

## Feast of Holy Family December 28, 2025

The utter incompatibility between the Trump administration's immigration policies and enforcement and the biblical demand that Christians (and Jews) welcome the stranger could not be more pronounced than in the readings we revisit every Christmas, especially Matthew's portrayal of the Holy Family as refugees fleeing Herod's violence. The commonalities with people being rounded up, detained and deported in the US today could not be more evident.

Besides the status of the Holy Family as immigrants in Egypt, our Scriptures are pretty consistent in instructing us about how we're to treat "the strangers (alternately the alien, the foreigner, the sojourner, the immigrant, the refugee) among us..."

Exodus 23:9, "You shall not oppress a resident alien; you well know how it feels to be an alien, since you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt."

Leviticus 19:33-34, "When an alien resides with you in your land, do not mistreat such a one. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself..."

Deuteronomy 10:17-19, "For the LORD, your God, is the God of gods, the Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who has no favorites, accepts no bribes, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving them food and clothing. So you too should love the resident alien, for

that is what you were in the land of Egypt."

In passages in the Hebrew Bible exhorting care for and kindness toward immigrants, there is an emphasis that such treatment is based on "memory," i.e. "Remember you were once strangers too..."

During this season when we place under our trees and on our front lawns and in our churches replicas of a Holy Family who experienced first-hand what it means to be strangers in a land not their own, Christians would do well to remember our Scriptures.

God's requirement of the new community of slaves that he had freed from Egypt is that they "remember"—their own former state as immigrants and strangers and how it is that God chose them and treated them. And that we, as God's chosen people, are called to do likewise. Because we remember.

~Johnny Zokovitch

### Church Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

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**Community Life Coordinator:** Johnny Zokovitch

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**Retired Priest in Residence:** Fr. Jack Schuler

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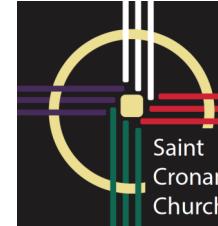
**Church Administrator:** Mary Ward

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**Music Director:** David Dickey

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**Food Pantry Director:** Mary Solomon



## St. Cronan Catholic Church December 28, 2025 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



### Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 am. and 10 am.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5 pm.

Wednesdays – 8 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

**Bulletin Deadline:** Noon Tuesday

**Offices Closed:** The church office and the Archdiocese will be closed until January 5. Diane and Mary will be working reduced hours from home and Johnny will be off this week. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Diane. Due to the office closure, any submissions for the bulletin will be due by noon, Monday December 29.

**Mass on January 1** There will be one Mass on January 1 for the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God. Mass will take place at 9am. This day is also World Day of Peace.

## 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 Martin'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.



**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.



**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 16. Please join us!

**Caroline Leibman, Spiritual Enrichment through Embodiment:** Caroline offers a practice grounded in Authentic Movement, weaving aspects of mindfulness practices to accompany the process. Individual sessions are 45 minutes and take place in the Church Vestibule. Caroline offers these sessions free of charge. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please register at <https://cutt.ly/authentic-movement>. See Monday Notes for more info.

**Year End Statements:** 2025 Contribution Statements will be going out Mid-January. If you have had any recent changes to your mailing address, please email them to [mary@stcronan.org](mailto:mary@stcronan.org) as soon as possible. We want to make sure we do not get any returned mail. If you have had any changes to email or phone, please send those as well. Thank you!

#### 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](http://stcronan.org).*