

# Pastoral Reflection

## Second Sunday of Lent

The Gospel today features the Transfiguration of Jesus upon the mountaintop. It is illuminating to examine Peter's reactions to seeing Jesus transformed, as his response is not so different from our own when we are presented with moments in which we brush up against the Divine and find ourselves transformed.



One chapter earlier, Peter names Jesus as the Christ. In doing so, he demonstrates an intellectual understanding of what is unfolding. However, this mountaintop experience

in which Peter *sees* Jesus transfigured allows this understanding to sink down into a deeper, experiential level. So it often is with us—we start to understand something, but it is not yet in our bones.

Peter's first response to this extraordinary moment is to offer to build dwelling places for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. He is trying to *do* something with the experience, instead of dwelling in it and letting it unfold. He is trying to find a way to capture something that cannot be captured, to prolong it and concretize it. So it often is with us when we have experiences that transcend our everyday awareness.

But Peter is interrupted by the voice of God exhorting him to *listen*, to just be with the moment, which overwhelms and terrifies him. This seems to jolt Peter out of his self-consciousness, his need to

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grasp and cling, his need to find something to *do*. Moments of true transfiguration require a letting go of our habitual ways of being, as terrifying as that is. Here again, we hear the oft-repeated counsel to not be afraid just as we most need it.

Finally, Jesus tells his companions not to speak of this to anyone. And so it is with moments in our lives in which we find ourselves transformed—they often *cannot* be talked about. They certainly cannot be explained to someone who has not had such experiences. We must come down from the mountaintop, carrying the experience silently in our hearts, not looking any different than we did before ascending the mountain, though we have indeed been transformed by what we witnessed there.

—Loren Barnes Gaillardetz



## St. Cronan Catholic Church

### Second Sunday of Lent

### March 5, 2023

#### Mass Information

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment

**The Masses for March** will be live-streamed at 10:00 on Sundays and posted on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StCronan/>

**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, March 17. Please join us!

**St. Cronan Men's Retreat** The St. Cronan Men's Retreat will be live and in person this year. The retreat will be held April 28 - 30 (Friday evening to Sunday noon) at the Griesedieck farm, which is about 75 miles north of mid-town St. Louis. All men of the parish are invited. Please contact Rocky Sieben by e-mail if you are interested or have questions. [rockysieben@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rockysieben@sbcglobal.net) More information will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

**St. Cronan Women's Retreat** The 2023 Women's Retreat at the Griesedieck Farm will take place April 21-23. There will be a minimal cost and ride shares will be arranged through the sign-up (coming soon). Feel free to attend the first planning meeting this Sunday, Feb. 5, after the 10 a.m. Mass at Coffee and Donuts. More to come soon!



**Bulletin:** Please submit all items for the weekly bulletin to [mary@stcronan.org](mailto:mary@stcronan.org). If you want your blurb in Monday Notes, too, please copy [diane@stcronan.org](mailto:diane@stcronan.org). Bulletin deadline is Wednesday by noon.

**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](http://www.stcronan.org) for information. *You are always welcome!*



**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; Natalie Johnson and the Johnson family; 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, Mike Bowen[DG1], Michelle O'Rourke, Kate Genovese, and newborn baby, Giovanni Christopher Centerino; Judy Gallagher; Barry Buchek's friends, Jim Bruno and Jim's daughter Courtney; Mary Truetkin; Marie and Roland Martir's daughter, Carrie, and granddaughter, Maddie; Janice Shayne's cousin, Jane Torretta; Jacob Whitworth; John Gozdziwski; Wilma Hunt and family, friends of Sandra Ward; Michael Mason; former SVDP hauler; Michael Peterson; Linda and Jeff Caul's daughter, Kelly; Al Sprehe's wife, Maggie;; Joe Connolly, Sam Vitale, friend of Father Jack and Mary Ward and .John Derr; son-in-law of Alice Adcock *Please let the office staff know if your loved one should be removed from the prayer list.*

**Narcan Outreach Program:**

St. Cronan Church has Narcan, the life-saving medication to combat opiate overdoses, available at no cost. St. Cronan Church Social Justice Committee, in partnership with the Missouri Institute of Mental Health (MIMH) and The University of Missouri- St. Louis, sponsored this program. The program will offer complimentary boxes of Narcan including substance abuse and mental health resources and education, available in the Parish Office or from MidTown..

**Narcan Nasal Spray Instructions:**

- **How to Use Video:** <https://youtu.be/WnjgrRNMfKM>
- **Narcan Nasal Spray:** <https://www.narcan.com/>

**Educational Resources:**

- **Chad Sabora TEDx Talk:**  
U.S. DRUG POLICY AND THE DESTRUCTION THAT FOLLOWS |  
TEDxGatewayArchSalon  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PdZ75qtHOU>
- **Addiction Science:** [www.mimhaddisci.org](http://www.mimhaddisci.org)
- **Missouri's State Opioid Response:** [www.noMOdeaths.org](http://www.noMOdeaths.org)
- **Expanding Naloxone Access and Community Training (ENACT):** [www.enact-mo.org](http://www.enact-mo.org)

**Mass Protocols:** The last two years have taught us to be conscious of each other's health and to care for the least among us: those who have compromised immune systems. To that end, masks continue to be recommended, although not required at Mass. Please keep in mind that we are in close proximity in church for at least one hour, which is ample time to catch the Covid or Flu virus. The CDC has indicated that COVID is not spread by touch or physical contact, so it is perfectly alright to hold hands during the Our Father and to extend the Exchange of Peace around you as you wish, provided people are comfortable holding or shaking hands or hugging. We are holding off the practice of going around the Altar during the Consecration in respect for Fr. Jack, who must be without a mask during those prayers. As we are able to open the Church in the Spring, we will revisit this practice. Thank you for your understanding.

**Lenten Resources:** This Lenten Season, we are focusing on personal and communal change and how we can grow closer to God by deepening our prayer life and our commitment to community and as community. Copies of Pax Christi's Lenten Reflection Book, "Witnesses on the Way: Reflections for Lent 2023" can be found on the tables in the Chapel and are free.

**Mark your calendar** to join us (and spread the word to other Parishes) at St. Cronan Church to pray the Stations of the Cross followed by a Soup Supper on Friday, March 24, 2023. Stations start in Church at 6:00 p.m. and the Supper will be across the street at the Parish Center at 6:30 p.m. Donations of meatless soups/dishes, bread, fruit, and cheese are appreciated and please bring food to the Parish Center before Stations of the Cross begin. Materials for Stations will be provided at Church that evening. If you have any questions, email Christine.Lakey@yahoo.com or Maggie Hart-Mahon at ofcomp17@gmail.com.



**From Hospitality/Welcoming Committee:**

- We will have a Ministry of the Month at masses. Ministry leaders will be speaking the first week of each month during the announcements to inform you about each ministry.
- Let's start wearing name tags again to get to know each other better. If you don't find yours, inform Mary Ward at mary@stcronan.org.
- We are in need of additional greeters to come 10 minutes prior to mass and spread the St. Cronan hearty welcome to all! If new people arrive, we especially reach out and provide them with a Welcome Packet which can be found in yellow envelopes on the back table. Thank you in advance if you offer for this very fulfilling Ministry! Contact Christine Lakey if you are interested at christine.lakey@yahoo.com.

