

**4th Sunday of Advent
Dec. 22, 2024**

As we draw ever near to the Feast of the Incarnation we first encounter the Visitation of Mary. She came to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was pregnant with John the Baptist. It's a joyful meeting of expectant Mothers and the Season of Advent is one of "expectant joy". So often expectations are filled with an undercurrent of cheerfulness or gladness of heart. It's like "something good is going to happen". That experience occurs because of faith i.e. I trust in God's abundant love.

Elizabeth says: "At the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears the infant in my womb leaped for joy." One of the ways that grace is communicated is through "joyful leaps". St. Theresa of Lisieux defined prayer as "a leap of the heart or a glance towards heaven". God is

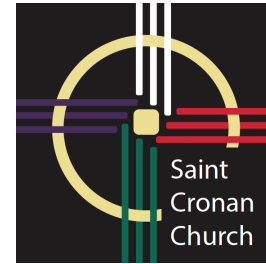
trying to give us those moments of "leaping", those times when a baby smiles, a bird chirps, a hug excites, a sun sets, an idea creates a vision, a word opens a heart etc. Advent urges us to prepare to "leap", to be excited about life.

May your Advent have many "leaping" moments that just bring a deep sense of joy to your heart. Just think of the wonder of two pregnant women coming together to celebrate life - Mary and Elizabeth!

—Fr. Jack Schuler

"A liturgical dance reflection on the Visitation at St. Cronan Catholic Church, to the song I'll Go Tell Elizabeth by Ken Medema,

danced by Colleen Segbers (RIP) and Janet Kuciejczyk, CSJ (with cameo appearance of the angel Fr. Jim Krings), conceived by Madonna Kuciejczyk, Advent 1994" <https://youtu.be/NJypXyNKSCE>



**St. Cronan Catholic Church
4th Sunday of Advent
December 22, 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

Decorate for Christmas: We will decorate after the 10:00 Today, Sunday, December 22. Many hands make light work!



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.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas opportunity!



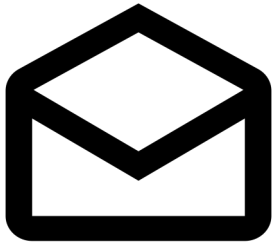
SVdP Giving Tree Our annual Giving Tree is up in the vestibule of church. All of the ornaments have been taken, but you can still give to SVdP. You can drop your donation in the collection basket, mail it in or drop it by the church office. Please make checks out to "St. Cronan St. Vincent de Paul". 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; 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. Louis 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 Absts' grandson, Matthew Peters, Fr. Jack; Gavin Barret-Hayes; Marcy Soda

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 17. 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.



Envelope Users: In your packet of envelopes for December, there is an envelope marked "Christmas". Please be aware that if you use this envelope to make a donation, these funds will go to the Seminary, not St. Cronan. If you wish your donation to go to St. Cronan please mark that on the envelope or in the memo line of your check. You can also drop your donation in the basket without an envelope. Please call Mary in the office if you have any questions.

Year end contributions: If you are planning to make a year end contribution for 2024, your donation must reach the church office prior to Jan. 5 and dated prior to Dec. 31, 2024 in order to be included on your 2024 year end statement. Statements will be mailed out mid-January.



*To Our New Members:
Paul & Lisa Pecha*



The church office will close at noon on Christmas Eve and will be closed on Dec. 25 & 26.

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

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**Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin
 Mary, Mother of God:
 January 1, 9:00 a.m.**

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>

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.

Liturgical Composers Concert, Thursday, January 30, 7-8:30 pm at Mercy Center Chapel, 2039 N. Geyer Rd, Frontenac (in person or live stream). General admission \$25, Preferred Seating/ Reception with Composers \$50, Individual Live Stream \$15. Register and pay at www.mercycenterstl.org/liturgical-composers-concert. Composers TBD.

Parish Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

Phone: (314) 289-9384

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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

