

Pastoral Reflection
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 15, 2022

Last week end with a full church included Mother's Day, and since Father Jack really felt a call, rightfully, to focus his homily on Roe vs. Wade, I felt free to write a little reflection for this week end back on Mother's Day.

I remember asking my mother often which of us she loved the most, and every time she would diplomatically respond, "whoever needs it the most at the time." And she seemed to be very good at sorting that out at any given moment. As I look back on the challenge I was to her efforts to raise me, I wonder that either one of us survived the process, but somehow, both of us did, and God's grace was a powerful element in the mix between us. Without a doubt it was all held together by a generous measure of love on both sides. My mother died in my arms, and I have always believed that forgiving doesn't stop when someone dies. It continues to be given and to heal until we are reunited and all the struggles fall away into blessing. I hope the afterlife allows me some way to tell her how grateful I am for all the sacrifices she made for me, and I have begun to tell her that now.

Around Mothers' Day, I like to reflect on the many women who have been a significant influence in my life, the many "mothers" who helped raise me through one phase of it or another. There was the seventh grade science teacher whose sensitive comment at just the right moment changed my entire academic perspective and opened up the wonders of creation to me. There was the freshman speech teacher who inspired me with a love of speech and debate competition (I dare say no one is surprised about this!) that resulted in a four year college scholarship. There was the college professor who took me into her seminar and opened the world of reading and literature. There was the directress who helped God form an Ursuline sister from the clay of a college graduate who had never seen the inside of a Catholic school and had very little experience of Church. I didn't know my grandmothers, but I had some wonderful mentors who took their place for me over time, some of them among the members of my religious community on whose shoulders I now stand.

In today's readings we find the mandate to love as Jesus loves, and this may be a good day to think about those amazing women who have let us experience the way Jesus loves in our own lives, beginning with our moms and continuing through a significant list of gifted women God has provided for each of us. Who are these women in your life?

Sister Chabanel Mathison, O.S.U.



St. Cronan Catholic Church
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 14-15, 2022

Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesdays – 8:00 a.m.

Masks are suggested for all Masses

Live-streaming continues at the 10:00 am Mass. PLEASE BE ON TIME! Live-streamed masses are available on our Facebook page any time after the 10:00 Mass, <https://www.facebook.com/StCronan>

The Mass for Sunday, June 5 will be recorded and placed on our website: <https://www.stcronan.org/> If anyone is available to serve as lector on Thursday, June 2 at 9:30, please contact Diane G. diane@stcronan.org



ALL THINGS NEW

Our leadership team is awaiting the next meetings of the Archdiocese and will keep us posted on upcoming events as they are scheduled. If you would like further information, you can visit the Archdiocese's website <https://allthingsnew.archstl.org/> or call our office at 314-289-9384. You can also leave comments about the process at this website.



Coffee and Donuts is back! Please join us in the Hospitality Room in the Parish Center after the 10:00 Mass.

Retrouvaille-St. Louis weekend, August 19 – 21, 2022 - Healing Your Marriage--Retrouvaille (French for “Rediscovery”) is a 3-phase program designed to give you the tools to restore your marriage and rebuild a loving relationship. For more information or to register, call **314.453.0110** or visit website: www.HelpOurMarriage.org Fully Confidential and affordable. Space is limited with Covid-19 precautions. Register early. Questions: Tom & Kerry Marsh 314.753.2022

Mid-life Singles: Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at King’s House Retreat Center, Belleville, IL (20 min from downtown St. Louis), on June 3-5, 2022. Cost is \$215 including meals and a single room. Visit www.ReflectRetreat.com, e-mail reflect.stlouis@gmail.com, or call (314) 283-0044 for details.

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, May 20. Please join us!

MCU Dinner and Gala MCU is hosting our first gala “Dancing in the Streets!” Thursday, May 19, 2022 at the Polish Heritage Center. Doors open at 6pm, dinner is served at 6:30. At this gala, congregations, leaders, and supporters will get together for dinner, dancing, and music along with organizing to build power. Speakers will share their recent work with MCU and testimonies of their experiences with the issue campaigns. We would like to have a table representing St. Cronan. If you are interested in attending, please contact Diane diane@stcronan.org

More news from MCU: Does your congregation have a committee working on care of creation? The MCU Interfaith Environmental Justice Task Force meets on Tuesday, May 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m. This is a great way to multiply the impact that your congregation can have by partnering with others. Registration is at [THIS LINK](#).

