



St. Cronan Catholic Church

19th Sunday, Ordinary Time

August 7-8, 2021

Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 p.m. Wednesdays – 8:00 a.m. Masks are required for all Masses to keep our unvaccinated children safe.

Live-streaming continues at the 10:00 am Mass this Sunday and the other Sundays of the month. 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. It can be accessed on our website: <http://www.stcronan.org/>

Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Ushers Now that Masses are opening up, we are in need of Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. There are instructions for ushers posted in the Chapel, and anyone attending the Mass can fulfill this ministry. If you are interested in these ministries, please contact Diane diane@stcronan.org

Prayers Please

Bill Barrett, Mary Truetken, 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, Martha Stegmaier, Diane Calcaterra, Jennifer Lyle and Krista Rakers.

The memorial Service for Madonna and Janet Kuciejczyk's sister, Bonnie, will be held August 21, at St. Cronan. Gathering is at 10:00 am, Eucharist at 11:00, and outside luncheon is at 12:30.

Jean Abbott, CSJ, was a beloved member of the St. Cronan's community. You may also be familiar with her work as founder and director of the Center for Survivors of Torture and War Trauma for many years. Please join us in celebrating the life of this beautiful woman at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, September 18, 2021 Light refreshments will follow the prayer service.

Everyone is welcome, so feel free to share this invitation widely. Because of Covid restrictions, it is important that everyone RSVP, so that we can keep all participants safe. RSVP to marybethgallagher1066@gmail.com, telling us the number of people in your party.

Wills: Please remember Saint Cronan's in your will. Title is St. Cronan's Catholic Church- 1202 South Boyle Ave St. Louis, MO 63138. Our Federal ID.#43-0653457

Children's Faith Formation 2021-2022. will begin soon. **Please enroll now.** Additional information and a registration form are available on the desk by the north door. For questions, contact Diane – diane@stcronan.org

Coffee and Donuts has been suspended due to increased Corona virus threats. It continues on Zoom and is a great time to catch up with the community. The meeting ID is 899 1284 7699, password – cronan.

Sock Angel Campaign: St. Cronan has been asked to participate in the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies' Auxiliary Sock Angel Campaign. The Campaign runs through the end of August. Please see the attached flyer for more information. When you attend Church this weekend, you will see a donation box in the vestibule. You can drop off new socks in the box and these will be distributed in October to 6 organizations in St. Louis who serve the homeless. Find More Information on their Website: www.sockangel.org. and www.kofpc.org

Abortion Healing Ministry: The Archdiocese has established a new network that encompasses all of the healing ministries in one roof. If you or someone you know needs help to heal from an abortion, please share this information with them: phone: (314) 406-3815, email: hopehealing@archstl.org. There is a scheduled retreat in August. For further information, please see the flyer in the Chapel.

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, August 20. Please feel free to bring your own signs. If you have questions, please contact Trish Curtis: trishquita1952@gmail.com

Bridges Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius in Everyday Life T.For more details about the retreat and information session schedule, visit: www.bridgesfoundation.org

St. Cronan Contact Information:
1202 So. Boyle Ave. St. Louis, MO 63138
(314) 289-9384

Pastoral Reflection

The readings today focus on food. In the first reading from Kings we learn of Elijah's struggle as prophet of Israel. In this story, Elijah was in flight, fearful that he'd be killed either by King Ahab, of the northern kingdom of Israel, or by his own people who, like the Israelites in the wilderness, complained that life was too difficult following Elijah's God. Elijah then gave up, collapsing under the broom tree and determined to fast to death, he cried:

"This is enough, O LORD!

Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers.'

He lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree,

but then an angel touched him and ordered him to get up and eat."

The food he ate, provided by God through an angel, sustained him. Clearly, God wasn't finished with him yet. So, Elijah was once again commissioned by God to carry on leading the people of Israel. Elijah learned, the hard way, that his life was completely dependent on God, the source of everything.

In today's gospel, John, chapter 6, Jesus refers to himself as the Bread of Life. He urges his followers, shortly after the miraculous feeding of the five thousand, to depend completely on him. He says to them:

"I am the bread of life.

Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died;

this is the bread that comes down from heaven

so that one may eat it and not die."

Unlike Elijah's hearth cake and the manna in the wilderness that physically sustained the Israelites in their interminable traverse through the desert, Jesus refers to himself as the "food" that will sustain for life everlasting. We are called to be completely dependent on Jesus, to be nourished for eternal life.

Currently, I'm spending my summer in the Grand Tetons, a magnificent place providing a daily feast for my senses with its majestic mountains, crashing cascades and the truly awesome animals who make their home here. I regularly hike, sometimes taking long hikes into the mountains. It's only during a long and arduous hike that I realize how essential food is to sustaining me on my journey. When I'm really hungry and thirsty ten miles away from civilization I find myself having a tremendous appreciation for what makes my body go on. After being drained by hunger, food not only sustains but energizes. The physical emptiness and subsequent satiation with hydration and food can be quite enlightening on the relevance of the Bread of Life. While at home, within arm's length of the frig at all times, I never realize the *need* I have to sustain myself. Whereas miles into the mountains, "the wilderness," away from any food and water sources, food becomes quite relevant. Just as I've become aware of my absolute need for physical food to keep my body going, I'm becoming aware of my total need for Jesus' Word, Truth, Life as my forever-sustenance.

The manna/ bread in the Israelites' wilderness journey was a foreshadowing, of Jesus. After Jesus miraculously fed the 5,000, they wanted Him to "give (them) this bread always" (John 6:34). But Jesus tried to get their attention off of physical bread and onto the true "bread of life."

"Truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the One who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. . . . I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst" (John 6:32-35).

Sadly, the people could not get their minds off of physical bread long enough to understand the spiritual truth Jesus was declaring (John 6:36-59). They were more concerned with the condition of their stomachs than the condition of their souls. But this lesson is very much ours today to ponder.

Jesus proclaimed: "Your fathers and mothers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die" (John 6:49-50).

The manna temporarily saved the Israelites from physical death, just as the hearth cake reinvigorated Elijah. But Jesus, our spiritual manna, saves us from eternal death. Just as God provided manna to the Israelites, God has provided us Jesus for the sustenance of our lives everlasting.

Cathy Hartrich