

Second Sunday of Advent Dec. 8, 2024

Since November 5th, I've been in a bit of a funk, as many of us at St. Cronan's have been. I mean the times could almost not look darker with the second administration of a president who's been convicted 34 times as a felon for which he likely won't be held accountable. Things under the next 4 years look bleaker than ever for members of the LGBTQ community, for undocumented immigrants, for truth-speaking journalists, for protesters acting on their constitutional freedom of speech, and for the ever-warming earth with the promise of "drill baby drill!". The long night is here. Where is the light?!

The second Sunday in Advent readings call us to radical hope. In particular, Luke launches us into some unquenchable optimism. This gospel focuses on John the Baptist, who suddenly emerges from the desert, a barren place of drought, physical deprivation and soul-crushing solitude. In spite of the incredibly dark times, under the tripartite oppressors, Caesar, Pilate and Herod accompanied by Israel's complicit and corrupt theocracy, led by Annas and Caiaphas, Luke shines a radiant light.

He quotes Isaiah's prophecy:

*"A voice of one crying out in the desert:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,*

*make straight his paths.
Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

In spite of the growing darkness that seems to surround us at this moment, may we be jolted anew into an unquenchable optimism and radical hope that our God reigns,

Our God

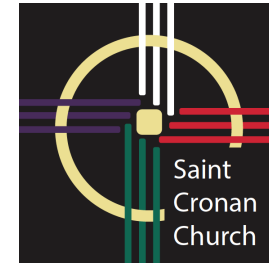
*"who has commanded
that every lofty mountain be made low,
and that the age-old depths and gorges
be filled to level ground."*

—Cathy Hartrich



To Our New Member:

Michael Tafel



St. Cronan Catholic Church 2nd Sunday of Advent December 8, 2024

Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 am.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 pm.

Wednesdays – 8:00 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

Bulletin Deadline: Noon Tuesday

Monday, Dec. 9 at 8am—Mass for the Immaculate Conception

Poinsettia Pick-Up this weekend after each mass. If you ordered a poinsettia through the St. Cronan Fundraiser, please pick up your plant(s) today after mass.

Revers Advent Calendar: The Food Pantry is sponsoring a "Revers Advent Calendar" collecting a food item for each day of Advent. Lists can be found in the vestibule of church. Drop off your items to the church office any day between 9am-3pm. Contact the church office or Mary Solomon with any questions.



Advent Reflection Book: The 2024 Advent Reflection booklet is available online by visiting the St. Cronan website. <https://stcronan.org/news-events/announcements> There will be a limited supply of paper copies in the church vestibule for those who do not have access to a computer. Copies of the booklet can also be emailed to you by requesting one. Email Mary mary@stcronan.org Each reflection is written by a fellow St. Cronan Community member.

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, December 20. Please join us!



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; Sr. Mary Ellen (friend of Nick Ambrose); 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. Louise Lears and her family; Shelly Kurtz's Great-Great Nephew, Louis Barricklow; 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 Abts' grandson, Matthew Peters; Fr. Jack; Gavin Barret-Hayes; Marcy Soda

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>

Advent Lessons and Carols: The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet invite you to join us for a guided meditation and a reflective journey as we prepare ourselves for the birth of our Lord. Sunday, Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. CT Carondelet Motherhouse (6400 Minnesota Ave., St. Louis, MO 63111) The event is free. Learn more and register online by Nov. 24 at csjstl.org/events



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.

Surrounding our community with love: When one member of the Body suffers, we all suffer. With the events occurring this week and the perceived repercussions, the St. Cronan Community would like to be pro-active in understanding and addressing the pain and fear that is prevalent right now in our community and in our country. As a result, we are gathering people to discuss the actions we might take as a community to ease some of the fear addressing the issues that have come forward this week, especially the threat to Creation and climate change, the dangers implicated for migrants, and the inherent trauma that will be suffered by our LBGQTQIA+ siblings and their families. If you are interested in addressing these issues please sign up on the sheets in the church vestibule.

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 January 1, 2025 in order to be included on your 2024 year end statement. Year end 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.



**Christmas Eve:
Carols at 8:30pm,
Mass at 9pm
Christmas Day:
8am & 10am**

Parish Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

Phone: (314) 289-9384

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Pastoral Administrator: Fr. Jack Schuler

jschuler@stcronan.org

Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdziński

diane@stcronan.org

Church Administrator: Mary Ward

mary@stcronan.org

Music Director: David Dickey

dsdickey@earthlink.net

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

