

Pastoral Reflection
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 17, 2023

This week is National Migration Week for the Catholic Church. The USCCB has been sponsoring this week for 40 years. This celebration is linked to the Vatican's World Day of Migrants and Refugees. This year the Holy father has chosen the theme: "Free to Choose Whether to Migrate or Stay". This theme calls attention to the conviction that people have the right "not" to migrate and if a person migrates it should be by choice and not by necessity. Unfortunately forced migration is at an all-time high. The figures for 2021 have 83.3M million forcibly displaced as a result of natural disasters, persecution, violence, hunger, human rights violations etc.

Obviously our world is in a "world of hurt". Too many developed nations like the US have turned their backs to this international tragedy. We have an abundance of space and we have a desperate need for workers. Even one of our priests in the Archdiocese is being forced to return to his home country where he has to wait a year before seeking entry again. Our immigration laws are a muddled disgrace. And our Congress refuses to address the situation. To make matters worse the Republicans use migrants as political fodder. Instead of treating migrants and refugees and asylum seekers with respect, we house them in detention centers where they are treated like prisoners. I have been to two of the centers in El Paso, one for adults and one for children. I was horrified by the conditions. Even during Mass the officers were going up and down the rows counting the detained?! They are in colored correctional uniforms according to their "danger" to the US!? I was with children who were numb and in shock because they had no contact with their parents. I saw the ICE bus unloading

migrants from a detention center to one of the Catholic agencies that arranges for their movement to sponsors. They had only the clothes on their back, no belt, no shoestrings and in desperate need of a shower and most of a need for respect. At the center they are fed, given clothes and toiletries, a place to shower, a place to sleep, a place for children to play, assistance in contacting their sponsor, a ride to the bus station etc. This is the Catholic Church in action. Almost all of the workers are volunteer. "Yea God"!

St. Cronan frequently tries to assist our migrant sisters and brothers. And the Archdiocese has a Catholic Charities office called Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry (CLAM). They provide pro-bono legal help for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. But more is needed especially on the advocacy front. and CLAM never has enough money and lawyers. May St. Cronan continue to provide support and comfort to our migrant sisters and brothers. There should be room for all!

God bless,
Fr. Jack (he/him)

Parish Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm
Phone: (314) 289-9384

Pastor: Fr. Jack Schuler

jschuler@stcronan.org

Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdziński

diane@stcronan.org

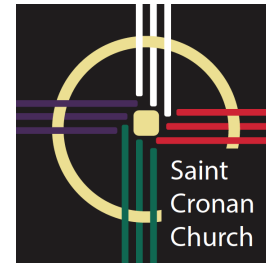
Pastoral Administrator: Mary Ward

mary@stcronan.org

Music Director: David Dickey

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

Bulletin Deadline: Wed 12 noon



St. Cronan Catholic Church
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 17, 2023

Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 am.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 pm.

Wednesdays – 8:00 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

Maui Wildfire Relief: Catholic Charities USA is supporting relief efforts for our brothers and sisters in Maui, Hawaii, who have been affected by the catastrophic wildfires. To help provide immediate and long-term aid to those recovering from this disaster, St. Cronan will be participating in this effort through a second collection at all Masses this weekend. Checks should be made out to St. Cronan, with "Maui" on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

The special collection donations will be directed to Catholic Charities USA, which partners with local Catholic Charities agencies that are serving the affected communities, providing for immediate needs like food, clothing, and shelter, as well as long-term case management services to help individuals and families navigate the difficult journey of getting their lives back in order.

Immigrant and Refugee Ministry "Welcome!" to Kevin Kuehl, IRM Coordinator, as he celebrates Mass with us at 10:00 Today. The Immigrant and Refugee Ministry is a collaborative of area Churches and Parishes who welcome immigrants to our area. St. Cronan is a member and Trish Curtis serves as our representative on the Board. As we begin the celebration of Migration Week, please consider how you might get involved to welcome our refugee and immigrant sisters and brothers. To find out more about the Immigrant & Refugee Ministry, contact IRM Coordinator Kevin Kuehl, 772-1525 ext. 204, MigrantMinistrySTL@gmail.com, or visit our office at St. Pius V Rectory.



Parish Ministries: If you would like to add your talents to any of our ministries, and meet a great bunch of people, please call the church office or visit our website www.stcronan.org for information. *You are always welcome!*



Prayers Please: Kathy Bayless; Trish Curtis' brother; David Gaillardetz' father, Richard; Nickand 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; 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; Janice Fairless; Leslie Conway; Mary Middendorf, Barry Buchek's friend, Alan Zagurski; Barry Buchek; Judy Varias; Else Hirzel; Dede Coughlin; and Fr. George. *If your loved one should be removed from the prayer list, please let the church office know.*

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers: Bishop Rivituso will be joining us at 10:00 Mass on September 24 for the Institution of Lectors and Acolytes (Eucharistic Ministers). This is a new Church celebration instituted by Pope Francis as a way to honor lay people who serve the Liturgy. If there is anyone who has been considering becoming a Lector and/or Eucharistic Minister, please contact Diane diane@stcronan.org to register. This includes new parishioners interested in these services. Thanks!



The Sisters of St. Joseph present: Uncorked!

Thurs., Oct. 5 from 6-8 p.m. Carondelet Motherhouse: 6400 Minnesota Ave., St. Louis, MO 63111
Join the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet for an evening of wine, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, live entertainment and Motherhouse tours! Tickets cost \$40.
Please register by September 28 online at csjsl.org/events or contact us at 314-678-0328.
FYI....Mary Ward will be there with Ward on Wine to share some delicious wine.

September Ministry of the Month: Our finance committee helps shepherd the financial health of the parish and serves in an advisory role to Father Jack. We meet quarterly to review the operating results, work with our parish administrator on meeting repair and capital improvement needs and provide a financial update to the parish. Our committee prepares a budget which we review as a committee and present to the parish council for their review and approval. Members of the committee are Dave Bolesta, Mike Forst, Bob Mahon, Phil Heagney, Dede Coughlin and Jim Tobin. Two members count the money from weekly collections and checks mailed to the parish, record the results, and make a deposit. We would welcome any questions, suggestions, or interest in getting involved in our work, including the weekly counting duty.

Tower Grove Pride will take place the weekend of September 23-24, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. This is an awesome opportunity to continue our LGBTQ+ ministry and show our support with open arms. St. Margaret of Scotland will be joining us this year, and we need volunteers to work our booth for both days. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule, or please click this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA2F9C52-stcronanst>
It's amazing how much the presence of the Catholic Church at Pridefest supports our LGBTQ+ siblings. It's also a great time to get to know people from St. Cronan and St. Margaret of Scotland, spending an hour or two with them in our booth. We especially need people to help with set up and take down on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

The St. Cronan Book Discussion Group meets via Zoom on Wed. Sept. 20, 2023 at 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Email Christine.Lakey@yahoo.com for the Zoom link. Our book this month is *Signal Fires* by Dani Shapiro.

Sock Angels: The Knights and Ladies Auxiliary of St. Peter Claver are holding their "Sock Angel" campaign during the month of September. Please purchase packages of socks for distribution to unhoused people and place them in the box in the vestibule. For further information click here: www.knightsofpeterclaver.org Look for the bin in the back of church!

Eucharistic Ministers As we institute Communion of the Most Precious Blood, we are in need of Eucharistic Ministers, especially at the 5:00 and 8:00 Masses. Please contact me if you would be willing to serve as Eucharistic Minister. Instructions and training are available.



Please help welcome our newest parishioners:
Lyndsey Myers
J. Michel Wendell
Les Wendell