

Pastoral Reflection
Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024

I always get nervous when I prune things. It seems counterintuitive that in order for something to grow or bear fruit, that it must be trimmed back, cut, taken apart – that for something to live more fruitfully, a part of it must die. And yet, this is the cycle that is most constant in our lives. We yield to be taken apart so that we may be put back together, with anticipation of growth and newness and fruitfulness.

A friend who has children younger than mine (two of mine are legal adults now!) recently asked me with much hopefulness if, since my kids are older, I no longer have to follow behind and pick up after them. I, of course, laughed loudly and told of rooms that are oozing out into hallways with shoes and clothes and that the messes have only gotten bigger and more pervasive with teenagers – as in addition to the house, the boys now fill up cars with their messes as well. Our discussion led into the importance of teaching, and modeling, good habits as parents. Although, like pruning, it can be painful to wait and hope to see fruits of this labor – this teaching and waiting for habits to take hold is a necessary pathway toward growth and independence.

This conversation had me pondering about my own habits and what I do and don't do in order to follow the Gospel message of today: "remain in me." God promises to remain in me, to remain in all of us. How are we fulfilling our command to remain in God? What habits are we committing to that allow us to

be pruned and bear more fruit? During the season of Lent, I made a commitment to not turn to my phone during idle time and to spend that time instead in prayer, meditation or contemplation. I thought it would be a good habit to begin. I realized by the end of Lent that I need more pruning! Just as new habits are hard to start, old habits are hard to break. Lent gave me the opportunity to contemplate and to try and to fail, and to begin again.

What are some habits that might be leading you away from remaining in God, habits that you'd like to reconsider? What are some things you could intentionally do on a daily or weekly basis that could become habitual, that could lead you toward remaining in God? We have the opportunity to do some of our own self-pruning, to choose to remain in God and bear the fruit that comes from adopting growth-producing habits...to clean up our own messes.

—Teresa Sullivan

Parish Center Offices

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

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

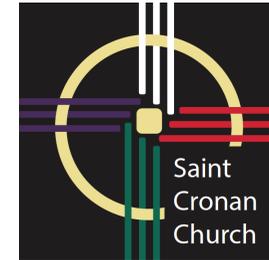
Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdziński
diane@stcronan.org

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
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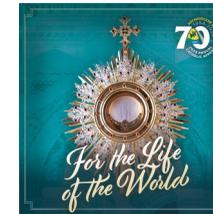
Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 pm.

Wednesdays – 8:00 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.



ACA Pledge Cards: Please turn in your ACA Pledge cards. Anyone turning in their card by May 31st will have their name entered in a drawing for a \$50 Target gift card. Please drop your card in the collection basket or return to the church office. Even if you can't pledge, we still need your card sent in. If pledging online, please click "St. Cronan" in the drop down menu so we get credit for your pledge. We have a goal of \$24,500 to meet and we can't get there without your pledge. Contact Mary in the church office with any questions mary@stcronan.org

Fr. Jack's 50th Anniversary Mark Your Calendars! Fr. Jack's 50th Anniversary Celebration May 19, 10am Mass, reception to follow. **Please RSVP by May 12 to Mary@stcronan.org.** See *bulletin insert for more info.* We would like to compile a binder of memories and well-wishes to Fr. Jack from the St. Cronan Community. In the back of Church you will find 3-hole punch paper sheets. Please take whatever you need and write a note, draw a picture, attach a photo - anything you would like to share with Fr. Jack about his time here. Return the pages to the basket provided and we will compile the book for his celebration. *If you have any photos of Fr. Jack, recent or not so recent, please email them to mary@stcronan.org by May 12.*

If you are able to bring a dessert to share, please let us know.





