

Pastoral Reflection

Ascension

Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20

After the resurrection, Matthew tells us, “the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.”

The words above, “they doubted,” coincidentally, gives me some hope that I am not a total defector of the faith. I mean I am not the most faithful Christian. For me the saying, “The spirit is willing, the flesh is weak,” is probably an understatement. Sometimes I feel my faith is so weak it’s hanging on by a thread. So different from the early years after a strong conversion experience when I felt propelled by God’s Spirit to be an evangelical Christian, disciplined and devoted. That’s when the Holy Spirit “fell” on me. And now?

The disciples lived alongside Jesus for over 3 years. At this point (the day of the Ascension) they’d witnessed, for 40 days, the aftermath of his resurrection. The beginning of Acts says: “He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them for forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.”

Yet they continued to doubt.

That says it all for me. We live in a pluralistic world where few adhere to the core elements of our Christian beliefs. As Americans we are enculturated and spoiled (most of us). It’s hard to believe in a faith that invites us to give up everything, like the early disciples, in order to follow Jesus. Luke 18:24: “Sell every-

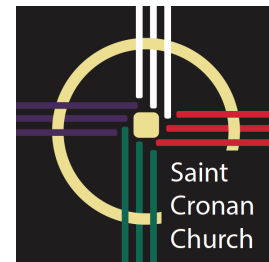
thing you have and give to the poor... Then come, follow me.” Now this is such a difficult teaching. After all, we live in an “instant fix” culture that can send us anything, at any time, via Amazon... not even basic needs, but primarily wants. But the source of the disciples’ doubts was something more than a distraction from faith.

It was the real thing, doubt, in response to Jesus’ fundamental question, “Who do you say that I am?” In other words, do we believe or do we not. Is Jesus the promised one, the Messiah, the Son of God, and God’s very self? Or not? Even though we often don’t believe on a feeling level, since so few around us believe, we must hold on to the thread, even if it’s purely a thread of remembrance. Maybe, at this time, it’s just a wish for faith. Well, don’t let go of that thread! It will lead you back to where you once were. Just as Jesus promised those early disciples, He promised us.

Pentecost made all the difference for those first disciples, when they were baptized in the Holy Spirit. When that happens our doubt-filled flesh, as on the day of the Ascension with the first disciples, will give in to a much greater power, as long as we are willing to accept it. Before Jesus ascended he told his disciples, “wait for the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Now it is our turn. Be baptized in the Holy Spirit... Accept this awesome gift, be faithful to follow her beckoning, then leave the rest up to God.

—Cathy Hartrich



St. Cronan Catholic Church

The Ascension of Our Lord

May 21, 2023

Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 am.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 pm.

Wednesdays – 8:00 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment



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Annual Catholic Appeal: Please return your pledge cards to the Parish Office by mail or via the Sunday collection. **Please return your card even if you can’t participate this year.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Parish Pot-luck – Let’s come together as community on **Sunday, June 4**, after 10:00 Mass for a pot-luck lunch, conversation, and BINGO! If you plan to attend and can bring a dish to share, please contact Maggie at ofccomp17@gmail.com or call the office (314) 289-9384.



Website Photographer: On June 4, we will have a photographer at Mass taking photos for our new website (yay!). She will be here before, during and after mass to capture shots of our gathering, worship and hospitality. She will also pop in to the Pot-luck and get some shots of our Community. We would like to fill up the church and show the world our wonderful families and friends. Wear your beautiful smile and your Sunday best! We will have special arrangements for those not wishing to have their photo taken.

Bulletin: Please submit all items for the weekly bulletin to mary@stcronan.org. you want your blurb in Monday Notes, too, please copy diane@stcronan.org. Bulletin deadline is Wednesday by noon.

