



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
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Dear People Whom God Loves,

Entering the Reign of God—Christian Morality

I am reflecting on entering the reign of God and its connection with Christian morality.

For me, entering the reign of God means we are beginning to see ourselves and other people, the rest of the world, and indeed the cosmos in a way that is similar to the way God sees it all. I see that we are called to be willing, at least to some degree, to be drawn into the vision and then to be drawn ever more deeply into it.

Of course we are called not only to be drawn into it, but also to live out that vision. This is not something we can accomplish by our willpower. It is always a gift. It is the gift of the LOVE we call God. This is why we call it grace.

Grace is the unearned presence of LOVE (God) working in us. LOVE (God) respects our freedom. Love does not force us, but allures us with goodness. Goodness is beautiful. Beauty draws us. This is why we can freely choose it and not be forced into it. This is why it is crucial to see LOVE (God) as good and beautiful and always on our side. LOVE (God) is always working to draw us into goodness, love and happiness.

This is why Christian morality moves beyond obedience to commands. We all start our moral journey as children by being obedient to commands. That is not bad, but we can't really call it Christian morality. Commands often point to good behavior. They are usually enforced by rewards for following them and punishment for disobeying them. Our motives then are self-centered. There is no love in what we do. Obeying commands is only a beginning place. We must allow ourselves to be drawn beyond it so that love gradually becomes a deeper motive. It's a long journey.

To motivate people, we have often used our notion of heaven as a reward from God, and hell as a punishment from God. I see this as blocking spiritual growth, which is growing in love, because it makes it difficult to see God's goodness, beauty and love, and the fact that LOVE (God) is always on our side and working for our goodness and happiness.

Of course, rewards and punishments (not abuse) are necessary for our children. I know that the system of rewards and punishments has a place in our society to keep some people from harming others. Our world is imperfect and we are all imperfect in various degrees.

However, when we make LOVE (God) our rewarder and punisher, we hinder our growth into Christian morality.

I have often reminded people that the old act of contrition had it right "...because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell; but most of all because they offend thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love." We were always taught to look beyond God as rewarder and punisher. As we will see later, Christian morality is all-inclusive. It extends to everyone and everything. It does not separate Christians from each other. It does not separate Christians from other religions. It does not separate Christians from people of no religion. It does not separate Christians from those who are skeptical about belief in God or from those who firmly deny belief in God.

Though religion is meant to bring us together, often it divides us. As we will see later, as Christians we are called to believe that all people are the beloved of LOVE (God). We might say that words entering the reign of God and Christian morality are pointing to the same mysterious reality.

More to come.

Smile, God loves you,

Father Clay

APRIL CALENDAR

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

- Women's Spirituality Group: 5:00-6:30pm, Parish Center library. Meets April 5, 12, 19 and 26. Call Lindsay Lopez at 651-292-1913 with any questions.

WEDNESDAYS

- Youth Group: Meets 6:30pm—8:00pm, Grades 7-12, Church Hall.

THURSDAYS

- Women's Spirituality Group: 9:30am-11:00am online and in person, Parish Center library. Meets this month April 7, 14, 21, and 28.
- Centering Prayer: 12:00pm-1:00pm, Parish Center and 7:00-8:00pm (currently meeting online) on April 7, 14, 21, 28.
- Lectio Divina: 6:00-6:50pm meeting online on April 7, 14, 21, and 28. 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

APRIL SPECIAL EVENTS

- ❖ Friday, April 1, 8, and 15: Quiet prayer 10am followed by Stations of the Cross at 11am, Church.
- ❖ Sunday, April 3: **Lenten Penance Service** 9am (between 8am & 10am Mass).
- ❖ Wednesday, April 6: Lenten Reflection—5:30 quiet prayer and music followed by program at 6pm in Church.
- ❖ Thursday, April 7: Stewardship Committee Meeting, 6-7:45pm, Church Hall. All are welcome to attend.
- ❖ Spring Fling Raffle: Beginning Saturday, April 23, Tickets go on sale in Church vestibule. 350 Tickets will be sold at \$100.00 each for Grand Prize of \$10,000!

**** SAVE THE DATE **** St. Stan's will host a Spring Fling Outdoor Picnic scheduled for June 4, 2022 following our 4pm Mass.

LECTIO DIVINA

Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart; for I am gracious and merciful.

