

## Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday April 27, 2025

Yesterday morning (Easter Monday) I learned the news of Pope Francis' passing. Just as he lived his life so vulnerably in front of us all, in his dying he was quiet, indiscreet and humble, simply slipping away into what was already so much a part of him.

My sister in Seattle asked me, "Weren't you shocked?" I replied, "No, not really. We assumed it was coming." After all, didn't Francis prepare us for what *he knew* was inevitably ahead? Francis lived his life fully and transparently. No secrets kept from us. We could rely on his sincerity and undying love for all. He was bedrock and completely prepared to die, right in front of us. Sort of like Jesus... on the cross, exposed to all.

The timing of Francis' "going home" was interesting, wasn't it? The morning after Easter! As if the resurrection grabbed him too! Apparently he kept a pretty full schedule through the Triduum and Easter itself. What was he thinking?! Perhaps he thought those days were like every other day – those prepared to live life for eternity.

On Easter morning Francis met with Catholic, J.D. Vance. Perhaps that's what finally did him in (just kidding!) The Washington Post reported this about the meeting, just before...

"The pope was about to speak a few words to a crowd of tens of thousands in St. Peter's Square before an archbishop read Francis's final Easter homily. The message decried 'how much contempt is stirred up at times towards the vulnerable, the marginalized and migrants.' *The address also warned against elected officials who 'yield to the logic of fear, which only leads to isolation from others.'*"

Imagine the stamina required on sickly Francis' part to uphold the gospel in the face of the self-assured "attack dog" of Trump.

"Vance, in the days leading up to the

visit, had vehemently defended the Trump administration's aggressive deportation agenda, slamming both the 'illegal migrant invasion' under President Joe Biden and the 'smug, self-assured b...s...' coming from critics of Trump's deportation policies."

On my good side I try to withhold judgement, but in this case my bad side emerges. I want this person, in the last moments of our saintly Francis' life, to feel the egg dripping slowly and messily down his face....

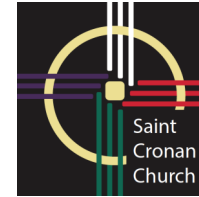
My sense is that in those final moments of his life, Francis was giving the world a parting gift. He demonstrated that the life and resurrection of Jesus has the last word. Not the wealthiest nation on the planet. Not the egotistical and ostentatious representative of those who despise people who are different, otherly abled, poor and beaten down.

Francis was a man for all. He embraced, at the end, the words of Paul to the Phillipians\* in a Lenten reading (that I mistakenly chose for this Sunday, but I find it to apply perfectly to Francis):

"It is not that I have already taken hold of it or have already attained perfect maturity, but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it, since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ Jesus. Brothers and sisters, I for my part do not consider myself to have taken possession. Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:8-14

—Cathy Hartrich



## St. Cronan Catholic Church April 27, 2025 Second Sunday of Easter



### Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 am. and 10 am.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 pm.

Wednesdays – 8:00 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

**Bulletin Deadline: Noon Tuesday**

**Next Sunday!** The annual St. Vincent de Paul Pancake Breakfast will be held on May 4 from 8:30am-12:30pm. No Cost! Free will donations accepted. The Cat's Away will be on hand to provide us with entertainment. All are welcome!



**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, May 16. Please join us!



### Nametag Board:

Please contact the church office if your nametag is missing or if you

notice a nametag that should be removed. Thank you!

St. Vincent de Paul

# PANCAKE Breakfast

**All Are Welcome!**

**No Cost!**  
Free Will Donations accepted

**SUNDAY, MAY 4**  
8:30AM-12:30PM

**ST. CRONAN PARISH CENTER**

1202 So. Boyle Ave.

Blue Grass Music Provided by:

## The Cat's Away

Use this handy QR Code to make a donation to St. Vincent de Paul



**Prayers Please:** Nick and Shirley Ambrose and Family; Elisabeth Byrne's mom, Denise Siebold; Joe Connolly; Yvonne DeHart's daughter, Cathy Hebert; Nancy Buck's daughter, Jeanne Oberle; Trish Curtis' siblings, Skip, Teree, and Ray; Warren Wimmer; Joe Fairless; Sr. Cathy Doherty's friends, Lina Tackas and Tim; Robert Barnicle; Sr. Lynne Schmidt's cousin, Mary Johnson; Judith Santamaria; Trish Curtis and Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan; Leslie Conway; 3 1/2 year old Juliette Braren and her family; Marcia Koester.

**Black History Tours:** STL Black History Tours are planned for these dates for spring of 2025. May 10 & 17, June 7. To 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 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 via email at paul.loida@bayer.com.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in the Catholic Relief Services Lenten Rice Bowl program. If you would still like to participate, please have your donations to church by April 27. If using a check, please make it out to **St. Cronan** and notate "Rice Bowl" on the memo line.

#### 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](http://stcronan.org).*



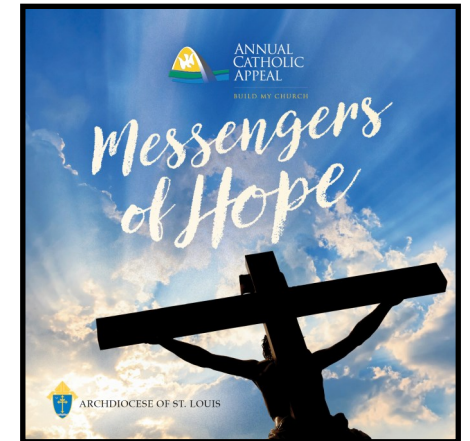
**St. Cronan Social Justice Book Club** meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month in the Parish Center meeting room on the main floor after the 10am mass from 11:30am-12:30pm.

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 with us. For more information please contact Charlene Zeni Connolly at 314-308-0056.

**ACA Kick-Off Today!** Today kicks off the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA). Please welcome our speaker Sr. Cathy Doherty

The Annual Catholic Appeal is the lifeblood of so much of the vital work of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Your support allows us to expand our reach, deepen our impact, and build a brighter future together. Through the Appeal, we lead others to Christ; educate our children; help religious orders; and bring the love and mercy of Christ to the most vulnerable among us. We also provide hope with our affordable housing fund initiative which helps move individuals and families into stable homes. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to this year's Appeal. Your contribution will help strengthen ministries and programs right here in our community.

Please pickup your pledge envelope in the vestibule of church today to help St. Cronan save on postage costs. Please return your pledge card, even if you can not pledge at this time, as soon as you can. This year St. Cronan's goal is \$30,240.00. Once you make your pledge, be sure to place a cookie sticker on our ACA cookie jar in the back of church.



#### 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](mailto:Johnny@stcronan.org)

**Retired Priest in Residence Fr. Jack Schuler**

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**Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdziwski**

[Diane@stcronan.org](mailto:Diane@stcronan.org)

**Church Administrator: Mary Ward**

[Mary@stcronan.org](mailto:Mary@stcronan.org)

**Music Director: David Dickey**

[Dsdickey@earthlink.net](mailto:Dsdickey@earthlink.net)

**Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon**

(314) 533-0651

**Sunday Sexton/Housekeeping:** Open Position