

Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time March 2, 2025

There are a couple of lines that stand out to me from our first two readings. Sirach suggests that “tribulation is the test of the just.” And Paul exhorts the community at Corinth to “be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” Both lines suggest communities under duress, communities experiencing disappointment or persecution, communities wavering because things are not going their way.

One of the easiest traps to fall into for a follower of Jesus living in the United States—especially those of us who align with various privileges bestowed on us because of our race or gender or social class or citizenship—is that our society is basically fair and just, that things are generally okay and maybe even getting better. The gift of this current presidential administration—for those of us who would follow Jesus ever more deeply—is that it leaves no doubt that we must stop accepting “this filthy rotten system,” as Servant of God, Dorothy Day of the Catholic Worker, once suggested.

Luke says in today’s gospel that “a good tree does not bear rotten fruit.” If the Trump administration is the rotten fruit—and I think it pretty clearly is—then it also begs us to really examine the tree from which it came. The branches of that tree include capitalism, the largest military budget in the world, a soulless consumerism, a “representative” government populated largely by the rich and super-

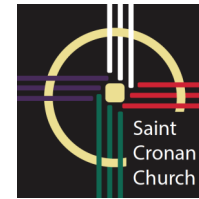
rich, one of the highest rates of incarceration in the world, an addiction to oil, white supremacy, a denial of the climate crisis, and...

In imploring us to remove the wooden beam from our own eyes first, I think Luke knows that the only way we can go along with “this filthy rotten system” is because we’re failing to see it as it really is. That beam in our eye blocks out what is right there in front of us, all the time, allowing us to go about our lives thinking that all this degradation, dehumanization, destruction, and indignity isn’t woven right into the fabric of how things are.

Witnessing communities, like those in Sirach and at Corinth, knew that their faith didn’t jibe with the societies of which they were a part. And that tribulation and persecution were part and parcel of what it meant to live out that faith.

The Trump administration in its blatant assault on those values which are at the heart of the reign of God—mercy, peace, justice, equality, dignity, love—makes absolutely clear the opportunity to unequivocally be that “witnessing” community that Jesus calls us to be. A community that will not align with the rotten tree that bore this rotten fruit, but with the reign of God that Jesus proclaimed—even if our efforts feel in vain and we are put to the test.

~Johnny Zokovitch,



St. Cronan Catholic Church
March 2, 2025
Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time



Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 pm.

Wednesdays – 8:00 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

Bulletin Deadline: Noon Tuesday



Ash Wednesday Services: To begin our Lenten journey, St. Cronan will have three Ash Wednesday Services held on Wednesday, March 5 at 8am, noon and 6:30pm.

Theme for Lent: To love with our hearts wide open. What individual things are you doing on a daily basis to break open your heart?

Church Decorating for Lent: We will prepare the church for Lent this Sunday, March 2, after the 10:00 Mass. Please join us!



CHURCH ASSEMBLY: All St. Cronan community members are invited to a Church Assembly & Community Potluck on Sunday, March 30th after the 10:00 am mass to welcome our new Community Life Coordinator (CLC) Johnny Zokovitch, who started on February 23rd. The Assembly is an opportunity for the St. Cronan community to learn more about Johnny's background and perspective on the role, share input on their expectations and hopes for the CLC position, and ask questions about the transition to lay leadership. The Assembly will be held in the Coffee & Donuts room. Thank you to Maggie Hart-Mahon for organizing the potluck! *To contribute to the potluck, please reach out to Maggie at ofccomp17@gmail.com or 314.749.1453.*



Prayers Please: Fr. Jack ; Nick and Shirley Ambrose and Family; Elisabeth Byrne's mom, Denise Siebold; Mary Truetken; Joe Connolly; Yvonne Hart's daughter, Cathy Hebert; Nancy Buck's Daughter, Jeanne Oberle; Trish Curtis' siblings, Skip, Teree, and Ray; Warren Wimmer.

Men's Retreat: All men of St. Cronan Church are invited to join us for the annual St. Cronan Men's Retreat. The retreat will be held at the Griesedieck Farm once again this year on the weekend of March 21-23. Please come to all or part of the retreat. This year the Griesedieck family is inviting each of us who come out to the retreat to make a contribution of \$75 which helps support the upkeep of the farm. This year we will be reflecting on how we are doing and how the Gospel is inviting us to respond to these times we are living in. Please contact Rocky Sieben if you have any questions and let me know if you can attend and whether you are coming out for all or part of the weekend. rockysieben@sbcglobal.net

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 21. Please join us!



Turtles: The Turtles is a Women's Book Club that has been meeting for almost 25 years. We meet the third Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Yvonne DeHart. We love to have more women join us, especially when we start a new book. Our next book will be "Small Great Things" by Jodi Picoult. We will meet on February 17. We will discuss the book up to where anyone finished reading. We usually only read a part of a book at a time, but with a novel, we are more flexible. Also, there will be wine and snacks! For information or questions, email Diane at diane@stcronan.org

The St. Cronan Social Justice Book Club meets on the second Sunday of each month in the Parish Center library on the 1st floor after the 10AM mass from 11:30AM-12:30PM (hybrid meeting for those who are unable to join in person). We will discuss On Tyranny by Timothy Snyder at our next meeting on Sunday, March 9, 2025. You are encouraged to read Stamped from the Beginning by Ibram X. Kendi for our meeting on Sunday, April 13, 2025. We invite you to join us or to simply read our monthly book choice. Our book choice for May will be How We Learned to be Brave by Bishop Budde. Please contact Charlene Connolly, Chair at 314-308-0056 for more information.



Blessing Bags: There are still a few Blessing Bags in a crate in the vestibule, given to us by Breakthru Bev, thanks to Mike Ward (Mary's husband). Please feel free to take some, put them in your car, and distribute to the homeless you meet throughout your day.



Administrator's Wish List:

The 2025 Wish List is as follows:
 Diaper Changing Station for Men's Restroom: **\$200 Pledged**
 Shelving Unit for Church Closet: **\$150 Pledged**
 Painting the vacant Church Office: **\$650 Pledged**
 Oscillating Heater to prevent frozen pipes: **\$100 Pledged**
 Office desk for Administrator: \$800

Please feel free to reach out with any questions to Mary: mary@stcronan.org or (314) 289-9384 If you wish to make a donation toward any item on the wish list, please notate "Wish List" on the memo line of your check. If you would like the money to go to a specific item, please notate that as well. Thank you in advance for your wonderful generosity!

Parish Center Offices
 Mon-Fri 9am-3pm
 Phone: (314) 289-9384
 1202 S. Boyle, St. Louis, MO 63110

Community Life Coordinator:
Johnny Zokovitch
 Johnny@stcronan.org
Retired Priest in Residence Fr. Jack Schuler
 jschuler@stcronan.org
Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdziwski
 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
Sunday Sexton: Open Position

St. Cronan Catholic Church Land Acknowledgement.

We respectfully acknowledge that St. Cronan Church stands on the ancestral lands of Native American and Indigenous peoples. We honor their enduring presence and acknowledge the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization. We are committed to learning, dialogue, and fostering reconciliation with Native American and Indigenous communities.

For the full land acknowledgment, visit stcronan.org.