

Pastoral Reflection Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus tells his followers that they are the “salt of the earth.” He then cautions, “but if salt loses its taste...it is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.”

I often fear that I have become salt that has lost its flavor, that it would be better if I were discarded, and that there was no hope for me to regain flavor. Part of why I fear I have lost my taste is because I so rarely do what Jesus and the prophet Isaiah instruct us, that which brings light into our being: to share bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and homeless, clothe the naked, and to not turn our back on our own...and to remove oppression, false accusation, and malicious speech.

When people I encounter on the streets ask me for money for food, I am usually mistrustful and lacking in generosity. When I see Facebook posts from Winter Outreach seeking help with comforting those without homes on the coldest nights, I keep scrolling. When I hear about injustice, I feel dismayed and move on. More often than not, I turn my back and justify it with claims of not wanting to enable those in need, or claims of overwhelm and confusion about what I could really do to help.

Deep within me, I believe Jesus has not given up on me. Jesus knows my misgivings, my hesitations, and my rationalizations for denying from the others in my flock what I have been gifted. My darkness is not darkness to God—God still sees my light.

Our God is a God of not only two, but seventy-seven chances (See Matthew 18:22). God continually forgives. *Yes, God can always make me salt again.* God paves my path with communities like St. Cronan and friends involved in various ministries that offer invitation after invitation to do the Lord’s work, so that I might choose among the many next times to share my light with others.

For us with hardening hearts, let us commit to letting our light shine out not only towards those who are well, but those who are unwell and in need (and, as Pope Francis recently instructed, to actively find where they are, for they are often hidden in the darkness).

So let us allow the words of that great spiritual to guide our upcoming actions:

“This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine...let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.”

—Justin Lorenz

Parish Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

www.stcronan.org

Phone: (314) 289-9384

Pastor: Fr. Jack Schuler

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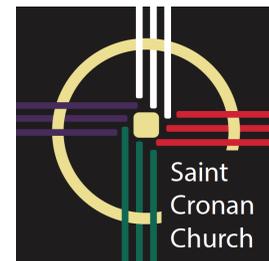
mary@stcronan.org

Music Director: David Dickey

Food Pantry Director: Kathy Hunn

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St. Cronan Catholic Church Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time February 5, 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/>

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, February 17. Please join us!

Journey Together as Church: All Catholics have a role to play in changing the culture of the Church. Come share your thoughts and experiences on clericalism and how it affects our Church. St. Cronan is hosting a sharing session on Sunday in the Coffee and Donuts Room, February 19, 1:00-3:00 p.m. at 1202 So. Boyle, 63110. We will use the 4 questions from the Synod and add a fifth question designed to work toward action. Registration is required: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084baf23a0f49-synod#

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!



Please help welcome our newest parishioners:

Anne and Doug Milford

Mary and David Solomon

John Higgins

Todd Dean and Jackie Groskios

Lynn Sneath

Andrew Jendraszak and Erin Wissel



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; Sharon Orlet; 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, Jean Bresser and Kelly, daughter of Linda and Jeff Caul. *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.*

Michael Mason, prior SvDP hauling volunteer, has been transferred to Bernard Care Center, 4335 West Pine Blvd 63108. Cards appreciated

**EXECUTION OF
LEONARD
"RAHEEM"
TAYLOR**

Prayer Vigil Against the Death Penalty: The state of Missouri has executed 2 individuals in the past two months, with another execution scheduled for February 7th. As Catholics, we are pro-life from womb to tomb, and this includes standing against the death penalty. The Catholic Church teaches that "the

death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person" (CCC 2267). The Archdiocesan Office of Peace and Justice will have a bus available to attend a Prayer Vigil for Leonard "Raheem" Taylor on February 7 at 5:15 p.m. at the Bonne Terre Prison, 2727 Highway K, Bonne Terre, MO. The bus leaving the Rigali Center at 4:00 pm. Email mariekenyon@archstl.org to reserve your seat on the bus. Estimated return to the Rigali Center is 8pm. For more information, mariekenyon@archstl.org



Update from "All Things New": The initial draft of the parish feedback summaries have been shared with pastors, who were asked to share the summaries with their Key Parish Leaders and provide feedback. Every parish feedback summary is now public at <https://allthingsnew.archstl.org/>. You should contact your parish office for more information if you do not have access to the internet. All of this is geared toward the Archbishop making a well-informed, discerned decision for the spiritual wellbeing of the Archdiocese, looking at the feedback of the people and the needs of the Archdiocese. To read more info, please see the bulletin insert.



BLACK AND INDIAN
MISSION OFFICE EST. 1884

Today, St. Cronan will take up the 139th annual Black and Indian Mission Collection. Our support of this collection helps build the church in African American, Native American and Alaska Native communities from coast to

coast. Schools, parish religious education programs and diocesan ministries depend on our generosity to help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Please use the envelopes provided or just write Black and Indian Mission on the memo line of your check. You can also contribute online from the "Contribute" button on the home page of our website or use this link: <https://www.wesharegiving.org/app/giving/WeShare-20000089?tab=home> Thank you in advance for your generosity.

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!

Midtown Community Services Update: Last week Midtown found out that the state of Missouri is changing its classification of their program. They will now be deemed by the state a Child Care Facility, and will be required to be licensed as such, where in the passed they were exempt from this status. You will be noticing some small and some not so small changes in the Parish Center. One of the first changes will be access to the building and parking lot during after school and camp hours. The parking lot will be sectioned off at the playground with retractable stanchions during hours when children are present, so no vehicles will be permitted beyond that point. Midtown attendees and staff will only access the building through the back doors. Any non-Midtown visitors, staff and parishioners will access the building via the front entrance only. We are grateful for your cooperation with this important implementation of state regulations. Other smaller changes will be upgrading some faucets, paper product dispensers, painting, posted signage and some added safety precautions. Please contact Mary in the church office if you have any questions.

