

## Pastoral Reflection

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
July 16, 2023

Plants need sun water, air and good soil to thrive. What does our spirit, mind, body need to be fertile ground in which the good news of the Gospel can thrive?

This was the first question that came to mind as I reflected on today's Gospel. Matthew identifies the seed sown on rich soil as the one who hears the word, understands it, and bears, abundant fruit. So, it seems that we need to listen to God, reflect on what we have heard, and allow God's Spirit to work through us to bear fruit. It's harder than it sounds. Gracefully, we are not alone on the journey. The biblical scholar John J. Pilch writes in *The Cultural World of Jesus*, "The scenario describes sowing and farming, but it really points to a loving and provident God who looks after needy peasants." The harvest described would boggle the mind of Jesus' listeners. It's a parable of God's abundance. That loving God looks after us with abundance as well.

Fr. Thomas Keating would agree. In his collection of Meditations on the Parables of Jesus he places "The Sower" with parables that show "God loves infinitely and always." The sower is an image of abundance, scattering seed extravagantly! God doesn't wait for the perfect conditions or the perfect soil to plant the seed. Through Jesus, God throws the good news all around.

Keating describes the parables as earthquakes, as earth shattering. "They break up our prepackaged values and preconceived ideas." He offers the following

interpretations of each type of soil. "The path is hard as concrete, representing people living with unquestioned presuppositions and preconceived ideas: the world of racism, sexism, prejudice and every kind of bias." Rocky ground "points to those rocks in us that are compulsive activity or habits that resist change." "When the word of God started to grow (among briars), it was choked by the lure of money, power, and pleasure seeking." The rich soil is receptive without resistance.

"The parables help us see how extraordinary a wisdom teacher Jesus really was, and how revolutionary was the content of what he taught," says Keating. The Sower invites us to ask ourselves what forms of inner resistance are blocking the Good News of the Abundant Giver from flourishing within us.

—Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan

### Parish Center Offices

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

**Pastor: Fr. Jack Schuler**

[jschuler@stcronan.org](mailto:jschuler@stcronan.org)

**Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdzialski**

[diane@stcronan.org](mailto:diane@stcronan.org)

**Pastoral Administrator: Mary Ward**

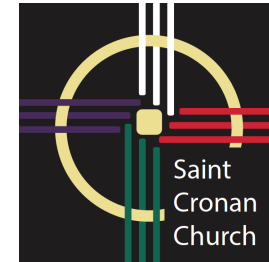
[mary@stcronan.org](mailto:mary@stcronan.org)

**Music Director: David Dickey**

**Food Pantry Director: Kathy Hunn**

(314) 533-0651  
[kathyfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:kathyfoodpantry@gmail.com)

**Bulletin Deadline: Wed 12 noon**



## St. Cronan Catholic Church

### 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 16, 2023

### Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 am.  
SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 pm.  
Wednesdays – 8:00 am.  
Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.



**Christmas in July** Christmas will come early this year at St. Cronan. This summer, you are invited to participate in a School Adoption Program from July 15 – August 14. We invite you to take an ornament from the Christmas tree in the church foyer. The items listed on each ornament are supplies needed for students and teachers at St. Louis Catholic Academy and St. Cecilia School & Academy.

- St. Cecilia School & Academy is 92% Hispanic and St. Louis Catholic Academy is 99% African American
- 100% of the students receive need-based tuition assistance. Each family is required to make a financial investment in their child's education
- 100% of our graduates are accepted into college prep high schools
- 99% graduate from high schools compared to 89 % of Missouri students

The adoption process involves – picking an ornament off the tree, purchasing the items listed, and then returning the items in the foyer boxes. PLEASE TAPE THE ORNAMENT ON THE BAGS WHEN YOU RETURN THEM.

Helpful tip: Back-to-School Sales TAX WEEKEND is August 4-6, 2023.

