

Pastoral Reflection

Fourth Sunday of Lent

*"I only know I was blind and now I see."
—John 9:26*

Last month I drove one of our sisters to her cataract surgery, and for her appointment the next day. Some years ago she suffered retina damage in the other eye, so that if anything went wrong with this surgery, she ran the risk of being almost completely without sight at age 75. For that one brief day, I was able to enter into the fear she faced with that prospect and it gave me a perspective on blindness that I have never had. Fortunately in these days of modern medical miracles, her surgery went well and she sees even better now. My friend risked going INTO blindness for the rest of her life. Today we have the gospel of Jesus bringing a man OUT of blindness since birth and he has the opposite world-changing experience of suddenly seeing EVERYTHING.

The amazing thing is that he is also plunged into a theological debate with the schooled Pharisees who can't recognize a miracle when they see one, AND HE HOLDS HIS OWN against them, his "betters" who view him marked by God as twisted for being born with a disability. Imagine the shock of the man born blind. The world was the same as always, but his relationship to it was totally transformed! He would no longer be dependent, feel useless, be regarded as sinful for being born blind. Last week, with the Samaritan woman, we learned how deeply Jesus looks into our depths to heal

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whatever is broken there. This week we see how Jesus strips every barrier to clear sight if we will but allow it to happen. We learn to see without the limitations of the last generation's vision, inherited prejudices, grievances and fears.

May we find in our hearts overwhelming gratitude for those events in our lives, even the painful ones, with which WE have been gifted and that have "opened our eyes" to truth, to the pain that others are experiencing in a way that touches us to reach out to them. May we welcome the insights we receive into the stark realities of poverty, the desperate needs of refugees, the way we are ravaging our earth, and the loneliness of someone close to us.

May it be our prayer . . . "that we may see."

—Sister Chabanel Mathison, O.S.U.



St. Cronan Catholic Church

Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

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!



Rice Bowls will be available in church beginning this weekend. Please take one, put in your Lenten Alms and return them during Holy Week. If you prefer to make a donation with a check, please notate "Rice Bowl" in memo line.

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, April 21. Please join us!

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, and newborn baby, Giovanni Christopher Centerino; Judy Gallagher; Barry Buchek's friends, Jim Bruno and Jim's daughter Courtney; Mary Truetkin; Marie and Roland Martir's daughter, Carrie, and granddaughter, Maddie; Janice Shayne's cousin, Jane Torretta; Jacob Whitworth; John Gozdzialski; Wilma Hunt and family, friends of Sandra Ward; Michael Mason; former SVDP hauler; Michael Peterson; Linda and Jeff Caul's daughter, Kelly; Al Sprehe's wife, Maggie;; Joe Connolly; Sam Vitale, friend of Father Jack and Mary Ward, John Derr; son-in-law of Alice Adcock; Mr. Charles; and Mary Ward. *Please let the office staff know if your loved one should be removed from the prayer list.*

WELCOME

Please help welcome our newest parishioner:

Jenna Richard

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. Copies of Pax Christi's Lenten Reflection Book, "Witnesses on the Way: Reflections for Lent 2023" can be found on the tables in the Chapel and are free.

Mark your calendar to join us (and spread the word to other Parishes) at St. Cronan Church to pray the Stations of the Cross followed by a Soup Supper on Friday, March 24, 2023. Stations start in Church at 6:00 p.m. and the Supper will be across the street at the Parish Center at 6:30 p.m. Donations of meatless soups/dishes, bread, fruit, and cheese are appreciated and please bring food to the Parish Center before Stations of the Cross begin. Materials for Stations will be provided at Church that evening. If you have any questions, email Christine.Lakey@yahoo.com or Maggie Hart-Mahon at ofcomp17@gmail.com.



Holy Week Celebrations: Sign-up sheets are available in church on Sunday for readers, eucharistic ministers and other participants for Palm Sunday and the Triduum. They are also attached here. If you would like to sign up, but will not be at Church, please email Diane diane@stcronan.org

Bulletin: Please submit all items for the weekly bulletin to mary@stcronan.org. you want your blurb in Monday Notes, too, please copy diane@stcronan.org. Bulletin deadline is Wednesday by noon.



The Sisters of St. Joseph are hosting theologian & author Daniel Helminiak to speak on "What the Bible really says about homosexuality." Daniel will "present his research from renowned Biblical scholars that offers us a contemporary and compassionate teaching on homosexuality—a liberating experience for people of faith." He will be here the weekend of March 24-26th. However, this is not a conference! Please only go to one day if you're interested in attending, as he will give the same talk 2-4pm each day! It is free but you must register! Here is the link to register as well: <https://csjsl.org/events/daniel-helminiak-speaker-event-1>

Wills: Please remember Saint Cronan's in your will. Title is St. Cronan's Catholic Church-1202 South Boyle Ave.- St. Louis, MO 63110. Our Federal I.D.# 43-0653457

From Hospitality/Welcoming Committee:

- We will have a Ministry of the Month at masses. Ministry leaders will be speaking the first week of each month during the announcements to inform you about each ministry.
- Let's start wearing name tags again to get to know each other better. If you don't find yours, inform Mary Ward at mary@stcronan.org.
- We are in need of additional greeters to come 10 minutes prior to mass and spread the St. Cronan hearty welcome to all! If new people arrive, we especially reach out and provide them with a Welcome Packet which can be found in yellow envelopes on the back table. Thank you in advance if you offer for this very fulfilling Ministry! Contact Christine Lakey if you are interested at christine.lakey@yahoo.com.

