

Pastoral reflection: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Oct. 30 readings

Several years ago I was in Japan in August at the time of their Obon Festival, which celebrates the belief that the ancestors' spirits come back to their homes to be reunited with their family. This is a time of great celebration and family gatherings. People go to their family's grave to call the spirits of ancestors back home. They place gifts of food in front of a butsudan (Buddhist altar) in their homes. Incense is burned. Lanterns are lit. Fires are lit at the entrance of houses so the spirits can find their way back home. After 3 days of festivities the spirits are guided back to their world. In Kyoto this is done by lighting huge bonfires in the hills surrounding the city. The bonfires can be in the shape of boats, Japanese characters, or other designs to guide the spirits back to their world. The sending forth is an amazing sight as people gather on balconies and roof tops to watch the home-directing bonfires.

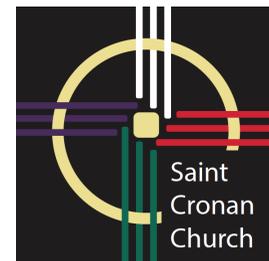
Most cultures have religious traditions which honor the ancestors and provide a time for the different worlds to intersect. An internet search of this topic shows many similarities across history and geography. Our celebration of Halloween, All Saints, and All Souls Day is largely rooted in the Gaelic festival Samhain (SAH-win), which marks the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter or the darker half of the year. Early Gaelic culture believed that on the night before All Saints, All Hallows Eve, the graves opened up and those who had died were free to roam the earth again. People lit bonfires and wore costumes to ward off the ghosts. One tradition included preparing Soul

cakes so the spirits would have something to eat, the original Halloween treat. In the 8th century Pope Gregory III set Nov. 1 as a time to honor all saints and martyrs, and some customs of Samhain were incorporated into the celebration of the feast.

While many of these customs have evolved and even become secularized, the Church still sets aside the holiday to honor our ancestors. Possibly you have experienced the awareness that family members and friends who have died continue to be present, possibly even closer to us than the time we shared life together here on earth. Maybe you have even had the experience that the person has come back to offer comfort or encouragement or direction. The Gaelic belief is that at some times the veil separating our various worlds is very thin and we are able to pass through the curtain that separates us.

Again this year at St. Cronan's you are invited to add pictures of your loved ones to our Altar of Saints. You may also want to do this in your home where you as a family can celebrate the lives of your ancestors, those who have influenced your life – good or bad. We all have a few strange relatives in our families whose lives can also be celebrated. They too made us who we are today. Blessed Saints Day!

—Lynne Schmidt, SSND



St. Cronan Catholic Church 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time October 29/30, 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>

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

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.

Retirement Fund for Religious: Next Sunday, Nov. 6, all parishes in the Archdiocese will be taking up special collections for our retired religious. Please be generous.

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 Mon. 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. The last session will occur on Nov. 20. Please see the flyer in the Chapel.



Prayers Please: Kathy Bayless; Trish Curtis' mother and brother; David Gailardetz' 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; Paul Schmitt; Tim and Else Hirzel's great nephew, Cameron Russell; Barry Buchek; Carolyn Coyne's daughter, Molly Maryan; Kathy Hunn's niece, Lisa; Sr. Cathy's friend, Inga Casillo; Judy Gallagher; Sharon Orlet; Mary Proot's friend, Jessica Kozien, and Mary's grandson, Silas; Bonnie and Warren Wimmer's daughter, Anne; Mr. Charles Wallace.

Rosaries Needed: The Marianist Retreat & Conference Center in Eureka is looking for non-plastic rosaries for their "Rosary Wall". There will be a designated box in the back of church. See Kathy Hunn if you have any questions.

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.

Parish Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm
www.stcronan.org
Phone: (314) 298-9384

Pastor: Fr. Jack Schuler

jschuler@stcronan.org

Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdziwski

diane@stcronan.org

Pastoral Administrator: Mary Ward

mary@stcronan.org

Music Director: David Dickey

Food Pantry Director: Kathy Hunn

(314) 533-0651
kathyfoodpantry@gmail.com

Thanks for your participation on World Mission Sunday! Thanks for participating on World Mission Sunday last weekend! Through your generous contributions to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, you are Christ's witnesses, building the Church in the Pope's missions around the world, feeding the poor, and aiding the missionaries who are sharing the Gospel worldwide. May God bless you for your compassionate missionary spirit

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)
Cost: \$35 (Lunch included)
For more information, call 618-394-6281. Register online at <https://snows.org/ministries/spiritual-programs/>



Thanks to all who organized, led and participated in the Parish Assembly last weekend. It was indeed Spirit-filled and a blessing to know who we are and what we value. So much positive energy was in that room! Our next step will be carrying that energy into the listening sessions.

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!

Advent Calendar: The Liturgy Committee is trying to get a head start on the Advent Reflection Book. Advent is only one month away! See display in back of church. Contact Diane for more info or see your Monday notes.



Please note: The parish office will be closed Friday, October 28, 9-noon. Mary and Diane are attending the "Women of the Church" All Things New listening session.

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, November 18. Please join us!

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.