

A reflection for the 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time August 31, 2025

The curators of the lectionary do us a great disservice when they slice up, skip and omit parts of the biblical story like they do with today's gospel. We get the first verse of Luke 14, but the context and causality is lost when the next 5 verses are dropped, leaving us a bit lost when we segue into Jesus telling a parable several verses later.

The first verse tantalizes: It's the sabbath—which any close reader of Luke immediately marks as an opportunity for controversy, for Jesus doing something that will unsettle and annoy folks. And he's at the home of a Pharisee leader, the very group of folks Jesus is often in conflict with. So the tension is heightened. And to top it all off, the people invited into the Pharisee's home are eyeing Jesus with suspicion and scrutiny. But then today's gospel skips the climax where Jesus heals a man with dropsy on the Sabbath (a big no-no) and challenges these "respectable people" who remain silent and non-committal despite his prodding.

What we lose in skipping over these verses (2-6) is how the people double-down on their ignorance and privilege in the rest of the passage. First the guests refuse to even engage Jesus's challenge to them in v.3: Is it lawful to cure—to do good on the Sabbath—or not? They blow it off and continue about their business.

What allows them to simply blow Jesus off is in fact their privilege and sense of entitlement. An ill man's healing doesn't puncture their self-involvement. Jesus's appeal to their religious sensibilities and their spiritual identity doesn't

jar them. There is no disruption at all. Their sense of privilege affords them the ability to ignore and pass over the crisis Jesus tries provokes in his actions and words. Their blasé entitlement immediately finds a new outlet, the jockeying to position themselves at places of privilege at the table.

So Jesus's provocation gets more pointed (as we hear in the rest of today's passage), reminding them that no matter how distinguished they may think themselves, there's always someone ready to dismiss them and put them in their place. Jesus turns to the host and chastises him for inviting "these" people—his "in" group of family and friends and those he wishes to impress (i.e. wealthy neighbors). Jesus—proving himself a terrible guest—has one final rudeness for his host and those gathered: You'd be better off surrounded by the poor, crippled, lame and blind, then these people.

—Johnny Zokovitch

Church 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 Gozdzialski

Diane@stcronan.org

Church Administrator: Mary Ward

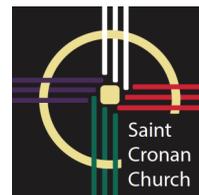
Mary@stcronan.org

Music Director: David Dickey

Dsdickey@earthlink.net

Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon

(314) 533-0651



St. Cronan Catholic Church
August 31, 2025

22nd 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!



**Please Come to the
Cronan Get-To-Know-You Potluck**

Sunday, September 21 after 10 am Mass—Hospitality Room
Get to know some parishioners you see but don't have a chance to talk with.

Here's how it will work:

Bring a dish to share if you can.* If not, come anyway.

Each person will draw a table number out of a hat** to sit at for lunch and another number for dessert.***

Name tags will be at each table along with conversation starters and some surprises. After lunch, everyone will switch to their second table number for dessert. Johnny Z. and Diane G. will give short comments about parish goings-on during dessert. If you can bring a dish, please email Maggie Hart-Mahon so she can plan food: ofccomp17@gmail.com



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, Denise Oberle and her granddaughter, Danielle Oliveros; Trish Curtis' siblings, Skip, Teree, and Ray; Joe Fairless; Sr. Cathy Doherty's friends, Lina Tackas and Tim; RobThereert Bar-nicle; 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; Sr. Barb Schlatter; Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan; Ken Ladd; Fr. Gerry Kleba; Laura Krueger's mom, Evelyn Puleo; Mary Hastings; Marie and Roland Mar-tir's granddaughter, Madi and their dear friend, Robert Screace, who has been placed on hospice; Michael Peterson, who has been placed on hospice; Steve Meyer, friend of Mary Ward.

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

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 Char-lene Zeni Connolly at 314-308-0056.



SUPPORT CHILDREN! This year, the archdiocese chose St. Cronan's to support the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) thru the Missionary Plan of Cooperation. MCA acts on behalf of the Holy Father to encourage children worldwide to aid their peers in 1,124 mission territories.

While children are the primary drivers of this missionary effort, we need your help! Your donation supports efforts in healthcare (including care for children with special needs); advocacy for former child soldiers, survivors of human trafficking, and others; and outreach.

Drop your donations in this weekend's 2nd collection (or in future collections with MCA noted in the memo) or give online at www.archstl.org/donatetothemissions (choose Missionary Childhood Association on the drop-down menu). Thank you!

City Greens Gala:

← *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.

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 Doherty, Johnny Zocovitch - johnny@stcronan.org, or Diane G. - diane@stcronan.org



Huntington's Disease Society of America Team Hope Walk

Please join the Hunn family at the Annual HDSA Team Hope Walk at Tilles Park on September 20, 2025. The link

below has all the info and we'd love to see you there. Registration 9 am, Walk 10 am, followed by lunch and Silent Auction. Adults \$30, children \$20. If you decide to register, please do so under Team Hunn. We hope to see you there! <https://missouri.hdsa.org/events/2025-team-hope-walk-st-louis-mo>

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.