

First Sunday of Lent March 9, 2025

In today's first reading from Deuteronomy, Moses gives instructions to the people for how they should worship. He tells them to bring the first fruits of the land as offerings to God.

But Moses spends more time instructing the people to tell a *story* as they present their offerings—their story, and the story of their ancestors. He instructs the people to situate themselves before God in their greater context, particularly in the greater context of all who came before them.

In the first reading, the context of the people is one of blessing and plenty after a prolonged period of suffering in the wilderness. In the Gospel, we find Jesus in his own time of trial and tribulation that immediately follows the high point of His Baptism, from which he comes to the wilderness "Spirit-filled."

In this way, these two readings look a bit like mirror images. Their juxtaposition reminds us of the cyclical nature of life's seasons. When we are deep in a particular season of life, it can be easy to forget the greater context in which the season is unfolding—or sometimes, that other seasons will come again at all.

Liturgically, we are entering the season of Lent, but there are many other seasons and contexts for each of us to con-

sider. Perhaps this is also a Lenten season in your personal life in which you are being tested as Jesus was in the wilderness—or perhaps it is a joyful, Christmas-like season for you, one in which you find yourself with plenty of fruits to offer up.

This Lent as we bring ourselves before God, let us also consider the season we are in as a people who belong to this nation and to this Earth, and the greater story of which we are occupying but a part.

—Loren Gaillardetz

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 Gozdzialski

diane@stcronan.org

Church Administrator: Mary Ward

mary@stcronan.org

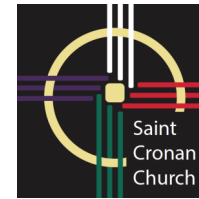
Music Director: David Dickey

dsdickey@earthlink.net

Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon

(314) 533-0651

Sunday Sexton: Open Position



St. Cronan Catholic Church March 9, 2025 First 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. LBGTO
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?

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;; 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.

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



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

March 25: Lobby Day in Jefferson City on behalf of Immigrant Rights. We will have a bus leaving from St. Cronan at 6am. For more details, contact the church office. Registration is required.

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.

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!

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. As in the past, the procedure to sign-up is to send tour date, your name, email address, and phone number to me. It is fine with me if you want to hold a block of seats for your group and you can serve as the liaison to your group. The tour will be the same as previous. The group will meet at St Cronan Catholic Church at 9:30 AM and bus will leave around 10 AM 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

The St. Cronan Social Justice Book Club meets today Sunday, March 9, to discuss *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century* by Timothy Snyder (128 pages). At our April 13, 2025 meeting we will discuss *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi (515 Pages). The May book choice is *How We Learned to Be Brave* by Bishop Budde. We invite you to join us or to simply read our monthly book choice. The Social Justice Book Club meets on the second Sunday of each month in the Church 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). Please contact Charlene Zeni Connolly, Chairperson at 314-308-0056 for more information.

February 2025 Contributions Thank You!	
General Fund	\$14,319
Building Repair Fund	\$440
Food Pantry	\$830
Solemnity of Mary	\$50
St. Vincent de Paul	\$315
Uganda	\$55
St. Louis Review	\$35
Administrator Wish List	\$475
Special Collections	\$75

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 to Mary with any questions to 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!

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.