



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

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For example, we will do something dishonest that will further our goal. This will indirectly cause unjust harm to people, but will benefit our institution or protect our reputation because something will not become public.

When an institution starts down this path, the institution will make life difficult for anyone in the institution who resists this path. Then people who are actually reasonably moral people will be tempted to rationalize that it is okay to not resist because the consequences of not resisting are too dire to bear.

The theological name for this situation is "structural sin." Structural sin is a culture that makes it difficult for a person who wants to be good to do what is good. When the difficulty affects survival, only an extraordinary person will be able to resist. From my point of view, it is more important to seek justice by recognizing and working to eliminate structural sin than to focus on those who are caught in it.

When we see all of the destruction and suffering that is caused by the free will of humans, we might understandably ask why God didn't just make us without freedom, just make us to do what is good. My response is that without freedom we could never love. That would be tragic. We would be robots. Growing into love is a painful and difficult journey for us as individuals and as a race. The goal is worth it. Perhaps there was no other way for God (LOVE) to do it.

More to come.

Smile, God loves you,
Father Clay

Dear People Whom God Loves,

GOD (Love) and Evolution

A second inclination to choose what is bad is caused by being too centered on ourselves. We need to care about ourselves because we are valuable. That virtue of self care turns into a vice when we become blind to the impact our actions have on other people and on non-human creatures.

What we perhaps don't understand is that excessive self-centeredness will never bring us happiness and peace. It may bring us power, money, fame, status and a number of pleasures, but not happiness and peace. Why is that?

We are made in the image of LOVE. Love is what we are called to be, but it is only by becoming more and more what we are that we will find true happiness and be at peace. I think this is why Jesus told us, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

A third situation that can incline us to choose what is bad or harmful is the culture in which we live.

The culture might be our family, our neighborhood, or our associates. The culture could be the institution of which we are a part. The institution could be a church, a business, a government, a school, a health care facility, a political party, and so on.

What I see is this: I am not talking about an institution or group whose prime goal is to inflict destruction and violence to get what they want. People who are reasonably good and moral would probably see this as bad. What I am talking about are institutions that have goals that are certainly not bad and often are valuable and good. But over time, self-serving ways of operating creep in. When institutions are in a "productive mode," their more loft goals may be eroded.

MAY 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. Call Lindsay Lopez at 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 future notice.
- Centering Prayer: 7:00-8:00pm online.
- Lectio Divina: 6:00-6:50 pm currently meeting online. 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

MAY SPECIAL EVENTS

- ❖ Sacrament Sunday: May 2, 10:00am mass.
- ❖ Mother's Day: Sunday, May 9
- ❖ Joint Parish and Finance Council Meeting—May 23, 11:00am online

MASSES—MAY 1—MAY 9, 2021

Sat. 4:00 Victims of Sexual Abuse Sat. 4:00 All of Our Deceased Mothers
Sun. 8:00 Rosanne Hertel Sun. 8:00 Angie Stemig
10:00 Barbara McConnell 10:00 Joyce Doherty

Mass Readings: Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31 (53B)
Second Reading: 1 John 3:18-24
Gospel: John 15:4a, 5b

LECTIO DIVINA

Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit.

PLEASE HELP US CELEBRATE THOSE CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS OF FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION. PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Sacrament Sunday will be celebrated Sunday May 2 at 10:00am.



THANK YOU

MARCH 20, 2021 RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Thank you all who signed up for the Blood Drive. We especially thank parishioner Mark Thiel for scheduling and overseeing this important community drive. There were 30 openings which were all filled and a total of 25 units of blood donated.

MISSION APPEAL FOR THE DIOCESE OF ILORIN

As part of the 2021 Missionary Cooperation Plan, St. Stanislaus will again host a mission organization at our parish. The weekend of July 24 & July 25, Fr. Solomon Farinto, who represents the ILorin Diocese of Nigeria, will be visiting with us at mass times. More information about Father Solomon's mission to come.



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), 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).

ST. STAN'S FINANCIAL PROFILE

We thank you all for your continued generous support of our St. Stan's community. 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! Detailed reports are posted in the church vestibule, and we welcome any questions or concerns you may have about our ongoing financial position.

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. **Please remember, you are welcome at St. Stan's regardless of your ability to give.**

	Money collected from contributions	Money spent performing St. Stan's mission	Funding (Shortfall)/ Overage
Fiscal Year 7/1/20-3/31/2021	\$410,776.51	\$327,514.18	\$83,262.33

SPRING FLING RAFFLE

Congratulations to our Spring Fling Raffle Winners!

Grand Prize of \$10,000—Rayn Christensen (Raylene Schaefer's granddaughter)

Second Prize \$1,000—Bob and Opal Kuehn

Third Prize \$500—Rose Rymarchick

Fourth Prize \$500—Pat Beseman

Fifth Prize \$500—Jane Cavanaugh

281 of the total 350 \$100 Raffle tickets were purchased by our generous and supportive parish community. The total funds raised for St. Stan's amounts to \$15,600!

We thank you for supporting St. Stan's mission with your participation in our Spring Fling Raffle. We look forward to more on site gatherings that bring us together as we move safely ahead from the COVID19 pandemic.

Hello!

ST. STAN'S YOUTH GROUP

Hello from St. Stans Youth Group!

Some of you may have wondered what the Youth Group has been doing throughout this year of the pandemic. We have been meeting regularly on Wednesday nights this entire year with special COVID precautions including taking temperatures at arrival, special seating arrangements, and wearing masks. We have been learning, praying and growing in community together. To many of our students, this has been a blessing because their normal social connections were disrupted - such as in-person schooling and many sports and clubs. Some of our topics we've studied and prayed about include: St. Stan's Mission Statement (Holy is anyplace...), the Gospels, Social Justice, Depression Awareness, and Biblical History.

We are wrapping up the year by doing some service at Feed My Starving Children and picking up trash for the St. Paul Parks Clean-up. Due to COVID, we will not be able to go on our Guatemala Mission Trip this summer, but will schedule it for next summer. We will be having some of our regular youth group activities over the summer and are working on an Urban Plunge Service Event to serve in our Twin Cities community.

WE HAVE SO MUCH TO OFFER AT STAN'S

Do you know someone that might like to get to know us at St. Stan's? We welcome all newcomers and visitors! Bring a friend or neighbor.

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Where it is safe to tell your story.
Holy is any place that creates justice.



How are you today? We welcome your story.