



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

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Dear People Whom God Loves,

Love, the Big Picture

What I write is the big picture as I see it. It is not provable by science. Reason is wonderful, but reason isn't the only kind of knowing. There is another way of knowing that is not based on reason but is reasonable. Reason can tell us many wonderful things about reality.

To say that there is no reality that reason cannot explain is a belief, a reasonable belief, but still a belief. To say that there is reality that can be known by another kind of knowing is a belief. This too is a reasonable belief, but it is still a belief. Either belief requires faith. I cling to the second belief because:

- 1) It gives ultimate meaning to reality; it tells me that reality is ultimately good; it confirms my conviction that love is what is ultimate, and it helps me become a more compassionate and merciful person.
- 2) People blessed with mysticism see the depth of reality that can only be known by the second belief.
- 3) History shows that people of all times and situations have always searched for something more than meets the eye.
- 4) The doctrines of the church that point to the goodness of reality are the Creation, Incarnation, Indwelling of the Holy Spirit and Heaven (this one is easy to misunderstand).
- 5) The first letter of John gives scriptural meaning by saying that "God is love."

We start with what exists when there is no universe, no time and no space: a total emptiness of beings. There is nothing that can be pictured. We might say that there

was nothing, but that doesn't mean nothing. Eastern philosophy calls this a pregnant void. I understand this to mean that though there is a fullness, there is no-thing.

This fullness is love (LOVE). Love is not a thing but it is real, the realest and deepest of everything. I will use the word LOVE to refer to Ultimate Reality, which refers to what we usually call God.

Doctrine of Creation

LOVE gives birth to the universe. With the Big Bang, time and space begin. We now have creatures. We now have created beings who are not the source of their own existence. Their existence depends on LOVE. If LOVE were withdrawn, creatures would instantly not exist. Creation doesn't mean that creatures just owe this beginning existence to LOVE, but that their existence is eternally dependent on LOVE.

This says to me that LOVE is continually present in creatures and, furthermore, LOVE is present in creatures in some mysterious way. This shows the value of creation that calls for our respect. This can be hard to accept when we see the destructive power, the tragedy, the unfairness of the universe, and when we come to sentient creatures, the pain and suffering that is so widespread.

When I think of this I realize that to be a creature necessarily means to be imperfect. I also realize that because LOVE is in and through all of this, we are being drawn painfully and seemingly haphazardly with successes and reverses, tragedies and unfairness, toward perfection. For me, life only has meaning when I look at the big picture. Perhaps this is the best and maybe the only way for LOVE to draw us toward perfection.

More to come.

Smile, God loves you,

Father Clay

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

MONDAYS

- Al-Anon: 11:30am-12:30pm, online.

TUESDAYS

WEDNESDAYS

- Youth Group Parent Meeting and Registration: **September 29, 6-8pm** Church Hall.

THURSDAYS

- Centering Prayer: 12:00-1:00pm, Parish Center on September 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 and 7:00-8:00pm currently meeting online on September 9 and 23.
- Lectio Divina: 6:00-6:50pm currently meeting online on September 9 and 23. Please call Lindsay Lopez at 651-292-1913 with any questions.

SATURDAYS

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

SUNDAYS

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

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

- ✦ Fall Festival Picnic, Sunday, **September 12**, 11am—3pm
- ✦ Red Cross Blood Drive: Friday, **September 17**, 9am—3pm
- ✦ Parishioner Katie Walter speaks to our parish community on *Father Clay and My Spiritual Journey to Wellness*: Saturday, **September 18** after 4pm Mass, Church
- ✦ Archdiocesan Synod Small Group Meetings: Sundays, **September 19 and 26**, 11am-1pm, Church Hall
- ✦ Youth Group grades 7-12 Group and Confirmation Registration: Wednesday, **September 29**, 6-8pm in the Church Hall

MASSES: SEPTEMBER 4 — 12, 2021

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| Sat. 4:00 Julie Hanson | Sat. 4:00 Joyce Doherty |
| Sun. 8:00 Tom Strafelda | Sun. 8:00 All Deceased Grandparents of St. Stan's |
| 10:00 Clarice Gombold | 10:00 All Deceased Grandparents of St. Stan's |

LECTIO DIVINA

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

SAFETY PRACTICES AT MASS CONTINUE

We continue to practice social distancing at St. Stan's, and we encourage wearing masks, especially if you have not been vaccinated. However, presently masks are not required. This is subject to change, and given the recent variants and virus surges, it may occur sooner than later. We have a designated basket to collect all donations in lieu of ushers and our holy water fonts remain emptied. We also continue to live stream our Saturday 4pm Mass. Pews are marked to maintain social distancing. We regularly review the Minnesota Department of Health safety protocol guidelines to maintaining a safe worship environment for all. Missals and songbooks have been temporarily removed from the pews as a precaution. We will not be singing until safe to do so. Please feel free to contact Kim Myers, Parish Administrator at 651-224-7998 or kimmyers@ststans.org with any questions or concerns.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF FATHER CLAY

As we continue on our spiritual journeys, we are reminded, as we reflect, of our beloved Father Clay's messages of love and understanding at a year after his passing on September 13, 2020. Peace to All.

