

Pastoral Reflection
July 31, 2022
18th Sunday, Ordinary Time

“Do YOU Know What’s in YOUR Closets?!”

This email question from Kim & Dan made me smile sheepishly. I have a number of tote bags in my closet. I have no idea what is in them. I am not even sure what clothes I have in my chest of drawers or clothes closet. This made me think about the readings for this week – how I accumulate stuff.

Our cultural way of thinking we need bigger, better, and more, of hoarding riches for ourselves, is a long-standing human inclination. Jesus was one of many prophets and religious teachers who challenged the people about how riches can cause them to lose perspective, to miss what is most important in life. The things we accumulate are not lasting and can disappear in a few minutes. Qoheleth, a name that means preacher or collector of wisdom, raises the same question in the third century BCE, in the book of Ecclesiastes, part of the Wisdom literature of the Hebrew Scriptures. Other ancient writers also challenged people who would claim any absolute values in this life, including possessions, fame, success, or pleasure. All are transitory. We have become more keenly aware of this as we see on our tv’s and other devices the destruction caused by floods, wildfires, hurricanes and other disasters. We are often reminded how ephemeral all life is.

Yet these readings are not primarily about wealth and the accumulation of goods. Commitment to justice for all creation and sharing the gifts we have can help us keep focus on what is crucial in life. The primary and crucial question is where is God in our lives? Is God the center in all we think, say and do? We can so easily slip in other values, “vanities,” and behaviors. The readings this week remind us to frequently stop and ask ourselves, where is God in my life right now? How does this love relationship with God and my sisters and brothers change my life right now?

On another topic:

We recently received word that our sister and co-worker Mary Elizabeth Grimes, the President of Marian Middle School, has experienced gun violence in her family. Her daughter Danielle Whaley, who lives in Atlanta, was robbed at gunpoint. After the robber stole her money, he told her to drive away. He then shot through the rear window. The bullet went through the driver’s seat and lodged in her spinal cord. She is paralyzed from her waist down. She has been in the hospital over a month. Mary Elizabeth is the sole support of Danielle and her daughter. She had recently started her own business, Yummy Delights Kitchen, feeding the homeless as well as others. Please keep Ms. Grimes and her family in prayer during this very difficult time.

You can read more about their struggle and their faith on their Go Fund Me Page - https://www.gofundme.com/f/mary-elizabeth-grimes-and-danielle?utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_medium=copy_link_all&utm_source=customer

Lynne Schmidt, SSND



St. Cronan Catholic Church
Eighteenth Sunday, Ordinary Time
July 30-31, 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

The Mass for Sunday, August 7, will not be recorded. It will be live-streamed at 10:00.

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>



Young adults, ages 18-39, single or married, with or without children, are invited to take the young adult survey. Take this opportunity to inform the church of St. Louis about your experience, hopes and needs.

<https://allthingsnew.archstl.org/Ways-to-Engage/Young-Adult-Survey>

Connect to young adults: <https://stlyoungadults.com/>

Seeds of Justice Network: Interested in social justice activities in our area? Visit www.seedsofjusticenetwork.org or use the QR code on the flyer in the Chapel to sign up for the Seeds of Justice Network newsletter! The weekly email features a justice-focused article of the week, a listing of local events, and a few national events & trainings.

History of St. Cronan's: The Archives Committee will present the first 53 years of St. Cronan's history through a series of posters that will hang for one month on the north and south walls of the church, plus a table with displays in the back of the church. This will begin on Saturday and Sunday, August 6th and 7th. Any questions, please see Bill Blow or Al Sprehe.

Archdiocesan Wedding Jubilee Mass will be celebrated Sunday, October 9, at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica. Archbishop Rozanski will preside. This Mass is for married couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 years of marriage in 2022. Please register by September 9: archstl.org/jubilee or call (314) 792-7171

St. Cronan Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism Survey: The St. Cronan Parish Council would like you to complete a survey regarding our work toward becoming an anti-racist parish. For further information, please read Andrew Viragh's letter on Cronan Talk. The Survey can be accessed here: [ABAR Survey](#)

Black Lives Matter Vigil: Continues on the third Friday of each month at the corner of Manchester and Kingshighway. We will meet from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. on Friday, August 19. Please join us.

Children's Faith Formation: If you have school-age children, K-12 and are looking for a religious education program, please consider St. Cronan. Classes meet once per month, with family activities in the interim. It guides the entire family in growth of their faith and love of God and each other. Registration forms are on the table in the chapel, or contact Diane diane@stcronan.org.

St. Pius V Anti-racism & Equity Working Group is sponsoring The Slavery, History, Memory, and Reconciliation Project with Fr. Jeff Harrison, SJ, a workshop presented on Sunday, Sept. 18, 3:00-4:30 p.m. at St. Pius V Singler Hall. For further information, please see the flyer attached.

Marianist Retreat Center Summer Schedule: This summer, the Marianist Retreat and Conference Center, located in Eureka, MO, is offering three unique retreat opportunities, and you are cordially invited! These and all summer events can be found at: <https://marianistretreat.com/blog/summertime-events-2022/>



Katy Trail Marian Pilgrimage will take place October 10-14. For information visit their website at: www.katytrailpilgrimage.com

Apostolic Letter: Pope Francis has written an Apostolic Letter entitled Desiderio Desideravi, on the liturgical formation of the People of God. To read the letter, visit this website: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/20220629-lettera-ap-desiderio-desideravi.html

Coffee and Donuts. Please join us for Fellowship and community in the COFFEE AND DONUT ROOM after the 10:00 Mass on Sundays. Many thanks to Maggie Hart-Mahon and Dorothy Strathman-Lucy for organizing. We need people to host the 4th and 5th weekends. - If you are interested in taking one weekend a month to host, or even the fifth weekend when it occurs, please contact Maggie: ofccomp17@gmail.com

Prayers Please: Kathy Bayless; Barry Buchek's wife, Mary; Trish Curtis' mother and brother; David Gaillardetz' father, Richard; Nick and Shirley Ambrose's daughter, Brigid Costello; Shelly Kurtz; Varrietta Anthony; Teresa Sullivan's friend, Caroline Bucci; Kathy Stock's niece, Jill; Fr. Jack's brother, Mike; Natalie Johnson and the Johnson family; Diane Calcaterra; Sr. Lynne's friend, Jan Berberich, SSND; Barb Sopp's friend, Joe Sinibaldi; Bob Barnicle; Paul Schmitt., Sr. Chabanel.