**Addressing Gun Violence:** Promoting a Culture of Life, July 29, 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Cardinal Rigali Center. Further information is available on the link. Registration is now open: <https://www.archstl.org/addressing-gun-violence>

**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](http://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, and baby, Giovanni Christopher Centerino; Judy Gallagher; Mary Truetkin; Marie and Roland Martir's daughter, Carrie, and granddaughter, Madi; John Gozdziwski; 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; Bill Blow's daughter, Meg Shugarts; Roger Bailey, friend of Dom and Marcy Soda; Philip Anala; Bonnie Wimmer; Jon Ebner, nephew of Rocky Sieben and Ruth Hasser; the Krueger family; Nick Ambrose; Betty Newberry; Marty Spies; Donate; Mary Proot's daughter-in-law's mother in Germany; Dede Coughlin; Judith Santamaria; Rocky Sieben's father; Nick Ambrose's friend, John.

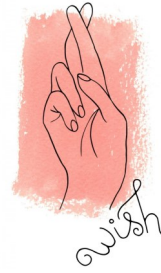
*Vida Jones, Quincy's dear wife, passed away June 30. Please keep the family in your prayers. A memorial service took place at St. Cronan on July 15. Quincy is director of the Men's Club of MidTown and takes care of the lawn at St. Cronan. Quincy is asking anyone who would like to pay tribute to Vida, do so by donating to the Nina Khighlighten (Willie's daughter) fund via St. Cronan. Call the church office for more info.*



**Food Pantry Coordinator Search** The coordinator of our Food Pantry, Kathy Hunn, is retiring so we are looking for a replacement. With Kathy's assistance we have put together a new job description (please see the attachment). Mary, our Pastoral Administrator, will be taking over the clerical duties associated with the Pantry. What this position will entail is being on sight to coordinate the efforts of the volunteers. There is little "homework" associated with this opportunity. We will be

paying \$25 dollars an hour for your services. To apply for this position, please reach out to Mary at 314-289-9384 or [mary@stcronan.org](mailto:mary@stcronan.org) for an application. Are deepest thanks to Kathy for her many years of dedication!

**Coffee and Donuts Help needed!** We are in need of a hospitality team for the fourth Sunday of the month, as Henry and Kay Schmitt, who have done such a great job, need to retire. We thank them for their tireless work. You would sign up for a week or to help another team set up, serve, and/or clean up before or after mass. Give 15 minutes or a few hours. Maggie Hart-Mahon leads this Ministry and will be glad to give you details. *Contact Maggie at [ofccomp17@gmail.com](mailto:ofccomp17@gmail.com).*



**The yearly Administrator's Wish List** This year's wish list is a little later than normal, due to All Things New. Now that we can make a sigh of relief...it's time to reach out again to the St. Cronan Family and ask for your help with a few items that fall outside of our regular budget. Please feel

free to reach out to Mary with any questions. 314-289-9384 or [mary@stcronan.org](mailto:mary@stcronan.org) If you wish to make a donation toward any of the items on my Wish List, please notate on your check or envelope that your gift is for the "Wish List". If you would like your gift to go towards any item specifically, please notate that, as well. Just drop in the collection basket or mail to the church office. Your generosity in the past has been amazing! Thank you in advance for your help and support with this year's "Wish List"! See the poster in the back of church for more info, and donation envelopes. **No funds collected for the Wish List will go to the Archdiocese...everything collected will go directly to purchasing items on the list.**

June 2023 contributions	
General Fund	\$25,158.00
Building Repair Fund	\$125.00
Capital Maintenance	\$20.00
Cardinal Glennon	\$962.00
Food Pantry	\$1,595.00
Peter's Pence	\$418.00
Human Development	\$330.00
Administrator's Wish List	\$100.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$355.00
Uganda	\$2055.00

**Archives Committee:** Many thanks to the Archives Committee for the informative posters on our second 50 years. The posters are down in church, but you can access them here. It is much easier to read if you increase the view to 200%. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17XVSPNKMTxQEzjzT27JFRLNUVkrONFQ?usp=sharing>

**Annual Catholic Appeal:** We are in need of **2** new donors to the ACA in order to meet our new donor goal. Any new ACA donation will count...\$5, \$10...whatever you can give. The last day to pledge for the 2023 ACA is Aug. 15...so time is running out.

Thank You to all who have returned your ACA pledge cards. If you have not done so, 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.

**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, July 21. Please join us!

