

17th Sunday of Ordinary Time July 27, 2025

Ask and You Shall Receive, Costly Grace

Today's Gospel pretty much says it all in terms of the kind of God our God is.

Our God is one of endless empathy and unconditional love, who cares for us as the most generous of parents.

"What parent among you would hand his child a snake who asks for a fish? Or hand the child a scorpion who asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your parent in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask?"

"...ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

This is what our God offers to us, God's beloved children. But let's not be mistaken. God's offer is not without any cost to us. Rather God invites us to do as God does, to love as God loves, to forgive as God forgives. In doing so, we're invited to take up the cross as Jesus modeled for us. Otherwise to simply ask and receive is just

cheap grace.

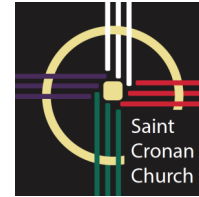
In 1937 German theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, wrote the now classic *The Cost of Discipleship*. The book is centered on the Sermon on the Mount, in which Bonhoeffer spells out what he believes it means to follow Christ. The book was published at the same time as the rise of the Nazi regime in Germany. It was against this background that Bonhoeffer's theology of costly discipleship developed, which ultimately led to his death.

According to Bonhoeffer, cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, incarnate. It is simply asking and expecting to receive without doing anything but "praise the Lord!"

Rather, Bonhoeffer compels us to consider living by costly grace. To stand up and be counted as disciples of Christ, who will be known by our actions and our love. The costly kind of love is one of a sacrificial sort. Costly grace confronts us as a gracious call to follow Jesus. It is costly because it compels us to submit to the yoke of Christ and follow him; it is grace because Jesus says: "My yoke is easy and my burden is light."

So, when we ask, may we hope to receive, from our all-loving parent, the grace to accept Christ's "easy" yoke and "light" burden.

—Cathy Hartrich



St. Cronan Catholic Church
July 27, 2025

17th Sunday of Ordinary Time



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

Food Distribution to Immigrants: SUMMER FOOD SHARING

We've developed a plan for the summer months to share out blessings with our immigrant neighbors. August 2, we will do a big distribution to 25+ families. We will need volunteers to pack the bags (at 10am) and 7 or 8 pairs of volunteers to deliver the food (11:15am). Here is the link for the Sign-Up Genius:

<https://cutt.ly/immigrant-food-distribution>

Select the date and job you want, when you click it will say "selected" at the bottom of the page, click on "select and continue." Fill in your information and click on "save." You may not be able to help on Saturdays, but you might be able to toss something extra into your grocery cart and bring to church on Sunday. There will be bins in the vestibule of church for your donations. **HERE ARE MONTHLY ITEMS WE NEED:** 48 oz Cooking oil, 4 rolls toilet paper, Dishwashing liquid, Laundry soap—not pods reusable grocery bags, DIAPERS, SIZES 3 THRU 6.



It's Back! The Football Raffle Fundraiser. You can purchase your football raffle ticket for \$25. Each week during football season tickets are drawn for cash prizes. St. Cronan has been very lucky in the past and has had some big winners! See a member of the fundraising committee after each mass to get your raffle ticket. Make your check out to **St. John's Church**. St. Cronan receives proceeds from each ticket sold. The last day to purchase your ticket is *Aug. 24*. See flyer in the vestibule of church.



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; Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan; Leslie Conway; 3 1/2 year old Juliette Braren and her family; the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Old Fangak, South Sudan, who survived a bomb attack and the citizens of that village; Jane Sykes and Nancy Buck's granddaughter, Danielle Oliveros; Mary Proot's sister, Terry Jacks; Tim Proot; all the victims of the St. Louis tornado; Sr. Barb Schlatter; Ken Ladd and Ann Cook.

If you would like your loved one or yourself to be placed on the list or removed, please call the office: (314) 289-9384, or email Mary@stcronan.org

From your Welcome/Hospitality Committee: A big thank you to ALL of us who are welcoming newcomers to masses; Mary Ward who keeps us churning with packets, cards, name tags, and registering new members; the greeters Elisabeth Byrne, Tricia Goldman, Sr. Janet, Judy Varias, and Erin O'Connell who each take Sundays (15 minute commitment) at the 10 am mass. Consider joining in our charism, a big part of our welcoming mission at St. Cronan. We also offer the coffee and donuts on the 3rd Sunday and could use help. Contact Christine Lakey at 314-239-2204 with questions.

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, August 15. Please join us!

A Black History Tour of St. Louis. The moment we have been waiting for has arrived. Tickets for "A Black History Tour of St. Louis" are available now at <https://festivals.cinemastlouis.org/showcase2025/6548-2/>, showing July 27th at 3pm. Website for the trailer at <https://www.ablackhistorytour.com>.

WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP

Parish Center Offices

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

1202 S. Boyle, St. Louis, MO 63110

Community Life Coordinator:

Johnny Zokovitch

Johnny@stcronan.org

Retired Priest in Residence: 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

Marygrove Lunch Club

Join us for Faith, Food, & Friendship

We invite you to learn more about Marygrove and the work we do for the youth in our community. Join us for Mass in our beautiful chapel, followed by a delicious lunch and fellowship in the cafeteria.

August 1st
Mass begins at 11:30am
Lunch begins at 12pm
 Free to attend. Donations appreciated.

2705 Mullanphy Ln, Florissant, MO 63031

Please RSVP to Jackie Boyd
(314) 584-6129 or jboyd@mgstl.org

MARYGROVE
 A MINISTRY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
 ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT LOUIS

Children's Faith Formation for 2026-27: 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 and sacramental preparation in our community, please contact Diane at diane@stcronan.org.

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.



Our Newest Members:

Leigh Anne Barnes

Lana Usery

St. Cronan Social Justice Book Club meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month on the main floor church office conference room after the 10am mass from 11:30am-12:30pm. Our August 10th book is "Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice" by Leah Piepznar-Samarasinha. We invite you to join us in person or to simply read with us. For more information please contact Charlene Zeni Connolly at 314-308-0056. Looking ahead, the September 14th book will be "The Fifth Risk" by Michael Lewis.