

Fourth Sunday of Easter May 11, 2025

“It’s nearly impossible to really understand the gospel if you live in the United States.” A priest friend of mine who spent the bulk of his years in ministry in Chiapas, Mexico—including the time of the Zapatista revolution—made this observation to me years ago. He had been ordained in the Los Angeles archdiocese, but it was in sharing the life of the *campesinos*, the Mexican peasants who made up his congregation, that he had his own eyes opened to what the gospel really proclaims, who Jesus is, and what it means to be a follower of Christ. The insight is that the gospel is only really understood by those who had undergone persecution in living out their faith. The seed of the true church is always born out of persecution. Jesus was persecuted, his followers were persecuted, and the early church suffered persecution. We see in the readings today both how persecution is a hallmark of authentic witness to Jesus and how God speaks encouragement to a church that by its very existence is treated with hostility by the surrounding society.

In the reading from Acts, we hear how the preaching of Paul and Barnabas stirs up the opposition of “women of prominence” and “the leading men of the city,” resulting in their expulsion. The entire book of Revelation is in the genre of “resistance literature,” coded language meant to be understood by those who needed encouragement to remain steadfast in their faith amidst danger and risk during persecution. John of Patmos reaches out with a promise that vindication awaits those “who have survived the time of great distress” that they currently suffer through. And even the passage from John’s gospel can only be understood by the passages that frame it: The Judean elite harangue Jesus in vs.

20 and 24; then immediately following Jesus’ assertion in v. 30 that “My Abba and I are one,” the Judeans pick up rocks to stone him, later attempting to arrest him (v. 39).

I often think about my friend’s assertion that it’s nearly impossible to understand the gospel if you live in the United States. It has the same ring as Jesus’s statement that it’s easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the reign of God. I think the gist of it is that we need to seriously examine our Christian practice if that practice doesn’t make waves, cause disruption, and make us somewhat vulnerable in the society of which we are a part. What does it mean if our faith invites not persecution but comfort amidst systems that are diametrically opposed to the gospel?

~ Johnny Zokovitch

Parish Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

Phone: (314) 289-9384

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Community Life Coordinator:

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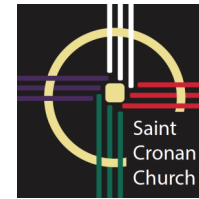
Music Director: David Dickey

Dsdickey@earthlink.net

Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon

(314) 533-0651

Sunday Sexton/Housekeeping: Open Position



St. Cronan Catholic Church May 11, 2025 4th 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

ACA: Thank you to all who have returned their ACA Pledge Cards. Please keep them coming in. We need as many cards returned as possible...all cards returned count toward our goals set for us by the ACA Office. If you have never given to the ACA before, please consider it this year. Every gift counts towards our goals, no matter how big or small. If you are unable to give, please return your card anyway. All returned cards count toward our goals!!! You can mail your card to the office, drop it in the collection basket, or donate on line. See the table in the vestibule in church for details. The Cookie Jar is all set up. Be sure to place your cookie in the jar when you return your card. Please reach out to Mary in the church office if you have any questions. You can view the ACA video on the St. Cronan website: <https://stcronan.org/news-events/announcements>



Children’s Faith Formation for 2025-2026: In the past, the St. Cronan Community has offered Children’s Faith Formation for children aged K-8. If you have school-aged children and are interested in a Religious Education program in our community, please consider attending an informational meeting on Sunday, May 18 after the 10:00 Mass in the Parish Center Conference Room. If you cannot attend at that time, we are offering a Zoom version on Tuesday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to gauge interest in the program, determine what might be included, and discuss when and where classes will take place. If you have a child in Second Grade or Middle School and are considering First Communion or Confirmation within our community, please attend one of these meetings as well so we can plan for Sacramental Preparation. Let Diane know which meeting you are attending: diane@stcronan.org





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; Joe Fairless; Sr. Cathy Doherty’s friends, Lina Tackas and Tim; Robert Barnicle; Judith Santamaria; Trish Curtis and Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan; Leslie Conway; 3 1/2 year old Juliette Braren and her family; Marcia Koester; Maria Gray; the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Old Fangak, South Sudan, who survived a bomb attack and the citizens of that village; Jane Sykes.

Black History Tours: STL Black History Tours are planned for these dates for spring of 2025: May 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.



St. Cronan Social Justice Book Club meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month in the Church Office 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.

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 vigil will take place on Friday, May 16. Please join us!

April 2025 Contributions Thank You!

General Fund	\$17,063
Building Repair Fund	\$415
Food Pantry	\$695
Catholic Home Missions	\$50
St. Vincent de Paul	\$240
Retired Priests—Easter	\$1,664
Uganda	\$105
Rice Bowl	\$3,741
Catholic Charities/Tornado	\$67
Holy Land - Good Friday	\$133
Reparations	\$20

Would you like to sing songs of joy and hope with us this summer? As summer approaches,

consider substituting for choir members seeking occasional rest! We are especially in need of singers at our 5pm Saturday and 8am Sunday Masses. Contact our Choir Director, David Dickey, to learn more. Thank you!



Thank You! Thank you to all who helped make the St. Vincent de Paul Pancake Breakfast a huge success. And thank you to all who attended. No one left hungry! If you were one of the lucky winners of a raffle basket and you have not picked yours up yet, please come to the church offices

during regular bossiness hours or after mas on Sunday to get yours.

You can still donate to SVdP to help our neighbors in need, just drop a check in the collection basket (made out to SVdP) or Venmo at [@cronansvdp](https://www.venmo.com/cronansvdp).

COME SUPPORT THE
MIDTOWN TEEN CLUB
BY VISITING US AT THE:

Tower Grove Farmer's Market

 **MAY
6TH & 13TH
4-7pm**

**Tower Grove Park,
near the
Magnolia/Tower
Grove entrance**

**Rare Pepper
Seedlings**

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS!
BRING YOUR FAMILY!**

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.