



St. Cronan Catholic Church Christmas/Feast of the Holy Family December 24-26, 2021

Mass Information

SUNDAY – 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

SATURDAY VIGIL – 5:00 p.m.

Wednesdays – 8:00 a.m.

Masks are required for all Masses to keep our unvaccinated children safe

Live-streaming continues at the 10:00 am Mass. PLEASE BE ON TIME! Masses will be live streamed at 10:00. Live-streamed masses are available on our Facebook page any time after the 10:00 Mass, <https://www.facebook.com/StCronan>

Recorded Mass will take place the first Sunday of each month and will be available January 2. It can be accessed on our website: <http://www.stcronan.org/>

Administrators Wish List: Please see the list in the Chapel and thanks for your generosity!

Marianist Retreat Center Women's Retreat:

Ordinary Faithfulness: a retreat for women. This Women's Retreat will be held at the beautiful Marianist Retreat and Conference Center beginning with dinner on Friday evening, January 7, 2022 and ending before Noon on Sunday, January 9, 2022. Please see the flyer in the Chapel for more information.

St. Martha's Drop-in Center: Opening January 3, Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., no appointment necessary. All services free of charge. Advocates will be available during the drop-in hours to provide services and support to anyone impacted by domestic violence. Please see the information in the Chapel for details.

End of Year Contributions: Dear parishioners, Thank you for your generous support for our parish this year. As we approach the end of 2021, if you are planning year end contributions to your favorite charities, please keep St. Cronan on your list. If you have an individual retirement account (IRA) and you need to make a required minimum distribution (RMD), you are allowed to transfer money directly from your IRA to a qualified charity such as St. Cronan without taxation. Check with your IRA custodian if you have questions about this approach. The tax ID number for St. Cronan parish is 43-0653457. Fr. Jack Schuler (he/his)

Prayers Please

Bill Barrett, Mary Truetken, Laurel Hayes, Laurel Hayes' parents, Jerry and Nancy, Bill's brother in law, Dave Rose, Bill's friend, Jim Forest, Robert Nathe's Mother, Eileen, Colleen Wallace's godson, Lachlan, Michelle Frank, Jennifer Lyle and Krista Rakers, Marilyn Leong, Jessica, Nick Ambrose, Al Sprehe, Phil Milner, Leslie Conway, Mike's grandson, Jack, Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan, Jim Gorman, Andrew Viraugh's Father, Sharon Orlet's sister, Betty, Nancy Buck, Nancy Buck's daughter, Jeanne, Barry Buchek's wife, Mary, Kathy Bayless, Dom and Marcy Soda's daughter, Maria.

Coffee and Donuts continues on Zoom and is a great time to catch up with the community. The meeting ID is 810 7478 0423, password: cronan

Black Lives Matter Vigil: The St. Cronan Social Justice Committee is hosting a Vigil as a way of atoning for past racism. It will be held every third Friday evening of the month - 5:00 -6:00 pm at the corner of Kingshighway and Manchester. Next month's will be Friday, January 21. Please feel free to bring your own signs. If you have questions, please contact Trish Curtis: trishquita1952@gmail.com

Baked Bread for Masses: If you were previously a part of this ministry, or enjoy baking and would like to be part of the ministry, please contact Bill Barrett, barrettb@webster.edu or Diane, (314) 941-4933, diane@stcronan.org

Food Pantry Volunteer Opportunities: **Driver** for food pick up at St. Gerard Majella, Kirkwood, on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 11:00 a.m. **Volunteers** to unload the food when it arrives at St. Cronan at 11:30 a.m. **Volunteers** to help with Homebound food delivery the 3rd Sunday of each month after the 10:00 Mass. We really appreciate your consideration of these needs. Kathy Hunn, Director~St. Cronan Church Food Pantry~314-704-9934 or kathyfoodpantry@gmail.com

SVdP Giving Tree: St. Cronan St. Vincent de Paul Society has their tree in the Church Chapel with envelopes attached for monetary donations to support their work throughout the year. This is one of SVdP's major fund raisers. If you would like to give online, you can through our website and the "donate" button. Just indicate that your donation is for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Thank you for your generosity.

God Newborn

*For a child is born to us, a son is given us;
upon his shoulder dominion rests.
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9)*

The Incarnation, the embodiment, of God infusing all creation with God's own life is a Mystery beyond all words. The Word of God becomes flesh, embraces matter, forever changing the created world. So we sing our response in poetry. We use titles and phrases of hope and exaltation, as Isaiah does, to express our wonder before this great gift of Divine Love. No words are adequate, but we offer the best we have. We stand before the Christ Child in awe.

Another response to this Mystery is expressed by this child before the Christmas crib.

"GOD'S MY SIZE!" The three-year old girl jumped up and ran to tell her mother. "Mom, God's my size!" She got the idea while lying on her stomach looking at the crèche beneath the Christmas tree. Eye-level with a baby is a good position from which to do theology.

At Christmas God is newborn, less like Michelangelo's muscular men and more like an infant in wet diapers sucking milk from its mother's breast. God is less like an equation in theoretical physics and more like a hungry three-year-old in a refugee camp. At Christmas God is less like a come-of-age, post-modern adult and more like the toddler laughing at being able to walk.

Adults look at the baby and say, "This can't be God! This is a bawling baby!" The protests are diverse. "This can't be God! This baby is Jewish. This baby is poor. This baby is illegitimate. This baby is male. This baby is traditional. This baby is a refugee. This baby is, well, a baby."

Children look at the baby and say, "God's our size!"
(Elizabeth Bettenhausen, published in *Christianity and Crisis*.)

Fiat – let it be done to me according to your word. With these words Mary accepted God's invitation to her. A simple response made after presenting her questions and objections. *Fiat*. The details were not worked out. The journey was uncharted. Her *fiat* was a baby that needed constant care, a toddler that needed to be taught to speak and to walk, and a child she and Joseph raised in their Jewish faith. They taught him *fiat* from their own life experience.

Remember your own *fiat* moments – the times you heard God's call and said, "yes," with no idea where the road would lead or the challenges you would face. In what ways is God calling you this Christmas? In whom are you being called to see God made flesh? God is with us now.

This Christmas, take some time to lie on the floor (metaphorically speaking) in front of the crib and cry out, "God's my size."

Lynne Schmidt, SSND