

Monday Notes October 31, 2022

Mass Schedule

5:00 p.m. Saturday
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Sunday
8:00 a.m. Wednesday

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

The Mass for Sunday, December 4, will be recorded and posted on our website on Saturday, December 3 : <https://www.stcronan.org/> If anyone is available to read for the recorded Mass on December 1 at 8:30 (please note time change) please contact Diane diane@stcronan.org

All Saints All Saints cards are in the Chapel for those who have lost additional loved ones this year. Please write their name on the card and place it in the basket. These will remain on the Altar for the month of November.

Our **Table of Saints** will be in the Chapel to honor any ancestors. Please bring their pictures and place them on the table, where they will remain throughout the month of November.

Collection for Retired Religious took place November 6 in a second collection. Envelopes are available on the tables by the entrances to Church. If you forgot your contribution, you can place it in an envelope and place it in next week's collection.

Anointing of the Sick will take place at all Masses on November 19-20, the Feast of Christ the Healer.

Masks are suggested for all Masses.

All Things New:

A big thank you to Maggie and Bob Mahon for providing delicious meals for our listening sessions! As you have probably heard, St. Cronan made it through this step in the "All Things New" process. Please continue to pray that the Archdiocese continues to recognize our charism as we go forward. The notes from these meetings will be shared via Cronan Talk soon.

Help requested: Thank you to all who have signed up to help Sharon with her Monday and Tuesday rides to work. We have the calendar set up for November and many open dates. To volunteer, go to CareCalendar.org. The log on number is 305924. The password is 5042. Just click on one of the red dates, and fill out your info. Sharon's regular schedule involves being picked up at 9:00, and driven home close to 11:30. If you have any questions, please text or e-mail Eileen: earthmother49@hotmail.com Another way you can help us to donate funds to Sharon's Uber account. You can transfer funds into her account directly, or bring me the cash or check, and I will transfer for you. Thank you to those who have already donated. And I thank all of you for your compassion and loving kindness. What a gift it is to be part of this beloved community. Eileen, for Cronan Companions

Possible Rides: Our friend Gavin Barrett-Hayes shared with me that he would like to attend our 10:00 mass more often. He lives in the Webster University dorms. If you can give him a ride some Sunday, please text him (don't call!) at (802) 497-8563.

Moving the Wall: A big thank you to Pete Musso, Steve Meyers, and Gavin Barrett-Hayes for helping Mary move the partition in the conference room after Mass.

Blessing Bags Children's Faith Formation will be assembling Blessing Bags this year for us to give the homeless we meet at street corners. We will be assembling the bags on November 13, after the 10:00 Mass. A list of suggested items is attached. Please help us by donating any of these items. There will be a bin in the back of Church for your donations. Once the bags are assembled, we will have them available in Church for you to take and distribute.

Advent Calendar: We still have ONE DATE left to have reflections written: Saturday, December 24. We would like to publish the entire book at once this year, rather than by week, so we need to have all of the reflections completed by Sunday, November 13, to have the book completed before the First Week of Advent, which is Sunday, November 27. If you would be willing to write a reflection for that Saturday, please email me ASAP: diane@stcronan.org. ALL REFLECTIONS SHOULD BE IN BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13. Thanks to all who have already submitted their reflections.

You can find the readings at www.usccb.org.

Please submit your reflection by **Sunday, November 13**. All it takes is to read the lectionary readings for the date you select, pray over them, then write your prayerful reflection on the words that have meaning for you.

If you have questions, please contact Diane and I'll be happy to help!

Equally Sacred Voting Issues: As you ready yourself to vote tomorrow, please prayerfully consider these issues and become a "Pope Francis Voter". See the Equally Sacred Flyer attached.

Poinsettia Sale Poinsettia Sales have begun and will run through Nov. 27. No orders can be taken after that date. Pick up is in the coffee and donuts room on Sunday, Dec. 4 after the masses until noon.

Available sizes, prices and colors:

Red: 6" (\$22), 8" (\$30) and 10" (\$40)

Pink: 6" (\$22), 8" (\$30)

White: 6" (\$22), 8" (\$30)

Purchase on line by following this link:

https://bit.ly/St_Cronan

If you have any trouble, please call the office and Mary can help you place your orders.

