

Pastoral Reflection
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 30, 2023

Father Jack in his reflection and homily last Sunday provided key information about the interpretation of parables. Jesus uses this form, which is familiar to his listeners, to express a moral or spiritual lesson. Usually he adds a piece to the story that challenges his listeners or leaves them uneasy, even angry.

The Gospel this week follows the pattern from the readings last week – two short parables and a third one that is interpreted. Last week the images used were good seeds growing among weeds, a mustard seed, and leaven. This week the examples are a treasure buried in a field, a pearl of great price, and a net of fish.

The treasure and pearl stories seem straight forward. The kingdom of heaven requires a complete commitment. When one finds this treasure or pearl of great price, the response is to do whatever is necessary to get it.

But wait – the man finding the treasure is a day laborer. It is not his field. What do the law and customs of the time say about ownership and disclosure of this find to his boss? “Finders/keepers” is not viable in a small-community world. How can he use the wealth? People would question how he got it, how he deceived the owner. The man had great joy, but he needed to keep this to himself.

The merchant, a member of the upper class, searched for the pearl of great price. He had great joy in finding it and sold all to obtain it. Listeners at the time – and probably our question too – would

wonder how he could live with all his wealth in the pearl. He would need to sell it for daily living expenses and continuation of his business.

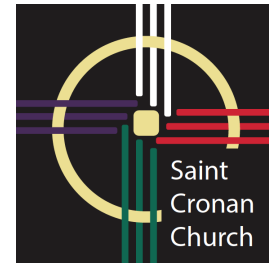
Both of these “finders” also failed to do what was expected. Many similar stories exist in the wisdom tradition of the Jewish people and in other writings of the early centuries of the Common Era. These stories described the finders of wealth as sharing it with others – the poor, the rabbis, the church. For Jesus’ listeners this would have been a shocking omission. How could Jesus use these examples as metaphors for the kingdom of God?

The net with the fish is similar to the wheat and weeds from the Gospel last week. Not everyone will be perfect, or even righteous, now. At the end of the age, messengers of God will separate the wicked from the righteous. What is required now is patience and recognition that God loves everyone, indeed all of creation. Our role is not to decide who is worthy and who is not. God can and will handle that.

So what do we learn about the “kingdom of God” in these parables? Some possibilities: it is not for safekeeping; we are called to share it; some less than desirable characters can image it – metaphor describes similarities and dissimilarities; we can’t box it in or control it – the kingdom of God will often surprise us.

What other “wisdom” can you find in these parables?

—Lynne Schmidt, SSND



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17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
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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.

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, August 18. Please join us!

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

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, and newborn baby, Giovanni Christopher Centerino; Judy Gallagher; Mary Truetkin; Marie and Roland Martir's daughter, Carrie, and granddaughter, Madi; John Gozdziwski; Michael Mason, former SVPD 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; Tom Farace, Brother-in-law of Mary and Dave Solomon; Theresa Jones: sister of Dave Solomon and Gary Johnson, brother-in-law to Madonna and Tom Kuciejczyk-Kernan and Sr. Janet Kuciejczyk and Janice Fairless.



City Greens: The Parish Council is grateful to bring a handful of fundraising opportunities before the full parish over the next couple months -- beginning with the opportunity to support City Greens Market, our neighbor on Manchester! Many at St. Cronan are familiar with the story, but City Greens Market was originally founded by the Midtown Mamas in our parish hall basement. the month of July, there will be a basket with envelopes for donations and with information and coupons for City Greens in the Church vestibule. For more info on City Greens Market, and what they do, please visit <https://www.stlcitygreens.org>

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.*



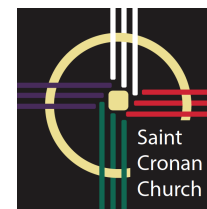
Please help Welcome our newest member:

Lindsey Myers



Cronan Talk has a new feature...you can opt into receiving what they call a "Daily Digest". The Daily Digest is one email per day with any and all Cronan Talk messages in one email. If you wish to opt into this or have any questions, please let me know. Otherwise, you will remain receiving each email as it goes out. If you are not on Cronan Talk you could be missing important Cronan News. Contact the church office to be added to Cronan Talk.

The yearly Administrator's Wish List ...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 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.***



New Website: If you haven't been on our website lately, please check it out. We have a new website, same address, www.stcronan.org. Many thanks to Mary and the Website Committee for the great job! Remember, you can access the Community's online directory through the website, and you can make online donations, in addition to keeping up with what is happening! If you need the password for the directory, please contact Mary - mary@stcronan.org or Diane - diane@stcronan.org. Access to the online directory is on the bottom of the HOME page of the website, and each subsequent page. We would love to include/update your photo in the directory, so please send Mary your photo in a jpeg. Or png. format for inclusion in the directory. We are still in the editing stage of the site, so if you see any errors, please let Mary

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

Bulletin Deadline: Wed 12 noon



Today, we welcome Elliot Rene Gaillardetz into the Church by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Elliot's parents are David and Loren Gaillardetz and his Godparents are Teresa and Dan Sullivan.