

Pastoral Reflection
The Transfiguration of the Lord
August 6, 2023

There is a grotesque symmetry between today's readings for the Feast of the Transfiguration and what took place on this date in Hiroshima 78 years ago. Each reading conjures up light or fire and the gospel references how "a bright cloud casts a shadow over them." Today brings into glaring contrast a juxtaposition that is everywhere in the biblical story: it is the opposition of the power of God and the power of humankind, the contradiction of God's offer of liberation and humankind's penchant for destruction, the competing narratives of our faith and the world and what it means to embrace life or wield death.

The gospel passage is rife with images meant to invoke awe, and yet it is the two rather quiet, mundane utterances upon which our focus should fall. The first is the voice from the cloud, speaking to the disciples: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." It's a simple ask, nothing grand or extravagant about it. For those of us who would be followers of this Jesus, our discipleship begins with this simple injunction: "listen to him."

And yet much of the evidence given by Jesus' so-called followers seems to suggest a failure to do even this. Our mangling of Jesus' message to suit our own opinions and beliefs—political, cultural, economic, and otherwise—shows that Christians everywhere seem to not have listened to Jesus at all: not about the corrosive effects of money; not about seeing Jesus' presence in the impoverished, sick, forgotten, marginalized; not about the temptations of worldly power and status; not about living lives that critique the culture in which we live while bearing witness to an alternate reality of love, justice, peace, nonvi-

olence and solidarity that Jesus called the reign of God.

Hiroshima echoes as the booming assertion of how we have failed to listen to Jesus, where our worship of worldly power leads and the twisted logic that enables then justifies the killing of hundreds of thousands in fire and blinding light in an instant.

The second utterance is from Jesus himself to the disciples as they cast their faces to the ground, frozen in fear at the voice that has challenged them to "listen to him." Jesus' response: "Rise, and do not be afraid."

Even now, in the midst of decisions that have led us to the brink of self-annihilation, consumed by a fear that propels us to open wide our hearts to the false promises of peace and safety through the threat of violence and the strength of our weapons, Jesus reaches out. He pulls us up from our knees and offers us a way forward through our fear. The way is there if we but listen to him.

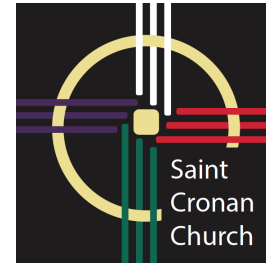
~ Johnny Zokovitch

Parish Center Offices

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Bulletin Deadline: Wed 12 noon



St. Cronan Catholic Church
The Transfiguration of the Lord
August 6, 2023

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 YOUR DONATIONS 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!

We have met our challenge goal!



Thanks to all who participated in the Annual Catholic Appeal.

We have also met our goal for new pledges!



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; 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 SVDP 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; 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; Gary Johnson, brother-in-law to Madonna and Tom Kuciejczyk-Kernan and Sr. Janet Kuciejczyk; and Janice Fairless.

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.*

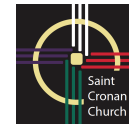


Cronan Talk has a new feature...you can opt into receiving what they call a "Daily Digest". The Daily Digest is one email per day with any and all Cronan Talk messages in one email. If you wish to opt into this or have any questions, please let me know. Otherwise, you will remain receiving each email 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.

Thank you! With much gratitude, We wish to honor Carolyn Coyne, Mike Forst, Michelle Frank, Phil Heagney, Shelly Kurtz, Anna Mae Moser, Fr. Jack and Donna Zuroweste for their gargantuan efforts in heat and dust to help Marry and Diane clean out the upstairs storage area, assemble the new shelves, and take the surplus to charity or the dumpsters. We can actually walk into the room and everything is organized! Thank you also to Sr. Cathy Doherty, Fr. Jack Schuler and Ward on Wine for donating the new shelves via the Administrator's Wish List!



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 know.*

July 2023 contributions	
General Fund	\$15,938
Building Repair Fund	\$150.00
Peter's Pence	\$120.00
Capital Camp/Maintenance	\$570.00
Food Pantry	\$1200.00
Wish List	\$1755.00
Nina Knighten Fund	\$250.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$380.00
Uganda	\$55.00

August Ministry of the Month: The Contemplative Prayer Group We meet as a zoom group, we begin by briefly catching up socially as friends. We bring to the group intentions that we want to hold in our hearts as we pray, and then we do two quiet sitting prayer periods, sharing a little with each other when we finish each one. We did some instruction when we first began, and now each of us does the silent, meditative prayer in whatever way he or she prefers. Anyone is welcome to join us in this peaceful gathering simply by letting co-leaders Sister Chabanel or Loren Nash Barnes know to include you in the sending of the zoom link for the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 7:30 to 8:30 P.M. Few of us manage to attend every group, but we look forward to being there when we can, and we have met faithfully since COVID first brought us together almost three years ago.