

Pastoral Reflection

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

“So be perfect; just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” So Matthew concludes a series of specific examples of how a disciple is called to live the Beatitudes. “Be perfect” – the Greek word used is *teleios*, which means complete, having reached a goal, and fulfilled its purpose. The key to that perfection can be found in Leviticus 19: “Be holy, for I, your God am holy.” This is the purpose, the goal, for which we have been created.

Jesus gives several examples of how this holiness is lived out: offer no resistance to one who is evil, give over your cloak as well as your tunic, go the extra mile, and love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. We hear these challenges to go beyond the letter of the law and to love as God loves.

A difficulty of passages such as these has been that they have been misread and misinterpreted. Culturally they have been used to tell women and other subordinate groups to accept being enslaved, to submit to abusive husbands, to forgive their rapists, to comply with demands of male employers, and to maintain peace rather than cause upset by naming injustices. Numerous other examples of such misreading of the passages could be cited. Unfortunately, for some this submissiveness and even acceptance of violence against the person or group has become normative. This is not the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is not the call to be a “discipleship of equals.”

The message of subordination, submissiveness, and total giving for the use

of another is often subtle. I remember the time I realized that the book being read to the children, *The Giving Tree*, reflected clearly the values of a disordered society and church. The tree, which is identified with female pronouns, is totally used up for the sake of the boy and his adventures. And this is seen as praiseworthy and expected. Her role is to give and give and give until she is destroyed. The boy benefits completely. This is not the Gospel of Jesus. Using people to benefit ourselves is not the Gospel.

We come to the Scriptures with our experiences and our biases. We are challenged to be open to hear the Word of God and to let it change us. Paul asks the Corinthians and us: Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? Be perfect. Fulfill the goal for which you have been created. Be holy, for your God is holy. This is the Gospel.

-Lynne Schmidt, SSND

Parish Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

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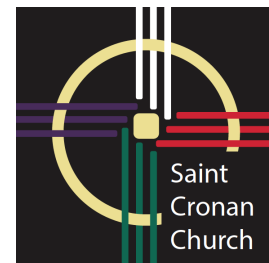
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St. Cronan Catholic Church

Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

February 19, 2023

Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 pm.

Wednesdays – 8:00 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment

The Masses for February Masses for February will be live-streamed at 10:00 on Sundays and posted on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StCronan/>



Ash Wednesday Masses: 8:00, 12:00 noon, 6:30 p.m.

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, March 17. Please join us!

St. Cronan Men's Retreat The St. Cronan Men's Retreat will be live and in person this year. The retreat will be held April 28 - 30 (Friday evening to Sunday noon) at the Griesedieck farm, which is about 75 miles north of mid-town St. Louis. All men of the parish are invited. Please contact Rocky Sieben by e-mail if you are interested or have questions. rockysieben@sbcglobal.net More information will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

St. Cronan Women's Retreat The 2023 Women's Retreat at the Griesedieck Farm will take place April 21-23. There will be a minimal cost and ride shares will be arranged through the sign-up (coming soon). Feel free to attend the first planning meeting this Sunday, Feb. 5, after the 10 a.m. Mass at Coffee and Donuts. More to come soon!

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; Paul Schmitt; Tim and Else Hirzel's great nephew, Cameron Russell; Kathy Hunn's niece, Lisa; Sr. Cathy's friends, Inga Casillo, Don Costello, Mike Bowen[DG1], Michelle O'Rourke, Kate Genovese; Judy Gallagher; 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; Wilma Hunt and family, friends of Sandra Ward; Michael Mason; former SVDP hauler; Michael Peterson; Linda and Jeff Caul's daughter, Kelly *Please let the office staff know if your loved one should be removed from the prayer list.*

The collaborative **Immigrant and Refugee Ministry** of Saints Pius V, John the Baptist, Anthony of Padua, Cronan, Margaret of Scotland and Vincent de Paul parishes is seeking a **Coordinator** for its **Immigrant and Refugee Ministry (IRM.)** Based at St. Pius V, this is a full time position and requires some evening and weekend work. Read the mission of the IRM and a job description at <https://www.stpiusv.org/church-social-mission>. Please send cover letter, resume and salary requirements to ruthrehresman@yahoo.com by March 15.

Narcan Outreach Program: St. Cronan Church will have Narcan, the life-saving medication to combat opiate overdoses, available at no cost. St. Cronan Church Social Justice Committee, in partnership with the Missouri Institute of Mental Health (MIMH) and The University of Missouri- St. Louis, sponsored this program. The program will offer complimentary boxes of Narcan including substance abuse and mental health resources and education. The program launch announcement will occur at the following Mass dates/times below: Saturday, February 18- 5pm; Sunday, February 19- 8am + 10am. Lori Deering will be at Coffee and Donuts on Feb. 19 to answer any questions. Please contact the church office for more information.

Haulers Needed: The hauling ministry of St. Vincent de Paul is in need of people who can help move furniture from donors to people in need during the week and on Saturdays. If you can donate some time to this worthy endeavor, please contact Dorothy Lucey, (314) 803-1858.



Mass Protocols: The last two years have taught us to be conscious of each other's health and to care for the least among us: those who have compromised immune systems. To that end, masks continue to be recommended, although not required at Mass. Please keep in mind that we are in close proximity in church for at least one hour, which is ample time to catch the Covid or Flu virus. The CDC has indicated that COVID is not spread by touch or physical contact, so it is perfectly alright to hold hands during the Our Father and to extend the Exchange of Peace around you as you wish, provided people are comfortable holding or shaking hands or hugging. We are holding off the practice of going around the Altar during the Consecration in respect for Fr. Jack, who must be without a mask during those prayers. As we are able to open the Church in the Spring, we will revisit this practice. Thank you for your understanding.



Lenten Resources: This Lenten Season, we are focusing on personal and communal change and how we can grow closer to God by deepening our prayer life and our commitment to community and as community. We are very grateful to Johnny Zokovich for donating 100 copies of Pax Christi's Lenten Reflection Book, "Witnesses on the Way: Reflections for Lent 2023". These can be found on

the tables in the Chapel and are free

Data Base Updates: Be sure to let Mary in the office know if you have had any changes to your address, email, mailing address of phone number. You can email any changes to mary@stcronan.org.

Lenten Prayer Service Join the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 4 at the Carondelet Motherhouse for their Lenten prayer service *In the Wilderness: Seeking God's Way*. Please consider joining our community for a morning of songs, readings and prayers followed by a continental breakfast and an opportunity to act for justice. This prayer service is free, but registration is required by Feb. 27. Register at csjls.org/events/lent-prayer-service.



January 2023 contributions	
General Fund	\$15,823.00
Building Repair Fund	\$175.00
Capital Maintenance	\$360.00
Christmas	\$100.00
Food Pantry	\$1,652.00
Fundraiser	\$75.00
Human Development	\$330.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$235.00
Uganda	\$5.00