MASSES—APRIL 2—APRIL 10, 2022

Sat. 10:00 Rolf Middleton	Sat. 4:00 Victims of Ukraine Conflict
Sun. 8:00 Victims of Ukraine Conflict	Sun. 8:00 Nicholas Zimmer
10:00 Victims of Ukraine Conflict	10:00 Betty Price

Mass Readings: Fifth Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21 (36C)

Second Reading: Philippians 3:8-14

Gospel: John 8:1-11

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL FOUNDATION (CSAF)

Together in Hope. The Catholic Services Appeal Foundation is an independent foundation partnering with fellow Catholics to share Christ's love with neighbors in need through ministries that serve the poor, support life and strengthen the Faith.

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.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

Another successful blood drive at St Stan's! 27 of 28 registered blood donors came to the Red Cross bus in front of church on Saturday, March 19. 25 total pints donated. Thank you to the St. Stan's community! A special Thank you to Mark Thiel for overseeing this community outreach. Mark not only organizes this event twice yearly but is on site all day to ensure all runs smoothly.

MONTHLY BULLETINS CAN BE EMAILED TO YOU!

Each month, we send by mail and email the monthly bulletin to our parishioners. Every other weekend, the bulletins are printed and distributed at church for that particular weekend. We do offer the option of an emailed monthly bulletin in lieu of the mailed paper bulletin. The emailed monthly bulletin does contain some links and resources not available in the paper bulletin. If you would like to have the monthly bulletin emailed to you, rather than mailed please to contact Kim Myers, Parish Administrator, kimmyers@ststans.org or 651-224-7998.

2022 Lenten Mass Times and Events

- ❖ April 1, 8, and 15 Quiet Centering Prayer, 10am-11am in Church
- ❖ April 1, 8, and 15 Stations of the Cross, 11am-12pm in Church
- ❖ April 3 Lenten Penance Service 9am (between 8 & 10 am Mass times)
- ❖ April 6, Lenten Reflection *Fullness of Community*, 6pm in Church
- ❖ April 9 Penance 3-3:30pm, Palm Sunday Mass 4pm
- ❖ April 10: Palm Sunday Mass 8am & 10am
- ❖ April 14: Holy Thursday Mass 5:30pm
- ❖ April 15: Good Friday Service 5:30pm
- ❖ April 16: Saturday, Easter Vigil Mass, 5:30pm (no penance or 4pm mass)
- ❖ April 17: **Sunday, Easter Masses**, 8am & 10am

SAFETY PRACTICES AT MASS CONTINUE

The Archdiocese has communicated the Centers for Disease Control has now classified the Twin Cities with a Community Level risk of “Low.” Starting April 1, 2022 general protocols for archdiocesan parishes will be lifted. However, while it appears we may be beginning to emerge from the COVID pandemic of the last two years, at this time we continue to practice some safety protocols at St. Stan’s. We are currently recommending masks for those vaccinated and unvaccinated, but masks are optional. 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. We have returned missals and Mass

cards to our pews. We are currently working to reschedule our keyboard musicians for playing at Mass times.

ST. STANS STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

This fall a group of St. Stan’s parishioners and staff gathered together for five Wednesday evenings to address what St. Stan’s is doing well, what we might want to discontinue, and what are our current and future needs. You are welcome to join the committee’s next meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 7 from 6-7:45pm in the Church Hall. The Stewardship Committee will address the parish community at Mass times the weekend of April 9 & 10 and will continue to meet throughout 2022 to identify how the St. Stan’s community can continue to work together to fulfill our Mission Statement.

LENTE DEVOTIONS FROM *DRAWN TO THE CROSS* INSPIRATION FROM HENRI NOUWEN

Fifth Sunday of Lent “Our Comforter” *We forget that Jesus did not give food to the many without having received some loaves and fishes from a stranger in the crowd; that he did not return the boy of Nain to his widowed mother without having felt her sorrow, that he did not raise Lazarus from the grave without tears and a sigh of distress that came straight from the heart.* (Henri J. M. Nouwen, *Out of Solitude*, 31)

Jesus, our Comforter, grant us the words and warmth to console others with the care and comfort we have received from you. Amen.

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

“Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart.”



If you are interested in donating to the needs of the people in Ukraine you can provide relief through Catholic Relief Services at support.crs.org/donate/donate-ukraine.