

# This is Your 2025 Church Council



**Johnny Zokovitch (he/him)**

**Community Life Coordinator - ex officio**

**[johnny@stcronan.org](mailto:johnny@stcronan.org)**

Johnny Zokovitch is the Community Life Coordinator at St. Cronan Catholic Church. Johnny previously served as the Executive Director of Pax Christi USA, the national Catholic peace and justice movement, from 2019-2024. Prior to serving as ED of Pax Christi USA, he worked in Brussels with Pax Christi International as the Senior Communications Officer. Johnny worked in numerous capacities for Pax Christi for over 30 years, with experience in campus organizing; as directing and speaking at international and national retreats, actions and conferences; overseeing communications; and raising funds and creating development strategies.

For nearly 15 years, Johnny lived at and co-directed the Gainesville (FL) Catholic Worker House, an intentional community serving and living with people who are

homeless, addicted, impoverished, and mentally ill. He holds an MA in Theology with a concentration in biblical studies from the University of Notre Dame. His writing has been featured in *National Catholic Reporter*, *US Catholic*, *Belief.Net*, *The Encyclopedia of Race and Racism*, and elsewhere. He has travelled to and served on delegations to Palestine and Israel, El Salvador, Haiti, South Africa, Kenya, Mexico, and elsewhere.

Johnny and his wife Heather live in St. Louis, MO and are the parents of 4 children.

**Father Jack Schuler (he/him/his)**

**Retired Priest in Residence - ex officio**

**[jschuler@stcronan.org](mailto:jschuler@stcronan.org)**

I have been blessed to be involved in a variety of ministries in all kinds of places!? I hope this bio will help you understand where I am coming from in terms of ministry. My soul has been formed to a great extent by the people with whom and to whom I have served.

As a Deacon I was a chaplain at Barnes Hospital and Children's Hospital. I also was attached to the Wash U Medical Campus Newman Center. My first priestly assignment was Sacred Heart Parish in Florissant where I had over 100 relatives! Then the Archdiocese asked me to become a teacher so I moved to Our Lady of Providence Parish and I joined the faculty at Bishop DuBourg HS. At that time DuBourg had over 1,900 students. I also served as the Campus Minister there as well as being a soccer

coach. From there I was asked to move to St. Pius HS in Festus and serve at Our Lady's Parish. There I was a teacher, the Head of the Theology Department, Campus Minister and soccer coach. My assignments kept me heading south so I took the big plunge and asked Archbishop May if I could take a leave to join the Missionaries of Africa and serve in Zambia. After spending 6 months in Chicago attending Catholic Theological Union I moved to Isola, Zambia to teach in Secondary School. There I did not coach soccer but instead played on the teachers' team?! I lived at St. Marc's Mission.

Before landing in Isoka I spent 6 months in language school in Ilondola where I learned Bemba (at least I tried to?!). When I returned home I was stationed briefly at St. Aloysius Parish in Spanish Lake before becoming Pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. Much to my surprise after one year we began to welcome Latinos (the Parish grew 92%). Following 16 years at OLG I became Pastor of St. Ferdinand Parish in Florissant, the Parish of my baptism. I was the Pastor of a Parish that had a saint i.e. Philippine Duchesne. While at St. Ferdinand I took a mini-sabbatical to live in the Middle East (Qatar). Then to my surprise I was asked to become the Director of Mission Integration for Catholic Charities and to move to Incarnate Word Parish in Chesterfield. I was assigned here at St. Conan's Church in July of 2017. I retired January 1, 2025.



**Diane Gozdziński (she, her, hers)**

**Pastoral Associate - ex officio**

**diane@stcronan.org**

Pastoral Associate at St. Cronan Church since 2019, is an ex officio member of Church Council, serving to provide the Church Council any assistance required. I have been in the parish for 23 years, and have served on the Council in the past. Like many others, I came to St. Cronan when looking for a church that reflected my social justice values, welcoming all of God's children and living out the Social Justice Tenets of the Church as Christ demonstrates. I am married to John, have a daughter, Cassie, and 3 wonderful granddaughters. I love serving the St. Cronan Community.

**Mary Ward (she, her, hers)**

**Church Administrator – ex officio**

**mary@stcronan.org**

I have been Church Administrator at St Cronan since July 2020. I have also worked as Administrator at First Unitarian Church, and Building Manager at St Justin Martyr.