Immigrant/Refugee aid: The following items are in need for new immigrants and refugees moving to our area. Kim Madden will have crates in Church and outside the office for your donations. She will take them to the Islamic Center after Mass on May 22.

Linens (sheets/bedding of all sizes - Twin, Full and Queen)

Towels - Bath, kitchen - new or lightly used

Blankets (all sizes) - lightly used is fine

Dry goods - rice, beans, lentils, flour, sugar, and cooking oil (veg., canola, olive); and packaged snacks for kids (preferably without added gelatin)

Red Cross Volunteers: The Red Cross is in need of volunteers in the St. Louis Area. Please see the flyer in the Chapel for more information.

Grand Slam Baseball Raffle. Similar to the Football Raffle, **for \$25 you have 9 chances to win for each of the 17 weeks.** That's a cost of only \$1.47 per week. **You don't need to know anything about Major League Baseball.** Nor do you need to watch the games or keep track of anything. **Each Grand Slam Baseball Card has a unique 3 letter/number code. The code identifies your ticket and allows you to identify the three teams you have for each of the 17 weeks.** If that sounds confusing, no worries, when you win you will be notified and checks are automatically sent to the address you printed on the card. Cards will be available to purchase after the Masses. As a reminder, we're doing the Grand Slam Baseball Raffle in conjunction with St. John's Church in Imperial. They administer the entire program and St. Cronan is paid for every card we sell. For further information, please contact Helen Heilich: hheilich31@yahoo.com

Donations for Ukraine: If you would like to help, please give to the Ukrainian Children’s Aid and Relief Effort, Inc. or UCARE, Inc., which is a charity serving the needy and orphaned children of Ukraine. If anyone wants to financially help the Ukrainian situation, please consider this charity. The website is www.ucareinc.org. Bob Hoffman has worked with this group for years..

Compassionate St. Louis: St. Cronan has become a member of this movement to help make our city a more compassionate place. You will be seeing their logo on our bulletins and signs. For further information, please visit their website: <https://www.compassionate-stl.org/about-us>

Day-Long Women’s Retreat: Mark your Calendars! Women's Day Long Retreat planned for Saturday, June 25, 2022. Tentative time from 8:30am to 4:30pm. In person and outdoors. Centrally located near Hampton and Hwy 44. Theme and details to follow. Donna Moromarco, Kim Madden, and Mary Middendorf are in the planning stages. Express your interest in attending by emailing mary.middendorf@gmail.com as soon as possible. Space is limited.

Erastus Brown Historical Marker Unveiling Ceremony There is a group in our area who have been working on memorializing lynchings that occurred in Missouri. The next remembrance will take place in Union, Missouri, on Saturday, July 9 at 11:00 a.m. and will honor Mr. Erastus Brown. Please see the flyer in the Chapel for further information.

Prayers Please: Laurel Hayes; Laurel Hayes' parents, Jerry and Nancy; Rose; Robert Nathe's Mother, Eileen; Colleen Wallace's godson, Lachlan; Michelle Frank; Jennifer Lyle and Krista Rakers; Jessica; Nick Ambrose; Al Sprehe; Phil Milner; Leslie Conway; Mike’s grandson, Jack; Jim Gorman; Andrew Viraugh’s father.; Sharon Orlet’s sister, Betty; Nancy Buck’s daughter, Jeanne; Kathy Bayless; Tom Kuciejczyk-Kernan’s brother, Steve; Barry Buchek’s wife, Mary; Trish Curtis’ mother and brother; Gavin Barrett-Hayes; Barb Sopp’s cousin, Patty Struckhoff; Marie and Roland Martir’s granddaughter, Madie, and great-grandson; David Gaillardetz’ father, Richard; Fr. Gerry’s classmate, Fr. Pat O’Laughlin; Nick and Shirley Ambrose’s daughter, Brigid Costello; Shelly Kurtz; Varrietta Anthony; Teresa Sullivan’s friend, Caroline Bucci; Kathy Stock’s niece, Jill.