St. Alphonsus Liguori “Rock” Catholic Church
1118 North Grand Blvd. St Louis, MO 63106
314-533-0304 (ph) 314-533-4260 (fax) parish130@archstl.org (e-mail)
www.stalphonsusrock.org (website)

Rev. Stephen Benden, C.Ss.R., Pastor
Rev. Rodney Olive, C.Ss.R., Associate Pastor

Mission
“To Joyfully Preach, Teach, and Live the Word of God”

Theme
“One Hundred Fifty Years of Standing on the Rock”

PASTORAL STAFF
Sharon Cooney-Smith, Dir. Religious Education
Roberta George, Secretary
Deborah Grant, Clerical Support
Angela Harris, Bulletin Editor

SUPPORT STAFF
Bro. Steve Fruge, Pastoral Staff
Terrance Gipson, Maintenance
Terri Schneider, Dir. Hardin Food Pantry
Athletic Office: 314 533-0304
Teen Ministry: 314 533-0304

MUSIC MINISTRY
8:15—Malcolm Speed
11:00—Danny duMaine

REDEMPTORISTS IN RESIDENCE
Rev. Tom Donaldson, C.Ss.R.
Rev. Dave Polek, C.Ss.R.
Rev. Peter Schavitz, C.Ss.R.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
(Call for Appointment)

SUNDAY MASSES:
8:15 & 11:00 a.m.

DAILY MASSES:
Monday  5:30 p.m.
(W, Th & F.)  11:30 a.m.
Tuesdays  11:30 a.m.
Saturdays  9:30 a.m.

MONDAY:
Eucharistic Adoration
4:30 p.m.—5:15 p.m.

TUESDAYS:
Exposition & Benediction:
10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. (1st Tuesday) followed
by our Perpetual Help Novena & Mass
Every year each one of us celebrates our birthday. It is incredible to think that each of us was conceived in our mother and that we spent nine months in our mother’s womb. It is truly a miracle. An expectant mother waits patiently and expectantly for that child to come forth. It is not always easy for the mother during this time, but most women are willing to endure that nine months because they know the miracle that will bud forth from them at the moment of birth. It really is fantastic to see a young baby emerge from a woman, and we make a mark on our calendar, which we celebrate each year with much enthusiasm.

We just now recalled the physical birth of each of us into the world, but there is also a spiritual birth that must take place within each of us. With the sin of Adam and Eve, our spiritual lives, our souls, have suffered death. The only way for our souls to come alive is through the life-giving waters of baptism. Our human selves consist of both a body and soul and each of them needs to bud forth to live. Our physical lives come forth from the womb of our mother, but our spiritual lives can only bud forth from being baptized. It is hard, perhaps, for us to appreciate that our souls are not really alive until the waters from the font are poured over our heads and the words are pronounced “I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” This is so important and I hope we appreciate it. Thank You, God, for calling me forth from the womb of my mother, but we also thank God for the gift of our baptism, for without this, we are not truly alive.

It is, then, through our baptisms that we are united in the Spirit of Christ. When we come together as a family at the liturgy, we form a dynamic team of faithful people. When you come to mass, we should look around at all of the other people gathered together. We have come together because of our common faith in the Lord. We are brought together in this way because of those waters that have been poured over our heads. It is a comforting feeling for me to see so many other people who have the same faith and values and know that when we work together, we can do such beautiful work in bringing about God’s Kingdom here on earth. That’s the way I like to look at it. It is only when we come together that great things can happen. For me, it is disheartening to think that some have been baptized but do not live in harmony even within our parish. If we have been baptized in the Lord, we must find ways of being in peace with one another. We cannot come to mass every week or day, and live lives of anger and resentment and hate. This makes no sense. It is of the evil one. Through our common baptism, we must make room for one another and live in harmony; otherwise our lives are a lie and not filled with grace. Have a nice week.
Zoe Coffman has been selected to receive the 13th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Model of Justice Award on behalf of St. Alphonsus Liguori ‘Rock’ Church.

This award is presented to high school students who have demonstrated through their attitude and their work, a commitment to serving humanity in the broader community.

These students have made social justice a central part of their life and have committed themselves “to the noble struggle for equal rights.”

The awards will be presented to each student by the Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of the St Louis Archdiocese, on Sunday, January 19th following the 2:30pm Mass in the Cathedral Basilica.

What Catholic Man Do You Know Who Humbly & Faithfully Serves Others?

The Catholic Man of the Year lives out his faith by sharing his time and talent for the good of others.

The award dinner will take place on April 19, 2020 at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac.

Bishop Mark Rivituso will present this special award.

