

Pastoral Reflection
23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
September 8, 2024

Besides being the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 8th is also the Feast of the Birth of Mary. I would like to share with you a recent meditation on Mother Father God for Julian of Norwich from R. Rohr's column..

—Fr. Jack

This beautiful word “mother” is so sweet and kind in itself that it cannot be attributed to anyone but God.

—Julian of Norwich,
Revelations 60, trans. Mirabai Starr
Richard Rohr praises Julian's mystical insight that allowed her to name God “Mother.”

With these words, Julian offers us an amazing and foundational statement. She is not saying that the most beloved attributes of motherhood can analogously be applied to God, although I am sure she would agree they could. She is saying much more—that the very word *mother* is so definitive and “beautiful” in most people’s experience (not everybody’s, I must add) that it evokes, at its best, what we mean by God. This is *not* what most of the world’s religions have taught or believed up to now—except for the mystics. Among these, Julian of Norwich stands as pivotal.

The concept and human experience of mother is so primal, so big, deep, universal, and wide that to apply it only to our own mothers is far too small a container. It can

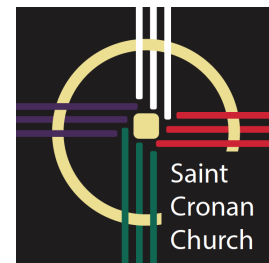
only be applied to God. This is revolutionary! Mother is, for Julian, the best descriptor for God Herself! I use this to illustrate the courageous, original, and yet fully orthodox character of Julian’s teaching.

Father Richard considers the archetypal human need for maternal care:

Julian helps me finally understand one major aspect of my own Catholic culture: why in heaven’s name, for centuries, did both the Eastern and Western Churches attribute so many beautiful and beloved places, shrines, hills, cathedrals, and works of religious art in the Middle East and Europe, not usually to Jesus, or even to God, but to some iteration of Mother Mary? I’ve always thought it was scripturally weak but psychologically brilliant. Many people in Julian’s time didn’t have access to scripture—in fact, most couldn’t read at all. They interpreted at the level of archetype and symbol. The “word” or logos was quite good, but a feminine image for God was even better.

This seemed to later *sola scriptura* (by scripture alone) traditions like a huge aberration or even outright heresy. Yet that is how much the soul needed a Mother Savior and a God Nurturer! In a profoundly patriarchal, hierarchical, judgmental, exclusionary, imperial, and warlike period of history and Christianity, I believe it was probably necessary and salutary.

God is, in essence, like a good mother—so compassionate that there was no need to compete with a Father God—as we see in Julian’s always balanced teachings.



St. Cronan Catholic Church
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 8, 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.

Mum Sale! Purchase beautiful Mums for your Fall décor and proceeds go to St. Cronan and St. Cronan programming.



All Mums are in 9 inch pots. \$15 each. Choose from yellow, red, orange or white. Pick up will be after all masses on Sat. Sept. 21 and 22. Order online here: <https://fall-mum-sale.square.site/>, use the QR code or order after masses through Thursday Sept. 12 by noon. You can also order through the church office by calling 314-289-9384 or emailing Mary at mary@stcronan.org.



World Day for Migrants and Refugees. On September 29th, 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. Our Church has been celebrating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees since 1914, this will be the 110th celebration. As Catholics, it is important to stand in solidarity with our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters and we believe this event will be a public way to show our support. 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.

PrideFest takes place September 28-29. We will need workers for the St. Cronan booth. More information and sign-up sheet will be available soon.

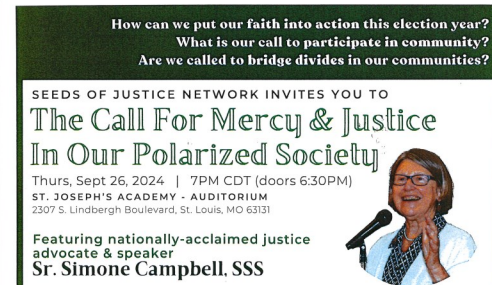
Black Lives Matter Vigil, takes place the third Friday of the Month at the corner of Manchester and Kingshighway, 4:30-5:30 p.m. The next vigil will take place on Friday, Sept. 20. Please join us!



