

Pastoral Reflection
Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 10, 2024

Several words come to the surface from the readings of this 4th Sunday in Lent: compassion, anger, mercy, grace, gift, great love, truth and light. In a recent encounter with one of my son's former classmates, I was describing his family as having "a couple of children." My friends who were with me immediately jumped in and said, "five is not a couple, that's several." We had a good laugh. That's how these readings strike me; there are several directions to explore. It's also a reminder to me of the constant wealth of the Scriptures, always rich, always new.

Both the wrath and the mercy of God is reflected in the story of the Hebrew people ending up enslaved in Babylon. It took the mercy of a new king to allow them to return to their homeland. Of course, everything was destroyed and they had to start over. Where is that continuing to happen in today's world? Can I find compassion and mercy toward those who are suffering so much even in this 21st century?

John tells us that God loved us so much that he sent his son. Paul expands on this thought by not only acknowledging God's great love but also the richness of God's mercy. Can I grab hold of these thoughts and be enveloped in this amazing love and mercy? The more I can receive it, the more it can be light to others through me.

How do I get there? One of the four focuses of our Lenten practices is prayer. In a reflection on prayer Fr. James Martin quotes Karl Rahner in his book, "The Need of the Blessings of Prayer."

He uses Jesus's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (Lk 22:42) to suggest three important aspects of prayer. The first is honesty (get me out of this situation; I don't like it). The second is trust (I know you are always there for me, eg. you've got my back). And thirdly acceptance (if the situation isn't changing, I have to say yes, your way, not mine. See the Our Father, "your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"). My renewed Lenten resolution is to sit with this aspect of prayer. Maybe the Light will be brighter at Easter.

—Kathy Stock

Parish Center Offices

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

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

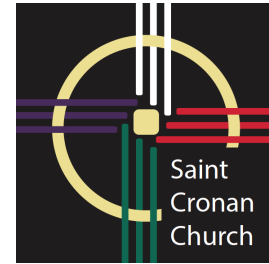
Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdzialski
diane@stcronan.org

Church Administrator: Mary Ward
mary@stcronan.org

Music Director: David Dickey
dsdickey@earthlink.net

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

Bulletin Deadline: WED 12 noon



St. Cronan Catholic Church
Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 10, 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.

Rice Bowls are 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.



This weekend we have the collection for Catholic Relief Services (CRS). This arm of the Catholic Church "works in solidarity with global neighbors to achieve lasting results". They try to help people reach their full potential in an atmosphere of peace, social justice and human dignity. They collaborate across civil structure in the private and public sectors.

If you have an opportunity check some of the educational materials that they offer. CRS is the truly "face of Christ" overseas. <https://www.crs.org/>
If making a donation by check, please write CRS on the memo line.



You asked for it! And we are delivering! The St. Cronan Spring Shirt Sale is officially launched. Our store closes March 31, so order yours today! Use the link below to shop for various styles and Spring colors. <https://store.kickprint.com/StCronanChurch.../shop/home> You can also scan the QR code or visit <https://stcronan.org/news-events/> announcements.





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, Kathy Bayless, 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, Maria Gray, Sr. Pauline’s niece; Laura Rettke, Fr. Gerry Kleba, John Nauhm, Bob Barnicle, Marcy Soda.

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.

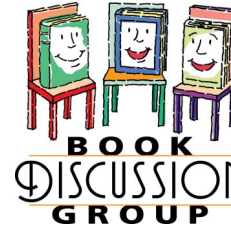
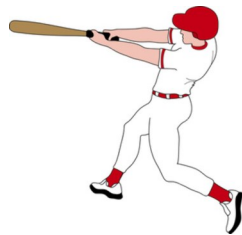
Retreats:

Men’s Retreat: April 5 - 7, 2024 at the Griesedieck farm. 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). 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.

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.

Young Adults Retreat: Mark your calendars for the Young Adult Retreat scheduled for May 3-5 at Griesedieck Farm. Watch the bulletin and Monday notes for more information coming soon!

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 until March 25. Checks should be made out to ST. JOHN CHURCH.



Book Discussion Group You may be particularly interested in the next book chosen for the St. Cronan Book Discussion Group that meets next on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Contact Christine Lakey at christine.lakey@yahoo.com to receive the Zoom link. *Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival & Hope in an American City*

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.

Roger and Eddy Update: Roger and Eddy have taken over the custodial duties here at St. Cronan. They began work here on Feb. 14. Both are continuing to look for full-time work, but are committed to continue part-time custodial work here at church. St. Cronan is still accepting donations to help offset their living expenses. If you care to make a donation, please make your check out to ST. CRONAN but please add to the memo line “Roger and Eddy”.

First Reconciliation: Congratulations to our students: John Witham Callahan, Patrick Michael Callahan, Allison Lehman, and Augustine Francis Hajek who made their first reconciliation on Sunday. A big thank you to Christine Lakey, their teacher, for preparing them so well.

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 website calendar.

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!

February 2024 contributions	
General Fund	\$13,871.00
Building Repair Fund	\$215.00
Special Collection—Roger & Eddy	\$3640.00
Black & Native Americans	\$827.00
Food Pantry	\$1276.00
Fundraiser	\$585.00
Central & Eastern Europe	\$81.00
First Offering	\$18.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$867.00
Uganda	\$55.00