

Pastoral Reflection
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 24, 2023

The laborers who are in the field all day grumble, "It's not fair! We worked longer and harder!" How many times have we said this in many situations, and how many times are we reminded – life isn't fair! In the parable today, the landowner never says he will be "fair", he says he will be just. So what's the difference? Think about parents, who love their children equally and unconditionally. Who do they love the best at any given moment? The one who needs it most. That doesn't mean they love their other children any less, it means that one of them just needs more attention and support at that time. As it was with the laborers. We don't know why there were still laborers in the square throughout the day. Where were they when the landowner came in the morning? Maybe they were dealing with a sick child or finishing up a job from the day before, or even sleeping in. We just know that, when the landowner does call for them, they go to work, and it's the landowner's prerogative to "pay you what is just".

In Isaiah we hear, "My ways are not your ways." God is telling us that God's sense of justice is not what our society calls just! In the United States, we are taught that we are entitled to a just wage, but is it just if a person can't earn enough to buy the basic needs for self and family? We just signed a petition urging an increase in the minimum wage, but who can really raise a family or even provide for self at \$15 an hour, unless they work several jobs? Many people in our world

were not given the privilege to get an education and enjoy a stable home as we were. Everyone starts their lives in different circumstances, most of which are not equal or, in our eyes, fair. However they start, and wherever we all end, we know that God's grace is with us. God's justice is mercy.

St. Cronan is a Social Justice church, and many of us work hard each day to accompany our less fortunate siblings. Obviously, some can do more than others, but that's ok in God's world. We help where we can, whether it's including others in prayer, providing financial and physical resources, are having the time to accompany others on their journeys. We all do our part. As the landowner says, "I will give you what is just." Each of us must be grateful for God's generosity in our lives, share it as we can with those less fortunate, and trust in God's great mercy.

Diane Gozdziwski
Pastoral Associate

Parish Center Offices

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

Pastor: Fr. Jack Schuler
jschuler@stcronan.org

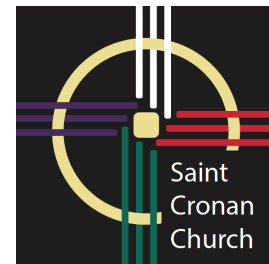
Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdziwski
diane@stcronan.org

Pastoral Administrator: Mary Ward
mary@stcronan.org

Music Director: David Dickey

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

Bulletin Deadline: Wed 12 noon



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25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
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Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 am.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 pm.

Wednesdays – 8:00 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

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.



Sock Angels: The Knights and Ladies Auxiliary of St. Peter Claver are holding their annual "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! You can also bring socks to the church office.

Children's Book Collection: If you have any new or used books in good condition suitable for 5-10 year olds, please bring them to church for Dewey Elementary School. Miss Shannon, daughter of Glenn and Pat Eckert is creating a library in her classroom for children who do not have access to books. See the bin in back of church. You can also bring your book donations to the church office.





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 Gozdziński; 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.*

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.



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 csjstl.org/events or contact us at 314-678-0328.
FYI....Mary Ward will be there with Ward on Wine to share some delicious wine.

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!*

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.

Maui Wildfire Relief: If you have not yet made your donation to the Maui Wildfire relief, there is still time to do so. Envelopes are in the back of church. Please write "Maui Relief" on the memo line of your check.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Children or Adults (RCIC, RCIA). We'd love to have a new group to be welcomed into the Church during the Easter Vigil. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact Diane, diane@stcronan.org, or Fr. Jack, jschuler@stcronan.org

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, October 20. Please join us!

Midtown Community Services news: The Midtown Lip-Sync Battle will take place Friday, Oct. 13, 7-9 p.m. at the Schlafly Tap Room, 2100 Locust. For more information, visit <https://www.midtownstl.org/>



Giveback Tuesday: If you enjoy eating pizza and helping out Midtown, you can do both on Tuesday, Sept. 24 at Katie's Pizza in Rock Hill. Simply mention that you are there for Midtown Community Services when ordering. 100% of the proceeds go to Midtown. 11am-10pm. 9568 Manchester Rd Rock Hill, MO 63119