

A reflection for the 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time August 17, 2025

I Have Come to Set the Earth on Fire

"I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!"

With this inflammatory opening to our Gospel today, Jesus sets the scene and shocks us awake. It seems to contradict much of what we know about Jesus and his ministry. And yet it can't, so how are we to make sense of this?

Often when we think of fire we think of its capacity for destruction, consuming all in its path; and yet, I believe it is fire's capacity for deconstructing, purifying, and transforming anew that Jesus is calling upon here. Yes, the world as it is will be torn down, but in the ashes something new will arise. This evokes something of a "baptism by fire" that Jesus alludes to, for himself as well.

"There is a baptism with which I must be baptized."

Again here we have purification and transformation language. Jesus is referencing his own inevitable death and subsequent resurrection. And so, as with Jesus, the paschal mystery will arrive and play out in all of our own lives as well. Transformation requires death, loss, destruction.

"Do you think that I have come to establish peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division."

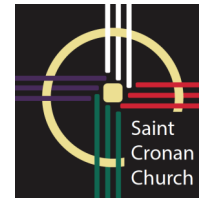
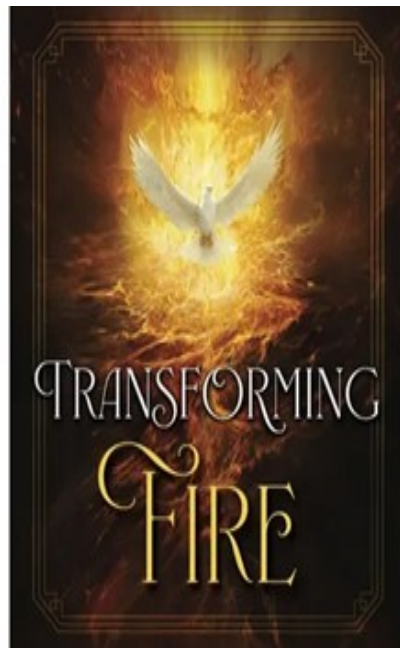
Another confounding statement from Jesus here. In response to his rhetorical question, my gut instinct is to say "yes!"

And yet Jesus said to his disciples before his journey to the cross: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you."

What kind of peace can we infer that he is talking about here? What manner of division? I believe that Jesus is talking about the natural cost of pursuing this kind of revolutionary transformation.

Some will not like what they are being asked to give up; some will hold desperately to what they do not want to lose. But do not let this division, this turmoil, this upheaval deter you from this pursuit, for it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

-David Gaillardetz



St. Cronan Catholic Church
August 17, 2025

20th 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



St. Cronan Travel Tumbler: Sport a 14 oz. travel tumbler in support of St. Cronan Church. Tumblers are made of stainless steel with a plastic interior and feature a push-on lid with a slide closure for easy sipping. These tumblers are available after Masses or in the Church office for \$20 each. A great way to share your love of St. Cronan as you move about town!

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.



ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS will begin on September 28. If you are interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about our faith, please contact Sr. Cathy, Johnny, or Diane—diane@stcronan.org



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 and her granddaughter, Danielle Oliveros; Trish Curtis' siblings, Skip, Teree, and Ray; Joe Fairless; Robert Barnicle; Judith Santamaria; Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan; Leslie Conway; 3 1/2 year old Juliette Braren and her family; Jane Sykes; Mary Proot's sister, Terry Jacks, and Mary's son, Tim Proot; Sr. Barb Schlatter; Ken Ladd; Fr. Gerry Kleba; Laura Krueger's mother, Evelyn Puleo; Mary Hastings.

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

Catholic Worker Donation Drive

We will be collecting donations for the Catholic Worker Community in St. Louis to support their outreach efforts. They shared some items that they could use to make burritos to share with those who are hungry on Tuesday evening and Saturday morning, as well as some important items to help folks in the summer heat.

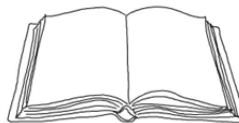


A handout/list of these items is on the table in the back of church. Please pick up one to take to the grocery store with you. Boxes are available in the vestibule in the back of church for donations. The last day of collecting items will be August 24th.

Reach out to Cathy Hartrich, jubilosa4547@gmail.com, or Olivia Walter, Owalter1010@gmail.com, with questions. Thank you!

Marianist Retreat and Conference Center is looking for a few friendly faces to help out with hospitality – think warm smiles, good vibes, and maybe a few donuts. Hours are usually 10am–2pm on random weekdays (sometimes 2 days a week, sometimes 3) – and occasionally a Sunday morning if you're feeling extra saintly. We offer competitive pay, a lovely work environment, and the chance to be part of something meaningful (or just have a reason to leave the house while the kids are at school – no judgment). Interested? Call Shannon at 636.938.5390 – she's friendly and knows all the details.

St. Cronan Social Justice Book Club meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month in the 1st floor conference room after the 10am mass from 11:30am-12:30pm. Our September 14th book is *The Fifth Risk* by Michael Lewis. Our October 12th book is *James* by Percival Everett.



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.

City Greens Gala: TWO Cronanites serve on the board of City Greens Market, the nonprofit grocery store in The Grove that started in our space: Mariah Byrne Sullivan and Heather Hageman. We'd love for you to join us at our biggest event of the year—Growing City Greens—on Wednesday, Sept. 3, 6-9pm at Wild Carrot in the Shaw neighborhood. Tickets are on sale now. It's a great night out with farm-fresh food, local drinks, fun entertainment, and it's a major fundraiser that powers our work all year long.

Can't make it to the event? You can still support City Greens Market by making a donation. Every gift—big or small—helps us grow food access, support local farmers, and build a stronger, more equitable food system in St. Louis. To purchase tickets or make a donation, please use the QR code or visit us online.



Church Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm
Phone: (314) 289-9384
1202 S. Boyle, St. Louis, MO 63110

Community Life Coordinator: Johnny Zokovitch
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Retired Priest in Residence: Fr. Jack Schuler
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Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdziński
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Church Administrator: Mary Ward
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Music Director: David Dickey
Dsdickey@earthlink.net

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

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.