

Pastoral Reflection
30th Sunday of Ordinary Time
October 26, 2025

In the next month, our Sunday readings and feasts will awaken in us the prayerful longing so characteristic of Advent, which begins at the end of November.

In one week, on November 2, we will celebrate the Feast of All Souls, a day to pray for our beloved dead. A week later, on November 9, the church will celebrate the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, the cathedral parish in Rome, often called the Pope's church. This feast symbolically invites us as a parish to pray for the unity and mission of the global church, to which we belong.

In 1925, Pope Pius XI instituted the last Sunday of each liturgical year as the Feast of Christ the King. This was Pius XI's way of inviting the church to pray for our world, increasingly marked by atheism and secularism. Today, the feast is called the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, and on this feast, our church continues to pray for the salvation of the world.

On this Sunday, the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, our first reading is from the book of Ecclesiasticus (also known as the Wisdom of Ben Sira). The book is found only in Catholic bibles and was used in the early church for moral instruction. Today, chapter 35 calls for a moral inventory of our solidarity with the poor. Ecclesiasticus says that God is not deaf to the wail of the orphan or the widow and will not delay. As we will sing in the psalm response from Psalm 35, "God hears the cry of the poor."

The two letters of St. Paul to Timothy are pastoral epistles to the leaders of the early church. Paul says in today's passage from 2

Timothy, "I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. A crown of righteousness awaits me," and Paul goes on to remind us that we, too, are called to finish the race with authenticity.

Today's gospel from Luke 18 is a short parable about a Pharisee and a tax collector. Jesus's audience would have considered the Pharisee the good guy and the tax collector the bad guy, but not so in Luke, where the Pharisee hypocritically whitewashes his outward appearance with religious practices, but inside is "full of filth." Meanwhile, the tax collector more authentically prays, "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

The scriptures today make us mindful that we are sinners and that God hears the cry of the poor. God, be merciful to each of us, as we pray this Sunday for ourselves and in the Sundays ahead for our beloved dead, our church, and our world.

—Gregory Heille, OP

Church Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

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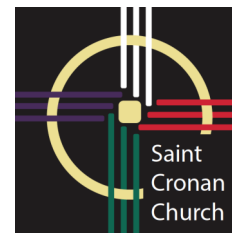
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Music Director: David Dickey

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Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon

(314) 533-0651



St. Cronan Catholic Church
October 26, 2025

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 am. and 10 am.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5 pm.

Wednesdays – 8 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

Bulletin Deadline: Noon Tuesday



Serving the Wellston
Community since 1993

Wellston Center Site-Visit for Cronanites: The folks at the Wellston Center have invited Cronanites to become more familiar with their work following our support of their efforts in the wake of the May tornado. Wellston has been serving both immigrant communities and those directly affected by the tornado and they're interested in having a more formal relationship with our church. For those who are interested, staff from the Wellston Center will welcome us for a "site-visit" on Wednesday, October 29th at 8:30am during the open hours of their food pantry. Parking is in the lot behind their building at 1705 Kienlen Ave (the big, yellow brick gym just past the intersection of Kienlen and MLK). We'll see their Thrift Store and Pantry and hear about how the operation works and the people they serve. Let Johnny know if you plan on coming or email Johnny at Johnny@stcronan.org.

Coming Soon!
Annual Poinsettia
Fundraiser!



"Workers are fundamentally community members. They are our neighbors, and we work alongside each other for the good of our communities."