I am an ex officio member of St Cronan Parish Council and Finance Committee...Wife, Mom of 5, proud Grandma of 6. Owner of Ward on Wine, a wine and spirits resource, education and consulting company. I have been a member of St. Justin Martyr Catholic Church since 1988, where I am a cantor and part of the choir. While my children were in

school at SJM, I was very involved in Parish Council, HSO, Liturgy, scouts and School Board.

**Margaret R. Govero (she/her/hers)**

**Council Chair**

**[mgovero918@yahoo.com](mailto:mgovero918@yahoo.com)**

I became a member of St. Cronan in 2023. I am a life-long Catholic and grew up in central Missouri. I have moved around a lot in my adulthood including Latrobe, Pennsylvania; Youngstown, Ohio; Kansas City, Missouri; Los Angeles, California; Chicago, Illinois; and now (very proudly) the CWE neighborhood in St. Louis. I have been teaching since 2004 and am currently teaching in the Hazelwood School District. For 12 of those years, I taught religion in Catholic high schools.

Moving to St. Louis was a difficult decision and leaving Catholic schools was an even more difficult decision. I arrived in St. Louis in July 2019. Over the next few years, I struggled to find a faith family that matched my openness to liberation theology, the desire to live “love in action” through social justice, and a worship community that experienced joy in the presence of each other. Finally, I was in the right place at just the right time (thank you providence) and heard that a Parish with all the qualities that I was looking for was closer than I realized. I came and fell in love the first Sunday that I attended. Shortly after, I chose to become a member of St. Cronan and volunteer again to serve in a multitude of capacities and get involved

with many of the ministries offered. I truly feel that God has called me here and am grateful that God has.

In addition, I am a member and representative of my teacher's union. I have become passionate about running and my health. I am enjoying the arts in St. Louis.

**Daniel Diemer (he/him)**

**Council Vice-Chair**

**[dediemer@msn.com](mailto:dediemer@msn.com)**

Daniel Diemer has practiced law in St. Louis for over thirty years; Dan is married to Amy (Director of Catholic Assistance Ministries) and we have two grown boys, the oldest is recently married (Andrew). I grew up in St. Louis and attended high school, some college and ultimately graduated from St. Louis University with a BA and JD.

Formerly members of St. Gerard and St. Peter, I was drawn to St. Cronan because of Fr. Jack. We feel very comfortable and welcome at St. Cronan; over the past several years we occasionally bring my mom and sons (other son Will) to Mass here.

I look forward to serving on the Board with hopes that I may contribute somehow to the continuation of this unique faith-based community.

**Mariah Byrne Sullivan (she, her, hers)**

**mariah.e.byrne@gmail.com**

Mariah Byrne Sullivan began attending St. Cronan in 2020.

Mariah is grateful to not only find a parish walking distance from home in Shaw, but that also shares her progressive values and commitment to Christ's radical love. Mariah is a social worker currently working in affordable housing, community engagement, and program management and volunteers with City Greens Market.

Mariah is a former Jesuit Volunteer and previously worked in campus ministry at the University of San Diego. Mariah is deeply influenced by the Jesuit tradition and Our Lady of Guadalupe and was married at St. Cronan in January 2023.

**Andrew Viragh (he/him/his)**

**andrew.viragh@gmail.com**

Having been raised in St. Louis and then moving back from some time in Los Angeles I was grateful to have found St. Cronan. I was guided to Cronan by several members of the community while searching for a parish which represented a more inclusive and socially responsible mission. My husband, also Andrew, and I have been members of the parish since 2018. We have two amazing children, Olivia (7) and Benjamin (4) and we live in Olivette, MO. As a gay couple finding a place of worship that embodied our traditional upbringing while working for inclusivity was tough, but we're grateful to have found a loving and supporting community in Cronan. The parish reflects our

views as members of the community, and we enjoy meeting and worshipping with other likeminded folks who ask deep and provocative questions about what it means to be Christ-like.

**Pete Musso**

**[petemusso@gmail.com](mailto:petemusso@gmail.com)**

My name is Pete Musso. My family and I have been involved in this church since 2015. We live in Webster Groves and were seeking a church where we could worship in community and grow in faith – a place where we would encounter the person of Christ, whereby we are continuously reminded that we are loved unconditionally by God. We have found our place. At St. Cronan, we see God in All Things. And I’m serving on the Council, out of gratitude for our experiences here.

