



Pastor:
Jesus

Mission:
The Gospel

This faith community gathers in thanksgiving and prayer daily. You are invited to join us anytime.

SUNDAY — 8:00 am and 10:00 am
SATURDAY VIGIL — 5:00 pm
WEEKDAYS — 8:00 am

The Sacrament of Reconciliation at 4:30 pm Saturday or by appointment.

1202 S. Boyle Ave. • St. Louis, MO 63110 • www.stcronan.org

Our Mission Statement

Our mission at St. Cronan's parish is to create an atmosphere in which people of all ages and persuasions are called to worship and to build the living Church. As followers of Jesus Christ, this community recognizes the value of ministering to each other, of fostering our own spiritual growth, of encouraging a commitment to social justice, and sharing, in faith, our gifts with the wider neighborhood and world community.

Parish Council

Joan Barthel (*)	Tim Hellmann (2)
Kathy Bayless (3)	Jim Kelly (2)
Dede Coughlin (*)	Marie Martir (3)
Judy Gallagher (*)	Dan Schuler (3)
Heather Hageman (3)	Dominic Soda (*)

Parish Ministries

- Faith Formation
- RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)
- Liturgy of the Word with Children
- Eucharistic Ministers/Lectors
- Music Ministry
- Liturgy Committee
- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- St. Cronan Food Pantry
- Health Cabinet
- Grief Support
- C4 (Churches Committed to Community Concerns)
- Habitat for Humanity
- COPE (Congregations + Offender Partnership Enterprise)
- Parish Council
- Stewardship & Fundraising
- Parish Support Team
- Personnel Committee

Parish Center Offices (314) 256-9350

Fax (314) 535-1437

Pastor

Fr. Gerald J. Kleba gerry@stcronan.org
Rectory (314) 289-9545

Pastoral Associate

Pat Carter p-a@stcronan.org

Parish Staff

Ms. Delores Blount delores@stcronan.org
Parish Secretary
Ms. Mary Ellen Dee maryellen@stcronan.org
Director, Music Ministry
Ms. Kathy Hunn kathy@stcronan.org
Director, Food Pantry (314) 533-0651
Mr. Carlos Johnson
Maintenance
Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan
Faith Formation

Outreach

St. Vincent de Paul (314) 289-6101 Box 1143
Emergency Assistance
Health Cabinet
Ms. Dorothy Lucey
Parish Nurse health@stcronan.org
Ms. Barbara O'Connell
Midtown (314) 534-1180
Catholic Charities Community Services

Webmaster

Mr. Dominic Soda webmaster@stcronan.org

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Sat. 8a Our Faithful Departed Parishioners
Sat. 10:30p Elizabeth Temporiti
Sun. 8a The People of the Parish
10a Leonard Palozola

WEEKDAYS AT 8:00a

Mon. Ann Playwin
Tues. *Communion Service*
Wed. Earl Aubuchon
Thurs. Richard M. Ley
Fri. Lola Prosperi

NEXT WEEKEND

Sat. 5p Helen, May & Margaret Rabbitt
Sun. 8a The People of the Parish
10a Jim Cuddihee

REFRESHMENTS

1st Sunday Parish Council
2nd Sunday Anna Forder
3rd Sunday Maggie Hart-Mahon & Bob Mahon
4th Sunday Henry Schmitt

Dancing Toward Bethlehem

If there is only enough time in the final
Minutes of the twentieth century for one last dance
I would like to be dancing it slowly with you.

Say, in the ballroom of a seaside hotel.
My palm would press into the small of your back
As the past hundred years collapsed into a pile
Of mirrors or buttons or frivolous shoes.

Just as the floor of the nineteenth century gave
way
And disappeared in a red cloud of brick dust.
There will be no time to order another drink
Or worry about what was never said,

Not with the orchestra sliding into the sea
And all our attention devoted to humming
Whatever it was they were playing.

