

Pastoral Reflection
2nd Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023

As we enter this Second Week of Advent we are graced with the great Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th. And the Feast of Juan Diego on December 9th. This is my favorite liturgical time! Our Lady of Guadalupe is an Advent Lady. Last week theme revolved around the "awesome deeds" of our Awesome God. When awesome deeds are experienced then there is hope. God's wonders are the "ground of our hope". which is theme for the Second Week of Advent. Our Lady of Guadalupe brought "acceptance and hope" to a devastated people. Hundreds of thousands of Aztecs had been slaughtered by Cortez and the conquistadors in 1521. In 1531 Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego. She asked him to build a chapel on Tepeyac Hill, which was the holy ground for the Aztec goddess Tonanzin?! At first the Spanish Bishop Zumarraga refused. He wanted a sign. So the lady told Juan Diego to take flowers to the Bishop. When he opened his mantel, called a tilma, the flowers fell out and there was the picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe. That tilma is still on display in the basilica in Mexico City. Juan Diego spoke truth to power! From then on there began to be "acceptance and hope" in what would later be called Mexico. Millions became Catholic!

When I was Pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish that was our mission i.e. "acceptance and hope". Our Hispanic people experienced so much prejudice

and discrimination but our Parish was a sacred and safe place for them to be themselves and live and express their faith in their own cultural terms. In coming to the US they had experienced God's awesome deeds for they were not accepted yet God helped them to persevere. when they were able to express their faith in a place of acceptance then they began to have greater hope.

God has done awesome deeds so we could be grounded in hope. As it says in Isaiah this week: "Comfort , give comfort to my people, says your God". May you and the St. Cronan community be a source of hope for we have experienced "awesome deeds". May we be a people of "acceptance and hope". Then we like John the Baptist and Juan Diego will "prepare the way of the Lord".

*God bless,
Fr. Jack (he/him)*

Parish Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm
Phone: (314) 289-9384

Pastoral Administrator: Fr. Jack Schuler
jschuler@stcronan.org

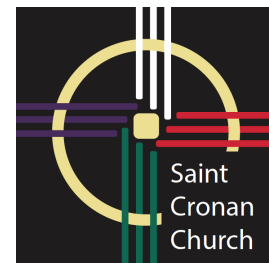
Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdziwski
diane@stcronan.org

Church Administrator: Mary Ward
mary@stcronan.org

Music Director: David Dickey
dsdickery@earthlink.net

Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon
(314) 533-0651

Bulletin Deadline: WED 12 noon



St. Cronan Catholic Church
Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 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.

Christmas Mass Times:

December 24 Vigil: Carols at 8:30 p.m., Mass at 9:00

December 25: 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

There will be no donuts after Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas.

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. PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE The next vigil will take place on Friday, December 15. Please join us!

Sponsor a Family through St. Vincent DePaul: Would you like to share the holiday spirit with our neighbors in need? Sponsorship entails providing gifts and/or gift cards for a family in need. You can choose the approximate size of the family and one will be assigned to you. Once you have the name and number, you can contact the family to determine needs/wishes and purchase accordingly. Then you can make arrangements to meet a family member to give them the gifts. If you or a group of you are interested in sponsoring a family in need this Christmas, please contact Shelly Kurtz: (314) 520-6108 or shellykurtz52@gmail.com

St. Cronan St. Vincent de Paul: The Giving Tree will be up during Advent for your generous contributions, or you can give via the St. Cronan website www.stcronan.org

SVdP will no longer be receiving financial support from the St. Louis SVdP Council, so the need is greater than ever.





