

PASTORAL REFLECTION
JANUARY 1, 2023
THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY

On Christmas morning I was at Mass in another parish in order to share the Christmas liturgy with the sisters with whom I live. The presider was Father Charlie Archer, just a year and one half out of the seminary, and he gave one of the most simple but profound homilies I have heard in a long time. I am still reflecting on it.

He began by explaining that at some couples' retreats he had shared, one of the exercises was for the couple to gaze into one another's eyes for five minutes, that this usually began with a little nervous laughter, but that by the time they had finished the five minutes, there were often tears from the depth of this experience.

Then he surprised us with a shift of focus and the realization that what we celebrate at Christmas time would have been the very first time that God in human flesh would have looked with this kind of love into the eyes of humankind with human eyes, and they were the eyes of a tiny baby, in an animal stall amid the musty smell of straw and the frosty breath of livestock. The first person on which that gaze would have rested would have been

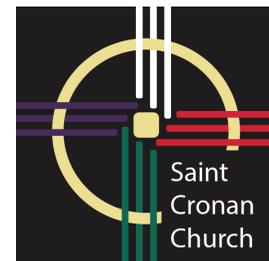
the child's mother. We were asked to reflect for a moment on what that look would have been for both of them. And this is the woman we solemnly celebrate today, a woman, a mother, on whom God Incarnate gazed for the first time in and from human flesh.

“And Mary treasured all of these things, reflecting on them in her heart.”

Mary's heart must have been a treasure chest of wonders and terrors: Angelic visitation, harsh rumors in the village, a miraculous divine child, and the husband who stayed despite it all. Giving birth in an animal enclosure, shortly to be attended by shepherds and Magi, and threats to the child's life. Blessings and warnings about the glory and sorrow to come. And then long, obscure years of routine parenting, wondering how and when all the predictions about her son would come to pass.

Mary kept going as we all keep going, with a heart full of wonderful and terrible memories, and equally hopeful and dreadful possibilities for the future. Mary did it the way we are all invited to do it; trusting in the God who had brought her this far.

—*Sister Chabanel Mathison, O.S.U.*



St. Cronan Catholic Church
The Nativity of the Lord
December 24/25, 2022

Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 pm.
Wednesdays – 8:00 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment
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>



St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Tree: The Christmas Tree containing cards for donations to St. Vincent de Paul is in the Chapel in Church. Please consider taking one of the cards, placing your donation in the envelope enclosed, and returning it through the collection basket or to the church office. This is the SVdP biggest fund-raiser of the year and it helps to finance all of the many clients that they help with rent, utilities, and other expenses. Please be generous.

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. The next vigil will take place on Friday, January 20. Please join us!

Church Office Closed The church office will be closed Monday, January 2 in observance of the New Year holiday.

**Happy
New Year!**

Parish Ministries: If you would like to add your talents to any of our ministries, and meet a great bunch of people, please call the church office or visit our website www.stcronan.org for information. *You are always welcome!*



Prayers Please: Kathy Bayless; Trish Curtis' brother; David Gaillardetz' father, Richard; Nick and Shirley Ambrose's daughter, Brigid Costello; Varrietta Anthony; 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; Tim and Else Hirtzel's great nephew, Cameron Russell; Carolyn Coyne's daughter, Molly Maryan; Kathy Hunn's niece, Lisa; Sr. Cathy's friends, Inga Casillo, Don Costello, Mike Bowen, Michelle O'Rourke, Kate Genovese; Judy Gallagher; Sharon Orlet; Bonnie and Warren Wimmer's daughter, Anne; Barry Buchek's friends, Jim Bruno and Jim's daughter Courtney; Mary Truetkin; Marie and Roland Martir's granddaughters, Carrie and Maddie, and friend, Craig; Janice Shayne's cousin, Jane Torretta; Jacob Whitworth; John Gozdziwski. *Please let the church office know if your loved one should be removed from the prayer list, or if you would like us to add anyone who needs our prayers.*

Rosaries Needed: The Marianist Retreat & Conference Center in Eureka is looking for non-plastic rosaries for their "Rosary Wall" that they've created to provide rosaries for folks who are on retreat. If you have any rosaries that you are not using and would like to donate to a good cause, they would be very grateful. There will be a designated box in the back of Church for the month of November and will take them to the Retreat Center the first of December. If you have any questions, contact Kathy Hunn at kmhunn@aol.com.

Hello from your Hospitality Committee. We now have pronoun stickers for your name tags, thanks to Erin O'Connell. Please pick the pronouns you prefer and put them on your name tag. We'd also love to see more people use their name tags at mass so we can all get to know each other by name. If you don't have one on the board in the back of church, contact Mary Ward at mary@stcronan.org and she'll have one made for you. Questions, contact Christine Lakey at 314-239-2204 or christine.lakey@yahoo.com.

Assisi House Opportunities: As many of you know, we are currently working to open an Assisi House on Spring Ave. in North St. Louis. We are aiming to open the house in January or February, 2023. Spring House needs a lot of work, and we intend to have volunteer workers there every Wednesday and Saturday for the foreseeable future. If you have questions or are interested in cleaning, painting, scraping, carpentry, drywall work, etc., send an email to our volunteer director, Megan, at megan@assisihouse.org and let her know how you can help. It is very exciting to see this house transforming into a warm, safe living space again. Please consider helping us.



City Greens Market (<https://www.stlcitygreens.org/>) reached out to ask for help with volunteer shifts around the upcoming holidays. Shifts are two hours on Wednesday-Sunday and include help with stocking, inventory, data entry, cleaning, gardening, and staffing community events. They are especially looking for help on Wednesdays! If you are interested, you can sign up here: volunteersignup.org/Q97J7. City Greens is located on Manchester near Tower Grove Ave. Mariah Byrne and Cathy Hartrich have been volunteering with City Greens regularly and love it there. The market has o all sorts of native produce and has super high

quality local ingredients. Bonus--if you volunteer at least four hours a month, you qualify for a membership and get to buy food at cost! If you have any questions, please contact Mariah at mariah.e.byrne@gmail.com.

MEALS PROGRAM AT STS. PETER & PAUL Service Opportunity

The Meals Program at Sts. Peter & Paul serves the homeless & needy from the 2nd through the 21st of each month. We currently have 2 days a month needing coverage. This service includes preparing and serving the meal to those in need. For more information please contact Rachel Schoenberger at 314-231-9923 or

Parish Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm
www.stcronan.org
 Phone: (314) 289-9384

Pastor: Fr. Jack Schuler
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Pastoral Administrator: Mary Ward
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Food Pantry Director: Kathy Hunn
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