

**Reflection**  
**September 22, 2024**  
**25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

“Bear!” “Bear!” I heard the shouting and went to the window to look outside. A black bear was plausible because they had been sighted in the nearby parks and neighborhoods the past few years. But no bear. Instead, the screams were coming from a neighbor whose small dog had gotten away from her when she took it to the park across the street. She was distraught. When she saw me, she yelled, “Where is God now? How can God let this happen? Tell your God to bring Bear back to me. Why did God let this happen? You have a lot to answer for! Your God let this happen! Oh, where is God?”

Obviously, this was not the time to talk theology. We tried to console her. A neighbor who has had many pets said her dog would find its way back home.

This recent incident came to mind when I reflected on the readings for today. The assumption that God will protect the just person, the one who is good, and punish those who are evil, who do evil, seems to be deeply embedded in us. Most of us learn early in life that suffering is a part of who we are. I am reminded of a book that was published many years ago – Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

Sometimes when we can't handle the prospect of suffering, we do what the disciples did. We distract ourselves with fruitless arguments about who is Number 1. We resort to jealousy and selfish ambition, to trying to satisfy our cravings, to hurting others. And we blame God, like Adam did in the Garden when he accused God, “the woman YOU gave me led me to eat the fruit.”

No easy answers to the question of why we suffer, even when we are just. We are disciples of The Just One who suffered weariness, grief and loss, misunderstanding, and finally a brutal passion and death. He too expressed feeling abandoned by God. The final victory: Resurrection. What a gift!

I am challenged by the view I have of God and the expectations I have. God is more than a gum ball machine – I put in my money, my request, and God delivers what I paid for. God is in relationship with us, with all of creation. That relationship requires trust, even, perhaps especially, in difficult times. Can I hold that relationship sacred even when I am not getting what I told God I want? Can I live in the trust that God cares for me even more than I care for myself? Who is God for me/for us? A serious question to ponder.

—Lynne Schmidt, SSND

*PS. Bear was found. A neighbor went to the park and brought him back.*

**Parish Center Offices**  
Mon-Fri 9am-3pm  
Phone: (314) 289-9384

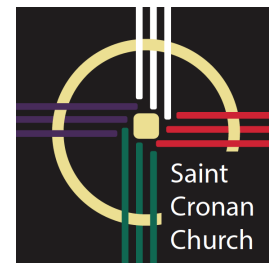
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**St. Cronan Catholic Church**  
**25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**September 22, 2024**

**Mass Information**

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 pm.

Wednesdays – 8:00 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

**Bulletin Deadline: Noon Wednesday**

**Issues and Inspirations will take place TODAY** after the 10:00 Mass in the Parish Center. The LGBTQ folks who have gathered are providing an opportunity for those of us who are and want to be allies to gain more information. There will be two speakers, Jordan Braxton and Rabbi Daniel Bogard, with time for questions and answers after each. Questions can be asked directly or submitted anonymously. Please join us!

**World Day for Migrants and Refugees.** On September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Archdiocese of St Louis Immigration Task Force and St Louis University are hosting a Solidarity Walk and Mass in honor of the **World Day for Migrants and Refugees**. The walk will begin at the Clocktower at St. Louis University at 1:00, followed by a Mass at the New Cathedral on Lindell at 2:30. Our Church has been celebrating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees since 1914, this will be the 110th celebration. There is no need to RSVP. Please just come and bring your family and friends to the walk and the celebration of the Mass with Bishop Rivituso. For more information, please see the flyer in the foyer of church.

**PrideFest takes place September 28-29.** We will need workers for the St. Cronan booth. The sign up sheet is posted in the foyer of Church.



**Parish Fall Festival** Let's get together to connect and celebrate at a parish pot luck on Sunday, October 6 after the 10 am Mass. We'll BBQ hamburgers, hot dogs and brats. Contributions of sides, salads and desserts would be most welcome. More info will follow--save the date!



