need. The Salvation Army was  
thrilled to receive our donation during this COVID-19 pandemic and is very grateful  
to St. Stanislaus.

Dear People Whom God Loves,

**Christ**

I preface this reflection by making it clear that I believe in our doctrines of Creation,  
the Blessed Trinity, the Incarnation, and the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Those doctrines are the words our church uses to pass on the mystical experience  
of the early followers of Jesus. The words, of course, are not the same as the  
experience, but they have been able to help people of many generations to enter  
into the experience or at least to hold on to it without entering into the experience  
at much depth.

I find it helpful to listen to the scriptures that trace the experience of the early  
followers of Jesus as they struggled to reconcile their belief, as faithful Jews, with  
what they experienced in Jesus.

As strict monotheists, they held fast to their belief that there is only one God who is  
separate from the world and the people that God created. At the same time, their  
experience of Jesus revealed to them that God was intimate with them and the  
world. This closeness with God was also experienced in the Jewish tradition. I do  
think that the experience they had of Jesus gave them more insight.

This eventually gave rise to our doctrine of the Blessed Trinity. Three divine persons  
—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—yet one God. This was not a math  
question about how one can be three and three one. This doctrine passed on to us  
their experience that God is other than us and our world, and at the same time is  
intimate with us and our world. (They had no notion of the cosmos that we have  
today.)

I have pondered the following scripture passages that help me to understand a little  
better what our doctrines are passing on:

## A NOTE ABOUT OUR BULLETIN

The Parish and Finance Councils have been meeting jointly as we move through changes at St. Stan's and face the challenges of COVID-19. The councils recently discussed the bulletin content and have decided to continue with Father Clay's writings from his fourth book Mysterious Love until the writings from this book have all been shared. We understand the love for Father's writings while acknowledging the need to move forward with a new format. We anticipate making some significant changes to our bulletin communication going forward after the New Year. Peace to all!



*Merry Christmas*

## **DECEMBER 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.

### **WEDNESDAYS**

Youth Group 6:30-8:00pm, online

### **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

### **SUNDAYS**

Mass: 8:00am and 10:00am

## **DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS**

- ❖ Joint Pastoral Councils Meeting: Sunday, December 6, 11am
- ❖ Sought Through Prayer and Meditation Workshop: Step 12, Tuesday, December 8, 12:00pm—1:30pm, online. Please contact Lindsay Lopez 651-292-1913 or [lindsay@ststans.org](mailto:lindsay@ststans.org) for information on how to join the virtual meeting.
- ❖ Communal Penance: Sunday, December 13, 11:00am
- ❖ Christmas Eve Mass: Thursday, December 24, 4:00pm
- ❖ Christmas Day Mass times: Friday, December 25, 8 & 10am. Weekend Masses normal schedule.
- ❖ New Year's Day Mass: January 1, 2021, 10am

## **MASSES—DECEMBER 5—DECEMBER 13**

Sat. 4:00 Bob Gatti

Sat. 4:00 Strafelda & Mergens Families

Sun. 8:00 Bonnie Eggleton

Sun. 8:00 Clarice Gombold

10:00 Louise & Robert Eggleton

10:00 George Heroff

### **Mass Readings:**

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:9-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

## **RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS COLLECTION DECEMBER 12-13**

Help our elders. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the **Retirement Fund for Religious** helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Your generosity is appreciated.

## **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 12 on Tuesday, December 8, from 12-1:30pm. To register call or email Lindsay Lopez at 651-292-1913 or [lindsay@ststans.org](mailto:lindsay@ststans.org).

## ADVENT DEVOTIONS FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Over the course of the four weeks of Advent, you have the opportunity to follow along in Henri Nouwen's "And the Word was God" pamphlet (available in church). During this challenging time, we hope these daily devotions help bring you closer to the Joy of the Incarnation.

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### The Second Sunday of Advent

The subject of our ministry is Jesus Christ, the Word who was from the beginning with God and was made flesh to live among us (cf. John 1:1-14). To be a Christian is to witness to this Word, to reveal the presence of this Word within us as well as among us. (The Selfless Way of Christ, 13-14)

### THE GIVING TREE

Our Giving Tree will be available for your kind donations through the weekend of December 19 & 20. We will be collecting hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, blankets and socks. Your donations will be distributed to the Listening House, Francis Basket and Salvation Army to comfort those less fortunate.

**DID YOU KNOW . . .** St. Stan's website has a few new features and is being updated frequently with new information! Check out our website at [www.ststans.org](http://www.ststans.org) to read Father Dennis's weekly homily (found under the 'Fr. Dennis' menu), send a prayer request (found under the 'Prayer' menu) or browse parishioner Katie Walter's blog as she explores her story and how God's love is helping her connect to holiness, love and safety (found under the 'Blog' menu or at [www.dearpeoplewhomgodloves.com](http://www.dearpeoplewhomgodloves.com)).

**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 [www.ststans.org](http://www.ststans.org).**

Our apologies for some of the technical problems we have been encountering during the live streaming of our mass at St. Stan's. We are working diligently to improve this service as we know it is an important option for many of you while we continue to maintain safety precautions during COVID-19.



## YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH BEGINNING DECEMBER 8, 2020

As Archbishop Hebda announced in his [October 22 column for The Catholic Spirit](#), the Archdiocese will be observing a Year of Saint Joseph, beginning December 8, 2020 (Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of America). Archbishop Hebda wrote, "On that date, the Church Universal will be marking the 150th anniversary of Pope Pius IX's proclamation of Saint Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church. Our hope is that the Year of Saint Joseph will be a source of renewal in our local Church, most especially as we continue our preparations for the Synod of 2022." **This Mass, held at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, will joyfully open the Year of Saint Joseph at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 8,** the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of America. Following Mass, Archbishop Hebda will lead the formal Consecration to Saint Joseph of the Archdiocese.

COVID-19 protocols will be observed for those in attendance, and the event will be [livestreamed](#).

### HAVE YOU WONDERED ABOUT LECTIO DIVINA (DIVINE READING)?

Traditionally, Lectio Divina was a monastic practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to enrich one's relationship with God and promote listening with one's heart. St. Stan's offers time for group Lectio Divina on Thursdays from 6:00—6:50pm now meeting via online at GoToMeeting. Lectio Divina at St. Stan's offers opportunity for contemplation and reflection within community. Please feel free to contact Kim Myers at 651-224-7998 with any questions: **Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.** <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/997723317>

Or **You can also dial in using your phone.** United States: [+1 \(571\) 317-3112](tel:+15713173112)  
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