

Pastoral Reflection
Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 17, 2024

There is an ever-present danger in reading scripture for many among us who are citizens of the U.S. Nearly the entirety of scripture, like the first reading today from Jeremiah, is written to, for and about people who are on the “under-side” of history. Judah and Israel, even at their political, military and economic heights, could have never been confused with the United States. To live in the U.S. in the 21st century is to live at the heart of an empire. And therefore, to varying degrees (based on our racial identity, gender, class, sexual orientation, education level, etc.), to benefit from the spoils of empire.

Readings like today’s first reading from Jeremiah should be approached with some degree of fear and trembling then. Jeremiah is speaking to a subjugated people, occupied or displaced, defeated and humiliated, marginalized and threatened on every side. His words of hope are directed to the hopeless, encouragement for the discouraged, a promise to those who have only known what it means to be betrayed.

So for those of us who live in the U.S. in the 21st century, where are we then in the story? If we are the beneficiaries of empire, even despite our sympathies, we’re closer in identity to the Babylonians, to

the citizens of the empire that conquered and subjugated the Hebrew people. The promise then in Jeremiah isn’t for us; it’s for all those who have suffered at the hands of this nation in which we reside. Yet God’s loyalty, God’s blessing, God’s entry into history is with and for those who have been victimized by empire. And so, for we who have inherited the mantle of empire, the way to the new covenant is clear: Defect. Dislocate. Cast our lot with those who are the enemies and survivors of empire. And live lives worthy of having Jeremiah’s pronouncement of God’s favor inclusive of us – by actively resisting the privileges that flow from material comfort, whiteness, advanced degrees, patriarchy, heteronormativity.

—Johnny Zokovitch

Parish Center Offices

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

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

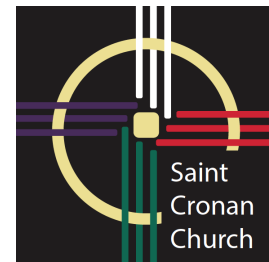
Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdzialski
diane@stcronan.org

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
Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 17, 2024

Mass Information

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

Wednesdays – 8:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

Holy Week Services:

Holy Thursday and Good Friday @7pm

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil @7:30pm



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.

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, April 19. Please join us!

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.



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.

Former Parishioner, Margaret (Peggy) Poniewaz died on Saturday, March 9. Memorial Service arrangements are pending.

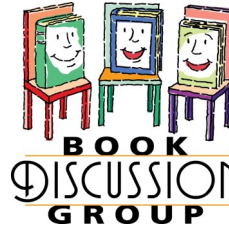
Retreats:

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!

Tenebrae Service: A service of Tenebrae, meaning "darkness" or "shadows" will be held Wednesday, March 27 at 7pm. at St. Justin Martyr Catholic Church. 11910 Eddie and Park Rd. Sunset Hills. The purpose of the service is to recreate the betrayal, abandonment, and agony of the last hours of Christ's life, and it is left unfinished, because the story isn't over until Easter Day. This service consists of scripture, songs and psalms and begins in the fully lit church and ends in total darkness.



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.

Holy Week: The Holy Thursday and Good Friday services will take place each evening at 7:00. The Easter Vigil on Saturday will begin at 7:30. The sign-up sheets are in the back of Church. Please sign up for various opportunities to serve. If you would like to help, but can't sign up in church, contact Diane diane@stcronan.org

We will decorate for Easter on Holy Saturday, March 30 at 10:00. There will be muffins. Please come help.

Synodal Listening Session: The Synod has sent two questions as a follow-up to the Synod on Synodality:

- a. Where have I seen or experienced successes -- and distresses within the church's structure(s), leadership, organization /life that encourage or hinder the mission?
- b. How can the structures and organization of the church help all the baptized to respond to the call to proclaim the Gospel and to live as a community of love and mercy in Christ?

We will meet to discuss these questions and to formulate community responses on April 7 after the 10:00 Mass as part of our Issues and Inspirations series. All are welcome!

Grand Slam Baseball Raffle . 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.

