

21st Sunday of Ordinary Time
August 23, 2026

Today's Gospel takes place at a very interesting locale i.e. Caesarea Philippi, which is about 25 miles north of the Sea of Galilee. It is one of the most prominent pieces of landscape in all Israel. The scene takes



place in front of this massive wall of rock. It is a sheer cliff wall over 100 feet high and 500 feet wide. On top of this wall, the city of Caesarea Philippi was built. There was a marble temple built in the city to honor Caesar, who believed he was a god (remind you of anyone else!?). Throughout the years, hundreds of people carved out niches to place statues of their favorite god (some of these niches are still visible today).

Now Matthew does not have Jesus enter the city because one can't see the cliff with the god-niches from inside the city. With this massive rock in the background, with a marble temple that honors an earthly emperor sitting atop it, and niches to pa-

gan gods carved in the wall, Matthew has Jesus ask the disciples:

"So who do people say I am?"

Matthew creates this dramatic scene to tell folks through Peter's words: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." And that is the purpose of Matthew's Gospel—that is to identify this man Jesus as the Son of God.

To put the icing on the cake Matthew has Jesus say:

"You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church."

It's a gigantic rock glorifying pagan gods and Peter will build a church that exposes all "false rock-niches" through the flow of the love of the living God.

So what kind of "niches" are in your ego-wall? May they be exposed and give way to "The Way" proclaimed by Peter.

—Fr. Jack

Church Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

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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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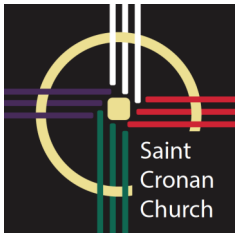
Church Administrator: Mary Ward

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Music Director: David Dickey

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Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon



St. Cronan Catholic Church

August 23, 2026

21st Sunday of Ordinary Time



Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 am. and 10 am.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5 pm.

Wednesdays – 8 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

Bulletin Deadline: Noon Tuesday



Make sure to "save-the-date" of August 30 and attend our first all-church assembly in 2 years! We'll gather together at noon that day to reflect, discuss and plan for how we as a community discern and make decisions together on the important issues facing us going forward. As the first assembly since we moved to a lay-led church in the wake of Fr. Jack's retirement in 2025, this will be an opportunity for us to shape together our identity, our mission, and the processes we need to live out those out to the fullest. *More information to come, but please make sure to get this on your calendar and make a special effort to join in!*

Special Collection Supporting Midtown on August 29/30:

We'll be doing a special second collection the weekend of August 29-30 in support of Midtown Community Services with whom we share our office building. Midtown recently had a large amount of their state funding cut and we're looking for ways to help them make up the difference. Please give as generously as you are able that weekend!



Sign up for the annual Creation Care Summit hosted by the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and hear from experts, advocates, and clergy committed to helping us better care for each other and our sacred Earth, including key-

note speaker Cronanite Heather Navarro. For more information or to register, call 314.472.3141 or go to LaudatoSiCommission@archstl.org.



Prayers Please: Nick and Shirley Ambrose and Family; Elisabeth Byrne's mom, Denise Siebold; Yvonne DeHart's daughter, Cathy Hebert; Nancy Buck's daughter, Jeanne Oberle; Trish Curtis' sibling, Skip; Joe Fairless; Judith Santamaria; Leslie Conway; Madonna and Tom's friend, 3-1/2 year old Juliette Braren; Jane Sykes; Mary Proot's sister, Terry Jacks, and Mary's son, Tim Proot; Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan; Ken Ladd; Fr. Gerry Kleba; Marie and Roland Martir's daughter, Carrie; J.T. Fowler; Grace Mueller; Joe Kuciejczyk, brother of Madonna and Janet, and brother-in-law of Tom; Maria, daughter of Marcy and Dominic Soda; Sr. Lynne Schmidt's nephew, Brian Ahr; Teresa Beard's son, Edward Burch; Ed Calcaterra, brother of Diane Calcaterra; Colleen Wallace's cousins, Katy and Dennis Rosolowski; Sandra Ward; Fr. Jerry Stookey's brother, Tom; Cecilia Kelly; Sr. Leah Holzum; Debbie Kowalski's father, David Cobb; Neil O'Hallaron, Doritt's husband; Irma Forbes; Sr. Janet Kuciejczyk; Lisa Masek, niece of Kathy Hunn.

Catholic Charities Update: Thank you, dear community, for your support to Britini and her family through our Catholic Charities House2Home program. Britini and her three children, who were displaced after the 2025 tornado, were able to get settled in their home with the help of our generosity: providing household essentials, family games, gift cards and more from the wish list. A note from Britini recently expressed she has "continued gratitude for all the items and is so grateful for all the support that she received." To learn more or to get involved with Catholic Charities, please contact Kelly Collins, at kelly.collins60@gmail.com. Thanks so much.



City Greens fundraiser on Sept. 22: Help City Greens continue to grow a community-powered food system by joining us on Tuesday, Sept. 22nd for our Growing City Greens fundraiser at the Contemporary Art Museum! Growing City Greens is a "green party," dress as fancy, fly, or fantastic as you like, but come in green. Find more info at <https://givebutter.com/growing-city-greens-26-3gfmqc>.

Cronanite Charlie Farrell is involved with "Counterpublic," a civic triennial exhibition based in St. Louis. Their new exhibit, Coyote Time, will feature nearly fifty new commissions and historical revisions from some of the world's leading artists at sites throughout St. Louis. The exhibition opens Sept. 12 and runs through Dec. 12. Find more information on their website at <https://counterpublic.org/>.



Fall Football Raffle to Support St. Cronan: 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. See a member of the fundraising committee after each Mass thru Aug. 30 to get your raffle ticket. You can also purchase a ticket from the church office during regular business hours. Thank you for your support of St. Cronan through buying a raffle ticket!



Volunteer opportunity! We are looking for a few good volunteers to help out with our once-a-month home delivery service to get much-needed food to our homebound clients. If you are interested in helping out on a regular basis (one time a month), please call our food pantry coordinator Mary Solomon at 314-494-5865. Thanks for considering this important ministry!

Support Abide in Love's work with immigrants: You will not want to miss this benefit concert for Abide in Love Ste. Genevieve! Two performances, benefit raffles, 50/50 and an online silent auction so you can support us even if you can't make the concert. The concert will be Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026 6-9pm at the Watertower Winery in Ste. Genevieve. Go to <https://www.abideinlovesg.org/> for tickets and info!

THANK YOU Wonderful Community! As always, thank you for your generosity in supporting our monthly distribution to our 25 immigrant families (over 100 individuals). We are able to support them in times of increasing needs, stress, and uncertainty. Below are items needed for September's distribution (on 9/5/2026):

- * Diapers - Sizes 5, 6 and 7
- * Feminine Hygiene (pads & tampons)

Items can be left in or near the tub in the back of church or at the Church office. And, as always, VOLUNTEERS are needed - see the link to the signup genius below. Gracias y Paz: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BAFAF23A0F49-57243020-immigrant>



Mum's the word! Keep an eye on the bulletin and weekly newsletter for more details for our Fall Mum Fundraiser taking place in September!



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 Indigenous communities.