

**Pastoral Reflection**  
*Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*  
December 31, 2023

Growing up, I thought of the Holy Family of Mary, Jesus, and Joseph as some perfect nuclear family that serves as a standard for families. This was in part due to illustrations of the nativity scene that tend towards showing a peaceful scene with a new and loving traditional family.

As an adult, my understanding has been maturing.

Jesus was literally born inside a barn, in a trough meant for animals. There's no way there were sanitary conditions in there. Can you imagine Mary responding to her friends and other family asking about how the birth went? How tempting it would have been to judge her for being an unfit parent!

Joseph was an adoptive father, and that alone make the Holy Family a "nontraditional" family. It is interesting that the Gospels attempt to reveal Joseph as a direct descendent of Abraham and David and at the same time show that he is not the biological parent of Jesus. On

top of that, Joseph was far from power or prestige—he was a small town tradesman.

Jesus' parents were probably not a very isolated nuclear family, the way our society expects that of parents. The Gospel of Matthew says Mary spent three months with her cousin Elizabeth. Three months! This suggests that families shared in the

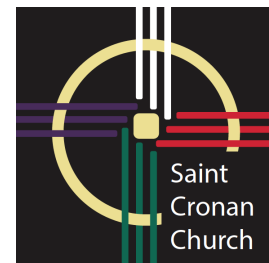
load of taking care of each other and being present during challenging times (like carrying a growing child within you and all that can come with it).

Imagining the possibilities of what this Holy Family lived has helped me accept a standard, or ideal, that is less about perfection and more about listening to God, accepting the reality of life being mysterious and messy, and sharing

in that messiness with others in a spirit of compassion.

This Christmastide, may we seek to grow, alongside our family members (whether nuclear, extended, or others dear to us in our lives) closer to God.

—Justin Lorenz



**St. Cronan Catholic Church**  
**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**  
**December 31, 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.

**The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2024.**

**There will be one mass on January 1, 2024 at 9am** for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. *This is not a holy day of obligation since it falls on a Monday, but you are welcome to start the year off right - in church.*

**Year-End Giving:** It is that time of year when donors are thinking of their year-end giving and taxes. Every check for St. Cronan Church received dated by or before December, 31, 2023 will be credited to the 2023 calendar year. Please have your year-end gifts to the church office no later than January 2, 2024. Year-end contribution statements will be mailed out mid-January. If you do NOT wish to receive a statement, please let Mary in the office know before January 15. Thank you for your continued generosity!

**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!

**St. Cronan St. Vincent de Paul:** The Giving Tree will be up during Christmas 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, 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; Fr. George; Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan; Kathy Stock; Amy Diemer; Sr. Cathy's friends, Ken Castellanos, Ingrid Casillo, Fr. Gerry Kleba, Nancy Buck and Marcy Soda.

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

**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 Mar-ting's Original Music Inspired by Catholic Social Teach- ing. February 11, 1:00 p.m., in the Church. A reception will follow in the Hospitality Room. Please save the date! More details to come.....

**Immigration and Migrant 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](mailto:MigrantMinistrySTL@gmail.com), or visit our office at St. Pius V Rectory. Envelopes are in the back of church should you care to make a donation. Make checks payable to St. Pius V.



**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!*

**St. Francis Community Services**—After School Program Volunteers Needed!: **DO YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS EACH WEEK TO MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE?** St. Francis Community Ser- vices – Southside Immigrant Services Center, lo- cated at 4222 Delor St. (63116) needs tutors and helpers for their “After School Program”! De- signed for youth in kindergarten through 5th Grade, the Program runs Mondays through Thursdays from 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. You will assist children with homework, reading, and other week- ly assignments. If interested, contact Jazmin at [Jpintor@ccstl.org](mailto:Jpintor@ccstl.org) (314) 632-6704.



**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 grandchild- ren. The bread recipe is pretty simple, and had just a few ingredi- ents. If you are interested in helping out with this ministry, please contact Laura Krueger.[Lauramarie993@gmail.com](mailto:Lauramarie993@gmail.com)

**Minivan for sale:** Fr. George has a Honda Odessey for sale. It is on the St. Cronan parking lot if you would like to see it. If you are interested, please contact the of- fice: (314) 289-9384. The proceeds will go to help support his school in Uganda.

**Parish Center Offices**

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

**Pastoral Administrator:** Fr. Jack Schuler  
[jschuler@stcronan.org](mailto:jschuler@stcronan.org)

**Pastoral Associate:** Diane Gozdzi-alski  
[diane@stcronan.org](mailto:diane@stcronan.org)

**Church Administrator:** Mary Ward  
[mary@stcronan.org](mailto:mary@stcronan.org)

**Music Director:** David Dickey  
[dsdickery@earthlink.net](mailto:dsdickery@earthlink.net)

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

**Bulletin Deadline: WED 12 noon**

The staff of St. Cronan Church

Wish you and yours

A very Healthy, Peace-Filled and

**Happy New Year!**