BROTHER KEN
HOMAN, SJ

November 10th, 2025

7:00pm

IBEW Local 1

5850 Elizabeth Ave. | St. Louis, MO 63110

Dignity of the Work & Rights of the Worker

SEEDS OF
JUSTICE
NETWORK



Prayers Please: Nick and Shirley Ambrose and Family; Elisabeth Byrne's mom, Denise Siebold; Joe Connolly; Yvonne DeHart's daughter, Cathy Hebert; Nancy Buck's daughter, Jeanne Oberle; Trish Curtis' sibling, Skip; Joe Fairless; Rob Barnicle, who has been placed on hospice; Judith Santamaria, Leslie Conway; Madonna and Tom's friend, 3-1/2 year old Juliette Braren; Jane Sykes; Mary Proot's sister, Terry Jacks, and Mary's son, Tim Proot; Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan; Ken Ladd; Fr. Gerry Kleba; Laura Krueger's mom, Evelyn Puleo; Marie and Roland Martir's daughter, Carrie and their granddaughter, Madi and their dear friend, Robert Screace, who has been placed on hospice; Judy Varias' husband Gene; J.T. Fowler; Grace Mueller; and Joe Kuciejczyk, brother of Madonna and Janet, and brother-in-law of Tom. With the help of your prayers, Trish Curtis's brother-in-law Ray is doing well with his lung transplant and is now able to take care of her disabled sister Tere. *If you would like your loved one or yourself to be placed on the list, please call the office at (314) 289-9384, or email Mary@stcronan.org*

St. Cronan Social Justice Book Club meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month in the 1st floor conference room after the 10am mass from 11:30am-12:30pm. Our November 9 book is "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants" by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Our December 14 book is "Cherished Belonging: The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times" by Gregory Boyle. We invite you to join us in person or to simply read with us. For more information please contact Charlene Zeni Connolly at 314-308-0056.

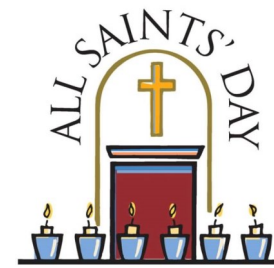


BJC needs folks to deliver communion: BJC is in need of dedicated Catholic volunteers to bring Holy Communion and prayer to hospitalized Catholic patients. Hospitalization can be a time of fear, uncertainty, and isolation—but by volunteering just a few hours, you can make a profound difference in someone's recovery. Volunteers are needed every day of the week. Please contact Sarah Funaiole at sarah.funaiole@bjc.org or 314-362-4607 or apply online at www.barnesjewish.org/Patients-Visitors/Volunteer-at-Barnes-Jewish-Hospital

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, Nov. 21. Please join us!

Daylight Savings Time ends next weekend! Don't forget to turn your clocks back

November 2.



All Saints Day Memorial: On Saturday and Sunday, November 1 and 2, we will celebrate and pray for those close relatives and friends who have passed away in the last year (November 2024-November 2025). If you have a close relative or friend you would like to honor, please let Diane or Johnny know by today, October 26. Also, we will have our All Saints table set up. Please bring pictures of your deceased loved ones and place them on the table or write their names and post them on our Memorial Wall.

Advent Scripture Study begins Nov. 17th: Join Community Life Coordinator Johnny Zokovitch for an Advent scripture study in which we'll look closer at the gospel readings for the four Sundays of Advent. We'll meet in person at St. Cronan's on five Monday nights from 7-8:15pm beginning November 17 and ending December 15. The first session will be a little bit of an overview as to our process in breaking open the word, with each following Monday being a look at the upcoming Sunday's gospel. To register, go to this link: <https://forms.gle/we2wSxUgiSUwAZza6> or let Johnny know by email. johnny@stcronan.org



Advent Reflection Sign-up Calendar: Each year, the St. Cronan Community has an Advent Reflection Book with reflections written by our community members. The sign-up calendar is in the church vestibule. Please take a post-it that contains the readings, write your name and contact info in the calendar box, then write a reflection for the readings you selected, and return the reflection to Diane (diane@stcronan.org) by November 16. If you can read, think, and pray, you can do a reflection!

Jessica Mayo to keynote MCU Gala 2025: Metropolitan Communities United (MCU), of which St. Cronan's is a member, will be holding their 2025 Gala, Ryze from the Rubble, on November 13th at 6pm. Our own Jessica Mayo of the MICA Project will be the evening's keynote speaker! The gala will take place at The Historic Stone House of St. Charles and your ticket or sponsorship supports tornado relief efforts and faith-based community organizing in the St. Louis region. Learn more and purchase tickets at the MCU site, mcustlouis.org.

St. Cronan Catholic Church Land Acknowledgement.

We respectfully acknowledge that St. Cronan Church stands on the ancestral lands of Native American and Indigenous peoples. We honor their enduring presence and acknowledge the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization. We are committed to learning, dialogue, and fostering reconciliation with Native American and Indigenous communities.

For the full land acknowledgment, visit stcronan.org.