I currently serve on the administrative team at De Smet Jesuit High School, and I teach one section of English – which keeps me sane and happy. I have been involved with Jesuit secondary education work since 1995: at De Smet Jesuit, at the Jesuit Schools Network (Washington, DC), and for UCS Jesuits (St. Louis, MO).

As a family, we enjoy lake-living in the summer, water and snow skiing, hiking, and mountain biking. I enjoy walks with our lab, reading, and writing (bad) poetry. I also like planting stuff in our yard.



**Sister Cathy Doherty, SSND (she, her, hers)**

**Fundraising Chair**

**[irishssnd@juno.com](mailto:irishssnd@juno.com)**

Currently I am the Director of Advancement for the Archdiocesan Mission Schools for the Today & Tomorrow Education Office. I joined St. Cronan Church in January 2022.

I grew up in St. Louis and attended Rosati-Kain High School. I went to the University of Dallas for a B.A. in Mathematics and a minor in Education. It was then after college that I returned to St. Louis to enter the School Sisters of Notre Dame. In 1991, I received my Masters in Liturgy. My life changed tremendously after this. I became the Pastoral Associate at Our Lady of Guadalupe. It was a year after serving there when the parish became bilingual. My liturgy background also allowed me to work with the Archdiocesan Office of Worship and my education background led me to serve with the Catholic Education Office. Serving at Guadalupe for 29 ½ years as Pastoral Associate taught me ministry, cultural relationships, and social issues on race, poverty and immigration. I served on the Archdiocesan Board of Catholic Education for 15 years and taught liturgy courses in the Archdiocesan Paul VI Program. Currently, I serve on the Archdiocesan Peace & Justice Commission, the Immigration Task Force, and do workshops for the Office of Worship. I find St. Cronan as the spiritual, liturgical and accepting parish to enhance my faith life and journey as Church. Thank you for your faith, witness and action.

**Donna Zuroweste**

**dzuroweste@sbcglobal.net**

I am a cradle catholic, sadly from the Catechism memorization era, but dramatically expanded, both as a mystic, and through my MDiv. program.

I do not remember when I came to St. Cronan (probably during my MDiv. program at Aquinas Institute, or shortly thereafter) but I do know that I registered in week 2, because I knew "I was home" during our Pauline 5 pm Mass.

What brought me here was an Aquinas prof recommending that I would be more at home here than in a geographically requisite, soccer mom, suburban parish, in which I was never "at home".

St. Cronan's charism, as with the universal Church, is using our individual charisms (gifts) to build up the Mystical Body of Christ, aka the Church.

I offer my gifts to the Council, as part of the Church, as follows:

- a Corporate Purchasing agent, skilled in obtaining and analyzing 3 or more competitive bids;
- a Washington University MBA, skilled in strategic planning (teacher's assistant for the MBA course during my program) and integrating collaborative and consensus driven management teams, as an International Marketing

Director for a multinational corporation, as well as corporate presentations;

- an ISO2000 writer and editor of processes and procedures adopted by our multinational corporate parent for global use;

- a recruiter, trainer, educator and formator of 125+ EMOHCs' weekly ministry at St. Gerard Majella parish;

- a semi-professional photographer, who utilizes photo images for theological reflection and guided imagery/meditation;

- the first elected alderperson in the State of Missouri, knowledgeable in listening to and collaborating with constituents, and in public speaking;

- a formally educated preacher, out of the graduate homiletics program of the Order of Preachers, which includes decades of being a lector;

- a Board-Certified Chaplain, educated/formed/trained in bedside diaconal ministry for ALL persons, a writer of two Spiritual Care departmental brochures, and a composer/presider of rituals and blessings, bedside and corporate, living and wake/graveside, as well as Communion services.

In general, lots of gifts, available for service to St. Cronan. FWIW, also VP of our St. Vincent de Paul Society; not that titles mean much to me, they needed a VP, I volunteered...



**Todd Dean (He, Him)**

**[jtdean390@gmail.com](mailto:jtdean390@gmail.com)**

I have been a Catholic for most of my adult life, but was born into a Calvinist denomination, in Texas, from which my parents stepped away when I was still in grade school, ultimately becoming Episcopalians: this was a formative experience for me. I became interested in Catholicism in college, after reading St. Augustine in a Latin class: I was struck by the fact that you could actually think about religion, not just believe it or not.

