

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 8, 2026

In the readings this Sunday, the prophet Isaiah and Gospel writer Matthew echo each other with practically the same message: Be a light to the world by doing the works of mercy.

St. Paul's message to the Corinthians, on the other hand, seems to reach out to those who are interested in shining their light, but are afraid of doing so, or fear not having the right words. "I came to you in weakness...and my message...[was] not with persuasive words of wisdom..."

However, he then admits that he overcame his fear with confidence in God's Spirit residing in him.

Do I lead with a "demonstration of Spirit and power" like Paul does?

One martyr who we can turn to now who reveals the power of God's Spirit is the Salvadoran Jesuit, Rutilio Grande. Grande spent years as a priest with low self-worth. In his late thirties and as a result of Vatican II, his sense of purpose changed from setting an example of perfection to an example of loving self-sacrifice and action. He supported seminarians to live among peasants in the country and worked with the poor to help them see the sources of their oppression. There was much pressure to silence him by the wealthy, especially after an incitive Mass in honor of a foreign-born priest who was arrested and deported with no charges. He denounced the sham of democracy in El Salvador. He preached:

"I'm afraid that if Jesus of Nazareth came

back, coming down from Galilee to Judea, that is from Chalatenango to San Salvador, I daresay he would not get as far as Apopa, with his preaching and actions...They would accuse him of being a rabble-rouser, a foreign Jew, one confusing people with strange and exotic ideas, against democracy, that is, against the minority...and they would undoubtedly crucify him again."

A month later, he and two others were in a van when they were gunned down. And his death would help inspire the conversion of a conservative and pious archbishop named Oscar Romero to work for justice and find the same fate.

May Rutilio Grande's example instill a sense of God's power within us, that we might shine our lights beyond our fears and out into the world.

—Justsin Lorenz

Church Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm
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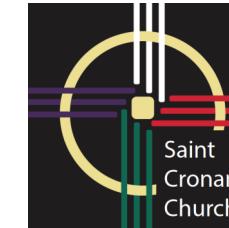
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Music Director: David Dickey

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Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon



St. Cronan Catholic Church February 8, 2026

Fifth 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

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.



Ash Wednesday is February 18. Mass times with distribution of ashes will be 8am, noon and 6:30pm. Please join us as we begin our Lenten journey.

St. Cronan Basket Raffle!

Our first fundraiser of the calendar year! We have several baskets for you to choose from:

- Liquor Basket valued at \$350
- St. Louis Basket valued at \$800
- Toy Basket valued at \$110
- Wine Basket valued at \$200
- Original Artwork = Priceless



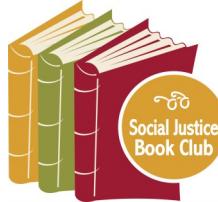
Tickets will be on sale after each mass from Feb. 7-March 15. Sell tickets to your friends and neighbors!

Tickets are 1/\$5, 4/\$10 or 10/\$20

Baskets will be displayed in the back of church each with a list of contents. Thank You to all who donated items for our baskets.



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; Ruth Hasser; Sandra Ward.



St. Cronan Social Justice Book Club takes place today and on the 2nd Sunday of each month in the Church office conference room after the 10AM Mass from 11:30AM-12:30PM. Looking ahead, the March 8th book will be *Insane for the Light: A Spirituality for Our Wisdom Years* by Ronald Holheiser.

All Trivia Enthusiasts: Midtown's annual Trivia Night will be March 21 at The Heights in Richmond Heights. Visit <https://www.midtownstl.org/trivia-night> for more info or to register.

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!



Our Newest Members:
Michael & Lori Meehan and family
Megan Krug

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. Make checks payable to **St. Cronan** and write "coffee" on the memo line.



Jan. 2026 Contributions Thank You!

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| General Fund | \$17,752 |
| Building Repair Fund | \$110 |
| Food Pantry | \$1,246 |
| Latin America | \$75 |
| St. Vincent de Paul | \$3,253 |
| Uganda | \$55 |
| Envelope Costs –1st offering | \$18 |

HUMILITY OF CHRIST
SATURDAY, FEB 28,
2026
10:00AM CT

Carondelet Motherhouse
6400 Minnesota Ave., St.
Louis, MO 63111

Join us for our Lenten Prayer: *Dwelling in the Humility of Christ* will focus on the humility of Christ through prayer, song, meditation and quiet reflection. Together, we will explore how our baptism calls us to humbly bring God's love to our community, church and world during these tumultuous times. A continental breakfast will follow the prayer service. All are invited. Registration closes Feb. 14. Link to register: [Lenten Prayer: Dwelling in the Humility of Christ](#)



Please join us for Turtles: **Turtles** is a monthly gathering of Cronan women who read and discuss books on spirituality and current issues. The difference between Turtles and the SJ book club is that Turtles are slower at reading the books – we break the book down into several parts to read and share over several meetings. This way, we can delve deeper into the book's content, spend some time socializing, and don't have to read a whole book every month. Yes, there are wine and snacks! We meet the third Monday of the month at the home of one of our members. We will be starting a new book on February 16 and I'll share the title as soon as I have it. This is the perfect time to join us. If you are interested email Diane – diane@stcronan.org or Yvonne DeHart dehartyi@aol.com or call Diane at 314-941-4933.

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.