

**Third Sunday of Advent
Dec. 15, 2024**

It is a curious choice to lift up the words of Zephaniah and John the Baptist in our celebration of Gaudete Sunday (literally “Rejoice! Sunday”). Most of what we hear elsewhere in Zephaniah and from John the Baptist would not strike us as messages of joy.

The bulk of Zephaniah’s prophecy (today’s reading notwithstanding) is about the day of God’s judgment and wrath. And in the verses just prior to today’s reading from Luke, John is lambasting the people who have come to him for repentance as “a brood of vipers” fleeing God’s coming wrath. If there is joy to be found here, we need to start by asking exactly whose ears would find their proclamations joyful.

Zephaniah exhaustively lists all those for whom his prophecy surely will NOT be experienced with joy: political leaders and the king’s sons (1:8), the violent and deceitful (1:9), merchants (1:11) and the wealthy (1:13), Jerusalem’s officials—judges (3:3) and prophets and priests (3:4), and proud braggarts (3:11). All these are promised God’s wrath, while only a remnant, “a people humble and lowly” (3:12), will be left. But THESE are promised the rejoicing we hear in Zephaniah 3:14-18a – those he goes on to specify as the oppressed, “the lame” and “outcasts” (3:19).

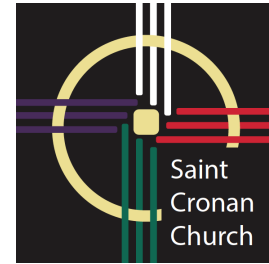
In Luke’s passage, who makes up the “crowds”—which John brands “a brood of vipers” fleeing God’s wrath—and now asking what they can we do to avoid such a fate?” We know from today’s passage that John assumes they have more than what they need (two tunics and extra food, 3:11); that some are tax

collectors who cheat the general populace (3:12-13); and others are soldiers who extort the vulnerable with threats of false accusations to fatten their wallets. Note that there is a second group of people—not the aforementioned “crowds”—but others who are looking on and wondering if John could be the Messiah (3:15). John’s damning message to “the crowds” who are coming to him for baptism is heard as good news to this second group, “the people,” who bear a striking resemblance to Zephaniah’s remnant: the oppressed, the outcasts and lame, the humble and lowly.

The good news of Jesus isn’t good news for everybody. For those who have benefited because of their roles in systems that exploit and abuse, John and Zephaniah are bitter pills to swallow. But in turn, that same message IS good news that brings rejoicing for those who have been exploited and abused, oppressed, enslaved, violated, humiliated, impoverished, and dehumanized in every possible way, hearing God’s prophet tell the wealthy to give up their extra clothes and food and tax collectors to stop cheating people and soldiers to stop extorting them! Good news absolutely to all those who toil and survive on the underside of history.

Whether John’s proclamation is good news or not, or Zephaniah’s promise causes rejoicing or despair—it’s all dependent on whose ears are hearing it.

—Johnny Zokovitch



**St. Cronan Catholic Church
3rd Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024**

Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 pm.

Wednesdays – 8:00 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

Bulletin Deadline: Noon Tuesday

Revers Advent Calendar: The Food Pantry is sponsoring a “Revers Advent Calendar” collecting a food item for each day of Advent. Lists can be found in the vestibule of church. Drop off your items to the church office any day between 9am-3pm. Contact the church office or Mary Solomon with any questions.



Advent Reflection Book: The 2024 Advent Reflection booklet is available online by visiting the St. Cronan website. <https://stcronan.org/news-events/announcements> There will be a limited supply of paper copies in the church vestibule for those who do not have access to a computer. Copies of the booklet can also be emailed to you by requesting one. Email Mary mary@stcronan.org Each reflection is written by a fellow St. Cronan Community member.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas opportunities!

Ornaments for sale! \$20 each. Sales take place after masses. Limited quantities...get yours before they are gone.

SVdP Giving Tree Our annual Giving Tree is up in the vestibule of church. Please take an ornament and place your donation in the envelope provided. 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: John Gozdziwski; Tom and Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan; Joseph Kuciejczyk (brother of Madonna and Sr. Janet); Nick and Shirley Ambrose; Kathy Hunn's niece Lisa and her brother Jon; Mary Truetken; Pam (cousin of Donna Zuroweste); Laura Krueger's mother, Evelyn Puleo; Marie and Roland Martir's grandson, Camden and daughter, Carrie; Sr. Pauline's niece, Laura Rettke; Bob Barnicle; Sandra Ward's family and her friend Anita; Sr. Mary Ellen (friend of Nick Ambrose); Jim Chapin (friend of Marty Spies); Pam Schaefer; Joe and Janice Fairless; Eileen Heidenheimer's friends, Joe and Laura; Brian Klinkhardt and his mother, Susan Klinkhardt, friends of Judith Santamaria; Andrew Moll's brother, Michael; Saralou Hendrickson; Mary Solomon's friend, Jesse Koenig; former parishioner Sr. Louise Lears and her family; Shelly Kurtz's Great-Great Nephew, Louis Barricklow; Fr. Gerry's little buddy, Ben Zevely; Colleen Wallace's cousin, Katy Rosolowski; Sheryl Renken's brother, Dan Engelman; Mary Solomon; Dan Stout; Trish Curtis' brother, Skip Curtis; Kathleen Abts' grandson, Matthew Peters; Fr. Jack; Gavin Barret-Hayes; Marcy Soda

Immigrant and Refugee Ministry. St. Cronan is part of the coalition of parishes working on this initiative. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact IRM Coordinator Kevin Kuehl, 772-1525, ext 204, MigrantMinistrySTL@gmail.com, or visit our office at St. Pius V Rectory. Envelopes are in the back of church if you care to make a donation. Make checks payable to St. Pius V. The IRM has a newsletter that can be accessed here: <https://mailchi.mp/284456337e7a/celebrating-6-months-of-irm>

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, December 20. Please join us!

Blessing Bags: In a crate in the vestibule are blessing bags given to us by Breakthru Bev, thanks to Mike Ward (Mary's husband). Please feel free to take some, put them in your car, and distribute to the homeless you meet throughout your day.

Parish Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

Phone: (314) 289-9384

1202 S. Boyle, St. Louis, MO 63110

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

dsdickey@earthlink.net

Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon (314)

533-0651

Sunday Sexton: Terry Panchot



Office Changes: Mary will be going down to three days a week in the office. Because we are in transition trying to find Fr. Jack's replacement, those three days will fluctuate. The office will be open everyday from 9-3 as usual. Mary will be keeping an eye on emails while she is out of the office. Due to this schedule change the deadline for reflections and for the bulletin will be moved to Tuesday at noon.

Year end contributions: If you are planning to make a year end contribution for 2024, your donation must reach the church office prior to January 1, 2025 in order to be included on your 2024 year end statement. Year end statements will be mailed out mid-January.

Help Wanted!

Musician needed: Are you interested in leading a small but dedicated group of Mass participants in song? Our Musician for 5:00 Mass, Red Dorsey, is looking to move on to spend more time with his grandkids, so we would like to find someone with musical experience who might want to bring music to the dedicated 5:00 Mass participants. This is a volunteer position.



Christmas Eve:
Carols at 8:30pm,
Mass at 9pm
Christmas Day:
8am & 10am



To Our New Sunday Sexton:

Terry Panchot

Nov. 2024 Contributions Thank You!

General Fund	\$14,051
Building Repair Fund	\$125
Food Pantry	\$1,280
Human Development	\$2,825
St. Vincent de Paul	\$315
Uganda	\$55
Fundraising	\$1989
Mission Sunday	\$325
Retired Religious	\$3,292