



St. Cronan Catholic Church Third Sunday, Ordinary Time January 22-23, 2022

Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 p.m.

No Mass this Wednesday, 8:00 Mass will resume Feb. 2

Masks are required for all Masses to keep our unvaccinated children safe

Live-streaming continues at the 10:00 am Mass. PLEASE BE ON TIME! Masses will be live streamed at 10:00. Live-streamed masses are available on our Facebook page any time after the 10:00 Mass, <https://www.facebook.com/StCronan>

Recorded Mass will take place the first Sunday of each month and will be available February 5. It can be accessed on our website: <http://www.stcronan.org/>

Administrators Wish List: Please see the list in the Chapel. We have a donor who will match donations for painting the halls and bathrooms in the Parish Center. Thanks for your generosity!

St. Martha's Drop-in Center: Opening January 3, Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., no appointment necessary. All services free of charge. Advocates will be available during the drop-in hours to provide services and support to anyone impacted by domestic violence. Please see the information in the Chapel for details.

Prayers Please

Bill Barrett, Mary Truetken, Laurel Hayes, Laurel Hayes' parents, Jerry and Nancy, Bill's brother in law, Dave Rose, Bill's friend, Jim Forest, Robert Nathe's Mother, Eileen, Colleen Wallace's godson, Lachlan, Michelle Frank, Jennifer Lyle and Krista Rakers, Marilyn Leong, Jessica, Nick Ambrose, Al Sprehe, Phil Milner, Leslie Conway, Mike's grandson, Jack, Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan, Jim Gorman, Andrew Viraugh's Father, Sharon Orlet's sister, Betty, Nancy Buck, Nancy Buck's daughter, Jeanne, Kathy Bayless, Tom Kuciejczyk-Kernan's brother, Steve, Barry Buchek's wife, Mary, and all those suffering with the Omicron variant.

Coffee and Donuts continues on Zoom and is a great time to catch up with the community. The meeting ID is 810 7478 0423, password: cronan

Black Lives Matter Vigil: The St. Cronan Social Justice Committee is hosting a Vigil as a way of atoning for past racism. It will be held every third Friday evening of the month - 5:00 -6:00 pm at the corner of Kingshighway and Manchester. Next month's will be Friday, January 21. Please feel free to bring your own signs. If you have questions, please contact Trish Curtis: trishquita1952@gmail.com

Letter Writing: Please join us in writing letters to let Archbishop Rozanski and Fr. Ken Brown know how disappointed we are in how the Archdiocese handled a personnel issue for a parish. For details and talking points, please contact Diane, diane@stcronan.org, (314) 941-4933

Annual Prayer for Christian Unity: Join Archbishop Rozanski and our St. Louis Christian communities in ecumenical prayer for unity as we lift up our brothers and sister in the Eastern Christian traditions. Together we will reflect on the coming of the Magi in Matthew 2:2 "We saw the star in the east and we come to worship Him." Sunday, January 30 @ 7 – 8pm St. John Bosco Catholic Parish, 12934 Marine Avenue Creve Coeur, MO 63146. RSVP appreciated but optional: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLziNOtbUsoVfMiOBO0kwo5SborfeCb-PdpEVUXgANFeHWxQ/viewform>

Ignatian Spirituality and Antiracism: A Call to Conversion: The path we follow on the journey of racial justice is illuminated and strengthened through the gifts of Ignatian Spirituality. Join us as we learn from some of the most knowledgeable and engaging speakers who will share their perspectives and experiences with grounding the work of racial justice in Ignatian Spirituality. February 9, 16 and 23, 7:30-9:00 p.m. This three-session virtual series of consequential and thought-provoking presentations will include opportunity for discussion and reflection. Sponsored by College Church. Register at: bit.ly/ignatian-antiracism Please see the flyer in the Chapel for further information.

Pastoral Reflection
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

In an effort to update Jesus' call to mission i.e. "he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives etc." I am sharing with you Richard Rohr's take on our "contemporary mission".

For most of history we believed that evil was almost exclusively the result of "bad people" and that it was our job to make them into good people. We thought this alone would change the world. And sometimes it worked! Yet only in the 20th century did popes and many moral theologians begin to teach about corporate sin, institutionalized evil, systemic violence, and structural racism. These very words are new to most people, especially ones who benefit from such illusions.

I believe personal evil is committed rather freely because it is derived from and legitimated by our underlying, unspoken agreement that certain evils are necessary for the common good. Let's call this *systemic evil*. However, if we would be honest, this leaves us very conflicted. We call war "good and necessary," but murder bad. National or corporate pride is expected, but personal vanity is bad. Capitalism is rewarded, but personal gluttony or greed is bad (or, at least, it used to be). Lying and cover-ups are considered acceptable to protect powerful systems (the church, political groups, governments), but individuals should not tell lies.

Thus we now find ourselves unable to recognize or defeat the tyranny of evil at the ost invisible, institutionalized, and entrenched level. Evil at this stage has become not only pleasing to us but idealized, romanticized, and even "too big to fail." This is what I call "the devil" and Paul calls "the thrones, dominions, principalities and powers" (Colossians 1:16) or "spirits of the air" (Ephesians 6:12). These were his premodern words for corporations, institutions, and nation states. Anything that is deemed above criticism and hidden in the spirit of the age will in time – usually in a rather short time – always become demonic.

As regards money and evil, money's meaning and use is highly obfuscated by small print and obscure vocabularies which only hight-trained economists can understand: annuities, interest ("usury" used to be a major sin!), non-fiduciary, reverse martgages, and more. Yes, the devil is in the details! The ordinary person is left at the mercy of these new clerics who alone understand how we can be "saved" by the "infallible laws of the market" and the "bottom line" of everything. They use the language of religion and transcendence to speak with a kind of assumed objectivity that we once only allowed in the realm of theology and from the pulpit.

Letting the domination systems of "the world" off the hook, we put almost all our moral concern on greedy or ambitious individuals. We tried to change them without recognizing that each isolated individual was on bended knee before the powers and principialities of the market and more. In most nations today, our moral compass has been thrown off its foundations.

Adapted from Richard Rohr, *What Do We Do with Evil?* (CAC Publishing: 2019), 48-51; and *What Do We Do with Money?*, unpublished notes, 2020.

Fr. Jack

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