



# St. Cronan Catholic Church

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

### December 4-5, 2021

#### Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 p.m. Wednesdays – 8:00 a.m. Masks are required for all Masses to keep our unvaccinated children safe

**Recorded Mass** will take place the first Sunday of each month and will be available December 4<sup>th</sup>. It can be accessed on our website: <http://www.stcronan.org/>

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

#### Prayers Please

Bill Barrett, Mary Truetken, Laurel Hayes, Laurel Hayes' parents, Jerry and Nancy, Bill's brother in law, Dave Rose, Bill's friend, Jim Forest, Robert Nathe's Mother, Eileen, Colleen Wallace's godson, Lachlan, Michelle Frank, Martha Stegmaier, Diane Calcaterra, Jennifer Lyle and Krista Rakers, Marilyn Leong, Jessica, Nick Ambrose, Al Sprehe, Phil Milner, Fr. Gerry's nephew, Steven Buelتمان, Leslie Conway, Mike's grandson, Jack, Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan, Jim Gorman, Andrew Viraugh's Father, Sharon Orlet's sister, Betty, Nancy Buck's daughter, Jeanne, Barry Buchek's wife, Mary.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Will Gordon, a sophomore at Kirkwood High School who passed away last weekend. May the Angels take him to Paradise!

**Coffee and Donuts** continues on Zoom and is a great time to catch up with the community. The meeting ID is 810 7478 0423, password: cronan

**Black Lives Matter Vigil:** The St. Cronan Social Justice Committee is hosting a Vigil as a way of atoning for past racism. It will be held every third Friday evening of the month - 5:00 -6:00 pm at the corner of Kingshighway and Manchester. Next month's will be Friday, December 16. Please feel free to bring your own signs. If you have questions, please contact Trish Curtis: [trishquita1952@gmail.com](mailto:trishquita1952@gmail.com)

**Marianist Retreat Center** is holding an Advent Retreat. "Voices in the Wilderness: A Call to Re-Engage" Friday, December 10 through Sunday,

December 12 at the Marianist Retreat Center. Cost is \$243/person for program, meals and accommodations. To register, copy this address in your browser: <https://marianistretreat.com/events/voices-in-the-wilderness-advent-retreat-2021>

**St. Cronan St. Vincent de Paul Sponsor-A-Family** As in past years, we hope to offer our neighbors in need some Christmas gifts for the holidays. If you would like to participate in sponsoring a family for Christmas this year, please sign up in the church vestibule, or call Kathleen Johnson, (314) 822-7517 or email [johnsonkath2@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonkath2@gmail.com) and let her know the size of family you prefer.

**Poinsettia Sale:** If you ordered poinsettias and did not pick them up yesterday, please see Diane after Mass and she will get them for you.

**Advent Reflections for the First and Second Week of Advent** are available online on CronanTalk, and on the Website. If you would like a paper copy, some are available in the Chapel. We still need reflections for the rest of Advent, so if you signed up, please send them to Diane ASAP. Thanks!

**Winter Coats for Immigrants:** We are collecting gently used winter coats to take to the Mission in Laredo, TX for those who will be quickly traveling to norther climates from the border. Please place coats in the bin provided in the Chapel.

**Baked Bread for Masses:** The medical advisory panel has approved re-instituting the baked bread for our Sunday Masses. I have attached the recipe to give you a preview of what it entails. One batch of unleavened bread loaves provide enough bread for a month of Masses. If you were previously a part of this ministry, or enjoy baking and would like to be part of the ministry, please contact Bill Barrett, [barrettb@webster.edu](mailto:barrettb@webster.edu) or Diane, (314) 941-4933, [diane@stcronan.org](mailto:diane@stcronan.org) We had enough people that we only baked bread once per year, so it is not a big time commitment if we get enough volunteers.

**Advent Theme:** This year we are focusing on Our Lady, Undoer of Knots as our Advent theme. Information will be available in Church and is attached. As a community, we recognize the many knots in our society that need to be undone: the knots of Climate Change, Clericalism, Prejudice, and within the Family. We implore our Blessed Mother Mary, undoer of knots, to raise our awareness and actions.

**Food Pantry Volunteer Opportunities:** Driver for Food Pick up at St. Gerard Majella, Kirkwood on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 11:00 am. Food is delivered to St. Cronan and unloaded by volunteers and driver. We have another driver so each driver picks up 6 Sundays a year. You can use your own vehicle but would need a larger SUV or can use the St. Cronan truck. Time involved is approx. 1 hour. Volunteers to help unload vehicle of food from St. Gerard Majella Church on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 11:30 am. We are in need of 2-3 volunteers. Time involved is about 10-15 minutes depending on the number of volunteers we have. Volunteers needed to help with our Homebound Food Delivery on the 3rd Sunday of each month after the 10 am Mass. Each volunteer delivers to 2 households. We are looking for 2 regular volunteers plus 2 standby volunteers. Time involved is about 15-25 minutes depending on where the clients live. We really appreciate your consideration of these needs! Kathy Hunn, Director~St. Cronan Church Food Pantry~314-704-9934 or kathyfoodpantry@gmail.com

**Pastoral Reflection**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 4-5, 2021**

In reflecting with Our Lady, Undoer of Knots on the issue of clericalism on this second week of Advent, just a little searching reveals a very big history of sin and missed opportunities to truly live the Gospel. The dictionary says “clericalism is a policy of maintaining or increasing the power of a religious hierarchy.” Those of us who have a long-lived life in the Roman Catholic Church know that this is very much a lived reality in our church lives.

Historically the early church was all one in the first centuries after Jesus when persecution was a part of daily lives. When Theodosius came to power in the late 4th century CE he provided government funding to the Christian churches and thus was born a hierarchy that had to manage the wealth. As the years unfolded the separation of clergy and “everyone else” was solidified into what we see today. Who among us cannot tell stories of being treated as or feeling like “everyone else?”

Several years ago my father died at the age of 91. Most of his life had been spent in the small town where he grew up, raised our family, buried his wife and supported the local church community, even requesting that a significant part of his small estate be donated to the church he had loved. When it came time for visitation, our family requested that his body be brought to this place he loved so that the “old-timers” could have time to come and say good-bye. (There was already a long precedent of this being done in this church; also the pastor was relatively new and did not know our family). We were working with the Deacon and initially the Pastor said, “No.” I was outraged but since I wasn’t the one making the arrangements quietly encouraged the coordinator to return and ask again. We did get to honor Dad in his home church for an allotted time but it left me feeling angry and dismissed.

Much of clericalism today is spoken of in terms of the clergy sexual abuse scandals and while the harm that has been done is outrageous, evil and wrong, it is not the only arena where it continues to harm the life of God’s people. The call of living the Gospel is exactly that, LIVING the Gospel. In Paul’s letter to the people of Phillipi he says he prays with joy “because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now;” in the NRSV we read “because of your sharing in the gospel.”

Isn’t that what we do here at St. Cronan’s? We live that baptismal call by welcoming the little ones, witnessing all of life’s challenging moments, praying for one another in good times and in bad, reaching out to the homeless and those who need us and we do it together.

Kathy Stock

