



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,

Love, the Big Picture

The reign of God, which is all love and peace, will never be complete on our earth as we know it. But Jesus calls all of us who follow him to bring as much of this reign of God into our world as possible. The reign of God is among us and at the same time is not yet. We are reminded of this whenever we pray Jesus' prayer: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done." How many times have I said those words and paid no attention?

Now here are a few thoughts about purgatory. Purgatory tells me how committed LOVE is to us. It tells me that LOVE does not abandon us. While there may be some exceptions, for most of us when we die, we are a long way from total love and peace.

I think that when I die, LOVE will say to me,

John I love you. I always have and I always will. I am going to help you see parts of yourself that you do not see. It will be painful, but the pain is the process of healing.

Then God will say to me,

I will help you see how you are selfish, full of ego, cowardly, dishonest, hurtful to people and driven in unhealthy ways. These revelations will force you to be humble and grateful. These revelations will help you realize that I don't love you for the good things you have done or hate you for the bad things that you have done. You will realize that I love you because you are you. And that is the way that I love everyone. I will never abandon you or anyone else.

Ultimate uncreated LOVE is beyond anything that we can imagine. Is it not possible that LOVE can heal those who for hidden reasons are driven by a terrible, distorted

hatred?

If LOVE is drawing us to the love and peace that we call heaven, why be loving and good now? Why not live a wild and selfish life? Here are some answers that occur to me:

We will have some fun, but we will not be deeply happy.

We will after we die have to endure the pain of letting go of so much more of our ego-centered and selfish parts.

We will cause pain and suffering for many people including those who are close to us.

Here are four suggestions about how we can do our part in cooperating with LOVE to bring about our and others' transformation into people of deeper compassion, mercy and humility. These can help bring all of us into the state we call the reign of God.

Prayer—By this I mean our willingness to allow LOVE that surrounds us and lives in us to bring about the transformation. My personal experience is that this willingness starts very small because we resist. We resist because this means letting go of cherished ideas, beliefs and actions to which we cling. The letting go means letting LOVE do it LOVE's way and not our way. This is so hard.

Acts of Kindness—This can be something small or something big. What is essential is that we do it, as much as we can, out of concern for others rather than for any fame or praise that we may receive. This is especially true when we are relieving suffering of any kind.

Sacraments—This means participating in the sacraments with our hearts open to allow LOVE to work in us.

Awareness—This is the kind of meditation where we, without any kind of judgment, allow ourselves just to be aware of any thoughts, emotions, feelings or sensations within ourselves and also be aware of what is outside of us.
More to come.

Smile, God loves you,

Father Clay

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

MONDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

- Youth Group: **November 3, 10, 17;** youth group does NOT meet on the 24th.

THURSDAYS

- Centering Prayer: 12:00-1:00pm, Parish Center and 7:00-8:00pm currently meeting online.
- Lectio Divina: 6:00-6:50pm currently meeting online. 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

NOVEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

- ✦ **St. Stan's Stewardship Meetings:** Wednesdays, November 3 and 10 from 6pm-7:30pm, Church Hall.
- ✦ **Daylight Saving Time ends:** Sunday, November 7.

MASSES—NOVEMBER 6—NOVEMBER 14, 2021

Sat. 4:00 Dennis Dempsey	Sat. 4:00 Joyce Doherty
Sun. 8:00 Rosanne Hertel	Sun. 8:00 Kevin O'Brien
10:00 Jimmy Willey	10:00 Clarice Gombold

LECTIO DIVINA

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Mass Readings: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: 1 Kings 17:10-16 (155B)

Second Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28

Gospel: Mark 12:38-44 or 12:41-44

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 online.** 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.



GREETERS NEEDED!

**** Volunteer Opportunity ****

St. Stan's is looking for new people to participate in its Greeter Ministry. Greeters welcome people to church on weekends, and provide the first contact to newcomers, people returning to the church after an absence, and regular attendees. This one-to-one ministry acknowledges the importance of each person attending mass. What an honor!

We are looking for new greeters at all of our weekend masses: 4 pm Saturday, 8 am Sunday and 10 am Sunday. Please contact Pat Tommet at 651-698-1969 or ptommet@tc.umn.edu for more information and to sign up. Thank you!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE SEPTEMBER 19

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 29 people signed up openings which were all filled and a total of 24 units of blood donated.

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD

Thank you to all who attended the Archdiocesan Synod small group parish consultation meetings over the last six Sundays. St. Stan's written feedback from each of the sessions has been provided to the Archdiocese to help inform the Deanery consultation. Next step in the three year Synod process comes in January/February 2022 with the Deanery Consultation Process. Pastors and parish

representatives will gather one Saturday to learn, pray, and discuss the focus areas. Deanery feedback will then help determine the Synod topics.

ST. STAN'S STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Our Parish Community has gone through significant changes over the last couple of years, and we have all faced together the challenge and hardships around the COVID19 pandemic this past year and going forward. We agreed it is important at this time to create a formal group to address the formation of our parish, and we have created a Stewardship Committee.

The Committee meets on five Wednesday evenings October 6, 20, 27 and November 3, and 10 from 6-7:30pm. We will meet to address different topics important to the mission of St. Stan's Parish. We met Wednesday evening, October 27 and there was creative discussion around what programs and activities St. Stan's might like to offer and what populations we might focus on for outreach. The topics of the meetings consist of the following:

1. St. Stan's community data/Mission/Outreach (Who do we serve?)
2. What programs and activities do we currently offer? What is working? What is not working? What is the impact of our program offerings?
3. How do we meet our Mission Statement? What would be our Wish List?
4. What do we want to try and implement moving forward?
5. Attracting New Members. Reflecting on our Mission Statement.

**** Please Note--any member of the parish is welcome to attend any of the Stewardship Committee meetings. **** We meet again on Wednesday, November 10 at 6pm in the Church Hall. We ask attendees to please wear masks.

SAFETY PRACTICES AT MASS CONTINUE



We continue to practice social distancing at St. Stan's, and strongly 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.

THE 38TH BOB AND DOROTHY CASPER THANKSGIVING DINNER

**** Volunteer Opportunity ****

The Thanksgiving service will be available on November 25, 2021 this year with "touch less" pick-up (or delivery service, if needed) from St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 1154 Seminole Avenue, West Saint Paul and is sponsored by the Casper family. There will be no dine-in service this year due to the ongoing COVID19 safety precautions. Those interested in picking-up a Thanksgiving meal will need to sign-up for a particular time slot from 10:00-11:00am, 11:00am-12:00pm, 12:00-1:00pm, 1:00-2:00pm and 2:00-3:00pm.



The Thanksgiving dinner menu includes Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Dressing, Sweet Potatoes, Cranberries, Rolls with Butter, and Pumpkin Pie.

We welcome you to partner with St. Stan's and Rick Casper to help us feed our neighbors in need. **Please contact Kim Myers at 651-224-7998 for more information and sign-up registration or if you are interested in volunteering for the event.** Our deep gratitude to Parishioner, Dave Freier, for serving as St. Stan's representative for this community event.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

There will be no Thanksgiving service this year at St. Stan's due to the concerns surrounding the ongoing COVID-19 and variants pandemic. You will all be in our thoughts and our prayers of gratitude, healing and community.

**Dear Light of Lights,
guide us on this journey as one.
In the spirit of love and goodness,
we give You thanks.
In gratitude, we sit.
Amen.**