Shut-in’s

Atherton, Andrew
McCoy, Bernice
Bohannon, Ida
McCoy, Carolyn
Brack, Dorothy
Peters, Mae
Clay, Irving
Thomas, Bernice
Lee, Rosemary
Turner, Hortense

Pray for the Deceased

Pray for the repose of the soul of †Anita Louise Banks, godmother, of Anne-Marie Clarke

Pray for the repose of the soul of †Gloria Drake, sister of Linda Johnson and Aunt of DeWayne Johnson

Pray for the repose of the soul of †Larry Ambus, husband of Ruby Ambus, father of Reba Davis
Rite of Baptism  When the Christmas season officially ends with a commemoration of a moment in the life of the adult Jesus, it reminds all of us that Christmas is not simply about a baby. The incarnation is more than just a beautiful manger scene. Christmas recalls the inauguration of Christ's mission to the world, a mission that will require of Jesus (and of us) to make difficult choices for the sake of God's kingdom. In Jesus' life, and in ours as his followers, that mission began with baptism.

Today's feast is an opportune moment for all of us to recall the dignity of our baptism. Baptism is the sacramental beginning of a life of missionary discipleship and the doorway to all the sacraments. It is what makes us full and complete members of Christ's body.

Let us be aware of anything we do or say that may lessen the dignity of the baptized or communicate that one needs something more than baptism to be recognized as members of God's holy priesthood: "By Baptism they share in the priesthood of Christ, in his prophetic and royal mission ...Baptism gives a share in the common priesthood of all believers".

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that baptism is "the door which gives access to the other sacraments." Most of the people in RCIA are already baptized but are uncatechized and preparing to celebrate confirmation and Eucharist. Or, they are baptized in other Christian traditions and are being received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. In our parish we have young people preparing to be confirmed or to celebrate First Communion.

Today's feast is an opportune time to help all these baptized members of the common priesthood of believers recall and give thanks for their baptism. Celebrate your Baptismal Day the same as you do your Birthday – with Joy and Thanksgiving!

(See: www.litpress.org/Diana Macalintal)
Lwanga Center News...

The recent cycle of the Center’s Bible Study group has resumed on Thursdays’ at 1:00 p.m. at the Center, 4746 Carter Ave., 63115.

We are praying with and exploring the Book of Psalms. Please bring your Bible, the New American Edition is preferred.

There will be no charge for the sessions but free will offerings are always welcome. Please call the Center for more information 314-367-7929.

Help end homelessness attend St. Patrick Center’s Trivia Party on Friday, February 7, 2020 at St. Louis Union Station.

Gather your team of eight and register your table for $500.

Price includes food, beer, wine, sodabe and parking. Visit stpatrickcenter.org/triviaparty.

FREE Income Tax Services

The St. Louis Tax Assistance Program offers FREE Income Tax Return Preparation and tax information for families with income under $55,000. You may get a refund, even if you had no taxes withheld!

TAP does not prepare income tax returns for taxpayers who have: Income over $55,000, Rental Property, Sales of Stocks or Bonds, Self-Employment Income from a Trade or Business Requiring Schedule C

Saturday Tax Service Location Dates & Times:

Locations will be open for 6 weeks from 8:30 a.m. thru 11:30 a.m. on January 25th, February 1st, February 8th, February 15th, February 22nd and February 29th

Cardinal Ritter College Prep, Beyond Housing, St. Mary’s High School, Believers Temple Word Fellowship Christian Church and Lewis & Clark Career Center

For additional sites—www.stlouistap.org

RCIA

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

RCIC

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Children)

The RCIA/RCIC is the Church's process for educating and forming adults and youth (ages 11 through 18) who wish to be baptized in the Catholic Church. Those seeking baptism are known at various points in the process as inquirers, catechumens and elect. A parallel or even combined process is used for adults who have been baptized in another Christian denomination and wish to Profess the Catholic faith, be Confirmed and receive First Holy Communion. Included in this process are Baptized Catholics who have not been confirmed or made their First Holy Communion.

For information on the RCIA or RCIC, please contact Sharon Cooney-Smith via email scooneysmith@stalphonsusrock.org or by phone at 314-533-0304

1st Reconciliation
1st Communion

Classes begin on Feb. 8, 2020 with an Introductory Session for Parents/Guardians and Children in the Parish Hall, Room 113.

Children must be at least 7 years old and in the 2nd grade or higher. Registration packets with a schedule of classes and registration form are on the Usher’s Table.

Please complete the form and return to the office no later than Friday, January 31, 2020.
Financial Corner...

General Fund Actual Contributions Received

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<tr>
<th>December / January</th>
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<td>Envelopes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under/Over Weekly Target</td>
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Stewardship Prayer…

That, through our generous giving, we may show our gratitude to God for the great gift of sending His beloved Son to save us.

And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

(Matthew 3:17)

Two thoughts come to mind when reading this. First, God, Our Father, is so generous, that he gave his only son, whom he really loves, to us so that we can have eternal life with him in heaven. God, Our Creator, really loves us, too! Second, Jesus was obedient to his Father’s will, even to the point of death. This is a reminder that our own lives are pure gifts from God and meant to serve God and others.

