

Pastoral Reflection
September 4, 2022
Twenty-third Sunday, Ordinary Time

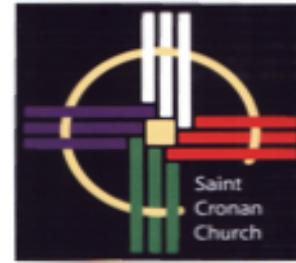
I've always had a bit of a bone to pick with Christians who think Jesus was "pro-family". The opening of today's passage from Luke, "If anyone comes to me without hating their father and mother, their spouse and children, brothers and sisters, and even their own life, they cannot be my disciple." Not sure how a passage like this can be held up as an example of how important "family" is to Jesus or the early church. If anything, I think, it challenges the ways that we limit who our family is—who we extend our love and care to, with whom we identify, who belongs to us (and we to them), for whom we are responsible, and so on. I think the truth that Jesus gets at time and time again is that for those who would seek to be his disciples, nothing can be of greater importance than one's discipleship to Jesus. Including family.

The old Scriptural language around idolatry may be lost when heard through our modern-day ears, but idolatry is still perhaps the biggest challenge that we face as Christians—the supplanting of Jesus with idols of our own choosing. And family can be one of those idols. Family can be an obstacle to Jesus. Family can be worshipped or obeyed or honored more than we worship, obey or honor Jesus. The idea of family—especially the nuclear family or family as those with whom you have blood ties—as an unqualified good is simply non-biblical, non-Christian.

The place of family—and all the obligations that flow from it—doesn't need to be an obstacle of course. Sometimes our families are the very places where our discipleship to Jesus is encouraged and deepened. But the opposite can be true too. Families that encourage love and care within the family while downplaying or minimizing the love and care of those who are impoverished or oppressed that Jesus calls us to is actually anti-Jesus. Families that encourage us to make decisions about where we live or how we spend our money or what kind of career we choose based on personal security and financial success are undermining our discipleship to the Jesus who calls us to serve others; to spend our time with the sick, the imprisoned, the impoverished, those who are mourning; to give up everything to follow him; to love our enemies; and so on. When our families teach us to prioritize our needs or our family's needs over against the needs of others or often at the expense of others, there is nothing remotely Christian about that.

Family is a complicated reality for any of us who want to follow Jesus. In all honesty, family—especially traditional understandings of family—is a mixed bag for Jesus. So let's not confuse discipleship to Jesus with any of the political "pro-family" nonsense that disguises values which are actually contrary to the message of Jesus. And let's also not equate the honoring of our own families with being good disciples of Jesus either. Lastly, let's keep expanding out our definitions of who our family members are, just like Jesus does over and over again in our scriptures. Only when we realize that we are all truly family to one another can we practice an authentic discipleship to our brother Jesus, the one with whom we all share the same parent.

Johnny Zokovitch



St. Cronan Catholic Church
Twenty-third Sunday,
Ordinary Time
September 3-4, 2022

Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 p.m.

Wednesdays – 8:00 a.m.

There is NO 8:00 Mass on Wednesdays, September 7 and 14.

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, September 4, was recorded and posted on our website on Saturday, September 3: <https://www.stcronan.org/>



ALL THINGS NEW

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.



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](#)

Willie's Fund: Our custodian, Willie Knighten, passed away suddenly a few weeks ago. If you would like to contribute to a trust fund for his daughter, Nina, who lost her mother last November and will be a senior in high school, please send checks to St. Cronan with "Willie" in the memo. You can also contribute on this site: <https://stcronan.square.site>

Welcome Neighbor Dinner will be held at St. Margaret of Scotland, 3854 Flad Ave. on Friday, September 23, at 6:30 pm. Cost: \$35 per person. For the menu and details, please see the flyer in the chapel. To register, please see the link on CronanTalk. Some of us from St. Cronan are going and you are welcome to join us.

