



***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  
[www.ststans.org](http://www.ststans.org) or FB @saintstanislauschurch  
651-292-0303 office, 651-292-1098 fax

**Father John C. Clay**  
Pastor Emeritus  
Born July 7, 1926  
Died September 13, 2020

**Father Dennis Thompson**  
952-898-6954  
[dennytee@charter.net](mailto:dennytee@charter.net)

**Kim Myers**  
Administrator  
651-224-7998  
[kimmyers@ststans.org](mailto:kimmyers@ststans.org)

**Pat Heroff**  
Baptism, Wedding, Funeral, Secretary/Sacristan  
651-964-2808, [pat@ststans.org](mailto:pat@ststans.org)

**Lindsay Lopez**  
Education Director  
Safe Environment Coordinator  
651-292-1913, [lindsay@ststans.org](mailto:lindsay@ststans.org)

**Kristine & Chris Ranweiler, Laurie Russell Pickert**  
Youth Directors  
651-292-1390, [kristine@ststans.org](mailto:kristine@ststans.org)

**Barb Johnson**  
Housekeeping/Funeral Lunch  
651-216-3295

**Dolores Hunstad**  
Pastoral Minister  
651-303-4995 or 651-493-9281

**Tim Lucas**  
Building Manager  
651-336-7072

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

**March 7, 2021**  
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Dear People Whom God Loves,

### **GOD (Love) and Evolution**

I don't see God as sending suffering to teach us a lesson, to punish us, or to help us grow, though we can grow through suffering. I see suffering as a part of created life. What I do see is that God will be with us through it all. God (LOVE) works in ways that are mysterious and beyond our control. God is always on our side.

A practical example of this is the way I think of prayer. This is the way I pray. It doesn't mean that there are no other ways of prayer that people find valuable. I think of prayer as a willingness, which I still resist, that grows slowly to allow the Divine Love that lives in us to work in us in the way that Divine Love sees is good. This is often not what I would choose.

To put it another way, first I try to be aware of what is going on in my life and in the world, both what is good and what is bad. Next, I try to be aware of the Divine Love that lives in me and is around me and lives through the whole cosmos. Finally, I breathe, "Your will be done." "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done" is the prayer that Jesus taught us.

At times, a coincidence happens that I see as good. Often this is only after a long period of time. Is this because I prayed? I can't be sure. It does seem to me that the more that I and others are in tune with the Ultimate Love that lives in the cosmos, the better things will be. A symphony is better when all the players are in tune with the whole.

What about the times that nothing good seems to happen? The misery just continues. Where is God (LOVE) now? Let me use a human example. Suppose that someone has lost a dear loved one through a tragic death. The pain is terrible and leaves them empty. A dear friend comes over. They hold each other and cry and cry and cry. The dead loved one is not brought back to life. The grief and pain is not gone. Everything is not okay. But something is different. Things have shifted. The

grieving person is not alone. Not being alone is essential for us.

What has this to do with prayer? As we continue to be open (by the grace of God) and continue to surrender (your will be done) to the LOVE (God) that holds us and lives in us, we will not feel so alone and perhaps will be more open to contact with other people. Even then there can still be times when we feel no experience of God (LOVE) being with us. We just have to hang on anyway and remember that during these times, we can still be so valuable to each other.

Belief in God does not have to fear the findings of science. The cosmos is what it is. Science helps us on the journey of understanding more and more deeply what the cosmos is. We make a mistake if we think that the Bible is a book of science. We also make a mistake if we think that science can tell us why there is something rather than nothing.

Science just accepts that the cosmos is, and wonderfully helps us to understand it better. It cannot and is not supposed to explain existence. Theology helps us come to the belief—a belief that is reasonable but not provable by reason—that LOVE, which is existence, is the font from which other existence flows. To put it in other words, LOVE is the Creator. The cosmos is the creature.

There is something in us that yearns for and believes that there is something more, something that gives us a deeper meaning and purpose. When we see the creator as LOVE, it helps us to realize that our purpose as humans is to be drawn more deeply into becoming loving and compassionate humans to each other and to the rest of the cosmos, and that this is the only thing that will make us happy and bring us peace.

More to come.

