

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 1, 2026

Blessed are they who know their need of God.

“I can do it myself!” This was 3-year old me sitting at the workbench in the basement next to my dad. Since we are both stubborn, this could have been a standoff had my mother not intervened and told my dad to let me do it my way. Arguing with a 3-year old is not helpful.

This is one of my earliest memories when we lived on Telegraph Road. Too often this has been the way I have approached my relationship with God. I suspect I am not alone in telling God how to do things because I know what I want.

As we mature in our faith life, we learn that we are called to love as God loves. We recognize that God loves us unconditionally. We can become more open to needing God. The times we are living in make us keenly aware of needing God individually and communally. God saves us, not in a *deus ex machina* way, but by drawing us near and loving us. We who are made in the image and likeness of God are called to extend that love lavishly.

The Gospel reading, the Beatitudes, illustrate God’s love. Jesus embodied this love and invites us to live as he did. Blessed are they who mourn, who are gently strong

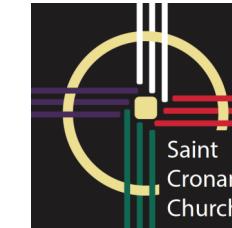
and concerned for others, who hunger and thirst for righteousness, who are merciful, who have integrity and honesty in relating to God and people, who are peacemakers, and who are persecuted for the sake of justice. This way of life is a great contrast to the cultural and the religious world in which we live. Jesus promises fullness of life and deep joy in the midst of the struggles and pain that will ensue if we choose to live the Gospel Jesus preached and lived.

Doing it “my way” can close us off from God and our communities. It can close us off from the love God freely offers and invites us to share.

Blessed are they who know their need of God. This translation in one of my Bibles opened my prayer to a new way of understanding *“poor in spirit.” It challenged me to reflect on what needing God in my life, in our lives, demands. The coming week could be a good time to reflect on each of the beatitudes during prayer. How does each one invite me to respond to the Good News of Jesus? How does each one help me realize God’s love and my vocation to share that love – working toward the unconditional part that only God does.*

Blessed are they who know their need of God.

—Lynne Schmidt, SSND



St. Cronan Catholic Church February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 am. and 10 am.

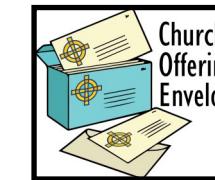
SATURDAY VIGIL – 5 pm.

Wednesdays – 8 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

Bulletin Deadline: Noon Tuesday

Year End Statements: 2025 Contribution Statements are in the back of the church. Please pick yours up today. We will be mailing them out on Feb. 2. If you are not in need of your statement, please let us know so we do not mail yours out. Thank you! *And a special THANK YOU to those who came to help stuff the envelopes!!!*



January Envelope Packets: For all envelope users: In your January Envelope Packets you received an envelope marked “First Offering”. This envelope is used to pay for the cost of your weekly envelopes which St. Cronan pays for. If you use envelopes, please remit the requested \$3.00 during January. In addition, if you receive the STL Review, please use the envelope designated for the Review to help cover those costs, as well. Please contact Mary in the church office if you have any questions.

Blessing Bags: Our Confirmation class is collecting items to distribute to the homeless. See Monday notes for a list of needed items. Please place donated items in the box in the vestibule of Church. The Confirmandi will then compile the bags and have them in Church for you to pick up and distribute.



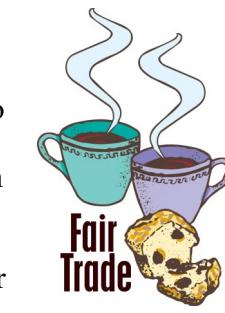
Coming Next Week! St. Cronan Basket Raffle.
Watch the bulletin, Monday Notes and the church Website for details coming soon! See the poster in back of church.



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; 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; Marie and Roland Martir's daughter, Carrie and their granddaughter, Madi and their dear friend, Robert Screase, who has been placed on hospice; J.T. Fowler; Grace Mueller; Joe Kuciejczyk, brother of Madonna and Janet, and brother-in-law of Tom, John Ross and Maria, daughter of Marci and Dominic Soda; Sr. Lynne Schmidt's nephew, Brian Ahr; John Ross; Teresa Beard's son, Edward Burch; Dodie Heilich, sister in law to Helen and Sandy McKinney; Judy Benson, Elliot Gaillardetz 's caregiver; Ed Calcaterra, brother of Diane Calcaterra; Colleen Wallace's cousins; Ruth Hasser; Katy and Dennis Rosolowski.

Bob Barnicle, a long-time community member and Past President of St. Vincent de Paul, passed away last week. Please keep him, Penny, Dorit, and their family in your prayers. Eternal Rest Grant unto them, O Lord

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.

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, February 20. Please join us!



Church Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

Phone: (314) 289-9384

1202 S. Boyle, St. Louis, MO 63110

Community Life Coordinator: Johnny Zokovitch

Johnny@stcronan.org

Retired Priest in Residence: Fr. Jack Schuler

Jschuler@stcronan.org

Pastoral Associate: Diane Gozdzialski

Diane@stcronan.org

Church Administrator: Mary Ward

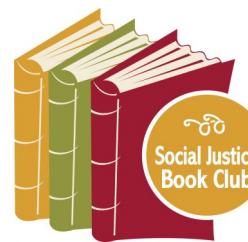
Mary@stcronan.org

Music Director: David Dickey

Dsdickey@earthlink.net

Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Louis is dedicated to bringing the healing, help, and hope of Jesus Christ to those in need with a compassionate, caring presence. We provide services through all stages of life, from the beginning of life to senior care. Catholic Charities Disaster Case Management teams are working hard to permanently house families after losing their homes in the Spring 2025 storms. The House to Home Program directly supports a family that is moving into their first permanent place to live. Does your family, parish group, or school want to adopt a family. For more information or to get involved, please contact your Parish Ambassador Kelly Collins at kelly.collins60@gmail.com.



St. Cronan Social Justice Book Club

Club meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month in the Church office conference room after the 10AM Mass from 11:30AM-12:30PM. Our February 8th book is "I Am Not Your Negro" by James Baldwin. There is a documentary of the same name. We invite you to join us in person or simply read with us. Looking ahead the March 8th book will be *Insane for the Light: A Spirituality for Our Wisdom Years* by Ronald Holheiser.

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.