

**Pastoral Reflection**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 8, 2022**

In the last several years while I have been a member of the Community of Preachers and over this last year being a member of one of the St. Cronan small groups, during which our focus has been to reflect on the Sunday readings, I have gotten accustomed to approaching Scripture reading through using the style of Lectio Divina. This method essentially invites one to read, meditate, pray with and contemplate passages from Scripture – and often come to experience the presence of God and sometimes a plan for how to move forward – through this spiritual practice. This “sacred reading” of the Bible usually involves focusing in on one word or phrase that stands out in the reading(s) and provides an opportunity to slow down, savor and receive God and God’s Word in a very personal, formative and intimate way. I have found engaging in this practice with members of this community to be truly inspirational, insightful and awe-inducing.

As I poured over the readings from today, and thought about this Sunday being Mother’s Day, the last line from the Book of Revelation kept standing out to me, “God will wipe every tear from their eyes.” In John’s vision, Jesus is in the center leading and shepherding and bringing those who have “survived the time of great distress” to life-giving water – and wiping away every tear from their eyes. This is such a beautiful image of God and of the intimacy we are called to with Jesus, with our Creator. One who wipes away our tears.

There are very few people in my life who I’ve allowed into the true depths of my own sadness, hurt or shame who I’ve been vulnerable enough with to wipe away my tears. Sharing the deep parts of ourselves that are filled with pain and allowing someone to come close enough physically and emotionally to touch our face and embrace us and our emotions is sacred territory. It’s messy and it’s intimate and it can be awkward and tender and embarrassing and affirming. And full of love. For me, these kinds of moments I’ve been blessed to share the most as a daughter, held in the eyes of my mother as totally beloved and accepted in all situations as beautiful, whole and with the upmost of pride. And as a mother myself, privileged to be a tear-wiper for bruised bodies and bruised spirits, knowing that I cannot remove or prevent pain, but be present with it, and love.

I am struck by this motherly image of God, sitting with us as we survive our times of great distress, holding us close in her gaze, knowing and loving us well, reaching out and touching us tenderly - not preventing us from crying, stopping us from crying, but sitting with us in our tears and letting us know through God’s very touch that we are not ever alone in our fears or pain and that we are always loved.

*Teresa Sullivan*



**St. Cronan Catholic Church**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 7 – 8, 2022**

**Mass Information**  
SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.  
SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesdays – 8:00 a.m.  
Masks are suggested for all Masses

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

The Mass for Sunday, June 5 will be recorded and placed on our website: <https://www.stcronan.org/> If anyone is available to serve as lector on Thursday, June 2 at 9:30, please contact Diane G. [diane@stcronan.org](mailto:diane@stcronan.org)



Our leadership team is awaiting the next meetings of the Archdiocese and will keep us posted on upcoming events as they are scheduled. If you would like further information, you can visit the Archdiocese’s website <https://allthingsnew.archstl.org/> or call our office at 314-289-9384. You can also leave comments about the process at this website.



**First Reconciliation** Gus Myers-Musso is making his First Reconciliation. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as he continues his Faith Journey.

**First Communion** Congratulations to Elliott Boulanger, Sebastian Cortés, Damian Mayo, and Levi Thome, who received the Eucharist for the first time last Sunday. Anna Stout will be making her First Communion on May 28 at the 5:00 Mass. Please keep all our children in your prayers as they continue their spiritual journeys.

**Coffee and Donuts** is back! Please join us in the Hospitality Room in the Parish Center after the 10:00 Mass.

**Retrouvaille-St. Louis weekend, August 19 – 21, 2022 - Healing Your Marriage--Retrouvaille** (French for “Rediscovery”) is a 3-phase program designed to give you the tools to restore your marriage and rebuild a loving relationship. For more information or to register, call **314.453.0110** or visit website: [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) Fully Confidential and affordable. Space is limited with Covid-19 precautions. Register early. Questions: Tom & Kerry Marsh 314.753.2022

**Mid-life Singles:** Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at King’s House Retreat Center, Belleville, IL (20 min from downtown St. Louis), on June 3-5, 2022. Cost is \$215 including meals and a single room. Visit [www.ReflectRetreat.com](http://www.ReflectRetreat.com), e-mail [reflect.stlouis@gmail.com](mailto:reflect.stlouis@gmail.com), or call (314) 283-0044 for details.

