

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

Rejoice in Hope!

The desert is blooming, the steppe is full of flowers. Isaiah promises that God will vindicate the downtrodden, giving sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf. He talks of the one who is to come who will turn the world around. John the Baptist asks Jesus if he is the One, or should they look for another. Of course John knows Jesus, but his disciples might not, and, being in prison, John wants his disciples to follow Jesus. And of course, Jesus knows John, but are they on the same page?

John preached repentance and judgment, and talked of Jesus as vengeful, separating the chaff from the wheat. Jesus' actions are merciful, taking those on the margins and making them whole again so they can return to their communities. John ends up in prison because he was in Herod's face, accusing him of debauchery. Jesus is going against the norms of society, but in a more subtle way, by reintegrating the social outcasts.

What does this mean today? Jesus tells us to side with the marginalized, to continue to bring those who are outcast by our society reasons to hope and to rejoice. People are seeing through the absurdity of the powerful. They are recognizing that "affordability" is a real thing, and not some liberal illusion. Approval rates of those in power are falling, illegality is being recognized. Perhaps there is hope. If

we continue to call out the illegitimacy of those in power and civilly disobey their minions as they persecute the marginalized, perhaps we can work with those on the margins to restore the dignity they deserve. Let us rejoice in hope!

—Diane Gozdzalski



Church Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

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Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon



St. Cronan Catholic Church

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent



Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 am. and 10 am.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5 pm.

Wednesdays – 8 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

Bulletin Deadline: Noon Tuesday

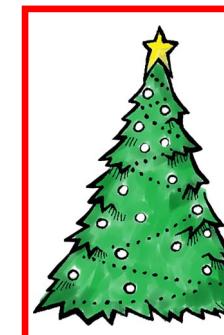
A new exciting fundraiser – “Blind Date with a Book”



This weekend, Dec. 13-14, we will be selling books for \$10.00 after all the masses for you to purchase as Christmas presents. It is a book decorated with clues as to what the book is about. You can just keep the book decorated on your shelf, actually open it and find out what book you purchased or give it as a gift to someone who likes to read. Join in this fun and have an enjoyable “Blind Date with a Book”.



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. **Place your order before January 1 to avoid the price increase due to the tariffs.**



St. Vincent de Paul Christmas giving opportunity!

SVdP Giving Tree Our annual 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.



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 Screece, who has been placed on hospice; Judy Varias' husband Gene Krebs; J.T. Fowler; Grace Mueller; and Joe Kuciejczyk, brother of Madonna and Janet, and brother-in-law of Tom, John Ross.

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.

St. Cronan Social Justice Book Club meets today and monthly 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.



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, Dec. 19. Please join us!

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.

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!



Christmas Eve:
Carols begin at 8:30pm
Mass begins at 9pm
Christmas Day:
Masses at 8am and 10am



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.

Bulletin Blubs: Due to the shortened work week the week of Christmas, any submissions for the bulletin will be due by noon, Monday December 22. The church office will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas and the day after Christmas. Thanks so much,

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.