Prayers Trish Curtis' brother; Nick and Shirley Ambrose's daughter, Bridgid Costello and their son Thomas Costello; Varrietta Anthony; Fr. Jack's brother, Mike; Diane Calcaterra; Barb Sopp's friend, Joe Sinibaldi; Bob Barnicle; Paul Schmitt; Tim and Else Hirzel's great nephew, Cameron Russell; Kathy Hunn's brother Jon, Sr. Cathy's friend Don Costello, Judy Gallagher; Mary Truetkin; Marie and Roland Martir's daughter, Carrie, and granddaughter, Madi; John and Diane Gozdzialski; Michael Mason, former SVDP hauler; Michael Peterson; Linda and Jeff Caul's daughter, Kelly; Joe Connolly; Sam Vitale, friend of Father Jack and Mary Ward; John Derr, son-in-law of Alice Adcock; Roger Bailey, friend of Dom and Marcy Soda; Philip Anala; Bonnie Wimmer; the Krueger family; Nick Ambrose; Betty Newberry; Marty Spies; Judith Santamaria; Tom Farace, brother-in-law of Mary and Dave Solomon; Gary Johnson, brother-in-law to Madonna and Tom Kuciejczyk-Kernan and Sr. Janet Kuciejczyk; Janice Fairless; Leslie Conway; Mary Middendorf, Barry Buchek's friend, Alan Zagurski; Dede Coughlin; Fr. George; Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan; and Shelly Kurtz' twin brother, Michael Kurtz.

If your loved one should be removed from the prayer list, please let the church office know.

Slaveholding & the St. Louis Catholic Church - Sunday, December 10 at 11:15 am

The St. Cronan Church Council invites you to learn about the legacy of slaveholding by the St. Louis Catholic Church on Sunday, December 10, after the 10:00 am mass in the Coffee & Donuts room. Dr. Kelly Schmidt will provide an interactive presentation on her research on the first-person experiences of people enslaved to members of the Catholic Church.

Kelly is a public historian and digital humanist focused on the histories of race, slavery, resistance, and abolition in the United States. She has assisted descendant communities and Catholic institutions in examining their histories with enslavement and engaging in repair work. Kelly currently serves as a Reparative Public Historian and Lecturer at Washington University in St. Louis and a Special Collections Management Research Associate for the WashU & Slavery Project. Kelly is also a parishioner at St. Margaret of Scotland.

Attention Bakers! We are in need of bakers for next year! This ministry is easy and requires little time commitment - one day a year. You can even include your children or grandchildren. The bread recipe is pretty simple, and had just a few ingredients. If you are interested in helping out with this ministry, please contact Laura Krueger.Lauramarie993@gmail.com



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 for information. *You are always welcome!*



Stations of the Nativity at St. Ambrose Catholic Church (on the hill) 5130 Wilson Ave., St. Louis 63110 **Wed., Dec. 13, at 7:00 pm 314-771-1228**. Stations of the Nativity is a narrated version of readings, prayers and music walking the Stations, from the vision of Zecharias in the temple to the return of the Holy Family to Galilee. Along the way, readers can pray and meditate on the Annunciation, the Visitation, the birth of John the Baptist, Joseph's dream, the Nativity, the appearance of the angels, the shepherds and Magi at the manger, and the Presentation. This will be a prayerful and joyous Advent night as we prepare for Christmas. **Choirs from St. Ambrose and St. Joan of Arc will lead the music.**

Decorate for Christmas

We will be decorating for Christmas on December 24 immediately after the 10:00 am Mass. Please join us – we need people who can handle the big ladder! There will be muffins!



ADVENT
Lessons & Carols

Join the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet as we celebrate the Advent season and take time to prepare, pray and sing.

SUNDAY, DEC 10 | 2 PM

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CARONDELET MOTHERHOUSE

6400 MINNESOTA AVE, ST. LOUIS, MO 63111

All are welcome. | The event is free.

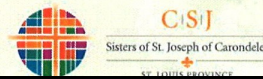
A freewill offering will be taken in support of Fontbonne University's Student Emergency Fund and Seeds of Justice.

RSVP BY DEC 3

Scan the QR Code to learn more and register online or visit csjstl.org.



Artwork by Lisa Lazio, CSJ



November 2023 contributions	
General Fund	\$18,038.00
Building Repair Fund	\$125.00
Capital Maintenance	\$125.00
Human Development	\$2447.00
Food Pantry	\$1,010.00
Fundraiser-Poinsettias	\$1137.00
Mission Sunday	\$325.00
Retired Religious	\$5228.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$480.00
Uganda	\$55.00