

2nd Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

Here we are, fully in the midst of the season of Advent, brought again to the banks of the Jordan River to answer anew this urgent question: are we truly prepared to be transformed, to receive the kingdom of heaven?

The Baptizer is speaking of heaven differently here than we often think of it, not as a reward given to individuals who have lived a life of God; instead the "kingdom of heaven" extends beyond the edge of one's own heart and into the large-scale social and communal space.

It is right that such a call to turn our lives around and be transformed should happen in the midst of baptism—of being born again to new life. Baptism is both a deeply personal and a public act. We as a community are called, through our witnessing and the renewal of our baptismal vows, to be transformed anew and to hold each of our neighbors in loving and attentive care—to create the holding space for transformation in one another to occur.

It is also important to remember that John's baptisms were occurring outside the traditional bounds of the religious establishment, and without the oversight and approval of official church leadership. In this setting, did Jesus Himself wade into

the water and emerge anew, ready to begin His ministry.

Transformation does not often come on the easy, paved, and state-sanctioned path; nor can transformation occur without the acceptance of risk and the insistence on truth-telling. "You brood of vipers!" John exclaims to the religious leaders coming to witness his transforming work. No matter our status, our privilege, we are implicated in the social wrongs at work, and we are required to participate in its transformation.

No hands but ours.

—David Gaillardetz



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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Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdziński

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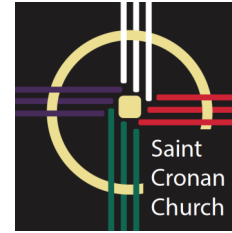
Church Administrator: Mary Ward

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Music Director: David Dickey

Dsdickey@earthlink.net

Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon



**St. Cronan Catholic Church
December 7, 2025**

Second Sunday of Advent



Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 am. and 10 am.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5 pm.

Wednesdays – 8 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

Bulletin Deadline: Noon Tuesday

Don't forget to pick up your poinsettia order after mass! Thanks to all who ordered.

A new exciting fundraiser – "Blind Date with a Book"

The weekend of Dec. 13-14, we will be selling books for \$10.00 after all the masses for you to purchase as Christmas presents. It is a book decorated with clues as to what the book is about. You can just keep the book decorated on your shelf, actually open it and find out what book you purchased or give it as a gift to someone who likes to read. Join in this fun and have an enjoyable "Blind Date with a Book".



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. **Place your order before January 1 to avoid the price increase due to the tariffs.**





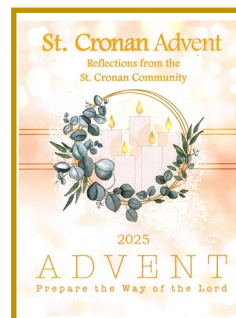
Prayers Please: Nick and Shirley Ambrose and Family; Elisabeth Byrne's mom, Denise Siebold; Joe Connolly; Yvonne DeHart's daughter, Cathy Hebert; Nancy Buck's daughter, Jeanne Oberle; Trish Curtis' sibling, Skip; Joe Fairless; Rob Barnicle, who has been placed on hospice; Judith Santamaria, Leslie Conway; 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 Martir's daughter, Carrie and their granddaughter, Madi and their dear friend, Robert Screace, who has been placed on hospice; Judy Varias' husband Gene Krebs; J.T. Fowler; Grace Mueller; and Joe Kuciejczyk, brother of Madonna and Janet, and brother-in-law of Tom, Donna Zuroweste.

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.

St. Cronan Social Justice Book Club meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month in the 1st floor conference room after the 10am mass from 11:30am-12:30pm. Our December 14 book is "Cherished Belonging: The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times" by Gregory Boyle. Our January 11 book is "Welcoming the Stranger: Justice, Compassion and Truth in the Immigration Debate" by Matthew Soerens & Jenny Yang. We invite you to join us in person or to simply read with us.

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, Dec. 19. Please join us!

Advent Booklets now available: The 2025 St. Cronan Advent Reflection booklet is now available. All of the hard copies have been taken, but you can read the Advent Booklet on the church website by using this link: <https://stcronan.org/news-events/announcements> If you wish to have the booklet emailed to you, please contact Mary in the church office. Thank you to everyone who submitted a reflection!

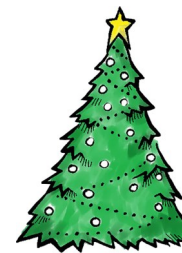


End of Year Donations: If you wish to have your late December contributions posted to 2025 please do your best to have them reach the church office by Dec. 31, and dated Dec. 31 or earlier. *Any donations that reach us by Jan. 6 and are dated in 2025 will be posted to 2025.* Please contact Mary in the church office if you have any questions. Thanks so much for your generosity!

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!

| Nov. 2025 Contributions Thank You! | |
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| General Fund | \$24,067 |
| Building Repair Fund | \$400 |
| Food Pantry | \$7,007 |
| Campaign for Human Devel. | \$2,634 |
| St. Vincent de Paul | \$318 |
| Uganda | \$125 |
| Retired Religious | \$3,134 |
| Immigrant & Refugees | \$70 |
| Arch Dio. Military Collection | \$60 |
| Fundraiser—Poinsettias | \$2,380 |

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas opportunity!



SVdP Giving Tree Our annual 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.

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.