

Pastoral Reflection
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 5, 2023

Being human is hard. Living is hard. Life, by its very nature, comes with its share of burdens, pain, suffering, despair. There is no avoiding it. It is simply part and parcel of what it means to be human.

The gift of today's readings, alluded to in all three of them, is that they all—Malachi, Paul, Matthew—apparently recognize just how hard life is ... and they take clear aim at those in power who would add to the weight that all of us must carry.

The first reading has Malachi taking direct aim at the temple priests, cursing them for failing “to listen,” for causing “many to falter by [their] instruction,” and for showing “partiality in their decisions.”

Matthew builds on the critique of Malachi, pointedly having Jesus instruct his disciples to not follow the example of the scribes and the Pharisees because they “preach but they do not practice” and they “tie up heavy burdens hard to carry and lay them on people's shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them.” Too many leaders within our own Church do everything they can to add to the burdens of what it is to be human in our world today. Whether by the weight of their judgment or the wielding of Church teaching like a hammer, too many of our Church leaders deny the Jesus who proclaimed, “Come to me, all you who labor

and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.” (Matt 11:28-30)

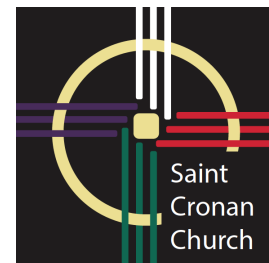
Too often the face that our Church leadership shows to the world seems to evidence little respect for nor understanding of the labors and burdens that accompany human life, passing over mercy, gentleness, compassion, and empathy in favor of inflexibility, condemnation, an insistence on the following of their rules, and their own hardening of hearts.

Paul lays it out as it should be in the second reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians.

“We were gentle among you, as a nursing mother cares for her children. With such affection for you, we were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as well, so dearly beloved had you become to us. ...

Working night and day in order not to burden any of you...”
May we long for such leadership within our Church and lift up those who practice such compassion, such “feeling with us,”—walking alongside us and sharing our burdens, not adding to them.

~ Submitted by Johnny Zokovitch



St. Cronan Catholic Church
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
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Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 pm.
Wednesdays – 8:00 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

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 17. Please join us!

Advent Reflection Book: Thanks to all of you who stepped forward to write a reflection for Advent! All of the post-its have been taken. Remember that reflections are due November 10. You can email your reflection to Diane at dianegoz1951@gmail.com or diane@stcronan.org



Time is running out!

Order your Cronan Shirt Today: Cronan Shirts are now available to order online. We have polos, t-shirts, hoodies and more! Order now in time for Christmas. Our on-line store will close on Nov. 6 at 10am sharp, so don't let this opportunity pass...order today! Ordering on-line is very easy, but if you need help, call us in the office and we can help you or order it for you. Visit our website at <https://stcronan.org/> to order or follow the link: <https://store.kickprint.com/StCronan/shop/home> Flyers are in the back of church.

Thank you to our Fundraising Committee for making this possible! Proceeds from all sales benefit St. Cronan.



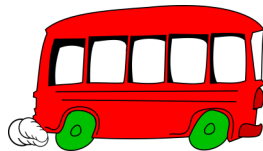


Prayers Please: Kathy Bayless; Trish Curtis' brother; David Gaillardetz' father, Richard; Nick and Shirley Ambrose's daughter, Brigid Costello; Varrietta Anthony; Fr. Jack's brother, Mike; Diane Calcaterra; Barb Sopp's friend, Joe Sinibaldi; Bob Barnicle; Paul Schmitt; Tim and Else Hirzel's great nephew, Cameron Russell; Kathy Hunn's niece, Lisa; Sr. Cathy's friends, Inga Casillo, Don Costello, and newborn baby, Giovanni Christopher Centerino; Judy Gallagher; Mary Truetkin; Marie and Roland Martir's daughter, Carrie, and granddaughter, Madi; John Gozdziwski; Michael Mason, former SVDP hauler; Michael Peterson; Linda and Jeff Caul's daughter, Kelly; Joe Connolly; Sam Vitale, friend of Father Jack and Mary Ward; John Derr, son-in-law of Alice Adcock; Bill Blow's daughter, Meg Shugarts; Roger Bailey, friend of Dom and Marcy Soda; Philip Anala; Bonnie Wimmer; Jon Ebner, nephew of Rocky Sieben and Ruth Hasser; the Krueger family; Nick Ambrose; Betty Newberry; Marty Spies; Judith Santamaria; Nick Ambrose's friend, John; Tom Farace, Brother-in-law of Mary and Dave Solomon; Theresa Jones, sister of Dave Solomon; Gary Johnson, brother-in-law to Madonna and Tom Kuciejczyk-Kernan and Sr. Janet Kuciejczyk; Janice Fairless; Leslie Conway; Mary Middendorf, Barry Buchek's friend, Alan Zagurski; Barry Buchek; Dede Coughlin; Fr. George; Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan and Shelly Kutz's twin brother; Mike. *If your loved one should be removed from the prayer list, please let the church office know.*



The November Ministry of the Month is the Food Pantry: The Food Pantry has approximately 30 volunteers who do several tasks. They shop the food, shelf the food, bag the food for our families, carry the food to the clients cars, and all with the biggest, warmest smiles on their faces. We treat the clients with the respect they deserve and need. The food pantry is making a difference one client at a time. The Food Pantry Director is: Mary Solomon. Please contact Mary with any questions, or if you are interested in helping or donating. solo40baby@yahoo.com

A ST. Louis Black History Bus Tour on November 11th, 2023 will begin at St Cronin's Parish at 9:45 AM and end at 1 PM at St Cronin's Parish. Each participant is asked to contribute \$10/ person to cover the cost of the bus and driver. For those interested, there will be a brown bag lunch and discussion following the tour from 1 to 2:30 PM. The bus stops only one time in the middle of the tour at a filling station for a rest stop and refreshments. In order to hold a seat, please contact Paul Loida at paul.loida@bayer.com or 314-825-1603 with a text message. Paul will need your name, phone, email address and date of the tour.



Black Catholic History Month Lecture: Racism Today, presented by John A. Wright, Sr. and John A. Wright, Jr.; St. Louis natives, who are educators and have written numerous books about regional history. Following the presentation, they will facilitate a discussion on Racism Past vs. Present. Saturday, November 11, 2023, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm, St. Cronan Church Parish Center, 1202 S. Boyle Ave, Saint Louis, MO 63110. Sponsored by the Catholic Racial Justice Collaborative. For further info call the church office.



Go Tell It! Free Christmas Concerts by the Community Gospel Choir, plus full jazz ensemble and other special guests. Sunday, December 3, 4 p.m. Northside SDA Church, 9001 Lucas & Hunt Rd; Saturday, December 9, 4 p.m., Kirkwood United Methodist Church, 201 W. Adams Ave.

Children's Book Collection: If you have any new or used books in good condition suitable for 5-10 year olds, please bring them to church for Dewey Elementary School. Miss Shannon, daughter of Glenn and Pat Eckert is creating a library in her classroom for children who do not have access to books. See the bin in back of church. You can also bring your book donations to the church office.



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.

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!*

Parish Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm
Phone: (314) 289-9384

Pastoral Administrator: Fr. Jack Schuler
jschuler@stcronan.org

Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdziwski
diane@stcronan.org

Church Administrator: Mary Ward
mary@stcronan.org

Music Director: David Dickey

Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon
(314) 533-0651

Bulletin Deadline: Wed 12 noon