

**Pastoral Reflection**  
**Exaltation of the Cross**  
**September 14, 2025**

As a convert, I must admit that I've not always had an appreciation for John 3:16. When I encountered this verse in my life prior to becoming Catholic, it was primarily in awkward and ill-conceived evangelization attempts.

Even after becoming Catholic, the many instances in which I encountered this verse seemed to heavily imply an overly simplistic ransom narrative of salvation. The thought of our supposedly loving and omnipotent God needing to "buy" humanity back from the Devil in such a gruesome way left me ill at ease.

Over the years, my response to this verse has softened. On this Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, I'm able to approach this verse with a little more reverence, and in-so-doing to also hold the ransom theory of salvation a little more lightly.

Christ's ransom, as is true of most great religious concepts, is a rich metaphor—for indeed a great price was paid on the Cross. This metaphor functions alongside various other facets of Salvation to paint a fuller picture of the human condition in relation to Christ.

As theologian Jeremy Wilkins once wrote me, "Our redemption is had only on a condition, or conditions, which begin with the Cross Christ freely accepted out of love for us, and includes the crosses we freely accept out of love for Him. So we can think of the Cross—His and ours—as an expression of sorrow for sin, but that's not all. We can think of it as a sacrifice of obedience to God's mysterious will, but that's not all."

Each understanding of the mystery of salvation that we find at the foot of the Cross is part of, but not *all* of, God's gratuitous love for us. But today's Gospel reminds us of the heart of each of these unfurling understandings—for God so loved the world.

—Loren Gaillardetz

**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 Gozdziwski**

Diane@stcronan.org

**Church Administrator: Mary Ward**

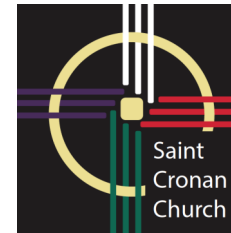
Mary@stcronan.org

**Music Director: David Dickey**

Dsdickey@earthlink.net

**Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon**

(314) 533-0651



**St. Cronan Catholic Church**  
**September 14, 2025**  
**Exaltation of the Holy Cross**



**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**



**Mums the Word!** Our Fall Fundraiser is upon us....get your fall mums at St. Cronan's and beautify your home for Autumn. Each 9" pot is only \$15 and proceeds will support St. Cronan. You can purchase your mums after each Mass until September 21 or order them online at

<https://fall-mum-sale.square.site/>. Delivery will be after each Mass the weekend of Sept. 27/28. Thank you for your support!

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

Sunday, September 21st after 10 am Mass  
in the 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 at [ofccomp17@gmail.com](mailto:ofccomp17@gmail.com) so she can plan accordingly! Thanks!





**Prayers Please: 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, Terree, and Ray; Joe Fairless; Sr. Cathy Doherty's friends, Lina Tackas and Tim; Rob Barnicle, who has been placed on hospice; 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 Martir's granddaughter, Madi and their dear friend, Robert Screace, who has been placed on hospice

*If you would like your loved one or yourself to be placed on the list, please call the office at (314) 289-9384, or email [Mary@stcronan.org](mailto: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 Charlene Zeni Connolly at 314-308-0056.



**From your Welcome/Hospitality Committee:** A big thank you to ALL of us who are welcoming newcomers to masses; Mary Ward who keeps us churning with packets, cards, name tags, and registering new members; the greeters Elisabeth Byrne, Tricia Goldman, Sr. Janet, Judy Varias, and Erin O'Connell who each take Sundays (15 minute commitment) at the 10 am mass. Consider joining in our charism, a big part of our welcoming mission at St. Cronan. We also offer the coffee and donuts on the 3rd Sunday and could use help. Contact Christine Lakey at 314-239-2204 with questions.

**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 at [johnny@stcronan.org](mailto:johnny@stcronan.org) or Diane at [diane@stcronan.org](mailto:diane@stcronan.org).

**REFLEJOS - EL PASO 9.16.2025 4:30-6:00 | CARDINAL RIGALI CENTER,** 20 ARCHBISHOP MAY DRIVE ST. LOUIS, MO 63119 Please join us for the Opening Reception of Reflejos-El Paso, an exhibit allowing you to experience the Solidarity at the Border Pilgrimage through the eyes of the travelers' photographs, poems, and reflections. Light refreshments will be served. No need to RSVP. MORE INFORMATION: 314.792.7062 [MARIEKENYON@ARCHSTL.ORG](mailto:MARIEKENYON@ARCHSTL.ORG)

## August 2025 Contributions Thank You!

General Fund	\$21,764
Building Repair Fund	\$550
Food Pantry	\$840
Fundraisers	\$1,785
St. Vincent de Paul	\$300
Uganda	\$195
Immigrant & Refugee Min.	\$65
Latin America	\$50
Mission Co-Op	\$274



### 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 is at 9 am, walk at 10 am, followed by lunch and a silent auction. Adults are \$30, children are \$20. If you decide to register, please do so under Team Hunn. We hope to see you there! See more at <https://missouri.hdsa.org/events/2025-team-hope-walk-st-louis-mo>.

**Black Lives Matter Vigil** takes place the third Friday of the month at the corner of Manchester and Kingshighway, 4:30-5:30 p.m. The next vigil will take place on Friday, September 19. Please join us!

### 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](http://stcronan.org).*

## MIDTOWN OPEN

### PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY, SEPT. 28, 2-5 PM  
PADEL + PICKLE, 1220 N. PRICE ROAD, OLIVETTE

**REGISTRATION:**

**\$75** PER DOUBLES TEAM

Beginner and experienced brackets.

Each player receives 2 free beverages and snacks from Fallon's Bar & Grill.

Limited spectator tickets available.

Proceeds benefit Midtown Community Services' Youth Empowerment and Family Pride healthy baby programs.

**SIGN UP AT:**  
[WWW.MIDTOWNSTL.ORG/MIDTOWNOPEN](http://WWW.MIDTOWNSTL.ORG/MIDTOWNOPEN)