Smile, God loves you,  
Father Clay

## **MARCH CALENDAR**

### **MONDAYS**

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

### **TUESDAYS**

- Women's Spirituality Group: 6:00-7:30pm - online until further notice. Call Lindsay Lopez (651-292-1913) with any questions.

### **WEDNESDAYS**

- Youth Group: Meets 6:30pm—8:00pm, Grades 7-12, Parish Center

### **THURSDAYS**

- Women's Spirituality Group: 10:00-11:30am, online until further notice.
- Lectio Divina: 6:00-6:50 pm currently meeting online.
- Centering Prayer: 7:00-8:00pm online.

Please call Lindsay Lopez (651-292-191) with any questions or for information to join meetings online.

### **SATURDAYS**

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

### **SUNDAYS**

- Mass: 8:00am and 10:00am

### **MARCH SPECIAL EVENTS**

- ❖ March 1 - 31 Sale of Spring Fling Raffle Tickets
- ❖ March 5, 12, 19, 26 Quiet Centering Prayer, 10-11am in Church
- ❖ March 5, 12, 19, 26 Stations of the Cross, 11am-12pm in Church
- ❖ March 20 Red Cross Blood Drive
- ❖ March 27: Palm Sunday Mass 4pm
- ❖ March 28: Palm Sunday Masses 8am and 10am
- ❖ March 28: Communal Penance 11am (following 10am Mass)

### **MASSES—MARCH 6—MARCH 14**

Sat. 4:00 Christine Smeby	Sat. 4:00 Dorothy Smolik
Sun. 8:00 People of St. Stan's	Sun. 8:00 Rose Hertel
10:00 Keith Krensing	10:00 George Castillo

## **LECTIO DIVINA**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.

### **Mass Readings: Third Sunday of Lent**

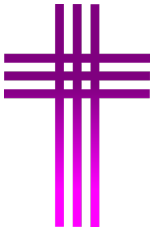
First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17 (29B)

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel: John 2:13-25

### **LENTEN SCHEDULE ACTIVITIES**

Masses below marked with \*\* are also live streamed on our [Facebook page](#).



- ❖ March 5, 12, 19, 26 Quiet Centering Prayer, 10am-11am in Church
- ❖ March 5, 12, 19, 26 Stations of the Cross, 11am-12pm in Church
- ❖ March 27: Palm Sunday Mass 4pm \*\*
- ❖ March 28: Palm Sunday Masses 8am and 10am
- ❖ March 28: Communal Penance 11am (following 10am Mass) \*\*

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- ❖ April 1: Holy Thursday Mass, 5:30pm \*\*
  - ❖ April 2: Good Friday Service, 5:30pm \*\*
  - ❖ April 2: Quiet Centering Prayer, 10m-11am in Church
  - ❖ April 2: Stations of the Cross, 11am-12pm in Church.
  - ❖ April 3: Easter Vigil Mass, 5:30pm (no 4pm mass this Saturday) \*\*
  - ❖ April 4: Easter Masses, 8am & 10am

### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

These 14 Steps that you are now about to walk you do not take alone. We invite you to join us every Friday during Lent for Clarence Enzler's "Everyone's Way of the Cross." Please note the Church will be open at 10:00am for Quiet Prayer and Reflection before the reading of the stations at 11:00am.

**LENT DEVOTIONS FROM STEADFAST LOVE  
INSPIRATION FROM HENRI NOUWEN**

Steadfast Love Lent Devotions booklets are available in church or please feel free to contact Kim Myers at 651-224-7998 or [kimmyers@ststans.org](mailto:kimmyers@ststans.org) to obtain a copy.

Here the greatest mystery of all time was revealed to us: God chose to reveal the divine glory to us in humiliation. Where all beauty is gone, all eloquence silenced, all splendor taken away, and all admiration withdrawn, there it is that God has chosen to manifest unconditional love to us. (Walk With Jesus, 64)

*Dear Lord, the love that came in Jesus has come to stay. May it live forever in my heart. Amen.*

**THE DATE: MARCH 20, 2021 RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

St. Stan's will again be hosting a blood drive to support the Red Cross, **Saturday, March 20 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](mailto:mmmka@comcast.net). We are unable to allow drop-ins this year due to safety protocols around COVID19. You may also register at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code "St Stan." Refreshments will be provided, also inside the blood mobile.



**CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL FOUNDATION**

Together in Hope: The Catholic Services Appeal Foundation partners with fellow Catholic to share Christ's love with neighbors in need through ministries that serve the poor, support life and strengthen the Faith. Your gift brings hope by helping provide: • Thousands with life-giving care via hospital chaplains. • 12,000 people / week with fresh groceries and hygiene items. • 1,200 hot meals monthly. • 635 people with housing/emergency shelter each month. • 33,000 young people with Faith-filled outreach. • 1,300 women and families with pro-life support. • 28,000 Catholic school students with in-person learning. • Over 50 seminarians studying to be future priests of our Archdiocese with tuition assistance, room and board. Visit [www.csafspm.org](http://www.csafspm.org) to learn more or [www.GiveCSAF.org](http://www.GiveCSAF.org) to donate today!

**SPRING FLING RAFFLE**

A year now into the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have found that our annual fundraising events continue to be adapted to remain safe and healthy. This year, for our Spring Fling, as we did very successfully with our Fall Festival thanks to all of you, we are again offering a **Special Raffle with a Grand Prize of \$10,000.00!!**

The Special Raffle will work just as it did with the Fall Festival Raffle. It works by selling 350 tickets at \$100.00 each. That gives you a 1 in 350 chance of being a winner! All raffle tickets must be paid for and picked up at the Rectory at 398 Superior Street or feel free to contact Kim Myers to make other arrangements.

In addition to the Grand Prize of \$10,000, the 2nd place prize is \$1,000 and the 3rd, 4th and 5th place prizes are \$500. The drawing for the Spring Fling Raffle will take place on Sunday, April 11, 2021 on the church lawn at 11:00a.m., following our 10am mass. You do not need to be present to win.

**Ticket Sales:** Ticket sales begin on March 1<sup>st</sup> and available to everyone for purchase: employees, volunteers, parishioners and their families and friends. Sale of the raffle tickets are on a first come, first served. Tickets are available for sale by contacting Kim Myers (651-224-7998), [kimmyers@ststans.org](mailto:kimmyers@ststans.org) or Lindsay Lopez (651-292-1913), [lindsay@ststans.org](mailto:lindsay@ststans.org).

We thank you very much for your ongoing generous and kind ongoing support of our St. Stan's Parish!



## ST. STAN'S LENTEN CHALLENGE -- March 1 through March 25

We are offering a daily challenge during **Lent**. We invite you to Sign Up Now! For 25 days, you will receive a short email each day or text that will spark you to think more deeply about your faith and provide various daily activities. **It's easy to sign up - no passwords or logins needed!** To receive the daily email through our new email and text messaging communication system, called **Flocknote**, sign up by following **one of the two** ways below:

### To receive an **email**:

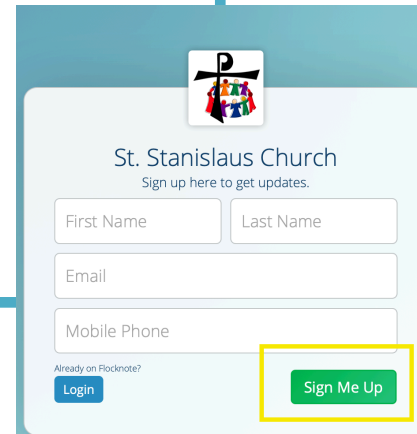
Send a text to the number 84576 with the word STSTANSMN as the message. You will receive a text with a link to enter your contact information.

### **OR**

Go to the link: [StStanislausChurch.flocknote.com/LentenChallenge](http://StStanislausChurch.flocknote.com/LentenChallenge) and enter your first & last name, email, and cell phone and Click 'Sign Me Up'!

### To receive a **text**:

Go to the link: [StStanislausChurch.flocknote.com/LentenChallengeT](http://StStanislausChurch.flocknote.com/LentenChallengeT) enter your first & last name, email, and cell phone and Click 'Sign Me Up'!




St. Stanislaus Church  
Sign up here to get updates.

First Name  Last Name

Email

Mobile Phone

Already on Flocknote?



**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), 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 (see 'Blog' menu or at [www.dearpeoplewhomgodloves.com](http://www.dearpeoplewhomgodloves.com)).