

**Pastoral Reflection**  
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
July 28, 2024

There are so many interesting things happening in today's readings. For instance, while you may have never heard or may not remember the story of Elisha in 2 Kings, multiplying twenty loaves to feed 100 people, we all have surely heard the consequent story in John about Jesus seemingly multiplying five loaves to feed 5,000. (I love imagining the early Christian community sitting around smug that their guy Jesus was so much more impressive than Elisha!)

The multiplication of the loaves and fishes in John's gospel (and in other gospels) is a favorite for many preachers. There's a lot to unpack and mull over in the story. But what I want us to pay attention to today is the last line of the narrative:

"Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone."

Jesus' words and actions were creating such a groundswell that people were wanting to put him into power—official power—making him their king. It is Jesus' reaction to the crowd's attempt to hand power over to him that should give us pause, make us think. Especially when we find ourselves in an election year when the hunger for power reigns supreme.

I would offer that Jesus' choice to withdraw to the mountain and be alone is a strategic choice to reject the temptation of the power that resides in hierarchical systems. Maybe Jesus is thinking about God's warning to the people of Israel through Samuel (in 1 Samuel 8) about what it means to have a king: war, injustice and oppression. God warns the Israelites that if they want

to be like other nations and have a king, this is what they'll get. In retreating to the mountain to be alone, Jesus rejects kingship, he rejects systems of domination and hierarchy, he rejects the idolatry associated with political and religious power, and he rejects the project of empire. He foils the Great Tempter once again.

What Jesus does embrace we hear in Paul's letter to the Ephesians: living "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace."

It isn't the power of a king that Jesus aspires to. It is the power of love. So should we.

~submitted by Johnny Zokovitch

**Parish Center Offices**  
Mon-Fri 9am-3pm  
Phone: (314) 289-9384

**Pastoral Administrator: Fr. Jack Schuler**  
[jschuler@stcronan.org](mailto:jschuler@stcronan.org)

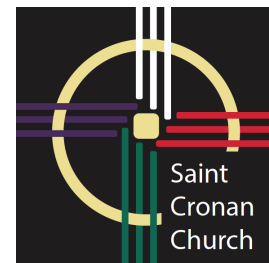
**Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdziński**  
[diane@stcronan.org](mailto:diane@stcronan.org)

**Church Administrator: Mary Ward**  
[mary@stcronan.org](mailto:mary@stcronan.org)

**Music Director: David Dickey**  
[dsdickey@earthlink.net](mailto:dsdickey@earthlink.net)

**Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon**  
(314) 533-0651

**Bulletin Deadline: WED 12 noon**



**St. Cronan Catholic Church**  
**17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**July 28, 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.

**Calling All Catholic Artists** The 3rd Annual Catholic Art Festival in St. Louis will be held in September. The festival is accepting visual artist applications now through July 27th. The application can be found at [www.catholicartfest.com](http://www.catholicartfest.com).



**Christmas in July**

**Thank You!**

On behalf of our students and staff, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support and supplies to the educational programs and mission at St. Cecilia School & Academy and St. Louis Catholic Academy. You are making a difference in the lives of our students by providing support to our academic programs. As we continue to witness growth and impact within our schools, we thank you for being on this journey to provide students with a brighter future. It does take a village to raise a child.

—Prayers to each of you.



**Prayers :** John Gozdziński, Tom and Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan, Joseph Kuciejczyk (brother of Madonna and Sr. Janet), Nick and Shirley Ambrose, Kathy Hunn's niece Lisa and her brother Jon, Mary Truetken, Pam (cousin of Donna Zuroweste), Laura Krueger's mother, Evelyn Puleo, Marie and Roland Martir's grandson, Camden and daughter, Carrie; Sr. Pauline's niece; Laura Rettke, John Nauhm, Bob Barnicle, Sandra Ward's family and her friend; Anita, Sr. Mary Ellen (friend of Nick Ambrose), Jim Chapin (friend of Marty Spies), Bob Wiley, Pam Schaefer, Joe and Janice Fairless, Eileen Heidenheimer's friends, Joe and Laura; Diane Von Hof, friend of Joan and Trish Curtis; Brian Klinkhardt, friend of Judith Santamaria; Andrew Moll's brother, Michael, Saralou Henderson, Kathy Bayless, Jesse Koenig; friend of Mary Solomon and former parishioner Sr. Louise Lears and her family

