

Pastoral Reflection
First Sunday of Lent
February 18, 2024

We are about to enter upon the “Season of Lent” when the church begins its annual retreat. There are those who were with us last year at this time, who have now gone to their eternal reward. We are here, once again, to make this journey though Lent as we begin Ash Wednesday on February 26, with the reception of ashes that we receive with the words, “Remember, you are dust, and to dust, you shall return.”

In Old Testament times, ashes were used in a variety of religious ways. For example, in the book of Samuel (13:19), a woman puts ashes on her forehead as a sign of grief; in Jeremiah (6:26), people rolled in ashes as a sign of their repentance; in the book of Job (42:6), it was the custom of sprinkling ashes on oneself as a sign of repentance; and Jesus refers to the latter practice in the New Testament by saying, “If miracles were performed in you that you have performed in Tyre and Sidon, people would have put on sackcloth and sprinkled ashes on themselves to show their turning away from sin.”

As our foreheads are marked with ashes they become our sign of repentance. Repent means “to re-think.” So

Lent is a time for us “to re-think” what is going on in our lives. Are we headed in a direction of peace and purpose? It’s our time “to re-groove” ourselves. Don’t let Lent just fly by, dig in and get life right.

To assist in “repenting” we invite you to pray the stations, attend Mass during the week, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, abstain from meat on Fridays (and Ash Wednesday & Good Friday), fast a few days (especially Ash Wednesday & Good Friday), visit the homebound, have special family Lenten meals, pray with the family, plan to attend the Holy Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, & the Easter Vigil), etc. Yes, it’s time to repent i.e. “re-think” what’s happening in and around us. May we walk with Christ this Lenten Season.

—Fr. Jack Schuler

Parish Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm
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Pastoral Administrator: Fr. Jack Schuler
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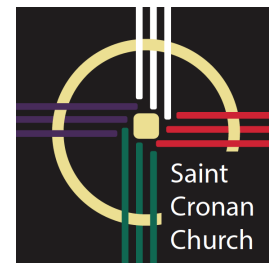
Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdziwski
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(314) 533-0651

Bulletin Deadline: WED 12 noon



St. Cronan Catholic Church
First Sunday of Lent
February 18, 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.

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 CHURCH.**



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, March 15. Please join us!

Rice Bowls are now available in church. 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.

Synodal Listening Session: The Archdiocese has sent two questions as a follow-up to the Synod on Synodality. We will meet to discuss these questions and to formulate community responses on Sunday, March 10 at 11:30 in the hospitality room. All in the community are welcome!

Attention Committee/Ministry Chairs: Please contact Mary in the office with your regularly scheduled meeting dates/times/locations so we can get them on our calendar.

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, 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) and Marie and Roland Martir's grandson, Camden; Sr. Cathy Doherty's friend, Steve

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.**



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.

First Reconciliation and Community Reconciliation Service will take place on March 3 after the 10:00 Mass. Please plan to join us for a communal reconciliation service. Private reconciliation will be available. Let's show our young ones a great example.

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.

Turtles is a women's prayer and book study group that meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Our next meeting is this Monday, February 19 at the home of Yvonne DeHart. We are beginning a new book, *Becoming an Ordinary Mystic*, by Albert Haase, OFM. Feel free to join us. Contact Diane - diane@stcronan.org for more information.

Your 2024 Church Council

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Pete Musso
Donna Zuroweste
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Diane Gozdziński ex-officio
Fr. Jack Schuler ex-officio

You can contact any Church Council member through the church office.