October 2022 Contributions

General Fund	\$19,063.00
Building Repair Fund	\$ 190.00
Capital Maintenance	\$ 475.00
Knighten Fund	\$ 653.94
Food Pantry	\$ 1,275.00
Football Fundraiser	\$ 650.00

Hurricane Relief	\$ 748.00
Mission Sunday	\$ 900.00
Permanent Diaconate	\$ 75.00
Retired Religious	\$ 1,000.00
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 205.00
Uganda	\$ 50.00

Hello from your Hospitality Committee. We now have pronoun stickers for your name tags, thanks to Erin O'Connell. Please pick the pronouns you prefer and put them on your name tag. We'd also love to see more people use their name tags at mass so we can all get to know each other by name. If you don't have one on the board in the back of church, contact Mary Ward at mary@stcronan.org and she'll have one made for you. Questions, contact Christine Lakey at 314-239-2204 or christine.lakey@yahoo.com.

Rosaries requested: The Marianist Retreat & Conference Center in Eureka is looking for non-plastic rosaries for their "Rosary Wall" that they've created to provide rosaries for folks who are on retreat to use and, if desired, to take home as a gift from their time on retreat. If you have any rosaries that you are not using and would like to donate to a good cause, they would be very grateful. I will have a designated box in the back of Church for the month of November and will take them to the Retreat Center the first of December. If you have any questions, you can reach me at kmhunn@aol.com. Thanks for your consideration. Kathy Hunn

Assisi House Opportunities: As many of you know, we are currently working to open an Assisi House on Spring Ave. in North St. Louis. We are aiming to open the house in January or February, 2023. Spring House needs a lot of work, and, as the attachment below shows, we intend to have volunteer workers there every Wednesday and Saturday for the foreseeable future. If you are interested in cleaning, painting, scraping, carpentry, drywall work, etc., send an email to our volunteer director, Megan, at megan@assisihouse.org and let her know how you can help. She will steer you towards days when those skills will be most needed. It is very exciting to see this house transforming into a warm, safe living space again. Please consider helping us. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 314-223-8051. Otherwise, email Megan. Love, Joe --

City Greens Market (<https://www.stlcitygreens.org/>) reached out to ask for help with volunteer shifts around the upcoming holidays. Shifts are two hours on Wednesday-Sunday and include help with stocking, inventory, data entry, cleaning, gardening, and staffing community events. They are especially looking for help on Wednesdays! If you are interested, you can sign up here: volunteersignup.org/Q97J7. City Greens is located on Manchester near Tower Grove Ave. Mariah Byrne and Cathy Hartrich have been volunteering with City Greens regularly and love it there. The market has o all sorts of native produce and has super high quality local ingredients. Bonus--if you volunteer at least four hours a month, you qualify for a membership and get to buy food at cost! If you have any questions, please contact Mariah at mariah.e.byrne@gmail.com.

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 The final session will occur on Nov. 20. Please see the flyer attached.

Parish Mission November 14-17, 7pm each night, at St. Justin Martyr Catholic Church, 11910 Eddie & Park Rd., Sunset Hills. Our “God’s Mercy” Mission with speaker, Fr. Kevin MacDonald, C.S.S.R. Refreshments to follow each evening. Tuesday evening will offer the opportunity for Reconciliation. Call 314-843-8482 for more info.

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) Join us for this day of reflection focusing on a few Gospel characters whose names we will never know—whether it’s the boy with the loaves and fishes, the woman with the hemorrhage, or the ‘good thief’, there are several individuals who interact personally with Jesus and have a significant impact on his ministry - even though we cannot name them. We will explore a few of these characters, reflecting on what gifts they have to offer us for our own lives of faith and discipleship—here and now. Cost: \$35 (Lunch included) For more information, call 618-394-6281. Register online at <https://snows.org/ministries/spiritual-programs/>

The Word Among Us: This daily meditation book is available free of charge in the Chapel. Feel free to take one for October and November.

Being Who You Are, Perfectly Well: An LBGTQIA+ Catholics, Families and Friends Retreat will take place November 18-20 at the Mercy Retreat Center. For further details visit this link: <https://marianistsjc.net/lgbtq-retreat>

Additional Retreats:

“Finding God at the Movies: A Midweek Retreat,” November 15-16, \$100 commuter; \$160 overnight. This program will be led by Danielle Witt, SSND, an adjunct spiritual director at Mercy Center. Participants will watch two critically acclaimed movies with the intent of identifying how the experience of grace changed the characters’ lives. 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. This program will be led by Danielle Witt, SSND, an adjunct spiritual director at Mercy Center. How do we give birth to the Son of God in our time and culture? God is always needing to be born. More information and registration at www.mercycenterstl.org

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!

