

Pastoral Reflection
4th Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023

“I would say *yes* if an angel came to ask me to do something.” I remember thinking this when I was in 4th grade. I waited. No angel came – at least not the kind used by the writers in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. Slowly I learned that the angel of God can come as an invitation to try something new, as an inspiration, as a gut feeling, as a song that resonates with my heart, or even in a challenge I resist. Sometimes it comes in a silent moment and sometimes in a thunder storm. God’s message arrives – do I hear it? How will I, can I respond?

Mary is often pictured as praying when she received God’s invitation. Maybe she was. Maybe she was walking the rocky path to the well to get water. Maybe she was sweeping or making dinner. However it came, she was not afraid to ask for more information, for clarification. She chose to respond, *yes* – not sure what that could mean. Would this child be the one to restore the kingdom of David? How would she teach him, prepare him, for the role to which God would call him? So much uncertainty. So much promise. So much hope. *Yes*.

This Advent we reflected together on God’s awesome deeds, on being grounded in hope, on active waiting, and on saying *yes* to God. Each week we had questions that would help us reflect on how we could embody each theme. However, the 4th week gives us only a few hours for this reflection! But this theme

of *yes* is rich as a reflection throughout the Christmas season, a celebration of God’s most awesome deed that brings hope in our active waiting. The celebration of Christmas is one incredibly wonderful *yes* in which we are called to participate, to embody hope and love.

St Augustine invites us to remember,

“You are the Body of Christ. In you and through you the work of the Incarnation must go forward. You are meant to incarnate in your lives the theme of your adoration - you are to be taken, blessed, broken, and distributed that you may be the means of grace and vehicles of Eternal Charity.”

—Lynne Schmidt, SSND

Parish Center Offices

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

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

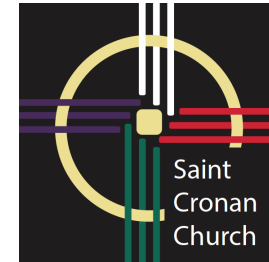
Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdziwski
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Music Director: David Dickey
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Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon
(314) 533-0651

Bulletin Deadline: WED 12 noon



St. Cronan Catholic Church
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 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 .



Decorate for Christmas We will be decorating for Christmas today immediately after the 10:00 am Mass. Please join us – we need people who can handle the big ladder! There will be muffins!

Mass for the Holy Innocents: In light of the suffering of Innocent Children throughout the world due to war, displacement, hunger, climate change, and other disasters, we will have a special Mass at 8:00 am on Thursday, December 28 to pray for them and their families. Please join us.

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 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; Isabel, great granddaughter 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; Amy Diemer: Sr. Cathy's friends, Ken Castellanos, Ingrid Casillo and Fr. Gerry Kleba.

Michael Kurtz, Shelly Kurtz's twin brother, passed away last Sunday surrounded by family. Please keep them 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



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!

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!*

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

Issues and Inspirations: Just Songs, a Concert of Susan Marting's Original Music Inspired by Catholic Social

Teaching. February 11, 1:00 p.m., in the Church. A reception will follow in the Hospitality Room. Please save the date!



RUTH AND ELLY CHRISTOPHER'S

Home for the Holidays

BENEFIT CONCERT

DECEMBER 26, 2023, 2PM

PROCEEDS GO TO MIDTOWN'S FAMILY PRIDE PROGRAM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ST. LOUIS
7200 DELMAR BLVD,
ST. LOUIS, MO 63130



On behalf of the staff of
St. Cronan Church



We wish you and yours a



Wonderful and Peaceful Christmas

