



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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Dear People Whom God Loves,

Christ

I Corinthians 15:22 "For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life." What I see is that our union with Christ who lives in us brings us to eternal life. We are gradually transformed until we are drawn into the state of complete love and peace. This is the state that we have named heaven.

Matthew 25:40 "And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did it for me.' " Since Christ lives in each one of us, whatever we do to each other or to ourselves, we do it to Christ.

Romans 16:25 "Now to him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept for long ages."

Note in the New Amsterdam Bible: "Paul's gospel reveals the mystery kept secret for long ages; justification and salvation through faith, with all the implication for Jews and Gentiles that Paul has developed in the letter." My Note: The LOVE we name GOD has been active in our universe since the Big Bang.

It helps me to image God not as an entity or a being, not even a supreme being, but as real and active love.

We might think of God as loving energy—more subtle than physical energy. There is physicality in us beings, and we are able to cause something to happen. Since God is love, there is no physicality in God. Also, there was nothing for God to work with. This means that the way God works is different from the way beings work.

We are not able to compare with God's working in our world and the universe with the way we work. This helps me with questions such as, "Why doesn't God stop wars and other bad things from happening?" Since we can't compare God's working in creation with the way we work, God's working will always be mysterious and beyond our control.

Why pray? First of all, I see prayer as being willing to be open to have God change us—not our trying to change God. Secondly, I see prayer as fostering an openness that provides the space for God (LOVE) to work in a way that does not interfere with our freedom and the freedom of the rest of the universe.

To put it another way, the power of love is not the same as the power of force. Fortunately, we can be open to God's working. This happens when in prayer we are willing, at least to some degree, for God to work in God's way rather than our way. This often means that we will be drawn into deeper love and compassion. I also believe that God, without taking away our freedom, helps us to be willing.

Prayer can transform us. This transformation can come when in prayer or otherwise we are open and willing, at least to some degree, for LOVE (God) to transform us in whatever way LOVE (God) sees is good. My experience is that what is good in the big picture is often not what I want or what I see as good. I can only trust.

This transformation can come from our participation in the sacraments. The loving divine presence is there. Our part is to be willing to allow that presence to transform us.

More to come.

Smile, God loves you,
Father Clay

JANUARY CALENDAR

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

Women’s Spirituality Group: 6:00-7:30pm. The group meets online until further notice. Please call Lindsay Lopez at 651-292-1913 with any questions.

WEDNESDAYS

Youth Group: 6:30 - 8:30pm in the church hall

THURSDAYS

Women’s Spirituality Group: 10:00-11:30am, online until future notice.
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)

SUNDAYS

Mass: 8:00am and 10:00am

JANUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

- ❖ Joint Pastoral Councils Meeting: Sunday, January 24, 11am
- ❖ Sought Through Prayer and Meditation Workshop: Step 1, Tuesday, January 26, 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.

MASSES—JANUARY 2—JANUARY 10

Sat. 4:00 Darrel J. Kopf	Sat. 4:00 Bob Johnson
Sun. 8:00 Joyce Fornier	Sun. 8:00 Thomas Newton
10:00 Clarice Gombold	10:00 Louise Eggleton

LECTIO DIVINA

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.



Mass Readings: First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 (20ABC)
Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-1

ST. STAN’S FINANCIAL PROFILE

While St. Stan’s faces, along with many others, challenges during this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic we are maintaining a stable financial profile. Our total income has been trending downward, but we continue to diligently manage our expenses. We will continue to post our Financial Reports on the communication board in the vestibule, but please feel free to contact Kim Myers, Parish Administrator, at 651-224-7998 or kimmyers@ststans.org with any specific questions or concerns. Our Pastoral Councils have been meeting jointly and more frequently throughout the pandemic to monitor our finances and parish programming. We thank you for your generous ongoing support of St. Stan’s!

	Money collected from contributions	Money spent performing St. Stan’s mission	Funding (Shortfall)/ Overage
Current Fiscal Year 7/1/20-10/31/20	\$179,710.40	\$146,236.72	\$33,473.68

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!

RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS COLLECTION

Thanks for giving! “We are conscious of the great generosity of the many benefactors who support the Retirement Fund for Religious each year,” says a Catholic sister. “Support from the fund has been a tremendous blessing to our retired sisters.” Thank you for donating to December’s Retirement Fund for the Religious collection. We collected \$1,255.00 to date for the retirement fund.

SOUGHT THROUGH PRAYER AND MEDITATION WORKSHOP

This workshop will meet once a month on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 12pm – 1:30pm but is now meeting online. Each month we discuss one of the 12 Steps and look 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 1 on Tuesday January 22, from 12-1:30pm. To register call or email Lindsay Lopez at 651-292-1913 or lindsay@ststans.org.

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 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).

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) **Access Code:** 997-723-317

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.

DONATION ENVELOPES FOR THE NEW YEAR

For those who use envelopes, 2021 boxes will be available in the church vestibule. If you would like to start using envelopes, blank boxes are also available. Please make sure to fill out the register, so we can match your box number to your name. Remember, you are always welcome at St. Stan’s, regardless of your financial contribution.

CENTERING PRAYER IS ANOTHER SPIRITUAL PRACTICE YOU CAN JOIN AT ST. STAN’S

Centering Prayer meets via Zoom on Thursday Evenings at 7:00pm - 8:00pm. In Centering Prayer, the participant seeks the presence of God directly. The participant’s aim is to be present to the Lord, to “consent to God’s presence and action during the time of prayer.” Thomas Keating emphasizes that Centering Prayer is not an exercise in concentrating or focusing one’s attention on something (such as a mantra), but rather is concerned with Intention and Consent. To learn more or become part of the Zoom meeting contact Lindsay Lopez at lindsay@ststans.org or 612-292-1913.

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."

Heavenly Father,
Who gave St. Joseph to Jesus and Mary
As protector and guide,
Grant that our Archdiocesan Synod,
Under his protection and guidance,
May help us discern your direction for our Church.
May we listen as he listened,
Trust as he trusted,
Obey as he obeyed,
Receive as he received,
Love as he loved,
And share in his life of devotion to Jesus and Mary.
Amen.
St. Joseph, pray for us.