Prayers : John Gozdziński, 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, Shelly Kurtz's Great Nephew, Scott Barricklow; Fr. Gerry's young friend; Ben Zevely, Sheryl Renken's brother Dan Engelman, Colleen Wallace's cousin, Katy Rosolowski and friend, Kelsey MacBryde.

Creation Care Summit: Gratitude, Hope and Action Join us as we learn together from our Catholic social teaching about hearing "both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." At this inaugural Creation Care Summit hosted by the Archdiocese of St. Louis, we will hear from local experts, advocates, students and clergy committed to helping us better care for each other and our Common Home. For more info contact James Fowlkes-Comminellis at 314-792-7177 or jamescomminellis@archstl.org
WHEN: Saturday, September 21 @ 9am - 12pm WHERE: St. Louis University High School, 4970 Oakland Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110 RSVP: bit.ly/LSCSummit or call 314-792-7177

Sr. Simone Campbell is coming to St. Louis on Sept 26. Sr. Simone Campbell, SSS, is the former Executive Director of NETWORK, one of the founders of "Nuns On The Bus," and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. She is currently involved in "Understanding US," a nationwide initiative devoted to creating a space where varied voices of all walks, beliefs and interests can thoughtfully listen and productively share their perspectives.



You have the opportunity to hear her speak on "The Call For Mercy & Justice In Our Polarized Society," on Thursday, Sept. 26 at St. Joseph's Academy on S. Lindbergh. 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! Just go to bit.ly/PlantingSeeds1 to register now.

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. One of the key values of our Immigrant and Refugee Ministry is establishing genuine caring connections with our parishioners and the newly arrived. For those who have several hours a week to volunteer, a program called I HELP is a great solution. I HELP 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 for more information.

Get out the Vote: Members of the Social Justice Committee will have a table with voting information in front of City Greens on Manchester starting this week. If you would like to help, please contact Kim Madden, kim.madden514@gmail.com. A voting information sheet is in the Church foyer.

Attn All Men Bored on Saturday evenings, tired after working, just need a rest and want to spend some time with your friends? Then come to the New Men's Club. We can watch sports together, play cards, talk politics or just enjoy being there. First meeting? Saturday September 21, 2024, in the Parish Center hall lower level 6:30 till? Contact Nick Ambrose with any questions. Nambrsr1@gmail.com

STL Black History Tours are planned for the following dates: Sept. 21 and Oct. 19 To sign-up email the tour date, your name, email address, and phone number to Paul Loida at the email address below.

The group will meet at St Cronan Catholic Church at 9:45 AM and bus will return to St Cronan at 1 PM. There will be an optional brown bag lunch and discussion following, for those interested. For mor info contact Paul Loida. paul.loida@bayer.com



Surviving Divorce: On Tuesday, September 10, 6:30-7:30pm, the Northern Vicariate is hosting an informational session on Surviving Divorce, a program offered through the Catholic Renewal Center. It will be held at the Northern Vicariate Offices (6052 Waterman Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63112) for anyone who has been impacted by divorce and might be seeking healing or learning more. Please reach out to catholicrenewal@archstl.org or amybuehrle@archstl.org, Pastoral Ministry Coordinator, with questions.

Issues and Inspirations will take place Sunday, September 22 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!



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

Pastoral Administrator: Fr. Jack Schuler
jschuler@stcronan.org

Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdziński
diane@stcronan.org

Church Administrator: Mary Ward
mary@stcronan.org

Music Director: David Dickey
dsdickey@earthlink.net

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

Bulletin Deadline: WED 12 noon