

Pastoral Reflection

Fifth Sunday of Easter 2023

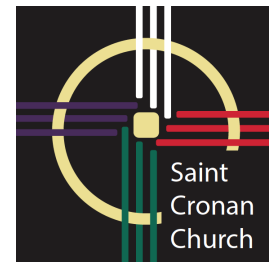
I think the second reading each Sunday sometimes gets overlooked, sandwiched as it is between the first reading which draws us into the liturgy of the word, and the gospel, which usually has Jesus drawing all of our attention. But the second reading is often taken from one of the letters of the Christian scriptures, the correspondence of one of the apostles directed specifically to one (or several) of the first Christian communities, addressing their issues, problems, conflicts and questions. They're written, for the most part, to speak to specific contexts happening within the communities, not as universal proclamations meant for the whole church. Nowhere is it more important than with these letters to get at some of the context behind what is written.

Part of what we can glean from the section of today's reading attributed to Peter is the feeling of marginalization that many of the early Christian communities must have felt. Following Jesus meant dislocating themselves from both the surrounding culture and their previous religious traditions. It would have been an experience that cost them relationships upon which both their identity and their livelihoods depended. They would have found themselves marginalized and isolated, financially and emotionally unstable, displaced and unmoored. The experience of the early Christian communities in this vein raises questions for us today about how "easy" it is to call oneself a

Christian when it has been defined in such a way as to fit neatly and cleanly into the culture of which we are a part. Indeed the philosopher Kierkegaard lamented that for the early Christians, to identify as followers of Christ cost them everything, including possibly their lives; while contemporary "Christians" can "follow" Christ at virtually no cost at all.

Peter's response to their sense of dislocation and instability, and the doubts which accompanied them, was to identify their sense of rejection with the rejection of the one they followed, and to recast the rejection as the beginning of something new. They were "living stones," made of the same material as the "stone which had been rejected", the one who became the "cornerstone" of a new foundation, a new building, a new home. Society's rejection of them was eclipsed by God's singling them out, "chosen and precious." The theme is consistent with what we see everywhere in scripture: a God whose ways stand in contrast to the culture in which the people find themselves, and the necessity to follow those ways even when it means to live differently than one's neighbors, friends, co-workers, family members. We are called to a new way of being, a contrary witness that "announces the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into God's wonderful light." Our very bodies, our very lives are the materials building up this new society.

—John J. Zokovitch III



St. Cronan Catholic Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023

Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 am.
SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 pm.
Wednesdays – 8:00 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment

The Masses for May will be live-streamed at 10am on Sundays and posted on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StCronan/>



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. You can view the ACA video on the St. Cronan Homepage. Once you make your pledge, please put a colored dot on the church progress board in the back of church. Let's fill up the church and watch us progress to meet our goal. Pledges can also be made online at <https://www.archstl.org/aca> please be sure to credit St. Cronan. If paying by check, please be sure to make your check payable to ACA.

Black Lives Matter Vigil, takes place the third Friday of the Month at the corner of Manchester and Kingshighway, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. The next vigil will take place on Friday, May 19. Please join us!

Join in investing in The Grove neighborhood by attending the Park Central Development (PCD) Community Meeting Thursday May 18, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the St. Cronan Parish Center basement. Come hear ways PCD has committed to housing preservation and other service programs and how you can invest in our surroundings too. Contact Christine Lakey for questions at 314-239-2204.

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. *Please let the office staff know if your loved one should be removed from the prayer list.*

Welcome Neighbor STL Syrian Dinner will be May 12, 6pm at St. Margaret of Scotland church hall. Many of you know the great work Welcome Neighbor STL does for immigrants and refugees in our community and their dinner club is one way they help. The women/families cook and serve food and share about their experiences. They



will be from Syria. In addition, several women will be selling their crafts. The funds from such events help the families not only here but back home as well. Follow the link below to register and pay. Seating is limited.
<https://welcomeneighborstl.org/events/dinner-at-st-margaret-of-scotland/>

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

Haulers Needed: The hauling ministry of St. Vincent de Paul is in need of people who can help move furniture from donors to people in need during the week and on Saturdays. If you can donate some time to this worthy endeavor, please contact Dorothy Lucey, (314) 803-1858.



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.



ALL THINGS NEW
 STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

All Things New Update: Please refer to the Monday Notes (sent out on May 3) and the Cronan Talk e-mail sent out on May 4 for the newest updates and models for All Things New, along with a letter from Fr. Chris Martin, Vicar for Strategic Planning. These postings contain some very important and interesting information on All Things New. Please contact Mary in the church office if you would like these documents emailed to you directly. They can also be found on the Archdiocese website under All Things New.

Wills: Please remember Saint Cronan in your will. Title is St. Cronan Catholic Church-1202 South Boyle Ave.- St. Louis, MO 63110. Our Federal I.D.# 43-0653457

Data Base Updates: Be sure to let Mary in the office know if you have had any changes to your address, email, mailing address or phone number. You can email any changes to mary@stcronan.org.



**Mark Your Calendars: June 4
 Parish Pot Luck
 More details to come!**

April 2023 contributions	
General Fund	\$16,413.00
Building Repair Fund	\$180.00
Capital Maintenance	\$385.00
Easter (Regina Cleri)	\$1595.00
Food Pantry	\$1207.00
Fundraiser	\$200.00
Rice Bowl	\$195.00
Restricted Fund	\$1000.00
Holy Land	\$10.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$380.00
Uganda	\$55.00