*For the celebration of life of Giovanni (John) Biondo with Air Force Military Honors at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery this past week (Maria Gray's twin brother). Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.*

*The Mass intention for July 28 at 10am is Pat Mirabelli (sister of Donna Moramarco)*

**Online Directory** Are you looking for our Online Directory? It can be accessed via our website homepage in the very bottom bar under "Quick Links". <https://stcronan.org/> We would love to have recent pictures of your beautiful faces to add to our online directory. Please send a recent photo that you would like included to [mary@stcronan.org](mailto:mary@stcronan.org). This is a Church Members Only directory, and is password protected. If you need the password, please contact the church office. In addition, if you have had any changes to your address, phone number or email, please notify Mary in the office.



**BEER & BITS:** Join the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet for a social event featuring local craft beers and tasty pub foods to benefit our mission and ministries. Enjoy ...A variety of beers from local craft breweries: Wellspent Brewing Company and Civil Life Brewing Co., tasty pub foods and meet the brew masters and learn about craft brewing.

Tours of the historic motherhouse will also be available. \$40 per person (Over 21 please) Aug. 10 from 6-8pm Questions? Contact Stephanie Betts at [sbetts@csj.org](mailto:sbetts@csj.org) or 314-678-0328. To register: <https://csjcarondelet.org/event/beer-bites/>

**Church Envelopes:** If you are receiving a monthly packet of church envelopes, and wish to discontinue them, please let Mary in the church office know. [mary@stcronan.org](mailto:mary@stcronan.org) Thanks!!

**STL Black History Tours** are planned for the following dates: July 27, Aug. 24, Sept. 21 and Oct. 19

To sign-up email the tour date, your name, email address, and phone number to Paul Loida at the email address below.

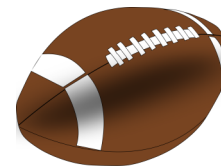
The group will meet at St Cronan Catholic Church at 9:45 AM and bus will return to St Cronan at 1 PM. There will be an optional brown bag lunch and discussion following, for those interested. For mor info contact Paul Loida. [paul.loida@bayer.com](mailto:paul.loida@bayer.com)



**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, Aug. 16. Please join us!

**Livestreaming:** We are still looking for more folks to step forward to help with the livestreaming ministry. Livestreaming the mass is simple, and helps those who are in need of attending Mass remotely. We will soon have an upgraded system that will enhance the worship experience for both the in-church and remote church-goers. Questions? Contact Diane at (314) 941-4933 or [diane@stcronan.org](mailto:diane@stcronan.org)

**Ministries at St. Cronan:** The list of St. Cronan ministries can be found on our website <https://stcronan.org/community> The list includes contact persons for each ministry. If your group has any open meetings that you would like to publish, please have the details to Mary by noon on Wednesday for the bulletin, and to Diane by 9am Monday morning for Monday Notes. We will also add your meeting to the website calendar.



## St. John's Church Football Raffle is Back!

The raffle tickets are \$25 for a chance to win weekly prizes for 18 weeks. St. Cronan has had several big winners for the Baseball and Football Raffle in the past. You may purchase your tickets after the 10AM Mass beginning today. if you attend the 8am or 5pm Vigil, please see Diane or Fr. Jack for a ticket starting next week. You can also purchase tickets from the Parish Office 9-3pm weekdays or by calling 314-289-9384. If writing a check, please make it out to ST. JOHN CHURCH (not St. Cronan). Thank you for your support!