Prayers : John Gozdziwski, Tom and Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan, Joseph Kuciejczyk (brother of Madonna and Sr. Janet), Nick Ambrose, Kathy Hunn's niece Lisa and her brother Jon, Mary Truetken, Kathy Bayless, Pam (cousin of Donna Zuroweste), Laura Krueger's mother, Evelyn Puleo, Gary W. Johnson (brother-in-law of Madonna, Tom, and Sr. Janet Kuciejczyk) and Marie and Roland Martir's grandson, Camden and daughter, Carrie; Sr. Cathy Doherty's friend, Steve, Sr. Pauline's niece; Laura Rettke, John Nauhm, Bob Barnicle, Amy Diemer, Sandra Ward, Daimeyn Ward (Sandra's son) and Dianne Anderson (Sandra Ward's sister) Sr. Mary Ellen (friend of Nick Ambrose), Jim Chapin (friend of Marty Spies), Judy Varias's husband Gene Krebs, Donna Zuroweste, Tim Lakey.

Our beloved Judy Gallagher passed away last week. May the Angels lead her to Paradise. Judy donated her body to SLU Hospital, a memorial service will take place here at St. Cronan, May 11 at 11am.



TASTE OF CARONDELET

Thursday, May 2, 2024 5:30PM - 8:00PM
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Motherhouse.
<https://csjstl.org/events/taste-of-carondelet-2024>

STL Black History Tours are planned for May 11. The procedure to sign-up is to send your name, email, and phone number to Paul Loida: paul.loida@bayer.com The group will meet at St Cronan Catholic Church at 9:45 AM and bus will return to St Cronan at 1 PM. There will be an optional brown bag lunch and discussion following, for those interested. To register, please contact Paul.

St. Cronan Young Adult Retreat will take place May 3-5 at the Griesedieck Farm. The theme is "Finding Our Way - Exploring Our Relationships with and within the Catholic Church." Please use the QR Code for more info or to register.



Seeds of Justice and JustFaith Ministries presentation: "In the footsteps of Jesus: A Vibrant Church of Missionary Disciples" You are invited to join Jack Jezreel for a lively presentation on the critical link between faith and social mission on May 2 at St. Pius V Church Hall, 3310 S. Grand, 63118. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and the program will start at 7:00 p.m. To register and for more info: <https://bit.ly/JackJezreel2024>

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 17. Please join us!

CATHOLIC IMMIGRATION TEACH-IN: THE REALITIES OF MIGRATION IN THE US



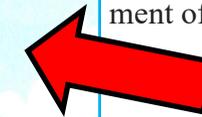
Hear from experts to learn what the Catholic Church teaches on the issue of immigration and the movement of peoples.

There will be opportunities to hear from immigrants and learn about their personal testimonies. Also, there will be time for group discussions.

Teach-In Sponsors:

- Mercy Conference and Retreat Center
- The Sisters of Mercy
- Office of Peace and Justice
- Immigration Task Force, Archdiocese of St. Louis
- Office of Hispanic Ministry
- St. Francis Community Services

WHEN: THURSDAY, MAY 30, 6:30-8:30 PM
WHERE: MERCY CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER
2039 NORTH GEYER ROAD ST. LOUIS, MO 63131-3332
RSVP REQUIRED: MARIE KENYON (314)792-7062 OR EMAIL
MARIEKENYON@ARCHSTL.ORG



DACA Gala June 9. Proceeds support DACA recipients when renewing their DACA application which costs \$500 every two years. This fundraiser is to give scholarships to DACA recipients. *See bulletin insert for more info.*

Catholic Immigration TEACH-IN: The realities of Migration in the US
Hear from experts to learn what the Catholic Church teaches on the issues of immigration and the movement of people. There will be opportunities to hear personal testimonies from immigrants. There will also be a group discussion.



Coming Soon!!! St. Cronan is partnering with Krispy Kreme for our next fundraiser which begins May 1. Simply purchase a voucher for a dozen donuts and St. Cronan receives 50% of each sale. Then visit your nearest location (Fenton, So. County, Ferguson, Fairview Heights, Cottleville) to redeem. This is a month-long online campaign which will make it super easy to gift a dozen donuts...or keep for yourself! Watch CronanTalk for links and details.



To Our New Members:

**Jane Goldkamp
Samuel Pilla
Paul Kurowski
Debbie Kurowski**

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8am mass-goers  
Mark your calendars...  
Due to  
Fr. Jack's 50th Anniversary  
Celebration there will be no  
8am Mass on May 19.