

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time January 18, 2026

John 1:29-34

Recently I've been reflecting on what it might be like to be in the physical presence of the one we call Lord, Savior, Messiah: Jesus. Reading this gospel passage regarding John the Baptist proclaiming, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world..." I can't help but wonder if this holy Lamb was really to John the seemingly unapproachable God-Man, upon whose head a dove descends.

Rather, my imagination takes me to another place entirely. I think John, Jesus' cousin, who likely grew up with him and who together went through all the ordinary stages of infancy, childhood, and awkward adolescence, looked emotionally at Jesus as his intimate relative and BFF. John, having already risked so much as a Zeolot-type contrarian to the Jewish-Roman empire he was immersed in, would have perceived Jesus as his beloved lifelong soulmate and supporter. I can imagine John, startled to see Jesus coming forward in the line to be baptized, exploding with astonished joy that caused his spirit to soar like the Dove. After all, Jesus, his most cherished friend, came in person to affirm John's actions and to humbly request baptism for himself! This Jesus (of my imagination) I can completely embrace as understanding all the vulnerabilities of love and transparency before others. Like John, he is someone who completely "gets" what it is to stand up to the Empire as a misfit and a contrarian. He too is someone who is also unconditionally loving toward everyone around him, including all the "sinners" lined up at the Jordan River.

On Christmas morning I happened to go to Mass at Dolores Mission, a hispanic Jesuit parish in the inner city of Los Angeles, where my daughter (an L.A. Catholic Worker) attends regularly. That morning we had the

good fortune of going to a Mass presided by Greg Boyle, S.J. Coincidentally, this happy accident was timed with my reading his latest book, Cherished Belonging. Like the book, filled with delightful stories of encounters with his formerly outcast "homeys," Fr. Greg preached the most down-to-earth homily on what it is to be in relationship with God. In his book he frequently quotes the Mystics, including prophet and priest, Meister Eckhart. Eckhart was condemned by the Church in 1328 for contradicting its image of "the distant and aloof 'Unapproachable God,'" with his own version of God who "wants to approach us, remind us of our goodness, and access us" taking us by the hand. This is Fr. Greg's image of God.

This is the same God that I've come to know in the person of Jesus who stood among "sinners" waiting in line to be baptized. And it is this God-Man who too takes each of us by the hand, walking our walk and shouldering all the difficulties and joys we face in this life, as our beloved companion. For me, that is what Jesus' Baptism was about. He's one of us!

- Cathy Hartrich

Church Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

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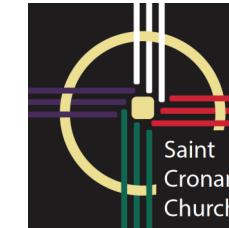
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Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon



St. Cronan Catholic Church January 18, 2026

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 am. and 10 am.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5 pm.

Wednesdays – 8 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

Bulletin Deadline: Noon Tuesday

Year End Statements: 2025 Contribution Statements will be going out in January. If you have had any recent changes to your mailing address, please email them to mary@stcronan.org as soon as possible. We want to make sure we do not get any returned mail. If you have had any changes to email or phone, please send those as well. Thank you!



Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Louis is dedicated to bringing the healing, help, and hope of Jesus Christ to those in need with a compassionate, caring presence. We provide services through all stages of life, from the beginning of life to senior care. Through Cardinal Ritter Senior Services, we provide care through a continuum of residential services of the highest quality, offering the place for seniors to fully live their best lives among engaging peers and caring skilled professionals. In addition to residential options, Cardinal Ritter's case managers and social service outreach helps keep older adults in their homes safely helping to ensure those we are privileged to serve have the resources they need to live with comfort and dignity. Do you want to know more or

have additional support as you age or support family members to age? Cardinal Ritter Senior Services can provide resources, awareness, and education on the subject. For more information or to get involved, contact your Church Ambassador Kelly Collins at kelly.collins60@gmail.com.

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, February 20. Please join us!

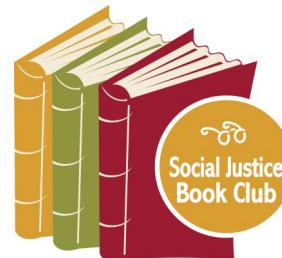


Prayers Please: Nick and Shirley Ambrose and Family; Elisabeth Byrne's mom, Denise Siebold; Joe Connolly; Yvonne DeHart's daughter, Cathy Hebert; Nancy Buck's daughter, Jeanne Oberle; Trish Curtis' sibling, Skip; Joe Fairless; Rob Barnicle, who has been placed on hospice; Judith Santamaria, Leslie Conway; 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; Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan; Ken Ladd; Fr. Gerry Kleba; Marie and Roland Martir's daughter, Carrie and their granddaughter, Madi and their dear friend, Robert Screace, who has been placed on hospice; J.T. Fowler; Grace Mueller; Joe Kuciejczyk, brother of Madonna and Janet, and brother-in-law of Tom, John Ross and Maria, daughter of Marci and Dominic Soda: Sr. Lynne Schmidt's nephew, Brian Ahr; John Ross; Teresa Beard's son, Edward Burch; Dodie Heilich, sister in law to Helen and Sandy McKinney.

Gene Krebs, husband of Judy Varias and brother of Frank Krebs passed away last week. Please keep their families in your prayers. A private funeral is planned.

Billy Slotterbeck, cousin of Johnny Zokovitch, passed away this week. Please keep Johnny and the Slotterbeck family in your prayers.

Fair Trade Coffee: We are ordering Fair Trade coffee for Sunday mornings. If we order in bulk, we get a cut on shipping. If you care to order some coffee and add to the Cronan order, please contact Al Sprehe and give him your order. 314-607-7188. Order forms are located in the church vestibule. We will have the coffee at Church or in the office for pick up.



St. Cronan Social Justice Book Club meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month in the Church office conference room after the 10AM Mass from 11:30AM-12:30PM. Our February 8th book is *I Am Not Your Negro* by James Baldwin. There is a documentary of the same name. We invite you to join us in person or simply read with us. Looking ahead the March 8th book will be *Insane for the Light: A Spirituality for Our Wisdom Years* by Ronald Holheiser.

Coming Soon! St. Cronan Basket Raffle. Watch the bulletin, Monday Notes and the church Website for details coming soon!

January Envelope Packets: For all envelope users: In your January Envelope Packets you received an envelope marked "First Offering". This envelope is used to pay for the cost of your weekly envelopes which St. Cronan pays for. If you use envelopes, please remit the requested \$3.00 during January. In addition, if you receive the STL Review, please use the envelope designated for the Review to help cover those costs, as well. Please contact Mary in the church office if you have any questions.

Church in Latin America: Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. Many in Latin America and the Caribbean find that a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit usccb.org/latin-america. ***Please make your check out to St. Cronan with "Church in Latin America" on the memo line.***

Blessing Bags: Our Confirmation class is collecting items to distribute to the homeless. See Monday notes for a list of needed items. Please place donated items in the box in the vestibule of Church. The Confirmandi will then compile the bags and have them in Church for you to pick up and distribute.

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.

