

Pastoral Reflection
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 14, 2024

The stories in the Bible this Sunday speak about listening to God's call.

In the first reading there's Samuel, a 12 year old boy promised to God before he was born by his mother, Hannah. He apparently was a good kid, eager to do what others asked of him. As a boy, Samuel had a job to stay in the Tabernacle all night. Since the High Priest, Eli, was aging and couldn't see, Samuel was needed to make sure the seven-branched golden lampstand lamps did not go out before the sun came up (Exodus 27:20-21; Leviticus 24:1-4). He also was needed to open the doors of the Tabernacle each morning (1 Samuel 3:15).

The reading says: "Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the Lord where the ark of God was.

The Lord called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am."

Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me."

"I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to sleep."

Samuel did go back to sleep and twice more he was awoken with a voice: "Samuel, Samuel!" and drew the same conclusion that it was Eli. But Eli finally figured it out that the voice calling Samuel was, in fact, God. He told Samuel to answer, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Apparently, without any hesitation, Samuel did just that, listening to whatever God wanted of him.

The gospel is about the first disciples being called to follow Jesus. John the Baptist points Jesus out to them, "Behold the lamb of

God." A moment later, when they meet Jesus and ask him where he lives, Jesus responds, "Come, and you will see." And like Samuel, neither of them were reluctant. They jumped in to follow the Messiah, never to turn back.

What kind stance is required for *us to respond with such wholeheartedness to the voice of God, calling us? I think it's one of a "pure heart" and a "right spirit" of which the psalmist speaks:*

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit" (Psalm 51:10-12).

Samuel, just a young boy is undistracted by fantasies and musings typical of older children or the myriad temptations for adults toward power, pleasure and possessions. He pretty obviously has a pure heart of innocence. With the first disciples (unlike the doubting Thomas) they too had an attitude of complete trust and willingness to wholeheartedly jump in and follow Jesus of Nazareth. May we have the same. And if we don't, that is we're stuck in our faith, perhaps we can pray the psalmist's prayer: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." So that we too may trust completely and wholeheartedly respond to God's call.

—Cathy Hartrich

Parish Center Offices Hours

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

Phone: (314) 289-9384

Bulletin Deadline: WED 12 noon



St. Cronan Catholic Church
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 14, 2024

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 church office will be closed on Monday, January 15 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

There will be no 8am Wednesday morning Masses January 17, or 24
(Watch Cronan Talk for possible lay-led prayer services these dates.)

Year-End Giving: It is that time of year when donors are thinking of their year-end giving and taxes. Every check for St. Cronan Church received dated by or before December, 31, 2023 will be credited to the 2023 calendar year. Please have your year-end gifts to the church office no later than January 2, 2024. Year-end contribution statements will be mailed out mid-January. If you do NOT wish to receive a statement, please let Mary in the office know before January 15. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Issues and Inspirations: "Just Songs", a Concert of Susan Marting's Original Music Inspired by Catholic Social Teaching. February 11, 1:00 p.m., in the Church. A reception will follow in the Hospitality Room. Please save the date! More details to come.....



Black Lives Matter Vigil, takes place the third Friday of the Month at the corner of Manchester and Kingshighway, 4:30-5:30 p.m. The next vigil will take place on Friday, January 19. 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 : Nancy Buck; John Gozdziński, Tom and Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan, Joseph Kuciejczyk (brother of Madonna and Sr. Janet), Nick Ambrose and Kathy Krebs (Sister-in-law of Judy Varias).

Please note that our prayer list has been purged for the new year. If you would like your loved one or yourself to be placed on the list, please call the office: (314) 289-9384, or email Mary@stcronan.org

Immigration and Migrant Ministry. St. Cronan is part of the coalition of parishes working on this initiative. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact IRM Coordinator Kevin Kuehl, 772-1525, ext 204, MigrantMinistrySTL@gmail.com, or visit our office at St. Pius V Rectory. Envelopes are in the back of church should you care to make a donation. Make checks payable to St. Pius V.



Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Black History Month Prayer Celebration
Resilience Unveiled: Celebrating Faith, Courage and Sacrifices of Black Catholics
Sunday, Feb. 11 from 2-4 p.m. Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Motherhouse 6400 Minnesota Ave., St. Louis, MO 63111 The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet invite you to join us as we commemorate Black History Month with a prayer celebration and light reception. Immerse yourself in African drumming and listen to the words of famous Black Catholic civil rights figures such as Julia Greeley, Sister Thea Bowman, Father Augustus Tolton, Ugandan Martyrs and more.

The event is free, and registration is required by Jan. 28. Learn more and register at csjstl.org/events.



Attention Bakers! We are in need of bakers for next year! This ministry is easy and requires little time commitment - one day a year. You can even include your children or grandchildren. The bread recipe is pretty simple, and had just a few ingredients. If you are interested in helping out with this ministry, please contact Laura Krueger. Lauramarie993@gmail.com

Minivan for sale: Fr. George has a Honda Odyssey for sale. It is on the St. Cronan parking lot if you would like to see it. If you are interested, please contact the office: (314) 289-9384. The proceeds will go to help support his school in Uganda.

REPLY ALL: Just a little reminder that when you are responding to someone on Cronan Talk, please **DO NOT** use the **REPLY ALL** option...please only reply to the person sending the email. Many people are unsubscribing to Cronan Talk because of too much back and forth and too many emails.



The annual Liturgical Composers Concert will be held Thursday, January 25, 7:00-8:30 PM at Mercy Conference and Retreat Center in Frontenac. Celebrate this evening of music and song with the composers who have enhanced our worship throughout the years. \$25 general admission. \$50 preferred seating (includes reception after the concert with the composers.) \$15 individual livestream. Register at www.mercycenterstl.org

Weekly Envelope Users: In your monthly packet of weekly contribution envelopes in January, you should have received an envelope marked “First Offering”. This envelope is used for making a contribution to off-set the costs involved in offering a weekly contribution envelope to our parishioners. The suggested offering is only \$3.00, but if all users contributed, it would cover

all of our costs. Please consider making a donation if you are an envelope user. If you would like to discontinue the use of your envelopes, please contact the church office and we can make those arrangements for you. Thank you.

St. Cronan's Men's Retreat, April 5 -7, 2024 at the Griesedieck Farm (Fri. evening to Sun. 12 noon). Contact Rocky Sieben, rockysieben@sbcglobal.net for more details.

SPAM CALLS AND TEXTS: We have been experiencing another round of SPAM calls and texts that claim to be coming from Fr. Jack asking for gift cards and/or banking info. Please delete any such messages, do not respond...don't even open them. Fr. Jack will **never** make any such requests. You will also notice, if you are the recipient of one of these messages, that they do not come from a Cronan email, nor is it Fr. Jack's phone number on texts. If you ever receive a suspicious message, please call the office to verify.