PARISHIONER KATIE WALTER PRESENTATION TALK: *FATHER CLAY AND MY JOURNEY TOWARD SPIRITUAL WELLNESS*

Katie Walter soaked up Father Clay and his wisdom and love during his last 15 years at St. Stan's. In this talk, she shares how she applied his message of love and compassion to her own spiritual journey, including how he helped her recover from two decades of professional stress and find meaningful joy and peace in her everyday life. Many of you are familiar with Katie's blog published on our website, Facebook page and www.dearpeoplewhomgodloves.com.

FALL FEST SEPTEMBER 12, 11am to 3pm

This year's **Fall Fest** event will be held on St. Stan's church lawn on **September 12, 2021** from 11am to 3pm.

Our Fall Fest will center around an outside picnic meal, raffle, pull tabs, Miss Ring Dingy, an ice cream truck, beer garden and opportunity to reconnect with one another.

While we are still living with the COVID19 pandemic and as more people become vaccinated, we want to gather and enjoy time together as a community while continuing to avoid any unnecessary safety risks. Volunteers for food prep and serving; raffle and pull tab sales; set up and take down welcome! Sign up is available on the board in church entrance.



CRAFT FAIR OCTOBER 2

This year we will be hosting the annual **St. Stan's Craft Fair** in our Church Hall on **Saturday, October 2, 2021** from 9am to 4pm. Our Fair will have more than 20 crafters with a variety of homemade gifts and goodies. There will also be our Krazy Kafe with chili, sloppy joes, hot dogs, chips, pop and a variety of sweets. We hope to see you there! This event helps fund our children's programming. Please contact Lindsay Lopez at 651-292-1913 or lindsay@ststans.org.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

St. Stan's will again be hosting a blood drive to support the Red Cross, **Friday, September 17 from 9am-3pm**. The Red Cross blood mobile will be in front of the church. To sign up, contact Mark Thiel at 651-647-6675 or 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 and use sponsor code "St Stan." Refreshments will be provided, also inside the blood mobile. Masks required.



YOUTH GROUP REGISTRATION

Youth Group and Confirmation registration will be on Wednesday, **September 29**, 6-8pm in the Church Hall.

FALL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

Registration for **All** Youth Programming will be the **weekend of October 2 & 3** before and after each Mass, in the Parish Center. Programs include Religious Education: Kindergarten – Sixth Grade, and Sacrament (Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation) Classes and Youth Group 7-12 grades.

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD

SAVE THE DATES BEGINNING THIS SEPTEMBER 19

As part of the ongoing three year Archdiocesan Synod process which began in 2019 with the Prayer and Listening events many of you attended, we are now approaching the third year. In Year 3, "The Church Engages" and small groups plan to meet in every parish to learn, pray and discuss the three focus areas outlined by Archbishop Hebda. These three areas consist of:

1. Forming parishes that are at the service of evangelization
2. Forming missionary disciples who know Jesus' love and respond to his call
3. Forming youth and young adults in and for a Church that is always young

We invite all parishioners to join in the upcoming six small group sessions to learn, pray and discuss the three focus areas. Parish feedback will then be used to help inform the Deanery consultation in early 2022. The process will then culminate in the Archdiocesan Synod Assembly held Pentecost weekend, June 3-5, 2022. Please save the dates for small group meetings at St. Stan's on Sundays **September 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 11am to 1pm in the Church Hall**. No preregistration required. For further information on the Archdiocese Synod please visit archspm.org/synod.

ST. STAN'S FINANCIAL PROFILE

We ended the 2021 Fiscal Year with a positive \$110,960.88! We thank you all for your continued generous support of our St. Stan's community especially in light of the challenges the COVID pandemic has presented. We continue to have solid investments in place, and we have no debt. However, more recently our Income is trending downward and our Expenses have begun to trend slightly upward. We also face some needed building repairs with our Parish Center boiler and Rectory roof replacements. Dave Freier, Finance Council Member, will address our parish this month at Mass times to provide the specifics behind the numbers. Our 2021 Financial Statement of Activities will also be posted on the board in the church entrance. 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.

	Money collected from contributions	Money spent performing St. Stan's mission	Funding (Shortfall)/ Overage
Fiscal Year 7/1/19-6/30/2020	\$604,939.56	\$497,160.74	\$107,778.82
Recent Fiscal Year 7/1/20-6/30/2021	\$571,624.21	\$460,663.33	\$110,960.88