

4th Sunday of Advent December 21, 2025

Much that has been written on today's Gospel highlights Joseph's obedience and profound ability to listen to God. What stands out to me, now seven months pregnant myself, is his compassion towards Mary, a young, unwed pregnant girl. There is a great current in our culture that pushes the reality of pregnancy and early motherhood out of consciousness. This disavowal of the reality of pregnancy is evident even during this time of year when we honor Mary's fiat and her central role in Salvation history. The realities of what it meant for her to be pregnant often read as asides—half-sentences that are thrown in as part of the backdrop instead of being honored as central.

This is how God decided to come into the world—the way we all do, through a female body. Surely, we lose something in confining the implications of that to the margins.

At the same time, the American church is “obsessed” with anti-abortion doctrine, in the words of Pope Francis. A pro-life movement that is so out of touch with the realities of pregnant people and new mothers that it cannot look the realities of pregnancy, birth, and postpartum in the face, even in the context of one of its most central and dearly held beliefs, is not one that is going to be successful.

When I hear this myopic emphasis on anti-abortion messaging from those in the church, absent any concrete efforts to make the world a better and safer place to be a mother through efforts like improved healthcare, paid parental leave, and access

to childcare, I often wonder how many of those promulgating this rhetoric could tell you the leading cause of maternal mortality in the United States. My guess is that not many could.

In case you're wondering: the leading cause of death in people who are pregnant or who have been pregnant in the last year is homicide, usually perpetrated by an intimate partner or family member.

This reality, considered alongside today's Gospel, illustrates how far we fall short as a church in listening to, attending to, and caring for mothers.

—Loren Gaillardetz



Church Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

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St. Cronan Catholic Church December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 am. and 10 am.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5 pm.

Wednesdays – 8 am.

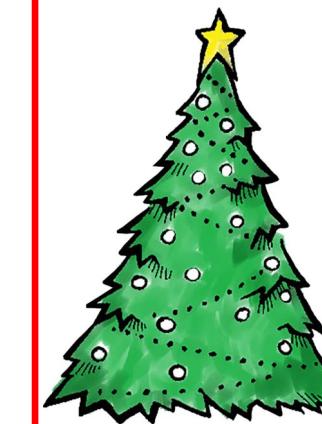
Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

Bulletin Deadline: Noon Tuesday

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!



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!



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; Joe Kuciejczyk, brother of Madonna and Janet, and brother-in-law of Tom, John Ross and Maria, daughter of Marci and Dominic Soda..

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!

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 Blurs: 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,



Decorate for Christmas: Decorating for Christmas will take place after the 10am Mass. Sunday Dec. 21. Come help us transform the Sanctuary from Advent to Christmas. We need a few strong folks too, who do not mind climbing a ladder.

Many hands make light work!



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.