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

Dear ones: please check through the prayer list, and if there is anyone who has recovered and can be removed, please let Diane know. Of course, we will keep anyone in need of prayers, but the list is getting rather extensive and we wanted to update. If I have taken someone off that should still be on, please don’t hesitate to tell me. Thanks!

Prayers Please: Kathy Bayless; Trish Curtis’ mother and 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; Barry Buchek; Carolyn Coyne's daughter, Molly Maryan; Kathy Hunn's niece, Lisa; Sr. Cathy's friends, Inga Casillo, Don Costello, Mike Bowen; Judy Gallagher; Sharon Orlet; Mary Proot's friend, Jessica Koziem, and Mary's grandson, Silas; Bonnie and Warren Wimmer's daughter, Anne;

Parish Ministries: If you would like to add your talents to any of our ministries, and meet a great bunch of people, please visit our website www.stcronan.org for information. You are always welcome!

Homily: The Gospel today speaks of an ancient practice that is still practiced in Zambia and other cultures. Descendants are so important in many cultures, like the African culture. It was important that one had descendants, so the brother had to marry the wife of the older brother. Secondly, if there were children, the brother had to take care of his brother's children. Unfortunately, the second brother would take the older brother's possessions, and relegate his wife and children to the back. It kind of ended in Zambia, because of AIDS, when the practice died out because, if the brother died from AIDS, the younger brother didn't want to marry the wife, who probably also had AIDS.

Some random thoughts about the dead. It wasn't until the 1960's that the Church began to allow funerals for those who committed suicide, and began to consider mental illness, the lack of consent, the social pressure, and finally it made its way into the Catechism of the Catholic Church that we do bury people who committed suicide. That we don't believe they've gone to hell, but presumably there was some extreme pressure or illness, so we mercifully lift them up to God. Also, a word about cremation. Cremation was not allowed and came into canon law in 1983. Cremations were not allowed because it was considered for reincarnation, in which the quicker you get rid of the body, the sooner you could get a new one, reincarnated. They did not want to promote that practice, but now cremations are certainly allowed. But it is important that we treat the cremains with dignity. We don't believe in spreading ashes all over the place, or in some funeral homes you can get lockets and everyone can have a piece of the person – that's a little crazy for me. So the cremains need to be treated with dignity and buried or placed in a columbarium niche at a cemetery. What's going on now, a couple of burial practices that are coming to fore. One is compost burying. It's allowed in California and a few other states. The neat name is natural organic reduction. They take the body and let it sit for 30 days with no chemicals, and the skin is reduced, then they leave the body another 30 days and crush the bones, then compost what is left. The Catholic Church does not allow this, because it's treating the remains like manure, because we need to treat the body with dignity. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and not to use the body for some kind of environmental concerns. One akin to that which the Church does allow is green burials. Bellefontaine Cemetery has green burials. They put the body in some kind of biodegradable box, and put in straw and alfalfa and wood chips, and take that out to a place of rest. Not for compost, but for resting and peace. The Loretto sisters have this at their motherhouse. It is a sacred, solemn practice. They take the body in its shroud or box and place flowers in it and offer the prayers of burial. So this has ramifications for the environment, because there is an absence of chemicals and we do allow it. And it rests in the earth. So this November we pray that in a special way you might be united with your ancestors, your friends, so we might truly proclaim the Communion of Saints. (From Fr. Jack's homily)

Preparing for today's homily, I've been giving a lot of thought to Resurrections. If you keep up with the daily readings, there have been several this week on the Resurrection of the Body. The

