

## St. Cronan Church Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which St. Cronan Church now stands is part of the ancestral territory of the Wahzhazhe (Osage), Myaamia (Miami), Illiniwek (Illini), Chikashsha (Chickasaw), Ugahxpa (Quapaw), Sac & Fox, Shawnee, Otoe-Missouria, Baxoje (Ioway), and Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo) tribes. We honor the enduring presence of Native Americans and Indigenous peoples in this region and express our respect for their contributions, both past and present.

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1808, large portions of Missouri and Arkansas, including the land which is now St. Louis City, were seized by the United States Government as part of the Land Cession 67. The Indian Removal Act of 1830, along with subsequent legislation, further contributed to the forced displacement of the Native American and Indigenous peoples who had lived on these lands for generations. Currently, there are no federally recognized Native American tribes with reservation lands in Missouri, though 2019 census data indicates that approximately 454,478 Missouri residents are of Native American/Indigenous descent.

We pay our respects to these Indigenous peoples, who have been stewards of this land for generations. We also acknowledge the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization and missionizing by the Catholic Church, which have profoundly affected the lives and cultures of Indigenous peoples.

We recognize the resilience, strength, and enduring contributions of Native American and Indigenous communities. We commit to understanding and addressing the historical injustices that have occurred through continued learning, dialogue, and action. As members of St. Cronan Church, we seek to foster a spirit of reconciliation, mutual respect, and partnership with all Indigenous peoples. We are dedicated to acknowledging the harm caused by our church's historical role, learning from Native and Indigenous wisdom, and working towards healing and justice.

As we gather on this land, we commit ourselves to ongoing education about its history and the Native Americans and Indigenous peoples who have called it home. We pledge to deepen our understanding, promote reconciliation, and pursue justice, while recognizing the profound connection between people, land, and culture.

Through this land acknowledgment, we aim to remind all who enter our space of the enduring legacies of colonialism, the forced removal of Indigenous peoples, and the missionizing imposed by the Catholic Church. We express our gratitude to the Native and Indigenous stewards of this land, past and present.

We recognize that land acknowledgments are just one step in an ongoing journey toward understanding and healing. We welcome feedback and invite those with lived experiences, particularly from Indigenous communities, to share their perspectives, helping us to deepen our commitment to justice and reconciliation. We can be reached at [info@stcronan.org](mailto:info@stcronan.org).

[stcronan.org](http://stcronan.org)  
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