

## The Epiphany of our Lord January 4, 2026

Today we complete the manger scene. The guests, foreigners from the east, have arrived. This is the celebration of Epiphany, which means Manifestation. Emmanuel, God-with-us, is revealed to all people. The vision of the prophet Isaiah to Israel that “they all gather and come to you” is remembered (Is. 60). This is the New Age. The Messiah is come. Matthew concludes his Gospel account with the challenge, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” (Mt. 28).

Matthew’s infancy narrative is carefully constructed to be a Gospel in miniature. All his major themes are present in just 2 chapters. The Jewish members of his community would recognize the allusions to Moses’ birth and the killing of young children by the Pharaoh, Moses’ need to flee Egypt as a young man and return when the ruler was dead, Moses’ leading the people on their journey to the Promised Land, the prophecy of Balaam that a star “shall advance from Jacob” referring to King David’s birth. Isaiah notes that caravans from the East will come bearing gold and frankincense. Matthew adds myrrh to the gift list to associate it with the passion and death of Jesus. The passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus was the initial preaching by the apostles and the first part of the Gospel to be written down. The Infancy narrative was the last section to be added to Matthew’s version of the Good News.

These are just a few examples of the tradition memory-jogging that Matthew uses in his account. Further examples and explanations can be found in Raymond E. Brown’s *An Adult Christ at Christmas*, pp. 10-14. It is very readable and offers a richer and deeper meaning of the evangelists’ (Matthew and Luke) choice of stories to describe the birth of Christ.

The Gentiles did not have the Hebrew

Scriptures (Old Testament) to bring them to Jesus. Matthew’s account uses a star to guide them on the long and difficult journey. The magi were wisdom figures in their religious culture. They, like many ancient peoples, studied the stars to discern and understand events. They were willing, with their retinues, to take a long and arduous journey into the unknown to find the Child who is God-with-us. They were faced with the same choice that Herod and chief priests had in the news of Jesus’ birth and at his ministry and preaching: accept or reject Christ. It is an age-old choice and one we have today: accept or reject Christ. How do we respond to the foreigner and the immigrant, to those who are poor, to those who have a disability, to those who are different from us, to those who stir up anger and rage within us?

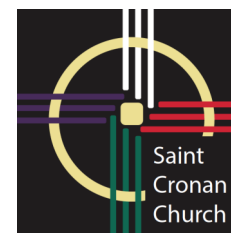
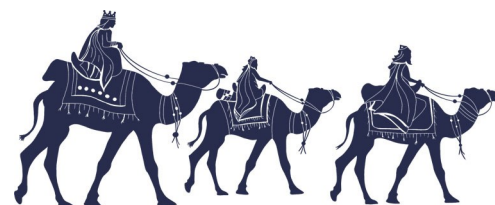
You are welcome to add to this partial list.

Are we, am I, willing to set out on a long and arduous journey where GPS can’t guide me? What is the star I am willing to follow wherever it leads? Am I willing to be a faithful disciple of Jesus and encourage others on this journey into the unknown?

Some words that have sustained me as I continue to discover the star in my life are taken from Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, founder of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

**“Follow the star which has arisen in you; it will certainly lead you to Jesus.”**

—Lynne Schmidt, SSND



**St. Cronan Catholic Church**  
**January 4, 2026**

**The Epiphany of the Lord**



### Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 am. and 10 am.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5 pm.

Wednesdays – 8 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

**Bulletin Deadline: Noon Tuesday**



**St. Cronan Social Justice Book Club** meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month in the 1st floor conference room after the 10am mass from 11:30am-12:30pm. Our January 11 book is “Welcoming the Stranger: Justice, Compassion and Truth in the Immigration Debate” by Matthew Soerens & Jenny Yang. We invite you to join us in person or to simply read with us.

**Caroline Leibman, Spiritual Enrichment through Embodiment:** Caroline offers a practice grounded in Authentic Movement, weaving aspects of mindfulness practices to accompany the process. Individual sessions are 45 minutes and take place in the Church Vestibule. Caroline offers these sessions free of charge. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please register at <https://cutt.ly/authentic-movement>. See Monday Notes for more info.

**Year End Statements:** 2025 Contribution Statements will be going out Mid-January. If you have had any recent changes to your mailing address, please email them to [mary@stcronan.org](mailto: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!





**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; Laura Krueger's mom, Evelyn Puleo; Marie and Roland Martir's daughter, Carrie and their granddaughter, Madi and their dear friend, Robert Screace, who has been placed on hospice; Judy Varias' husband Gene Krebs; 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..

**TRINITY, 4"x4" WINDOW STATIC CLINGIE, \$18 each** The annual St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Gift Fundraiser is underway, and will continue until the 4"x4" Celtic Trinity window static clingies, like the one on the church wall behind the choir, are sold out.



**End of Year Donations:** If you wish to have your late December contributions posted to 2025 please do your best to have them reach the church office by Dec. 31, and dated Dec. 31 or earlier. *Any donations that reach us by*

*Jan. 6 and are dated in 2025 will be posted to 2025.* Please contact Mary in the church office if you have any questions. If your check is dated 2026, it will be posted to 2026. Thanks so much for your generosity! For anyone who might need it, our Federal Tax ID is #43-0653457.

**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, January 16. Please join us!

#### Church Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

Phone: (314) 289-9384

1202 S. Boyle, St. Louis, MO 63110

**Community Life Coordinator: Johnny Zokovitch**

Johnny@stcronan.org

**Retired Priest in Residence: 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**

**Check Requests:** Per the directives from the St. Louis Archdiocese, anyone requesting a reimbursement for any items purchased for the church or any church organization, must accompany a check request form. We have been receiving many requests for reimbursement that are not being properly submitted. Forms are available in the church office, on the church website or we can email you a form. Also, please remember to use your tax exempt letter whenever making purchases for church. Thanks so much!

**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. Vincent de Paul Christmas giving opportunity!

The annual SVdP Giving Tree is up in the vestibule of church. Please take an ornament and return it to church with your donation. You can drop your donation in the collection basket, mail it in or drop it by the church office. Please make checks out to "St. Cronan St. Vincent de Paul". Thank you for your generosity. The need is great!



#### 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](http://stcronan.org).*