Parish Ministries: If you would like to add your talents to any of our ministries, and meet a great bunch of people, please call the church office or visit our website www.stcronan.org for information. ***You are always welcome!***



Prayers Please: Kathy Bayless; Trish Curtis' brother; David Gaillardetz' father, Richard; Nick and Shirley Ambrose's daughter, Brigid Costello; Varrietta Anthony; Fr. Jack's brother, Mike; Natalie Johnson and the Johnson family; Diane Calcaterra; Sr. Lynne's friend, Jan Berberich, SSND; Barb Sopp's friend, Joe Sinibaldi; Bob Barnicle; Paul Schmitt; Tim and Else Hirzel's great nephew, Cameron Russell; Kathy Hunn's niece, Lisa; Sr. Cathy's friends, Inga Casillo, Don Costello, Mike Bowen, Michelle O'Rourke, Kate Genovese, Jenni, Jackie Bishop, and newborn baby, Giovanni Christopher Centerino; Judy Gallagher; Mary Truetkin; Marie and Roland Martir's daughter, Carrie, and granddaughter, Maddie; Janice Shayne's cousin, Jane Torretta; Jacob Whitworth; John Gozdziwski; Wilma Hunt and family, friends of Sandra Ward; Michael Mason, former SVDP hauler; Michael Peterson; Linda and Jeff Caul's daughter, Kelly; Joe Connolly; Sam Vitale, friend of Father Jack and Mary Ward, John Derr; son-in-law of Alice Adcock; Mr. Charles Wallace; Bill Blow's daughter, Meg Shugarts; Roger Bailey; friend of Dom and Marcy Soda, Philip Anala, Bonnie Wimmer, and Jon Ebner nephew of Rocky Sieben & Ruth Hasser the Krueger Family, Benjamin Viragh-Mayo and Nick Ambrose. *Please let the office staff know if your loved one should be removed from the prayer list.*

For the repose of the soul of **Bob Weinbauer** and may the Lord grant comfort for those who grieve for him.



May's Ministry of the Month is the St. Cronan Book Discussion Group. Please consider joining with us as we connect outside of Church and Mass in talking all things Social Justice, Anti-Racism and Oppression, Liberation Theology, our Environment, to name a few topics. We read fiction and non-fiction and rotate the book chooser and discussion leader. Right now we are about 10 participants and we welcome those who are not able to read the book or want to join some months and not others. Meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. July's meeting will be in-person. Email Christine.Lakey@yahoo.com for the Zoom link.

Second Collection: On Sunday, May 28, there will be a second collection for the Home Missions Appeal. Today, more than 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work of their communities. Your support of this appeal helps them meet these faith formation and sacramental needs. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/home-missions

Children's Faith Formation The St. Cronan Community offers Children's Faith Formation for all children, K-8, through a hybrid Catechist-led/Family led approach. This year, we hope to offer classes twice per month, usually on the first and third Sundays after 10:00 Mass, and send home additional information for parents to share Faith with their children in a family-based program. I want to take this opportunity to invite all families with school-aged children to join us. For more details on the program please contact Diane at 314-289-9384 or diane@stcronan.org **This faith-filled community welcomes each of you!**

Calling Teachers/Catechists: We are in need of additional catechists for the 2022-23 school year. The only requirement is that you are willing to share your own faith with these children and can follow a very well-planned program. If there are community members, parents or young adults who might lead the monthly classes, please contact Diane, diane@stcronan.org There is much support and instruction for anyone willing to be a catechist to these wonderful children. You will find yourself growing in your own faith as you help children grow in theirs.

Parish Center Offices

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

Pastor: Fr. Jack Schuler

jschuler@stcronan.org

Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdziwski

diane@stcronan.org

Pastoral Administrator: Mary Ward

mary@stcronan.org

Music Director: David Dickey

Food Pantry Director: Kathy Hunn

(314) 533-0651

kathyfoodpantry@gmail.com

Gathering around the Altar: We are inviting people to join Fr. Jack around the Altar for the Consecration. We will begin at the 10:00 Mass, to see how things go, and then expand to the 5:00 and 8:00 Masses in the near future.

Here are the procedures:

- Everyone who comes to the Sanctuary must wear a mask (available in the back of church and on the stools up front) out of respect for Fr. Jack, who cannot be masked during the prayers
- Please come up just before the Preface ("The Lord be with you.." dialogue) and form a semi-circle behind the Altar, allowing room for the choir, and ending at the ends of the railings on either side so as not to block the rest of the congregation.
- You will return to your pews during the Sign of Peace

