

Pastoral Reflection
Most Holy Trinity
May 26, 2024

Several years ago the Scripture scholar and theologian, Sandra Schneiders, wrote an article entitled “God is More Than Two Men and a Bird.” With this seemingly flippant title, she noted that often this is the way many Christians image the Trinity. She suggests “we need some theological therapy of the imagination.” Her article described many of the images used in Scripture that have been forgotten or ignored, including female images, nature images, and the misinterpretation through history of the male images so that they project domination over others. She pointed out that we need a multiplicity of images to avoid getting stuck in idolatry. When we say, “God is...,” we need to remember and say “God is not...” that same image. God is beyond all our metaphors. She also stresses that we are monotheistic, one God, not three, and we are rooted in the saving God of the Hebrew Scriptures. As Walter Kasper states, “Trinity is the Christian form of monotheism.”

In past centuries (from about 1200 C.E.) descriptions of the Trinity had focused on speculation about the internal relationships of the Trinity. Recent studies are recalling the experiences of the early Christians and God’s work of saving and healing all creation, of bringing forth the reign of God about which Jesus preached.

We can look back at the growing awareness of the early Christian community. Already in approximately 65 C.E., they realized that their experience of Christ risen among them was very different from the Jesus who had lived and

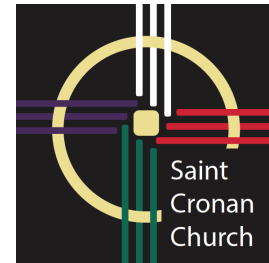
preached in Galilee or died on the cross in Jerusalem. They recognized his intimate connection with the God of Israel who had protected and cared for the Jewish people. They believed that Jesus had sent the Spirit to be among them until Jesus would return in glory.

For the next 300 years, more or less, the Christian community tried to express in their teaching what those early Christians had believed: that there was a deep and abiding relationship within the Triune God. They debated, struggled, split apart, and continued to explore who Jesus is. They expressed it in the best language and images that they had at the time – the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. They formulated Creeds expressing who God is as revealed by Jesus and reflected upon by centuries of Christian communities.

What is significant about our belief in the Triune God is not the images used – all images are metaphor and incomplete. They might even become idolatrous when they try to limit God or reify a particular interpretation.

What is significant is that our Triune God is relational, one with one another and extending out in relation to the human family, and even to the whole of creation. The Gospel of Matthew calls us to make disciples of all nations, to bring the Good News to all people, and to bring them into community. When Genesis says we are made in the image and likeness of God, we who believe in the Triune God, are called to discipleship, to relationship, to intimate relationship with God, with all members of the human family, and with all of creation. God is love. Coming to realize this and to deepen our connectedness is our life’s work, our vocation.

—Lynne Schmidt, SSND



St. Cronan Catholic Church
The Most Holy Trinity
May 26, 2024

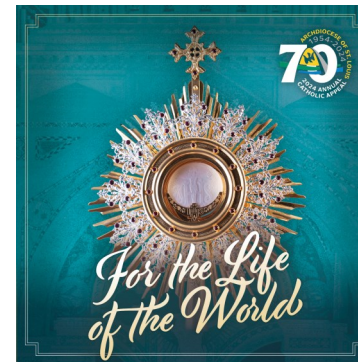
Mass Information

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

Catholic Home Missions Appeal Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities needed in their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. Please be generous. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/home-missions.



Help provide scholarships to Catholic Students!

Participate in the MOScholars Program today to help students and receive MO tax credits. Call the Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation at 314-792-7032 for more information or see the flyer you received via Cronan Talk.



Prayers : John Gozdziński, 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, 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. Pauline's niece; Laura Rettke, John Nauhm, Bob Barnicle, 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, Tim Lakey, Bob Wiley, Pam Schaefer, Mary Solomon, Mary Ward.

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, June 21 Please join us!

A note of Thanks from Fr. Jack:

I thank everyone for the most exciting Pentecost I have ever experienced! The "Spirit" was really moving. I am humbled and overwhelmed by your prayer, support and generosity. As I said in the homily, "this isn't so much about what I have done but what has been done to me". As I told the children yesterday I didn't create any dreams I just tried to catch them as God poured them forth. I pray that God forgives me for the dreams (graces) that missed. I also ask again that you forgive me for any hurts or neglects are oversights on my part. I have been so blessed to be a member of the St. Cronan community and want all of you to know how important the Spirit of St. Cronan is to me. You all have touched me deeply.

I had some former parishioners and friends here for the anniversary celebration and they were so taken by the joy and welcome that came their way. Thank you for "being you"! I am also grateful for those who greeted my brother. He loved being able to provide that wonderful meal for all of us. My brother has Huntington's disease but that has not deterred his generosity.

The journey is not over. Let us continue to walk with each other and with our Brother Jesus.

*God bless,
Fr. Jack (he/him)*



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

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.

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

We are Live! St. Cronan is partnering with Krispy Kreme for our next fundraiser which began 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! Click here to participate: <https://www.groupraise.com/offer-campaigns/41214> **Fundraiser ends May 31, 2024.**



Children's Faith Formation is winding down for this year. We will resume classes at the end of August. If you have a child aged K-8 and would like to participate in our CFF community to help your child grow in faith, please fill out the attached form. We are revamping the program this summer, and will provide more details soon. If you have any questions, please contact Diane diane@stcronan.org