**Prayers :** John Gozdziwski, Tom and Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan, Joseph Kuciejczyk (brother of Madonna and Sr. Janet), Nick and Shirley Ambrose, Kathy Hunn's niece Lisa and her brother Jon, Mary Truetken, Pam (cousin of Donna Zuroweste), Laura Krueger's mother, Evelyn Puleo, Marie and Roland Martir's grandson, Camden and daughter, Carrie; Sr. Pauline's niece; Laura Rettke, John Nauhm, Bob Barnicle, Sandra Ward's family and her friend; Anita, Sr. Mary Ellen (friend of Nick Ambrose), Jim Chapin (friend of Marty Spies), Bob Wiley, Pam Schaefer, Eileen Heidenheimer's friends, Joe and Laura; Diane Von Hof, friend of Joan and Trish Curtis; Brian and Susan Klinkhardt friends of Judith Santamaria; Andrew Moll's brother, Michael, Saralou Henderson, Kathy Bayless, Jesse Koenig; friend of Mary Solomon and former parishioner Sr. Louise Lears and her family, Fr. Gerry's young friend; Ben Zevely, Sheryl Renken's brother Dan Engelman, Colleen Wallace's cousin, Katy Rosolowski and friend, Kelsey MacBryde, Sheryl Renken's brother, Dan Engelman; former long-time member; Irene Meyer.

**Sr. Simone Campbell is coming to St. Louis on Sept 26.** You have the opportunity to hear her speak on **"The Call For Mercy & Justice In Our Polarized Society."** This important free event is sponsored by Seeds Of Justice Network, with support from the Incarnate Word Foundation, St. Joseph Academy and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.  
*Special note: While the event is free, note that making a donation with your registration qualifies you for a drawing for dinner with Sr. Simone on Wednesday, Sept. 25!*

**IHELP English Lessons for Immigrants and Refugees:** One of the most valuable and intangible things most newly arrived immigrants need is the ability to use English. IHELP trains adults to work one on one with immigrants to help them with the basic English skills they need to work, go shopping, chat with neighbors, communicate with their children's teachers, and so on. The training will take place Sunday, October 6 at 12:45 pm. Lunch will be available beforehand on the lower level of 1202 South Boyle Avenue, near Manchester. The program will take place on the premises. Please contact Trish Curtis at [trishquita1952@gmail.com](mailto:trishquita1952@gmail.com) for more information.

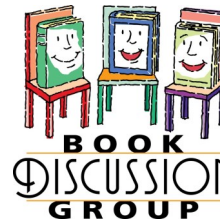


**Get out the Vote:** Members of the Social Justice Committee will have a table with voting information in various locations. If you would like to help, please contact Kim Madden, [kim.madden514@gmail.com](mailto:kim.madden514@gmail.com). A voting information sheet is in the Church foyer.

**Hope and Healing** Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski will preside at the Hope and Healing Prayer Service for survivors of physical, sexual, verbal and/or emotional abuse on Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 7pm, at St. Joseph Parish in Clayton. (106 N. Meramec Ave. Clayton, MO 63105) Survivors, family members, and friends are encouraged to attend, as well as those who help those who have been abused, work to prevent abuse, and want to pray for healing and reconciliation. For more information, please contact Ann Wier, Victim Assistance Coordinator, Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at [annwier@archstl.org](mailto:annwier@archstl.org) or 314.850.8318.

**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, October 18. Please join us!

**AC cost:** Last weekend we asked folks to consider donating to our AC fund. One of the air conditioners in church died! The replacement cost was over \$10,000. If you are in a position to add a little extra to your Sunday contribution it would be greatly appreciated. Each year we budget money for capital improvements, but this year we already had AC problems in the offices and we have a MAJOR erosion situation behind the playground. We will be contacting the Archdiocese because of the extent of this problem. As always your generosity is greatly appreciated. *Fr. Jack*



**St. Cronan's Social Justice Book Discussion Group** meets the 2nd Sunday of each month in the Parish Center at 11:30 - 12:30 in a hybrid format: Zoom and in-person. Our upcoming book choices are: October: Solito by Javier Zamora; November: Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann; December: The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride; January: The Whole Language by Greg Boyle. Contact Christine Lakey at [christine.lakey@yahoo.com](mailto:christine.lakey@yahoo.com) for the Zoom link or more information. We love new members/readers!

**St. Anthony Indoor Flea Market**  
3133 Meramec At Michigan  
Saturday, October 5, 2024  
8:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Disability Accessible - Concessions on site.

August 2024 Contributions. Thank You!	
General Fund	\$15,136.00
Building Repair Fund	\$105.00
Fundraisers	\$510.00
Food Pantry	\$1,292.00
Latin America	\$50.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$315.00
Uganda	\$55.00