

Pastoral Reflection

Fifth Sunday of Lent

This past week I had a very unique and heart-wrenching experience. I testified in a Capital Case Trial. I spoke during the penalty phase to offer mitigating circumstances to avoid the death penalty of a person I have been visiting in prison the last 7 years. I also knew him when he was a child in Our Lady of Guadalupe School. It just so happens that this weekend we have the familiar Gospel story of Lazarus coming out of the tomb. We also have the passage from Ezekiel about "God putting the spirit in you so that you may live". These scriptures offer a fitting back round for my courtroom experience. The person on trial was convicted of three counts of murder (and one of the victims was seven years old!). In preparation for the trial I viewed over 600 autopsy photos. They were the most gruesome and most horrific pictures I have ever seen. The victims were stabbed death and one other person was injured, his estranged wife. In spite of the nature of these crimes I want the perpetrator to "come out alive". I want God "to put in him a new spirit". Families of the victims and the prosecuting attorney want him executed.

He has been reading the Bible and receiving spiritual books and prayers since he entered prison. He knows that no matter what he will never be free again. While in prison his Father and Mother died. I preached at his Mother's funeral in January. Immediately following the funeral I visited the son in prison. Obviously he was not allowed to be present. He did

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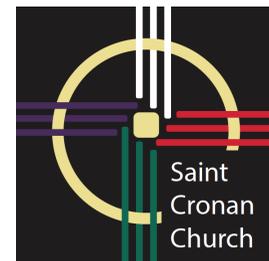
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send a message to be read. He is being punished quite severely in my estimation. He knows what he did is horrendous and criminal but I don't believe we need to pile up deaths. I do not believe in the death penalty nor does the Catholic Church (although many Catholics do!).

This person will be living "Lent" as long as he lives, but I pray that his tomb is not in an execution chamber. Please pray with me.

—Fr. Jack (he/him)

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



St. Cronan Catholic Church

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 26, 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/>



Grand Slam Baseball Raffle St. Cronan is once again participating in the Grand Slam Baseball Raffle with St. John's Church. The raffle tickets are \$25 for a chance to win weekly prizes for 17 weeks. St. Cronan had several big winners for the Football Raffle. The deadline to purchase your raffle ticket has been extended until April 2. You can purchase your tickets after mass on Sundays or through the Parish Office by calling 314-289-9384.

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, 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 Gozdziwski; 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 Wallace; Bill Blow's daughter, Meg Shugarts; and Sr. Cathy's friend, Jenni. *Please let the office staff know if your loved one should be removed from the prayer list.*

Please keep **Pat Eckert** and her family in your prayers. Pat's brother Robert (Bob) Foley passed away last week after a long illness. May the Angels lead him to Paradise.

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.



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. If you would like to sign up, but will not be at Church, please e-mail 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.

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!



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.

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.

On Sunday March 26 the **Immigration Coalition of the Archdiocese** is hosting our final event in our Lenten series on pro-life issues. The title of this Sunday's event is CHOOSE LIFE: Care For Our Immigrant Neighbors. Mass begins at 4:00pm followed by dinner and then a panel discussion. The event is over by 7pm. There is no cost to attend, and it is being held at the Cardinal Rigali Center. See the flyer in the vestibule for additional information. To register: bit.ly/ChooseLifeSeries

Immigration Task Force DACA Gala will be held on Sunday, April 16, 3-5 p.m. at the Cardinal Rigali Center. Tickets are \$25 (free for those under 16. Refreshments and Music are provided. RSVP: bit.ly/DACAGala For further information, see the flyer in the vestibule, or contact Marie Kenyon – mariekenyon@archstl.org