

**Pastoral Reflection**  
**Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Feast of St. Teresa of Calcutta**  
**September 7, 2025**

Jesus's teachings today are challenging for me. I sing out, "I want to be holy just like you." And I don't want to be estranged from my family. His teaching would have shocked his listeners. They lived in an honor/shame society where family was primary. Their whole lives revolved around family and bringing honor to your family was most important.

Scripture scholars say that "hate" is a mis-translation. "To prefer" more accurately communicates Jesus's intent. The New Testament scholar Gerhard Lohfink writes, "(Jesus) demands of his listeners an ultimate decision for the reign of God, and that necessarily leads to divisions: in fact, it causes divisions that tend into the most intimate social relationships, into the house, the community of the extended family."

Tony DeMello SJ attributes this conflict to false perceptions. We have been taught by our families and by our culture to value a "nightmare," specifically our belief that in order to be happy, we and our family have to be esteemed. Jesus is awakening people to the truth that we must not allow such attachment to take the place of what is truly most sacred: our relationship with God, & compassionate love for all God's people.

St. Teeresa of Calcutta lived this truth. The Gospel chosen for her feast is the blueprint for living compassionately, the blueprint for discipleship. She did this in a society with a caste system where some people are considered more valuable than others. Fr.

Jack preached on this Matthew 25 gospel recently. When I was hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, in prison, sick you gave me what I needed. The tent is expanded. Isaiah shows the same path of care emphasizing that this is justice rather than charity.

Jesus is calling us to be courageous now. Acting for God's Reign puts us in conflict with this administration and those who support them, perhaps even family. This administration violently rejects the poor & marginalized through unjust laws & funding cuts increasing the suffering, collapsing the tent. We are called to hold up the tent. We are not alone. Isaiah reminds us that God guides us, strengthens us. St. Teresa reminds us that we do not need to do great things, but small things with great love. Then with God, "our light will break forth like the dawn," being a beacon of God's healing light and love in these dark times.

*-Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan*

**Church Center Offices**

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

Phone: (314) 289-9384

1202 S. Boyle, St. Louis, MO 63110

**Community Life Coordinator: Johnny Zokovitch**

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**Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdzialski**

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**Church Administrator: Mary Ward**

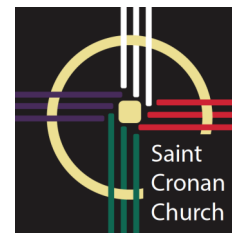
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**Music Director: David Dickey**

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**Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon**

(314) 533-0651



**St. Cronan Catholic Church**  
**September 7, 2025**

**23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
**Feast of St. Teresa of Calcutta**



**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**

**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 so she can plan accordingly! Thanks!



**Potluck**

**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!





**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, Teree, and Ray; Joe Fairless; Sr. Cathy Doherty's friends, Lina Tackas and Tim; Rob Barnicle, who has been placed in 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 in hospice; Steve Meyer, friend of Mary Ward; Judy Varias.

Michael Peterson passed away on Tuesday. Please keep him, Kathleen, and their family in your prayers. A memorial Mass will take place in a few weeks. Details to follow.

*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.

**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).



#### **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!



signs or adorn your car with messages supportive of our immigrant community, and more!

#### **Creation Care Summit: Planting Seeds of Peace & Hope:**

Join us as we learn together from Catholic social teaching about hearing "both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" by planting seeds of peace and hope for creation (cf. Isaiah 32:16-18). At this annual Creation Care Summit hosted by the Archdiocese of St. Louis, we will hear from experts, advocates, students and clergy committed to helping us better care for each other and our sacred Earth. The event takes place on **Saturday, Sept. 13 from 9am-12:30pm** at the Cardinal Rigali Center, Fleur De Lis Room, 20 Archbishop May Drive, St. Louis, MO 63119 Register for this event at [bit.ly/2025CreationSummit](https://bit.ly/2025CreationSummit).



**Midtown Community Services:** Midtown is holding their Fall festival October 17, 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Bring the family to enjoy a pumpkin walk, bounce house, food and drinks, trick or treating and more in the church center parking lot.

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