

Pastoral Reflection
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 11, 2024

Imagine the Scene.

Imagine the scene. St. Ignatius urged his companions in the Society of Jesus to enter into the Gospel through their imagination.

When I imagine myself in today's Gospel I identify with the joy that could not be contained as the person who has been plagued with leprosy has been healed and had to share the good news.

So why did Jesus want him to remain quiet? There's even a theological name, "The Messianic Secret."

In my imagination, Jesus urged those healed to remain quiet and it set a boundary. The need for healing was great and Jesus knew that he couldn't heal everyone. Jesus had a compassionate heart and he also knew that he needed time with Abba God to replenish his Spirit. We see what happens as the word got out. "It was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere."

In this Gospel Jesus teaches us that it is possible to be both compassionate and to set boundaries. It's not only possible, but necessary. We live in a world with tremendous suffering, tremendous need. Even if we realize that we cannot heal all, we might still carry it in our hearts in a way that leads to despair rather than hope.

When I imagine Jesus in those deserted places, I imagine him turning it all to God. Jesus did not ignore the suffering. He acted compassionately, but knew he could not heal all, and could not do it alone. We too need to take time with God to renew our spirits. We also need to turn to God with trust and hope. We are called to compassionately work to repair the world, but the world is not all on our shoulders. "

By trusting in God and taking time to connect with God's Spirit, like Jesus we can act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God.

—Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan



Rice Bowls will be available in church beginning Ash Wednesday. 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.

Parish Center Offices

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

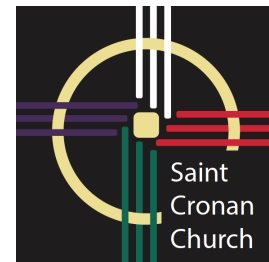
Pastoral Administrator: Fr. Jack Schuler
jschuler@stcronan.org

Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdziński
diane@stcronan.org

Church Administrator: Mary Ward
mary@stcronan.org

Music Director: David Dickey
dsdickery@earthlink.net

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



St. Cronan Catholic Church
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 11, 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.

Ash Wednesday Services: 8am, noon and 6:30pm



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. You can purchase your tickets after mass on Sundays or through the Parish Office by calling 314-289-9384. **Checks should be made out to ST. JOHN'S**

Issues and Inspirations: "Just Songs", a Concert of Susan Marting's Original Music Inspired by Catholic Social Teaching. Susan Marting, a St. Cronan parishioner, has been writing songs for the past decade or so. Going by the stage name *Meramec Valley Girl*, she plays her Americana songs on guitar or banjo. Lately, she has been accompanied by fiddler Sarah Heuermann, who adds beautiful emotion to each piece. And Susan's husband, Andrew Marting picked up the bass in his retirement and now fills out each song with deep bass notes. Together, they're playing Sunday, February 11 from 1:00-3:00 in the sanctuary at St. Cronan, highlighting social justice songs influenced by Susan's years as a Catholic Social Teaching instructor. A love offering will be accepted for St. Vincent de Paul, as both works of charity and justice are necessary for change. A reception will follow in the Hospitality Room. Please save the date!
If you are not able to attend and would like to make an online donation, please visit our SQUARE site: <https://just-songs-donations.square.site/>





Prayers : Nancy Buck; John Gozdziwski, Tom and Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan, Joseph Kuciejczyk (brother of Madonna and Sr. Janet), Nick Ambrose, Kathy Hunn's niece Lisa and her brother Jon, Dan Orlet's mother Eileen, Mary Truetken, Pam (cousin of Donna Zuroweste), Laura Krueger's mother, Evelyn Puleo, Joe Sinibaldi (friend of Barb Sopp), Gary W. Johnson (brother-in-law of Madonna, Tom, and Sr. Janet Kuciejczyk).

Former parishioner, Sr. Mary Lou Gavan passed away Dec. 19. A memorial service will be held for her here at St. Cronan on March 17 at 1pm. Potluck to follow.

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.**

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, February 16 . Please join us!



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

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, which is around **\$1000 annually**. 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.

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!**



Men's Retreat: We have scheduled the St. Cronan's men's retreat for April 5 - 7, 2024 at the Griesedieck farm, which is about 75 miles north of St. Louis. All men of the parish are invited to attend all or part of the retreat. We ask that each participant makes a contribution of \$50 towards the upkeep of the farm, which has hosted the retreats for many years and to help out with one of the meals on the weekend (more details to follow on this as the retreat approaches for those who are attending). Please let us know if you are interested or perhaps if you have never attended the retreat and have questions. Feel free to reach out to any member of the planning team which includes Joe Moramarco, Dan Madden, Bill Miller, and Rocky Sieben for more information.

St. Cronan's Women's Retreat will take place April 12-14, 2024 at the Griesedieck Farm (Friday evening to Sunday 12 noon). Watch the bulletin, Cronan Talk and Monday notes for more details.

Contact your legislators! The Social Justice Committee is asking our community to again respond to the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict. We need to ask our legislators to promote a ceasefire in Gaza to allow humanitarian aid and massive relief to the starving and unhoused people; to stop the bombing and bloodshed in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel; to free Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners; and to convince the IDF to stop the attacks from Jewish settlements on people and property in the West Bank. Please see the table in back of church for more information.