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Generosity

And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” God, Our Father, is so generous that he gave us his only son, whom he really loves, to us so that we can have eternal life with him in heaven. God really loves us, too! How are we responding to God’s generosity? Do we just take this all for granted? Each week at Sunday Mass, we receive the greatest gift of all – the Holy Eucharist. The word Eucharist means “thanksgiving.” Are we thankful for this precious gift? We show our gratitude for this gift by imitating how Jesus lived. The next time you receive the Holy Eucharist, remember that we are to reflect Jesus’ love and mercy to others.

archstl.org/dynamic

Dynamic Catholic started with a dream: to help ordinary people discover the genius of Catholicism.

This is an organization where you can go to find many resources for free.

Visit archstl.org/dynamic to view all the resources available to you!

ROCK Church
Winners Club

Current Members
New Season
September 2019—August 2020

Jean Anthony        LaMarr Huddleston
Elizabeth Boykin    Monica Huddleston
Ruby Brown          Pat Jackson
Virginia Brown      Donald and Joyce Jones
Richard Buckley     Mark & Linda Kamp
James Buford        Yetta Kigore
Susan Buford        Helene Laberta
James Butler        C.C. Lee
Cheryl Carr         Pamela Leong
Anne Marie Clarke   Sharon Lyons
Damon Clay          Brenda Mahr
Mike & Cherina Coffman Laurel Martin
Anne Conte          Charles Martin
Willie & Bessie Cunningham Brenda McDonnell
Esther Darris       Sylvester & Karen Mozez
Jackie Day          Earnest Nashville
Janice Englander    Jean Nashville
Kurt Englander      Leo & Linda Peoples
Maudelle Fite       Ben & Denise Phillips
Paul & Shirley Foster Linda Brown Reed
Wanda Garner        Betty Sullivan
Gregory Glore       Adlean Thomas
Alonzo Green        Kim Thomas
Angela Harris       Monica Tyler
Carl Harris          Monica Tyler
Kalyn Harris        Eugene Wallace
Sharon Hawthorne    Jocelyn Woodson-Reed

Stewardship: Don’t Confuse with Fund-Raising

Stewardship sometimes gets confused with the word "fund-raising.” But, the two are very different.

Stewardship is living a grateful and generous lifestyle in gratitude for all that God has given us. Fund-raising is a very specific set of activities designed to support diocesan, parish or other church-related organizations.

- Stewardship = a way of life and
- Fund-raising = an activity to raise money

Fund-raising in the stewardship sense should:

- Strengthen relationships - our relationship with God and with each other
- Be other-centered - help those in our local, national, and international communities
- Not take the place of our weekly offertory/charitable giving - fund-raising should be "in addition" to and not "instead of" our weekly offertory/charitable giving
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PRAYER MEMORIALS

Tillie Mae Alexander, Larry Ambus, Hortense Anderson, Elizabeth Henckler Aton, Anita Louise Banks
Lillian Barnes, Mother Dorothy Granberry Bennett, Deacon Morris E. Bohannon, Willie Steve Bowens
Dorothy Brady, Theodore Branch, Jr., Irma King Brown, James Buford, Kenita Bush, Anna Chopin
Betty Jean Colbert, Charmaine Davenport, Walterene Dougherty, Roger Downs, Sr.
Sr. Antona Ebo, FSM, Jerome Fields, Ossie R. Foster, Queen E. Dunlap Fowler, Craig Franklin
Willie Goss, Ann Marie Hatchett, Cherry Ophelia Jackson, Mark Jones, Nadine Jones
Mother Ruth Jones, Eldwyn Lewis, Barbara McCalebb, Leon Zack McClendon, Marshall Mosley
Lucille Palmer, Kathy Lin Cheers Parran, Drenea Sanders, Eugene Sanders
Christine Slaughter, Irma Steen, Susan Colbert Threats, Ralph Tyler, Robert Joseph Valle
Juanita West, Marlene Williams, Richard Williams, Clarence Zacher

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION
Sharon Cooney-Smith, DRE
314-533-0304 ext. 1001

RCIA/RCIC
Children’s Liturgy of the Word
Baptism
First Reconciliation
First Communion
Confirmation
Matrimony

COMMISSIONS & CHAIRS
Christian Formation: Jean Anthony
Christian Service: TBD
Finance & Adm.: Monica Huddleston
Liturgy: Richard Buckley
Social Life: Rose Graham
Youth & Young Adults: TBD

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
Kurt Englander: President
Angela Thames: Vice President
Linda Kamp: Secretary
Linda Brown Reed: Ben Phillips
Wanda Caldwell: Angela Thames
Joy Camp: Travis Threats
Mike Coffman: Eric Thurman
Rhonda Graham: Kevin Triggs

ATTENTION
If your telephone number or address has changed, please contact the office at 533-0304. You may also put your updated information in the locked multipurpose box located on the north-side entrance ushers’ table.

Bulletin announcements must be in the office by 12 noon Tuesdays. Please fax items to 314 533-4260 or e-mail to parish130@archstl.org

ANOINTING OF THE SICK & VISITS

"Is anyone sick among you? Call in the priests of the church and they will pray for the sick person and anoint them with oil." (James) This is the sacrament of the sick. ARE YOU SERIOUSLY SICK, GOING TO THE HOSPITAL OR HAVING AN OPERATION? Call and leave your hospital information at the office.