

Feast of the Holy Family Dec. 29, 2024

The Feast of the Holy Family

*“When his parents saw him, they were astonished,
and his mother said to him, “Son, why have you done this to us?
Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.”
And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me?
Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” (Lk 2:48-49).*

On this Feast of the Holy Family, it is fitting that this reading pulls out for us some key familial themes: anxiety, astonishment, confusion, and trust.

Wrapping up my first full calendar year of fatherhood, these themes have defined so much of my stumbling through the celebrations and the stress that parenthood can bring.

There is a beautiful nature playscape in Forest Park that we love to frequent, filled with tree stumps and logs and rocks to climb and jump over; Elliot really comes alive there. Of course, the moment that Elliot found mobility, it became a headache and a half to keep up with him. Often after zoning out for a few moments I

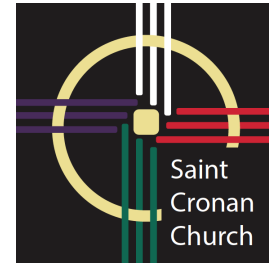


will find myself anxiously panning my eyes this way and that, only to find him a few yards away standing on a tree stump or digging in some sand. One day, however, he had found a way to climb all the way up a tree trunk a few feet above the ground. Rushing over to him I found myself thinking something similar to Mary: “son, why have you done this to us?” And he looked back at me with equal confusion and incredulity: “Dada, why are you worried? Look at what I am capable of?”

The act of parenting is in many ways an act of faith. We guide but ultimately must strike the right balance between confusion/anxiety and astonishment/trust. I continue to practice greater attention with Elliot in these moments, but I try evermore to lean into the latter, trusting within reason that he will stumble and fall and grow in ways that he can handle and that will help him to more fully become the confident, capable, and godly person he is meant to be. And, after ensuring within reason that he is safe, all I can do is stand back and watch in astonishment, the miracle that he is.

What more will he have to teach me, to teach us?

—David Gaillardetz



St. Cronan Catholic Church Feast of the Holy Family December 29, 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



Jubilee Year of Hope: As we begin the new year, let us open our doors to the hope of a better future. Let us resolve to work collectively to welcome our migrant neighbors and LBGTQIA+ siblings. In the vestibule, you will notice the door marked with the Papal Seal, the Holy Family as migrants and refugees, and the “Welcome All” logo. Let us face 2025 with a firm commitment to follow Pope Francis’ declaration.

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.





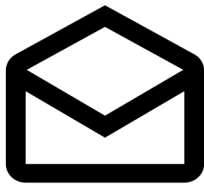
Prayers Please: John Gozdziński; Tom and Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan; Joseph Kuciejczyk (brother of Madonna and Sr. Janet); Nick and Shirley Ambrose; Kathy Hunn's niece Lisa and her brother Jon; Mary Truetken; Pam (cousin of Donna Zuroweste); Laura Krueger's mother, Evelyn Puleo; Marie and Roland Martir's 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 Barwicklow; 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

Frank Finklang, father of Chris Diekman and Kathy Bayless, passed away last week. Please keep him and his family in your prayers. Eternal Rest grant unto him, O Lord. The funeral will be held here at St. Cronan on Monday, December 30 at 10:30am.

Joseph Kuciejczyk III, nephew of Madonna, Janet, and Tom died last Tuesday. Please hold his wife Michelle, his sons Alan and Billy, their spouses, his grandchildren, his Dad Joe and all of us in your prayers.

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.



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.

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.

**Mass for the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God:
January 1, 9:00 a.m.
The church office will be closed on January 1, 2025**

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.

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>

The Church Office will be Closed on January 1.

Happy New Year!

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Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon (314) 533-0651

Sunday Sexton: Terry Panchot

