

Pastoral reflection: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Oct. 23rd readings

It's an odd statement that Sirach starts out with in today's first reading:

*The LORD is a God of justice,
who knows no favorites.*

It's odd because everything that follows suggests that God DOES know favorites. God "hears the cry of the oppressed" and is "not deaf to the wail of the orphan, nor to the widow when she pours out her complaint." God hears the "one who serves God" and the "prayer of the lowly."

So I'm not sure why Sirach thinks God has no favorites.

The fullness of scripture bears this out too. God chooses the Israelite people, enslaved in Egypt, to be a people peculiarly God's own, and God liberates them from their oppressors, the Egyptians. The stories of the Hebrew scriptures have God intervening time and again on behalf of vulnerable peoples threatened by great empires and unprotected individuals bullied and assaulted by kings, judges and others who wield power.

God chose too to enter this world as one of the marginalized from a no-name town in an occupied country, rejecting—in such a choice—the path of riches and might and influence that being born to royalty would have brought; another tacit decision made

to enter the fray on the side of those who identify as the dispossessed of history.

Indeed, the more we ponder Sirach's opening lines, the more we have to admit that what we actually have here is an oxymoron. Because to be a "God of justice" IS to "know favorites"; it is to stand with those denied dignity over against those who benefit from systems of greed, violence and injustice.

—Johnny Zokovitch

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Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

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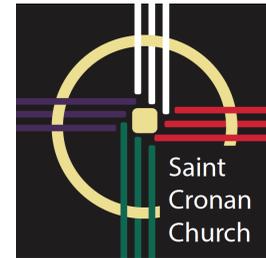
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**St. Cronan Catholic Church
30th Sunday of Ordinary Time
October 22/23, 2022**

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>



Our St. Cronan listening sessions are scheduled for November 1st and 3rd at 6pm. Mark your calendars! Attendees 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. 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 following the 10am mass. Food will be provided. Please plan to attend as we prepare for the listening sessions

Hurricane Ian Donations for those recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Ian can still be made. If you wish to make a donation, please note "Hurricane Ian".

All Saints Day: In celebration of All Saints Day, we will have Mass at 8am on Tues., Nov. 1.

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

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!*

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.

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

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.

Memorial for our Saints Our Candle-lighting memorial service for those who have had their funerals or memorial services celebrated at St. Cronan this past year will take place on Sunday, October 30 at the 10:00 Mass. All Saints cards will be in the Chapel for those who have lost loved ones this year who had services at other churches. Please write their name on the card and place it in the basket. These will be placed on the Altar during the month of November.

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

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; Tim and Else Hirzel's great nephew, Cameron Russell; Barry Buchek, Kathy Hunn's niece, Lisa; Judy Gallagher; Sharon Orlet, Mary Proot's friend, Jessica Kozien, and Mary's grandson, Silas; Roland and Marie Martir's granddaughter, Madi; Bonnie and Warren Wimmer's daughter Ann and Mr.

Charles Wallace. *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.*

Blessing Bags Children's Faith Formation will be assembling Blessing Bags this year for us to give to the homeless. We will be collecting items until Nov. 5 and assembling the bags on Nov. 13, after the 10:00 Mass. There will be a bin in the back of Church for your donations or you can drop off donations to the church office. Once the bags are assembled, we will have them available in Church for you to take and distribute. Contact the church office for a list of suggested items.

World Mission Sunday: This week we join Catholics around the world for the celebration of World Mission Sunday. We are called to offer our prayers and financial help for the Church's missionary work in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands and parts of Latin America and Europe. Please be generous for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for the Missions.

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows – Visitors Center

Gifts From Friends We've Yet to Meet: A Day of Prayer Presenter: Virginia Herbers
Saturday November 19, 9:30 am – 3 pm (Lunch included)

Join us for this day of reflection focusing on a few Gospel characters whose names we will never know—whether it's the boy with the loaves and fishes, the woman with the hemorrhage, or the 'good thief', there are several individuals who interact personally with Jesus and have a significant impact on his ministry - even though we cannot name them. We will explore a few of these characters, reflecting on what gifts they have to offer us for our own lives of faith and discipleship—here and now. Cost: \$35 (Lunch included)
For more information, call 618-394-6281. Register online at <https://snows.org/ministries/spiritual-programs/>

SJM Parish Mission November 14-17, 7pm each night, at St. Justin Martyr Catholic Church, 11910 Eddie & Park Rd., Sunset Hills. Our "God's Mercy" Mission with speaker, Fr. Kevin MacDonald, C.Ss.R. Refreshments to follow each evening. Tuesday evening will offer the opportunity for Reconciliation. Call 314-843-8482 for more info.

Public Forum on TIFs and Tax Abatement: October 24, 6:30-8:30 pm, Adams School, 1311 Tower Grove Avenue. For further information, please flyer in back of church.

Debbie's 8th annual Walk for Hunger, Saturday, October 29, 9 am to Noon at Francis Park in St. Louis Hills at the Nottingham main entrance. Proceeds from this event will benefit Dorothy's Hauling Ministry and our own food pantry. For further details, please see flyer in back of church.



Upcoming Programs at Mercy Conference and Retreat Center

- ◆ "Navigating the Holidays with Mindfulness", Saturday, November 5, 8:30 AM-3:00 PM. \$75. More information and registration at www.mercycenterstl.org.
- ◆ "Finding God at the Movies: A Midweek Retreat," November 15-16, \$100 commuter; \$160 overnight. More information and registration at www.mercycenterstl.org.
- ◆ "Allowing Christ to Become Flesh in Us: An Advent Day of Prayer," Saturday, December 17, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM, \$75 commuter; \$145 overnight. More information and registration at www.mercycenterstl.org.