

Third Sunday of Lent March 23, 2025

The Samaritan woman is the clear representative of “other” in Jesus’ culture. Being Samaritan, she is ostracized from Jews on the grounds of religion and politics. Being a woman, she is ostracized just because women were not considered citizens. Coming to the well at noon, and not in the early morning when the other women of the village would socialize, she is perceived as a social outcast, even among her own community. Yet this is the person that Jesus chooses as his first evangelist to those outside the Jewish faith.

Jesus, as a man, breaks the laws of Judaism by addressing the woman when they are alone at the well. He also reveals his own human vulnerability by asking her for a drink of water, rather than ordering her to provide water to the “superior” male. They then engage in the longest conversation recorded in the New Testament, engaging in a theological discussion that ultimately converts the woman and encourages her to reveal Jesus’ true nature to her village. A woman who is socially ostracized is given the grace and courage to convince her community to embrace Jesus as the Messiah. This is more than the Apostles have accomplished in their own communities!

We can learn so much from this one encounter. Jesus is not afraid to break some rules of Jewish law to accomplish the new Covenant. He chooses a woman, an outcast, and a political enemy to embrace his teaching that God would be worshipped in Spirit and truth in the new religious reality, and to share this theology with her own community. The lowest of the low becomes the teacher/leader for the Samaritans to embrace the new theology. What does this show us? Jesus respects the marginalized among us. He chooses the outcast over the Jewish leaders and his own apostles to share his message. He shows us that his new Covenant is meant for everyone, not just the Jewish Community in which he grew up, and in our time, not just for cradle Catholics.

Last week, we sent our catechumen and candidates to the larger church to be accepted and presented. They are now considered elected into the Church.

Today, our elect will begin the scrutinies, in which they begin to scrutinize their own lives and their readiness to join the institutional Church. Our community recognizes the faults of the institutional Church and ourselves, and are conscious of the many ways in which the larger Church fails in many areas of acceptance and inclusion. Our Elect have been instructed with the ways of our community and, while they embrace the Church, understand the ways in which we strive to be inclusive.

The story of Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan Woman demonstrates his desire for us to be inclusive and welcoming of all people on the margins of society, and to embrace their gifts and abilities to bring us closer to God “in Spirit and in truth”. May we welcome our Elect and exemplify for them our own desire to establish a community of inclusion for all.

-Diane Gozdziwski

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

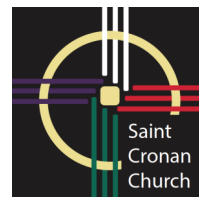
Music Director: David Dickey

dsdickey@earthlink.net

Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon

(314) 533-0651

Sunday Sexton: Open Position



St. Cronan Catholic Church
March 23, 2025
Third Sunday of Lent



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

Our Lenten Journey: This year’s theme is to challenge ourselves to love with our hearts wide open. One of the ways we open our hearts is by bearing witness to those who suffer. Each week we will provide witness statements focusing on the following marginalized groups.

1. Indigenous People, African Americans
2. Women
3. LBGQT
4. Trans Families
5. Immigrants and Refugees

Are we open to our hearts being broken to let others in? What individual things are you doing on a daily basis to break open your heart?

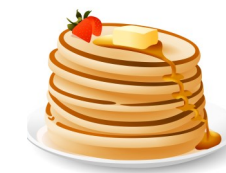
Lent



Last Chance to Sign up for the Bus! Join us for the 24th annual Hispanic Capitol Day organized by the Hispanic Leaders Group in partnership with the Missouri Immigration Policy Coalition. Hispanic Capitol Day is set for Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City from 9:00 AM to 4:00

PM. St. Cronan will have a bus leaving from our parking lot at 6:00 a.m. and leaving Jefferson City at 4:00 p.m. to return to St. Louis. Registration and Lunch provided. To register, use this link or sign up on the sheet in church <https://form.jotform.com/250643690770157> Call Diane for more info.

Mark your calendar! The annual St. Vincent de Paul Pancake Breakfast will be held on May 4!





Prayers Please: Fr. Jack ; Nick and Shirley Ambrose and Family; Elisabeth Byrne’s mom, Denise Siebold;; Joe Connolly; Yvonne Hart’s daughter, Cathy Hebert; Nancy Buck’s Daughter, Jeanne Oberle; Trish Curtis’ siblings, Skip, Teree, and Ray; Warren Wimmer; Joe Fairless; Pope Francis; Sr. Cathy Doherty’s friends, Lina Tackas and Tim; Robert Barnicle; Sr. Lynne Schmidt’s cousin, Mary Johnson;

Tusubira Rogers’ mother, Jumiki Wabule Rose, and Lakeshia Williams-Harris passed away last week, please keep them and their families in your prayers. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.


Women’s Retreat: Will take place April 11, 12, 13 at Maple Creek Farm, AKA Griesedieck Farm. Please sign up in the Church Vestibule.

Join us for an evening of contemplative crafting and community building on Friday April 4th. Gather at St. Cronan's Parish Hall anytime after 7pm. We will have some materials available, and you are invited to bring some of your own to use or share. We will have also have questions for reflection, but the space is yours to let the Spirit move you as you create. No experience necessary. All are welcome! Scan the QR Code for more information.

The St. Cronan Social Justice Book Club meets on the 2nd 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 unable to join in person). We will discuss “Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America “ by Ibram X Kendi at our Sunday, April 13 meeting. Our May 13 book is “How We Learned to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith” by Mariann Budde. We invite you to join us or to simply read our book choices with us. For more information please contact Charlene Zeni Connolly at 314-308-0056.


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.*

Seeds of Justice Network Presents
Dignity of the Human Person
focus on Immigration



Sister Norma Pimentel, MJ

Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm
 St. Louis University High School
 No fee to attend; registration is required



SCAN TO REGISTER

MORE DETAILS AT WWW.SEEDSOFGUSTICEANETWORK.ORG

REGISTER HERE :
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/DIGNITYOFTHEHUMANPERSON-IMMIGRATION](https://bit.ly/dignityofthehumanperson-immigration)

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!

Administrator's Wish List Update

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Administrator’s Wish List. We have everything covered now.

Black History Tours: STL Black History Tours are planned for these dates for spring of 2025. Please advertise this in your network. March 29, April 5, May 17, June 7. The sign-up send tour date, your name, email address, and phone number to Paul Loida. The cost is \$10 per person payable in cash the morning of. The tour group will meet at St Cronan Church at 9:30 AM and the bus will leave around 10AM and return to St Cronan at 1 PM. There will be an optional brown bag lunch and discussion following, for those interested. Contact: Paul Loida, paul.loida@bayer.com

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.