-Billy Collins
The Art of Drowning (1995)

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS & BROTHERS

Susan Playwin (Roger Playwin's wife), John O'Connell (Barb's son), Greg LaVigne, Sandra Ward, Paul Oldenburg, Greg DaLay (Steve DaLay's brother), Mirabella Momo, sister of Seraphina Momo, Jaime Benitez, Millie & Joe Janisch, Frank Matula (Leslie Conway's husband), Tom Mullen, Patrick McKenna, (Mark & Maria McKenna's brother), Claude Vandervolt, Mary Zumwalt (Kathy Bayless' sister), Michael Boehm, Danny O'Connell (Barb O'Connell's grandson) and Barb O'Connell's mom, Terri Prince, Suzy Prince, Isabel Wimmer Brown (Warren & Bonnie's granddaughter), Cathy Lang, Ray Bayers (Janet Kostal's dad), Mary Dunaway, Valerie Williams, Mimi March (Henry Schmitt's sister), Alex Smith, Paul Voelker, Mirelly Kernan (sister-in-law of Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan), Marje Kaiman (Kathleen's mom), Mike & Edith Ridley (Mike's mom), Becky Scurlock, David Sieben (Rocky's father), Mary Anne (Toni) McKenna, Mary Ann (Terry Hunn's sister), Aidan Jordan, Vickie Avellone, Pat Naum (wife of Louis), JoAnn & Donald Anderson, Barbara Peper (Anne Perkins' stepmother), Daniel Whealon (Mary Whealon's twin brother), Sue Lauritsen's son, Nodric, Danielle Oliveros (Nancy Buck's granddaughter), Susan Christopher, Carrie Brown (Roland Martir's daughter), Nancy Buck's daughter, Chris, Edward Dee (son of Mary Ellen Dee), Jeffrey Williams, Arthricia Temes, and Genevieve Pollack.

Rest in Peace: Otto Stegmaier, Martha Stegmaier's father, went to God on Dec. 13. He was buried in Iowa. Our prayers for Martha and all of her family. May we rejoice with her in a life well lived.

St. Cronan's Chronicles arrived from the printer just in time for our liturgies this past weekend. It's a wonderful issue which gives a delightful taste of life at our parish. Thanks to Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan who compiled and edited, copy edited and proofread by Joan Barthel, designed by Kathleen Herring. Be sure to pick up your copy at church!

Saturday, December 24th, 10:00 am. Join us for decorating the church for Christmas! Please let us know if you are coming so we know how many people to count on. Some of the tasks require a good eye, or some strength, but most of the tasks require simply a willing heart and some time. And it is always great fun to see what emerges from the efforts of those participating. So please join us!

During this Advent, may our community continue to make straight the pathway to our God for each other, our families, our communities and the world. We are still looking for pictures of our community in action that we can hang along the pews as part of our decorations.

Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

Dec. 24— 8:00 AM

**Dec. 24— Christmas Eve—10 PM Carols
10:30PM (pre-midnight)**

Dec. 25— Christmas Day— 8:00AM & 10AM

Dec. 31- New Year's Eve— 5PM

**Jan. 1, 2012— New Year's Day— Mary, Mother of God
Masses at 8:00AM & 10:00AM**

Outreach

The Food Pantry is open on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Saturdays of the month from 9:00-11:00a. It serves households in the 63110 zip code.

Advent food drive: We are also making special efforts to collect food for our neighbors who visit our food pantry. We are focusing on low salt and low sugar items for those who have special dietary needs. These items are being brought up as part of the offertory collection at the Sunday masses. The Food Drive goes through Christmas, Sunday, December 25, 2011.

B.A.S.I.C (AA & NA) meets every Saturday from 11:00a-1:00p in the lower level of the Parish Center (The Healing Yellow Room).

T'ai Chi Chih 9:30a Sundays, outside (weather permitting) or in the balcony.

Nar-anon Family group is continuing to meet at St. Cronan's. Meeting info: **Weds. 6:30 pm. in the Coffee & Donut room.** For more info check out our website: www.nar-anon.org or call or text Janice at 314-560-7300 or Heather at 314-650-4313. If you have a family member or friend struggling with addiction and you need help please join us.

Supporting Our Community

Children's Faith Formation communities meet 1st and 3rd Sundays from 8:45 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. at the Parish Center to nurture the relationship with God and with one another. You are invited to revitalize the Youth Commission, please see future bulletins for more information.

Merry Christmas from all of us on the parish Staff:

*Gerry, Pat, Delores, Barb, Carlos
Mary Ellen, Kathy*

Parish Office will be closed on *Monday, 26 December* in observance of the Christmas holiday and *Monday, 2 January 2012* for New Year's Day.

