

Pastoral Reflection
3rd Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023

*I am the voice of one crying
out in the desert
make straight the way of the Lord!*

The figure for the Third Sunday of Advent, no matter whose Gospel we have, is John the Baptist, who was many things, but patient was not one of them. When he urged his fellow citizens to repent and prepare the road for the one who would come, he didn't mean tomorrow or whenever they got around to it. Every fiber of his being was oriented toward NOW. It is no wonder that his first recorded encounter with Jesus led John to expect great things to happen all at once. Stand back and prepare to be amazed!

And then nothing happened. Nothing, that is, of what John was anticipating. Instead, time dragged on, John's situation got dicier, and eventually he was in Herod's jail facing death in short order. When was Jesus going to act? What had restrained him? What did John spend all that effort preparing the people for? The crowds, the tax collectors, and the soldiers had all asked John the same questions, "Who are you? "What would you have us do?" And now here were those questions again.

The answer is never vague or spiritualized. Neither John nor Jesus ever said, "Offer more ritual sacrifices; pray more prayers." The message is always the same. Share with those who need, forgive one another, stop taking advantage of the powerless, don't look for more than we need. Gospel action is concrete, material, and costs us something we can feel tangibly to straighten the road. The difference comes one person at a time as we all get the message one person at a time and open our hearts. Now, over two thousand years later, Jesus is still changing hearts one person at a time.

*-Sister Chabanel
Mathison, OSU*



Parish Center Offices

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

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

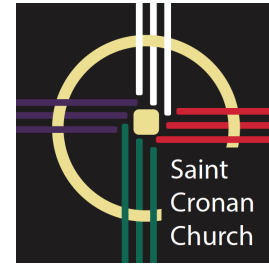
Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdziwski
diane@stcronan.org

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
Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 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.

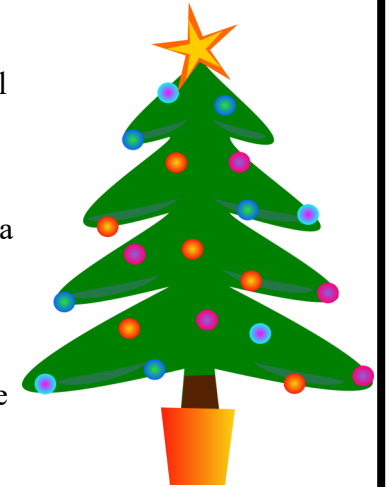
There will be no donuts after Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

The Church Offices will be closed on Mon., Dec. 25 and Tues., Dec. 26 .

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, Brigid 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 Gozdzi-alski; 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; Nick Ambrose's friend, John; 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; Kathy Stock, and Shelly Kurtz' twin brother, Michael Kurtz; Amy Diemer; Sr. Cathy's friends, Ken Castellanos and Ingrid Casillo.

Amy Diemer is home from the hospital after brain surgery and is resting comfortably.

Patrick Mooney's father passed away suddenly last Tuesday. Please keep Patrick and his family in your prayers.

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

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



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!

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!*

Thank you, Glenn Eckert! Glenn has again provided the beautiful Christmas Wreaths on our Church doors. We so appreciate all of your work, Glenn, and your generosity!



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 19. Please join us!

Wills: Please remember Saint Cronan's in your will. Title is St. Cronan's Catholic Church-1202 South Boyle Ave.- St. Louis, MO 63110. Our Federal I.D.# 43-0653457

Photos of loved ones...if you have photos of your loved ones left over from All Souls Day, please pick them up from the Sacristy.

Advent
LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 17 • 2pm
Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France
The Old Cathedral
Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Presiding
Choir of the Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France
Free and open to the public
(No reservations required)

ARCHDIOCESE
OF ST. LOUIS

Welcome

**To Our New Parishioners:
Maria and Gary Gray**