

**Third Sunday of Lent
March 8, 2026**

“I am he (the Messiah, the Christ), the one speaking with you.”

Jesus reveals his identity to a Samaritan woman. What is he thinking? What is he doing? She belongs to a despised group who intermarried with the Assyrians when they conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 721 BCE. They also turned from the God who had led them out of Egypt and called them God’s own people. But they turned to the fertility gods, the baals (the same word means husbands), of their conquerors. This is scandalous. Not only is Jesus engaging in a theological discussion with a Samaritan, but he is also talking to a woman in a very public place. No wonder his disciples are speechless, amazed, and confused.

Jesus was known to break a number of Jewish customs and rules. He engages her in a theological discussion about where her people worship and about “living water.” She thinks he is talking about water one drinks, but gradually she understands the man with whom she is conversing. She accepts Jesus, then leaves to tell her townspeople who come to hear Jesus and believe. John portrays her as the first missionary.

The early Christian community had a significant number of Samaritan converts. Some Jewish members of John’s community found this very difficult. John’s community was complex and conflictual. Even the Samaritans could be converted and preach the Gospel. The account of the Samaritan woman and Jesus reflects this reality and the centrality of faith in

the divinity of Jesus, God who became human in Jesus. This was a stumbling block for many people.

Lent is a good time to reflect on how our encounter with Jesus changes us. When Jesus asks us for a drink of water, how do we respond? How are we changed, converted, when we chance upon Jesus by the well? How are we missionaries – not worrying about our “success,” but knowing that we reap what others have sown. We sow what others will reap. Do I have the courage to question my unchallenged assumptions about my faith and to respond wholeheartedly to Jesus today.

The saints, uncanonized and canonized, that are part of our Lenten reflections at St. Cronan offer us examples of the hopes and dreams, the successes and failures, and the metanoia or conversion they had when they met Christ and accepted the call to be missionaries in their time and place.

—Lynne Schmidt, SSND

Church Center Offices

Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

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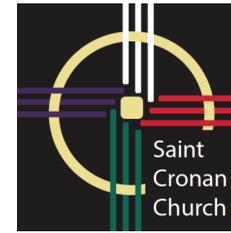
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Food Pantry Director: Mary Solomon



**St. Cronan Catholic Church
March 8, 2026**

Third Sunday of Lent



Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 am. and 10 am.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5 pm.

Wednesdays – 8 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment.

Bulletin Deadline: Noon Tuesday



It’s not too late you get your Catholic Relief Services Rice

Bowls: Please pick up your Rice Bowl in the back of Church.

During Lent drop your spare change into your Rice Bowl. Let us journey together to assist those in need in rising above the challenges of hunger and malnutrition. Vis-

it crsricebowl.org to learn more. Please return your Rice Bowls on Easter Sunday.

Catholic Renewal Spring Conference Join us for March 20-21, 2026, Lenten Retreat at the Cardinal Rigali Center with John Michael Talbot. For information contact Catholic Renewal Center “The Journey East and Healing in the Spirit”. For more information call: (314) 731-6100 or email: catholicrenewal@archstl.org <https://www.archstl.org/catholic-renewal-spring-retreat-registration/>



St. Cronan Basket Raffle!

Tickets will be on sale after each mass through March 15, when the drawing will take place. Sell tickets to your friends and neighbors! Call Mary in the church office if you would like to buy chances via Credit/Debit card. 314-289-9384

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 grand-daughter, Madi and their dear friend, Robert Screace, who has been placed on hospice; J.T. Fowler; Grace Mueller; Joe Kuciejczyk, brother of Madonna and Janet, and brother-in-law of Tom, 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; Sandra Ward; Fr. Jerry Stookey's brother, Tom.

Long-time church member, Saralou Hendrickson passed away last week. Please keep her family in your prayers.



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.

Lenten Booklet: Walk New Paths as Pilgrims of Hope: Our Liturgy Committee has compiled a Lenten Booklet. The Lenten booklet is available online on the church website. <https://stcronan.org/news-events/announcements> Please call the church office if you would like a hard copy.

Men’s Retreat: We have scheduled the Men’s Retreat for 2026. The retreat is scheduled for May 8 -10 at the Griesedieck Farm. Additional details will be forthcoming over the next several weeks. Please mark your calendar's for a wonderful opportunity for faith sharing, community building, and lots of laughter. For more info, contact a member of our planning team: Dan Madden, Joe Moramarco, and Rocky Sieben.



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, March 20. Please join us!

Voting Rights and Racial Justice Film and Discussion: On Sunday, April 26th at 1pm, come to St. Cronan’s cafeteria (or linger after coffee and donuts) to watch Phil Portlock present his 10-minute tribute to Rep. John “Good Trouble” Lewis and his 30-minute film documentary, “Voting Rights: The Struggle to Be Counted 1619-2014,” followed by a discussion with Phil. For more information, contact Paul Pecha at lisa.paul.pecha@gmail.com.

The Catholic Relief Services Collection funds six agencies working to reveal Christ’s love to those in need overseas and here in the United States. The collection shares its name with the flagship international relief and development agency of the Catholic bishops of the United States, but it also supports other initiatives: the **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Migration and Refugee Services** department for resettlement; the **Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)**, which helps immigrants with work permits, residency, family reunifications, and citizenship; the **USCCB Secretariat of Justice and Peace** for advocacy of human rights and education on Catholic social teaching; and the **USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church**, whose ministries address the unique pastoral needs of Catholics from a range of cultures as well as itinerant peoples. Finally, this collection supports the **Holy Father’s Relief Fund**, through which the Holy Father aids people in distress worldwide.

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 April book will be *Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck.

Feb. 2026 Contributions Thank You!	
General Fund	\$27,624
Building Repair Fund	\$515
Food Pantry	\$2,098
Black/Native American	\$535
St. Vincent de Paul	\$510
Uganda	\$60
Central/Eastern Europe	\$143
Raffle Basket Fundraiser	\$1,362
Immigrant & Refugee	\$121

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.