**Black Lives Matter Vigil**, takes place the third Friday of the Month at the corner of Manchester and Kingshighway, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Please join us!

**MCU Dinner and Gala** MCU is hosting our first gala “Dancing in the Streets!” Thursday, May 19, 2022 at the Polish Heritage Center. Doors open at 6pm, dinner is served at 6:30. At this gala, congregations, leaders, and supporters will get together for dinner, dancing, and music along with organizing to build power. Speakers will share their recent work with MCU and testimonies of their experiences with the issue campaigns. We would like to have a table representing St. Cronan. If you are interested in attending, please contact Diane [diane@stcronan.org](mailto:diane@stcronan.org)

**Red Cross Volunteers:** The Red Cross is in need of volunteers in the St. Louis Area. Please see the flyer in the Chapel for more information.



**Grand Slam Baseball Raffle.** Similar to the Football Raffle, **for \$25 you have 9 chances to win for each of the 17 weeks.** That's a cost of only \$1.47 per week. **You don't need to know anything about Major League Baseball.** Nor do you need to watch the games or keep track of anything. **Each Grand Slam Baseball Card has a unique 3 letter/number code. The code identifies your ticket and allows you to identify the three teams you have for each of the 17 weeks.** If that sounds confusing, no worries, when you win you will be notified and checks are automatically sent to the address you printed on the card. Cards will be available to purchase after the Masses. As a reminder, we're doing the Grand Slam Baseball Raffle in conjunction with St. John's Church in Imperial. They administer the entire program and St. Cronan is paid for every card we sell. For further information, please contact Helen Heilich: [hheilich31@yahoo.com](mailto:hheilich31@yahoo.com)

**Donations for Ukraine:** If you would like to help, please give to the Ukrainian Children’s Aid and Relief Effort, Inc. or UCARE, Inc., which is a charity serving the needy and orphaned children of Ukraine. If anyone wants to financially help the Ukrainian situation, please consider this charity. The website is [www.ucareinc.org](http://www.ucareinc.org). Bob Hoffman has worked with this group for years..

**Compassionate St. Louis:** St. Cronan has become a member of this movement to help make our city a more compassionate place. You will be seeing their logo on our bulletins and signs. For further information, please visit their website: <https://www.compassionate-stl.org/about-us>

**Day-Long Women’s Retreat:** Mark your Calendars! Women's Day Long Retreat planned for Saturday, June 25, 2022. Tentative time from 8:30am to 4:30pm. In person and outdoors. Centrally located near Hampton and Hwy 44. Theme and details to follow. Donna Moromarco, Kim Madden, and Mary Middendorf are in the planning stages. Express your interest in attending by emailing [mary.middendorf@gmail.com](mailto:mary.middendorf@gmail.com) as soon as possible. Space is limited.

**Erastus Brown Historical Marker Unveiling Ceremony** There is a group in our area who have been working on memorializing lynchings that occurred in Missouri. The next remembrance will take place in Union, Missouri, on Saturday, July 9 at 11:00 a.m. and will honor Mr. Erastus Brown. Please see the flyer in the Chapel for further information.

**Prayers Please:** Laurel Hayes; Laurel Hayes' parents, Jerry and Nancy; Rose; Robert Nathe's Mother, Eileen; Colleen Wallace's godson, Lachlan; Michelle Frank; Jennifer Lyle and Krista Rakers; Jessica; Nick Ambrose; Al Sprehe; Phil Milner; Leslie Conway; Mike’s grandson, Jack; Jim Gorman; Andrew Viraugh’s father.; Sharon Orlet’s sister, Betty; Nancy Buck’s daughter, Jeanne; Kathy Bayless; Tom Kuciejczyk-Kernan’s brother, Steve; Barry Buchek’s wife, Mary; Trish Curtis’ mother and brother; Gavin Barrett-Hayes; Barb Sopp’s cousin, Patty Struckhoff; Marie and Roland Martir’s granddaughter, Madie, and great-grandson; David Gaillardetz’ father, Richard; Fr. Gerry’s classmate, Fr. Pat O’Laughlin; Nick and Shirley Ambrose’s daughter, Brigid Costello, Shelly Kurtz, Varrietta Anthony.