The office will be open on a limited basis from Thursday, 22 December through Tuesday, 3 January, 2012 for staff on vacation.

Pastor's Peace

December 25, 2011

During our Advent time we, as a community, have heard homilies encouraging us to enter into paradox, ask ourselves what time it is, experience the wellspring of joy deep within us, and enter with Mary into saying "YES!" We have watched the pathway up the center aisle gradually straighten as footsteps of Gospel values and actions were added. We have shared reflections on Advent Scriptures in our Advent booklet. We have re-membered who we are as parish through our St. Cronan Chronicles. We have celebrated with our Muslim and Jewish friends. We have adopted families in the neighborhood for Christmas. We have supported the St. Vincent de Paul Society with our purchase of mugs, wine glasses and donations. We have listened to the new language of the New Roman Missal. We have brought blankets and coats for the homeless.

And as individuals and families, we have had our own experiences that have entered into our Advent time and brought us to this day — God-With-Us-Day. We gather in a dimmed church on one of the longest nights of the year, and thanks to a new moon this year, also one of the darkest. We have come to celebrate this great paradox, God-human. We celebrate the incarnation of God at this time, in this moment in history. We rejoice in the midst of darkness knowing with soul-knowledge God's transforming presence. We respond as Mary did with a "yes" to the role that we are invited to play in this great unfolding of God's kin-dom, to en flesh the Word in our world.

The following excerpt is from a poem that was printed in a liturgy guide put out by the Jesuit Restorative Justice (<http://www.jrji.org/>). The poem explores the Annunciation from Mary's perspective. In this section of the poem the awesomeness of her "yes" is beginning to sink in. She addresses Jesus as she welcomes his enfleshment within her:

she heard herself say
jesus
i need your strength on this
inner and outer journey
on this journey
i have begun in the darkness
of this morning
he came to her
they gently embraced each other
mother and son
intertwining in a mystery
so profound only those
who have uttered in total terror
yes
will understand
this yes

What "yes" are we called to? How are we called to en flesh the Word in our world? What mystery are we called to embrace in the darkness?

Christmas Blessings!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

SACRAMENTS/MARRIAGE PREP: Parishioners wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage are asked to contact Father Gerry at least six months in advance of the proposed wedding date. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on Saturdays at 4:30p and at other times by appointment. Adults who are interested in Sacramental preparation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) should talk with Father Gerry about RCIA — the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is held in the Parish Center.

WILLS: Please remember Saint Cronan's in your will. Title is St. Cronan's Catholic Church—1202 South Boyle Ave.— St. Louis, MO 63110

The role of sacristan (setting up for mass, making sure bread and wine are out, candles lit, etc.) at the three weekend liturgies used to be handled by various parishioners. In the past year because of illness or moving away, the duties have fallen on Pat. She would appreciate others taking on these roles again as well as ensuring that lectors and Eucharistic ministers are present. There is a sign up sheet in the back of church. If several people from each weekend liturgy could sign up, then they could take turns so it wouldn't fall on any one person every week. If you are interested, but not quite sure what it entails, ask Pat.

Coming Attractions! A Roll of Drums please! Sound The Trumpets! St. Vincent DePaul Society (SVDP) at St. Cronan Church will be selling wine goblets and coffee mugs (cost is \$10 each or 4 for \$35). The wine goblets bear the St. Cronan Celtic Cross while the coffee mugs have the St. Cronan Celtic Cross and the words, "**St. Cronan Church**" prominently displayed. Both items make wonderful Christmas gifts. The selling of the goblets and mugs is our annual Christmas fund raiser. Your support of our fund raiser is critical at this time not only to continue to provide assistance with electric bills but also to be prepared for the many Laclede gas bills during the winter.

St. Cronan St. Vincent DePaul Give Away for Our Neighbors: Set Up: **January 20, 2012 5-9 p.m. at the Parish Center.** Any help greatly appreciated. **Give Away January 21, 2012** coverage/assistance from 8:15am-1200pm. Any help with all or part of these time lines is greatly appreciated. Additional information . Call Dorothy 314-803-1858.

INFORMATION SHEET

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1202 S. Boyle Avenue
St. Louis MO 63110-3813

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