Coffee and Donuts was at City Greens last week, after 10:00 Mass. It is back in the Parish Center today. Please consider supporting City Greens on Manchester as a member or volunteer. For more information, visit their website: www.stlcitygreens.org

St. Louis Black History Bus Tour: Fr. Gerry has been leading these tours on select Saturday mornings for members of the Archdiocese. If there is an interest at St. Cronan's, we will schedule one in the near future. The tour would leave St. Cronan's parking lot on a Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and return to St. Cronan at 1:00 p.m., with an opportunity to eat lunch and discuss with Fr. Gerry at the Parish Center after. Please see the flyer in the chapel for details. To show your interest in a tour, please contact Paul.loida@bayer.com ; Berniesalmons@aol.com ; tulsabillw@gmail.com

The Word Among Us: This daily meditation book is available free of charge in the Chapel. Feel free to take one for September.

Katy Trail Marian Pilgrimage: Please consider joining us for a Katy Trail Marian Pilgrimage informational meeting: Thursday, September 15th at 6:45 PM at **St. John the Baptist-Gildehaus Catholic Church Rectory 5567 Gildehaus Road, Villa Ridge, MO 63089 Phone: 636-583-2488 ...we hope to see you there!** And remember, if you're asking God to guide your footsteps, be willing to move your feet! **For more information, please visit our website at KatyTrailPilgrimage.com or send us an email at MarianPilgrimage77@gmail.com**

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.

History of St. Cronan's: I have posted the pictures of the posters on CronanTalk and on our Website. To access the pictures on CronanTalk, you need to click on the blue link, then click "open Zip extractor". Once that is open, you can view the posters, or download them to your computer. Here is the link: [St. Cronan's History Vol 1.zip](#) There is a binder in Church that people might look at as well. Any questions, please see Bill Blow or Al Sprehe.

National Collection for the Catholic University of America will take place in a second collection this weekend. Envelopes are available in the pews By giving to the collection, you are supporting future Catholic leaders who are being formed by an exceptional, faith-rooted education. Please be generous.

Being Who You Are, Perfectly Well: An LBGTQIA+ Catholics, Families and Friends Retreat will take place November 18-20 at the Mercy Retreat Center. For further details visit this link: <https://marianistsjc.net/lgbtq-retreat>

MAKING A DIFFERENCE If you're looking for a way to make a positive difference in the lives of immigrant or refugee families in the St. Louis area, read on...IHELP (Immigrant Home English Learning Program) and the former ETP (English Tutoring Project) are merging time and talent to teach English in the homes of immigrant and refugee families. More volunteers are needed two days a week for one-hour sessions, during the day or in the evening. Training and materials will be provided. If you are curious and would like to know more, please contact Christina Rumbold at 314.390.5706, or send in a volunteer application on the website at <http://ihelpstl.org/volunteers>.

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows QPR Suicide Prevention Training Wednesday, September 7, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. – Shrine's Guild Center (near Shrine Church) Learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to "question, persuade, and refer" someone to help. Registration is required due to space limitations. Candlelight Vigil for Those Lost to Suicide** Wednesday, September 7, 7:30 – 8:00 p.m. – Shrine's Lourdes Grotto Registration: QPR training/Candlelight Vigil at SNOWS.ORG/Vigil or call 618-394-6281.

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows Visitor Center – IN PERSON
The Well: Encountering Jesus and Finding Ourselves Presenters: **Fr. Mark Dean, OMI, Fr. Sal Gonzalez, OMI, Karen & Scott Seaborn Friday, September 9 – September 11 5 pm Fri– 2 pm Sun** Come join us as a couple, to ponder, through the lens of the story of Lazarus, how Jesus once again steps into our world of loss and death and calls us to new life, while also entrusting us the continued task of unbinding and setting free...tasks which will lead us to a better future. Cost: \$350 per couple (includes lodging and meals). **Register online at snows.org/programs, or call 618-394-6281 to register.**

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; Nick and Shirley Ambrose's cousin, Tammy Bayes; Tim and Else Hirzel's great nephew, Cameron Russell; Barry Buchek;