

Pastoral Reflection
27th Sunday, Ordinary Time
October 2, 2022

For most of my life, I related more strongly to the older brother in the parable of the Prodigal Son, who comes in from his work in the fields and feels indignation at the prospect of celebrating the return of his younger brother, who has squandered the wealth that was given to him. The older brother, acting out of jealousy rather than love, focuses on his brother's past actions rather than his humble decision to return home (to God).

When we do the work that we are obliged to do, are we due praise and affirmation? Is it justified for us to feel angry when we see others, who have not put in the same amount of time or thought or energy, be congratulated for what they have accomplished? Justified or not, I admit that I have felt this anger, such as when I've seen someone else receive a promotion or award when I did not, while believing that I was more worthy due to my skills and contributions.

The lesson of the older brother in the Prodigal Son story is the same as the lesson of the example Jesus shares at the end of this week's Gospel reading, and it also resonates with the reading from the prophet Habakkuk: We must see beyond our expectations of prompt rewards and answered prayers. As Archbishop Oscar Romero opened his well-known prayer for workers, "It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view." When we are obedient to God, seeking to love as God loves, God celebrates our good works in ways beyond our understanding, beyond our timelines, and even beyond our beliefs about what constitutes "good works." We are called to trust in God's "slow work" and surrender our desire for an obvious reward here on earth, whether that be praise, privilege, or material gain. We are called to challenge ourselves when we notice the shadow of self-righteousness impacting our willingness to love and welcome.

The father says to his eldest son in the Prodigal Son parable, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours."

Do I see the ways God is with me, offering his gift of love, regardless of any person's judgements about how much I may have earned it?

Justin Lorenz



St. Cronan Catholic Church
Twenty-seventh Sunday,
Ordinary Time
October 1-2, 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, October 2, was recorded and posted on our website on Saturday, October 1: <https://www.stcronan.org/>

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>



Our St. Cronan listening sessions are scheduled for November 1st and 3rd in the evening. Mark your calendars! Parishioners must register to attend one of them. The following link will allow you to register and will also provide a way to study the Parish workbook for our area. We hope to have an assembly in October to prepare us for the sessions, so it is very important that you read the material and register for the listening sessions. <https://allthingsnew.archstl.org/Ways-to-Engage/Listening-Sessions>

Parish Assembly will take place on Sunday, October 23 in the Coffee and Donuts room. Food will be provided. Please plan to attend as we prepare for the listening sessions.



Permanent Deacon Collection: There will be a collection next week for permanent Deacons – there are no envelopes, so please place in one with “Deacons” on the outside, or put “Deacons” on the memo line of your check.

St. Francis Xavier College Church is holding a three-part exploration of the racial history of College church, integral to the story of the founding and development of the city of St. Louis, the Archdiocese, the Society of Jesus and St. Louis University, 12:00-1:30 p.m. at the College Church Lower Level. A light lunch is provided at 12:45. Upcoming sessions will occur on Oct. 16 and Nov. 20. Please see the flyer in the Chapel.

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

St. Louis Friends of Bethlehem The Friends of Bethlehem will have Fair Trade Sale at St. Cronan’s the weekend of November 5-6. Be prepared to get Christmas Presents!

The Reclamation Center of the Archdiocese of St. Louis is holding an open house Wednesday October 26 and Monday November 7, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For further information, please see the flyer in the chapel.

Midtown Community Center Fundraiser: Lip Sync Battle, Friday, October 14, Schlafly tap room, 2100 Locust. Tickets \$40, includes all-night appetizer buffet, one free beer, full night of entertainment, cash bar. Free parking on site. To sign up your team or purchase tickets: www.midtownstl.org/lip-sync-battle or call 3140534-1180. For further information, see the flyer in the Chapel.

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, October 21. Please join us!

Clothing Swap for those who identify as female will take place this afternoon, Oct. 2, from 2:30-4:30pm. Changing in front of each other welcome, changing rooms also at available! Bring quality clothing/accessories (children and their clothing are welcome as well). 4547 Gibson Avenue. Please park on the far west end of Gibson or on Taylor due to parking permit rules

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

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>

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. Registrations are still available at archstl.org/jubilee or call (314) 792-7171

Bishop John Stowe Lecture: How Can the Church be Prophetic at a Time of Deep Polarization? What is the role of the Catholic Church? Of Catholics? Through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching and Fratelli Tutti, Bishop John Stowe (Lexington, Kentucky) will explore this topic – and respond to your questions. SLU Center for Global Citizenship (3672 West Pine Mall, 63108). Doors will open at 6:30PM Central Time in advance of our 7:00PM start; the event will conclude by 8:30PM. Your registration is requested bit.ly/BishopStoweTalk (with an opportunity to do so at the door). Masking is optional. For more information, see the attached flyer. This event is hosted collaboratively by Seeds of Justice Network, Catholic Campaign for Human Development – Archdiocese of St. Louis

Prayers Please: Kathy Bayless; 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, Claire and Alex Wallenda-Zoppe’and family; Kathy Hunn’s niece, Lisa; Judy Gallagher; Sharon Orlet, Mary Proot’s friend, Jessica Kozien, and Mary’s grandson, Silas.

Rest in Peace Mary Buchek went to God on Saturday, September 24. Please keep Barry and their family in your prayers at this difficult time.

Dennis Solomon, brother-in-law of our custodian, Mary Solomon, passed away over the weekend. Please keep Mary and her family in your prayers.

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