Jackie Grosklos and I have been married 36 years, and have 5 children. For some time now, I have been a member of the Democratic Socialists of America – I became a member of the Christ the King Social Justice Committee as a result of this – and it was as a part of my social values that I first came to St. Cronan's. I hope to continue, now more than ever, to make my social values a significant part of my work in the Church.

**Roland Martir (he/him/his)**

**[mgmrpm@aol.com](mailto:mgmrpm@aol.com)**

I am a non-Saint Louis native, born in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, New York, later moved to Nassau County, in Long Island, New York. Attended a Jr College, Academy of Aeronautics, in Queens, New York. Graduated with an Associate Degree from NYU in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering. Upon graduation, was recruited by

McDonnell Aircraft, moved to Saint Louis in 1968. As my duties changed at McDonnell Aircraft, McDonnell Management paid for my education as I got my Bachelor's degree. I graduated from Saint Louis University evening school with a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies, majoring in Organizational Management, with an added Certificate in Logistics Management (Commercial and Military) from Parks College. Retired from McDonnell Douglas/Boeing, Aug, 2009.

My wife, Marie, and I have been married 35 years. Marie was already attending Saint Cronan Church when we started dating. Marie and I were married at Saint Cronan by Fr. Jim Krings. After attending one mass I felt most comfortable at Saint Cronan. Both Marie and I have been attending Saint Cronan ever since. I have been President of one Parish Council term and most recently, the past two years, I have been one of two Chair Persons for the Annual Catholic Appeal. Both Marie and I are CSJ Associates.

Outside of the church, I have been a weekend wedding photographer for two studios, photographed over 400 weddings/social events of several different religious beliefs. I have provided photo coverage for several Saint Cronan and Mid-Town events. Marie and I enjoy gardening. Both of us photograph our flowers and Marie makes great photo greeting cards using our pictures. I was Vice President of the Saint Louis Council of Foreign Relations. Currently I am Vice President of the Civilian

Police Academy Alumni Association (CPAAA). We work with the North Saint Louis County Police, District 1. I am also an NRA certified Range Safety Officer (RSO), qualified for 300-meter target shooting and I also do close quarter target shooting.

**Nick Prainito (he/him/his)**  
**[nicholas.prainito@gmail.com](mailto:nicholas.prainito@gmail.com)**

Hello, my name is Nick Prainito. My parents and I have been coming to St. Cronan since 2022. I have lived in the St. Louis area most of my life and recently graduated from Webster University. I am new to the parish council, and excited to help and support the parish mission however I can. I have been Catholic all my life and went to a Jesuit high school, St. Louis U. High. The experiences I had and classes I took were formative to my faith, and in my senior year a few classmates and I went on an “immersion trip” to Camden, NJ, where we lived the corporal works of mercy. I am grateful to be a part of a parish that emphasizes serving others in this way. I work for the Greater St. Louis Area Council Boy Scouts, and, in my free time, enjoy getting outside, volunteering, reading, and cheering on the Blues or Cardinals. I am always happy to sit down and talk with anyone and meet new people.

**Elisabeth Byrne**  
**[elisabethabyrne1@gmail.com](mailto:elisabethabyrne1@gmail.com)**

Elisabeth Byrne has been a part of the Catholic faith for 4 years and has found great peace and comfort through the practice of the Mass. She moved to St. Louis from

Knoxville, TN at the beginning of 2024 and quickly found St. Cronan's through the Facebook page due to searching for an inclusive parish. Elisabeth was raised in an abusive branch of the Evangelical movement and that caused her to ultimately question the love of her Creator. As a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, it is now important to her to ensure that all voices are not just represented, but also celebrated. Her goal for being part of the Parish Council is to educate herself on the workings of the faith while bringing a fresh perspective on how those who were not raised Catholic could participate and add value. Elisabeth is the blessed mother of Noah, who is the consistent joy in her life. She is married to Philip Byrne who is a UK resident and is undergoing the visa process to move to the US.

**Ryan Wallace**

**[ryanewallace30@gmail.com](mailto:ryanewallace30@gmail.com)**



*If you would like to contact a Church Council member, please use the emails provided. If you would like a phone call, please call the church office at 314-289-9384 and we will happily put you in touch.*

*Church Council meets the first Wednesday of each month, February-December. January is reserved for a council retreat. If you have an item you wish to appear on the agenda or wish to attend a meeting, please contact the Church Council chair.*

