

Pastoral Reflection
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 3, 2023

“This is so goddam boring, I can’t stand it.” For a brief second I considered whether to tell her we don’t use God’s name like that in my classroom or to listen to what she had to say. This was my second year of teaching, third week. I had been sent to California to teach freshmen about the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). I learned their reading scores were quite low, so I decided we could act out the various events and consider ways of responding to the situations. I thought that was a creative endeavor.

I responded to the young woman, “What do you mean?” She said, “All women get to do is have babies or not have them.” She had a point about the early history of the Jewish people we were studying.

In further study I learned about Miriam (Moses’ sister), Huldah, Vashti, Esther, Hagar, Jael, Deborah, Judith, and Tamar, who are a few of the key women figures in the Jewish tradition. Often God called them to save Israel in desperate times. In the Christian Scriptures a few of the notable women are Phoebe, Junia, Thecla, Mary Magdalen (not a prostitute nor the sinful woman who washed Jesus’ feet), Lydia, Prisca, Tryphosa, Tryphaena, and Persis. These women had significant roles in supporting the nascent Christian community.

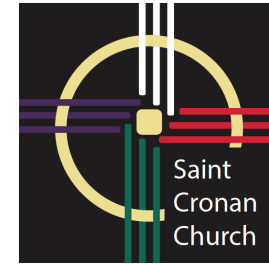
In the first centuries the Christian community met in homes, often the homes of influential women who had sufficient space for the community to gather. While some women engaged in the itinerant preaching ministry sharing the Good News and calling people to follow the Risen Jesus, others provided leadership in the

early ecclesial communities.

A prominent member of this group was Phoebe who lived in Cenchræa, a town near Corinth. Paul asks her to deliver his letter to the small Christian community in Rome. In his letter he identifies her as *our sister, a deacon, and a patron*. *Our sister* indicates she is a Christian, one sharing the faith in dangerous times, and a co-worker with Paul. *A deacon of the church at Cenchræa* identifies her as the minister-leader in that church. The word *diakonos* in this passage is the same one used when men are so designated. This role included caring for the needs of the community and its outreach to the poor and marginalized, preaching, and teaching. *A patron* is also highly significant because they lived in a patronage society, one in which it mattered greatly whom you knew. This status came through connections, finance, and lineage. Phoebe and other patrons provided political and financial means that enabled the church to grow in that society.

September 3 is her feast day, a commemoration in the Catholic tradition. She is acknowledged in the Eastern tradition and in the Lutheran tradition with greater recognition. Today we celebrate her especially in her role as a deacon and a woman of great faith, generosity, and courage. The synod results throughout the world called for greater recognition of women in the church. Phoebe is one of many women we can honor for the roles they have had and who call us to take of the challenge of leadership in the church and society.

—Lynne Schmidt, SSND



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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.



Football Raffle: St. Cronan is once again participating in the Football Raffle with St. John’s Church. The raffle tickets are \$25 for a chance to win weekly prizes for 18 weeks. St. Cronan has had several big winners for the Baseball and Football Raffle in the past. You may purchase your tickets after the 10AM Mass on the next Sunday (September 3rd) if you attend the 8am or 5pm Vigil, please see Diane or Fr. Jack for a ticket. You can also purchase tickets from the Parish Office 9-3pm weekdays or by calling 314-289-9384. The deadline to purchase your raffle ticket is Sunday, Sept. 3. If writing a check, please make it out to **ST. JOHN CHURCH (not St. Cronan)**. Thank you for your support!

St. Phoebe’s Feast Day Celebration: St. Phoebe, the first female deacon of the early Church under St. Paul, inspires today’s Church Leadership to reconsider the role of women in the Church as part of the Synod on Synodality, which will take place in Rome in October. Discerning Women Deacons have been meeting faithfully during the Synod process and have presented their listening sessions report to Pope Francis. In the synodal report from the listening sessions, “Enlarging the Space of Your Tent,” six paragraphs are devoted to re-thinking the role of women’s participation in the Church, noting that women’s full participation in the life of the Church emerged as a critical and urgent concern all over the world. It has become a priority for the next stage of the Synod. St. Cronan will be celebrating the Feast of St. Phoebe before Mass, a universal intercession praying for the Holy Spirit to intercede at the Synod, and prayer cards to St. Phoebe. You will also notice women playing predominant roles in the ministries at the Liturgies here at St. Cronan. St. Phoebe’s feast day is September 3.



Church Office Closed Monday: The church office will be closed on Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day.



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; 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, and Else Hirzel, who had a stroke last Wednesday. *If your loved one should be removed from the prayer list, please let the church office know.*

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers: Bishop Revituso 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. We had a training session on August 13. If you missed that, we are repeating the training session on September 2 after the 5:00 Mass and September 3 after the 10:00 Mass. The training is mainly to review what will happen at the Institution ceremony, but also to review protocols. 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!

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, Sept. 15. Please join us!

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: Kathy Hunn

(314) 533-0651
kathyfoodpantry@gmail.com

Bulletin Deadline: Wed 12 noon

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.



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.



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.

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!*