

The Presentation of the Lord February 2, 2025

“Presente”

As each name of those killed by alumni of the School of the Americas is read, protesters walking in solemn procession call out “Presente”. This Spanish word translated as “present” has profound meaning in this context. By this holy remembrance their spirits are invited into our midst.

As I began reflecting on the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, I recalled this moment calling out “Presente” while protesting at Fort Benning the killing in Central America by graduates of the School of the Americas. Scripturally, the presentation refers to Mary and Joseph presenting Jesus to God offering the ordinary sacrifice of two turtle doves, and Mary being purified forty days after giving birth as required by Jewish law. Joseph and Mary were faith-observant Jews. In bringing their baby Jesus to the temple, they were honoring the truth that each child comes from God as a gift, and belongs to God as God’s precious one. This Presentation story is one of Luke’s Infancy Narratives, theological reflections written to answer the question “Who are you, Jesus?”

As this Epiphany story unfolds we see the action of the Holy Spirit through the persons of Simeon and Anna. As prophets, they speak for God that this child is the long-awaited Messiah. Simeon proclaims this in his intimate conversation with Mary and Joseph while Anna proclaims it publically. The Presentation story juxtaposes joy and sorrow. When we pray the rosary, we meditate on The Presentation in the Temple as one of the joyful mysteries. At the same time, Simeon tells Mary, “A sword will pierce your heart.”

The United States continues to fund the killing and train the killers. I felt moved to “present” the over 17,500 Palestinian children who have been killed since October 7, 2023. The hearts of their mothers, fathers, grandparents and all their family have been pierced. While I don’t know these children by name, I know that God knows those children as the beloved of their Great Heart and names them all. “Presente.”

Since I first wrote this reflection, many more are suffering : immigrants, refugees, migrant workers the LGBTQ+ community, Federal workers, researchers, the environment to name a few. I present them to God’s and our compassionate hearts who know their inherent dignity. May we be guided to compassionate action, providing hope. ”Presente”

—Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan

Parish Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

Phone: (314) 289-9384

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Pastoral Administrator: Fr. Jack Schuler

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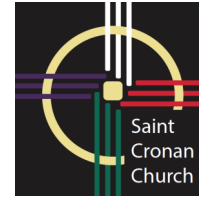
mary@stcronan.org

Music Director: David Dickey

dsdickey@earthlink.net

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

Sunday Sexton: Open Position



St. Cronan Catholic Church
February 2, 2025
The Presentation of the Lord



Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 pm.

Wednesdays – 8:00 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

Bulletin Deadline: Noon Tuesday

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 21. Please join us!

Immigrant Accompaniment Program



**Immigrant
& Refugee
Ministry**

The Immigrant & Refugee Ministry will be taking on a new immigrant accompaniment program, an initiative which provides a way to walk with our immigrant sisters and brothers and show support as they go through their immigration process. To deepen your commitment to IRM efforts, contact IRM coordinator, Kevin Kuehl at (314) 772-1525 ext 204 or www.stpiusv.org/migrant_ministry, or contact Trish Curtis, your rep on the IRM Board.

Please contact the church office if you would like some “Know Your Rights” cards. Keep an eye on Monday notes for this and more opportunities to help.

Our new banner is now up! Check it out on the Boyle side of the church building. Please see this week’s Monday Notes for more about Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope and some ways you can help out the Immigrant & Refugee Ministry.





Prayers Please: Fr. Jack ; Nick and Shirley Ambrose and Family; Elisabeth Byrne’s mom, Denise Siebold; Mary Truetken; Joe Connolly; Yvonne Hart’s daughter, Cathy Hebert; Nancy Buck’s Daughter, Jeanne Oberle.

Mary Truetken is hospitalized at Mercy with metastasized cancer and has been placed on Hospice. Please keep her, Gary, and Kateri close in your prayers

Several times a year the prayer list gets purged due to space and changes in circumstances of those needing prayers. If you would like your loved one to be added back onto the prayer list, please contact Mary in the church office. mary@stcronan.org

Caroline Leibman, Spiritual Enrichment through Movement: Caroline offers instruction in Spiritual Movement on Tuesday afternoons, Feb. 11th and 25th and then March 11th and 25th

at 12pm, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. To register for a session, please use this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BAFAF23A0F49-52556820-spiritual> Instructions to sign up: Click “sign up” at the bottom of the list of slots, click “save and continue” (this might be under the “cookies” notice. You will need to close that to see it). On “Sign me up” page, enter your name and email if it is not displayed. Click “sign up now.” Click “back to sign up – your name should appear in your selected slot. Questions? Contact Caroline at carolineleiberman@gmail.com or Diane at diane@stcronan.org

Jubilee Year of Hope: As we begin the new year, let us open our doors to the hope of a better future. Let us resolve to work collectively to welcome our migrant neighbors and LBGQTQIA+ siblings. In the vestibule, you will notice the door marked with the Papal Seal, the Holy Family as migrants and refugees, and the “Welcome All” logo. Let us face 2025 with a firm commitment to follow Pope Francis’ declaration.



Blessing Bags: In a crate in the vestibule are blessing bags given to us by Break-thru 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.

Marygrove Lunch Club: We invite you to learn more about Marygrove and the work we do for youth in our community. Join us for Mass in our beautiful chapel, followed by lunch and fellowship in the cafeteria. Lunch club dates: February 7, May 2, November 7. Mass begins at 11:30, Lunch at 12:00 p... Free to attend, donations appreciated. To learn more or to RSVP, contact Jackie Boyd at (314) 584-6129 or jboyd@mgstl.org



The St. Cronan Social Justice Book Club meets on the second Sunday of each month in the Parish Center library on the 1st floor after the 10AM mass from 11:30AM-12:30PM (hybrid meeting for those who are unable to join in person). Please bring your book suggestions and join us on Sunday, February 9, 2025 to plan our reading list for the coming year. You are encouraged to read “Stamped from the Beginning” by Ibram X. Kendi for our meeting on March 9, 2025. This choice honors Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and February’s Black history month. We invite you to join us or to simply read our monthly book choice. Please contact Charlene Connolly, Chairperson at 314-308-0056 for more information.

Contribution Statements: 2024 Contribution Statements went out last week. When you receive yours, please look it over carefully. If you find any errors or have any questions please reach out to Mary in the office. mary@stcronan.org or 314-289-9384

St. Margaret of Scotland’s Gun Sense for the Common Good: St. Cronan's parishioners interested in working towards educating and acting to reduce gun violence in our city, please merge with us. We value your ideas and your experiences. In 2024 we recorded 255 gun-related deaths in the St. Louis city and county. 31 of them were children ages 4 to 18. Our 4 year old was shot by a sibling late at night while mom was away from the house. Our oldest senseless death was a 92 year old man shot to death while raking leaves in his yard. These deaths should not have happened, should not have happened! Join us as we work to build awareness and reduce gun related deaths. Hoping to see you January 30 at 7:00pm in St. Margaret of Scotland’s church hall. Julie Hesed momhesed@gmail.com

Emergency food deliveries to Immigrants afraid to leave home: We would like to organize food deliveries this weekend to our siblings who can’t get out to shop. If you are interested in helping, please contact Trish Curtis: trishquita1952@gmail.com



Our Newest Member:

Mary Beth McHugh