



St. Cronan Faith and Fellowship Groups

Part of St. Cronan's mission is to accompany each other in our Faith Journeys. To that end, members of our community come together in small groups to maintain and deepen our connections to one another. These small groups are envisioned to provide space for members of our parish to share with one another spiritually and partake in fellowship together. Our hope is that these small groups will allow opportunities for deepening shared social connections, shared prayer, and mutual support during these trying times and into the future.

These small groups will share the unified aim of sharing spiritually and socially with one another and fostering deeper connections, though individual groups may accomplish this slightly differently based upon the group members' shared interests. Some suggestions have included contemplative prayer and Christian meditation, spiritual reading and book discussion, and scripture study, while others may prefer a more generalized approach to fellowship and spiritual community.

Our initial vision is that these small groups will meet monthly, and via Zoom for the time being, but with room for group members to decide what works best for them as they evolve.

As the groups grow and solidify, our vision is to add additional groups either on these topics, or a topic of a group's interest. We always welcome new members. For further information, please click on the links below. If you are interested in joining a group, please contact the St. Cronan Office, (314) 289-9384, or diane@stcronan.org.

We have 5 group topics for community members to consider when selecting a compatible group:

- Book Discussion
- Sunday Reading Reflections
- Contemporary Issues
- Contemplative Prayer
- Fellowship

For more information about a particular group, please click on the group for the description.

(These descriptions would be accessed by click on the name in the list above)

The **St. Cronan Book Discussion Small Group** will read a group-chosen book and discuss it monthly on topics such as, but not limited to, spirituality, social justice, theology, and contemplative practices. The discussion will be free-flowing and not directed by one leader. The group's purpose will be, through literary pieces, to deepen our experience of church, community, and connection with one another. While the group's roots are in pandemic isolation, it will continue long past this time.

Sunday Reading Reflections

This St. Cronan group will have an emphasis on discussing upcoming Sunday readings and/or weekday daily readings as a format to develop connections with the liturgy, the Gospel and one another. Members of this group might share their own personal reflections and life experiences as well as authored reflections on the readings to gain understanding, meaning and a sense of community as we share the Word and our lives together.

Contemporary Issues Small Group

The focus of this small group is the intersection of faith and current social justice issues. The intent is to explore how to truly "walk the talk" of the social justice teachings of the Catholic Church and inequities among us. Specific direction will be determined by the collective group - please join us!

Contemplative Prayer Small Group

While we will be doing some sharing and interacting when we gather, sharing what may be happening in our lives, things we want to hold in prayer as we sit quietly together, or even how this kind of prayer is going for us, the focus of this group will be experiencing the strength of DOING quiet sitting prayer together in community with others. Some members of the group may already have learned a contemplative prayer style they prefer. For those for whom this would be a new experience, Sr. Chabanel will teach or review a couple of options that are very simple and require very little instruction with more time given to doing it together at each meeting than teaching about it. We may also have a little sharing between times of sitting quietly about what we experience as we pray in this way. Those wanting lots of discussion and interaction would probably prefer another group. Those belonging to other groups for reading and discussion and wanting to experience the strength of this kind of prayer together in a small community, possibly making it a regular practice in your personal lives or supporting a practice you already have, may want to try it.

Fellowship Group

The Fellowship Group will convene as a chance for conversation and sharing. There will be no set agenda, at least initially. The purpose of the group will be to stay connected with members of the St. Cronan Community and to share what is happening in our lives during this COVID time and beyond. We can decide on topics, or keep it free-form – it will be up to the group.