bodily resurrection of Jesus is the claim of Christians over all other religions. We believe he wasn't just a great prophet, rather he is God, and in his bodily dying, death was defeated. We claim this belief every week when we say, "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again," and in our Creeds, we claim resurrection for ourselves. Do we really take time to think about this seriously, so much so that we live our lives as if we are living in eternity, and not just this life. In today's first reading in 2 Maccabees, we hear the story of 7 Jewish brothers and their mother, arrested by the Syrian King following their refusal to eat non-kosher meat. It's against their sacred law. These brave brothers were executed, believers in eternal life over this passing mortal existence. Paul follows in the letter to Thessalonians, urging Christians to hold fast to the faith in spite of persecution. In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges the Sadducees, who are essentially ridiculing believers in the Resurrection for their pie in the sky when you die belief. The Sadducees, unlike the Pharisees, adhere only to the Torah, the first five books of our Bible. It was their law, and in the Torah there is no clear mention of the resurrection. Rather their focus is living a good life according to God's law in order to secure the best deal in this life. In Deuteronomy, there is a law that the Sadducees were referring to when they were addressing Jesus. If a married man dies without children, then his brother, next of kin, must marry his widow. The law counted that man's first child as the dead man's, to secure his legacy. It was also the law's purpose to help widows. But using this legalism, the Sadducees tried to trip up Jesus, to discredit him, while poking fun at the concept of resurrection. And they did this with their dilemma: if seven brothers each died in succession and all of them married the same woman without producing children, who would be considered married to that woman in the resurrection? But Jesus immediately countered, going beyond the letter of the law, and getting to the truth, when he says, "the children of this age marry and re-marry, but those who are worthy to attain the coming age of the resurrection of the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage. They can no longer die, for they are ageless, and they are the Children of God, because they are the ones who will rise." The same way Jesus prophesied not only his resurrection but for all of us. So this week we celebrated All-Hallows Eve, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day, when we recall the immense communion of those living and dead. Ancient Ones believed that this time of year, with shortened days and longer nights, that the veil separating the living from the dead is very thin. Thin enough for spirits to pass through. Thus, Halloween. You know the Day of the Dead, Dias de los Muertos, celebrated by Latinos, acknowledges this communion. Many go to cemeteries where their loved ones are buried and they have little altars and bring food and drink that their loved ones had cherished, in the hopes that they might join them. Mourning for those who died is softened by play and festivity, certainly implying that life goes on. This week there was a beautiful picture of the Dias de los Muertos festivities in the town of Uvalde, Texas, where there was that senseless shooting. This is a Hispanic community, and the survivors, though in mourning, were living out their hopes in the resurrection and reunion with their loved ones. Colorful paper marigolds and cut-outs and sugar skulls, all represent the union of the living and the dead. Last week that same paper carried the story of a French feminist Rabbi, whose life's calling is to work in hospice. She prays for those who are dying alongside those who are living. She says that her friend who died tragically of a brain tumor and, when they were all together with her, she said, "Arian was no longer conscious, but we were there to witness the moment the doors opened. It felt like thousands of people had gathered around us, ancestors, guides, weeping Jewish mothers and children who will one day need to be told the story." Just last Sunday, at our Liturgy, we celebrated the lives of those in our community who passed this last year, and then there are those in the back who passed previously. It struck me hard as I was looking up here at those candles being lit for each person. And it just made me connect in a way I hadn't really thought of. And really made me reflect on the words that are spoken in our Liturgy, "we remember those who have gone asleep in the hope of rising again." Today's gospel account of Jesus' confrontation with the Sadducees is relevant to our present moment. Aren't there those around us on this side of the veil who are

deniers of the resurrection, and maybe not just because they're belligerent, but maybe they don't believe. It's disheartening the choices people make, thinking of this life only, trying to take control to secure power and privilege rather than acknowledging someone else is in control of the big picture. Of course, we can't just sit still, we need to commit to playing our part in working for social change to ensure a better world on this side. We neither need to stress over the condition of the world, rather we need to remember we are part of the great communion that's going to last for a very long time. Martin Luther King said it well when he said, "The universe bends toward justice." On the night before he died, April 3, 1968, he addressed an overflowing crowd in a church, saying, "We've had some difficult days ahead, but it really doesn't matter to me, because I've been to the mountaintop. I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land." We Catholics claim this symbol (the Crucifix) as a sign of hope. We're not called to become paralyzed like the Sadducees, worrying about how in this world, things might not be playing out as we thought they would. Rather, we're called to anchor ourselves, here and now, in the call for the Resurrection. I invite you to say that familiar liturgical prayer with me now: "Dying, you destroyed our death, rising, you restored our life, Lord Jesus, come in glory." (From Cathy Hartrich's homily)

Also attached is Fr. Jack's Pastoral Reflection.

Blessings

Diane

Parish Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

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