

**Pastoral Reflection**  
*1st Sunday of Advent*  
*December 2, 2023*

**Not everyone can do great deeds,  
but we can do small deeds with great love.**

Advent is a time of focusing on the coming of God's great gift to us. We wait, as if in a doorway, knowing that change is coming, anticipating the miracle that is to be, and rejoicing in the "Yes" that came from a young girl. We prepare ourselves as we wait, we fill ourselves with hope that Peace on Earth can manifest, even as we witness the destruction of the earth, the dehumanization of migrants and refugees and the devastation of war. We place our trust in God and in each other as we work toward that elusive peace, knowing that Christ's coming can give us the courage we need to do small deeds with great love. Our weekly themes will help us to focus on the anticipation of Jesus' coming. The themes are: Awesome Deeds, Grounding in Hope, Active Waiting, and Saying "YES" to God, as Mary did, and to the needs of the world. As we journey through Advent together, let us contemplate God's great deeds that we witness in our own lives. We will ground ourselves in the hope that God's awesome deeds will encourage us to make changes in our world, however small. In this time of waiting, we will practice active waiting, consciously anticipating Christ's coming with small deeds that can lead to growing harmony and peace. Finally, we will be ready to answer God's call with a resounding YES, as Mary did when she was asked to fulfill God's plan for her.

As you entered Church today, you might have noticed the rather bare "night sky" hanging in the vestibule. On the table in front of the hanging, you will find white stars and angels and pens. We ask that each week, as you focus on the readings and consider the theme, you answer the questions presented in one or two words, or record what you have witnessed in your world that verifies the themes acting in your life. Place the angels and stars in the basket provided, and they will be added to the "night sky" each week to fill our sky with our small deeds.

**Week One: Awesome Deeds**

This week, let us contemplate God's awesome deeds that occur in our lives every day. Let us be aware and mindful of how we see Jesus in those we meet: those special moments that fill our hearts with love and tenderness. Let us be filled with awe as we witness the Holy Spirit acting in our lives in small but miraculous ways.

Questions to consider:

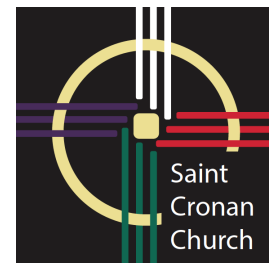
God does awesome deeds for us. What deeds or graces from God have caught you unaware?

Jesus asks us to listen to his words and act on them. What actions have you taken that were based on Jesus' words?

Describe a time when you encountered Christ.

Please consider sharing your thoughts on the stars and angels to fill our night sky with light.

—*Diane Gozdzialski*



**St. Cronan Catholic Church**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**December 3, 2023**

**Mass Information**

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 am.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 pm.

Wednesdays – 8:00 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.



**Cronan Shirts are IN!!!** If you ordered a Cronan shirt to be delivered to church, the shipment is in. Please pick up your shirt from the back of church today.

**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. PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE The next vigil will take place on Friday, December 15. Please join us!

**Sponsor a Family through St. Vincent DePaul:** Would you like to share the holiday spirit with our neighbors in need? Sponsorship entails providing gifts and/or gift cards for a family in need. You can choose the approximate size of the family and one will be assigned to you. Once you have the name and number, you can contact the family to determine needs/wishes and purchase accordingly. Then you can make arrangements to meet a family member to give them the gifts. If you or a group of you are interested in sponsoring a family in need this Christmas, please contact Shelly Kurtz: (314) 520-6108 or

shellykurtz52@gmail.com

**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](http://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, Bridgid Costello and their son Thomas Costello; Varrietta Anthony; Fr. Jack's brother, Mike; Diane Calcaterra; Barb Sopp's friend, Joe Sinibaldi; Bob Barnicle; Paul Schmitt; Tim and Else 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 and Diane Gozdzialski; 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; Roger Bailey, friend of Dom and Marcy Soda; Philip Anala; Bonnie Wimmer; the Krueger family; Nick Ambrose; Betty Newberry; Marty Spies; Judith Santamaria; 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; and Shelly Kurtz' twin brother, Michael Kurtz.

*If your loved one should be removed from the prayer list, please let the church office know.*

### **Slaveholding & the St. Louis Catholic Church - Sunday, December 10 at 11:15 am**

The St. Cronan Church Council invites you to learn about the legacy of slaveholding by the St. Louis Catholic Church on Sunday, December 10, after the 10:00 am mass in the Coffee & Donuts room. Dr. Kelly Schmidt will provide an interactive presentation on her research on the first-person experiences of people enslaved to members of the Catholic Church.

Kelly is a public historian and digital humanist focused on the histories of race, slavery, resistance, and abolition in the United States. She has assisted descendant communities and Catholic institutions in examining their histories with enslavement and engaging in repair work. Kelly currently serves as a Reparative Public Historian and Lecturer at Washington University in St. Louis and a Special Collections Management Research Associate for the WashU & Slavery Project. Kelly is also a parishioner at St. Margaret of Scotland.

**Postcards to our senators and representatives:** The Social Justice Committee provided postcards last Sunday to protest the violence in the Middle East. There is still time to participate. There will be a basket in the back of church for the next few weeks. Everything you need will be there....stamps, address labels, postcards...all you need to do is sign and send. Please help out with this important campaign.



**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](http://www.stcronan.org) for information. *You are always welcome!*

**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



**Stations of the Nativity at St. Ambrose Catholic Church (on the hill)**  
5130 Wilson Ave., St. Louis 63110 **Wed., Dec. 13, at 7:00 pm 314-771-1228.** Stations of the Nativity is a narrated version of readings, prayers and music walking the Stations, from the vision of Zecharias in the temple to the return of the Holy Family to Galilee. Along the way, readers can pray and meditate on the Annunciation, the Visitation, the birth of John the Baptist, Joseph's dream, the Nativity, the appearance of the angels, the shepherds and Magi at the manger, and the Presentation. This will be a prayerful and joyous Advent night as we prepare for Christmas. **Choirs from St. Ambrose and St. Joan of Arc will lead the music.**

**There will be no donuts after Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas.**



# ADVENT

## Lessons & Carols

Join the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet as we celebrate the Advent season and take time to prepare, pray and sing.

**SUNDAY, DEC 10 | 2 PM**

**SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CARONDELET MOTHERHOUSE**

6400 MINNESOTA AVE, ST. LOUIS, MO 63111

All are welcome. | The event is free.

A freewill offering will be taken in support of Fontbonne University's Student Emergency Fund and Seeds of Justice.

**RSVP BY DEC 3**

Scan the QR Code to learn more and register online or visit [csjsl.org](http://csjsl.org).



Artwork by Lisa Lazio, CSJ



CSJ  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet  
ST. LOUIS PROVINCE