ADVENT SPEAKER SERIES

Offered twice weekly on Sundays (Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, and 20) at 6pm and Wednesdays (Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 23) at noon (after coffee and donuts) in the church. Each session is one hour, with an opening and closing prayer, 20-30 minutes presentation, and 15-20 minutes discussion.

Sunday, Nov. 29 and Wednesday, Dec. 2:

- **WHAT CHILD IS THIS? REFLECTIONS ON THE INFANCY NARRATIVES**

The narratives of Jesus's birth in Matthew and Luke are foundational readings that we revisit every Advent. ***Sr. Lynne Schmidt, SSND*** *will lead us in examining these stories more closely as part of our Advent preparation.*

Lynne has taught religion and theology in high schools, universities, and parishes. She has served as a Director of Religious Education, a Pastoral Minister, and a Campus Minister in various parts of the United States and Honduras. She has offered Days of Reflection and prepared women and men for church leadership positions. She is currently more or less retired and grateful to be part of St. Cronan community.

Sunday, Dec. 6 and Wednesday, Dec. 9:

- **WELCOMING THE DEAR NEIGHBOR IN ADVENT AND BEYOND**

We will discuss the ways that our faith might allow us to creatively envision a different political and communal reality for immigration policy and relationships.

Jessica Mayo, *her husband Ken, and her children Levi, Damian, and Dorothy, are members of the St. Cronan community. Jessica is a co-director and attorney at the Migrant and Immigrant Community Action (MICA) Project. She is also an Associate of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.*

Sunday, Dec. 13 and Wednesday, Dec. 16:

- **ALL CREATION WAITS**

In our northern hemisphere, where the season of Advent aligns with the growing dark of our winter solstice, Wisdom resides in the many ways our animal kin cope with the threatening cold. From hibernation to huddles to hidden harvests, winter creatures prepare for new life at the edge of death. This reflection will examine the work of Gayle Boss in her book All Creation Waits: The Advent Mystery of New Beginnings*, and prompt meditation on the significance of the stable in our Christmas story and the ways we might be invited to find new life in the unlikeliest of places.*

Abbey Schumacher *is part of the St. Cronan community, along with her husband Michael and their two children, Sam and Joni. She currently works as a School Garden Educator for Seed St. Louis and occasionally seeks opportunities to resurrect her pre-children graduate degree in theology from Catholic Theological Union.*

Sunday, Dec. 20 and Wednesday, Dec. 23:

- **ALREADY, BUT NOT YET:**
  THEOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOANALYTIC FRAMEWORKS FOR THE CLIMATE CRISIS

The climate crisis is both looming and already underway. The Advent season calls us to an active waiting that can help us approach the crisis without foreclosing any possible futures. In this presentation, we will explore tools from theology and psychoanalysis to help us trace the impact of sociopolitical power structures on our psyches and to work more effectively toward a "better catastrophe."

Loren Gaillardetz *is a psychotherapist in private practice and an armchair theologian. She is part of the Community of Preachers at St. Cronan Church.*