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
Today we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This feast occurs 40 days after the birth of Jesus. It was a Jewish tradition that a baby boy was given back to the Lord after 40 days and a pair of pigeons was given to God as payment for the child. On this day, the mother of the child was also presented to God and was purified by God after the birth. These traditions had gone on for centuries in the Jewish faith.

Part of our own understanding of this particular feast also recognizes two elderly people, Simeon and Anna, who had been waiting all of their lives for the Messiah. Both of them come forward and pay tribute to the baby in Mary’s arms. All people have been waiting for the coming of Jesus, but it is these two elders who have spent much of their time in the temple praying for this day. Maybe it is because they have spent so much time in prayer that they can recognize God. This is the way it usually happens. It is only those who give themselves over to God and vigilantly “keep watch” that are able to recognize Jesus when he comes.

The month of February is dedicated to Black history month. During the month, we are reminded of the history of black people here in America. Much of this history is painful, but it is important to embrace the history we have and to do everything we can to improve ourselves for the future.

I am a big proponent of the family unit as one way of bringing stability to our country. The family structure has changed here in America so much over the past 50 years. It seems people do not have time for just being with one another anymore. It seems we always have to be doing something and are always on the go. Long gone are the days people used to sit out on their front porch and just talk with one another. With both parents working, or a single parent trying to raise a family, the structure that kids need is no longer there. I believe African American families are even more susceptible to losing the core family time together. This may not be easy for us to hear, but I think it is essential for us to work hard at keeping the family unit intact, for us to improve our society. This may take some considerable effort on our part. The energy that we may have to take from other things we are doing to give our full attention to this next generation. During this month, may God help us in our efforts in rededicating ourselves to God and family. May He bless us and keep us.
Does your faith influence the way you live your life? The year 2020 is a great time to focus on the purpose of your life. Resolve to listen to Catholic radio in the New Year to be reminded of the importance of faith in your daily journey. Listen to the Holy Mass, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Rosary daily. Participate in live call-in shows such as Call to Communion, Open Line and Catholic Answers Live. Tune in to AM 1080 WRYT or 92.7 FM, download the free Covenant Network App, or listen on OurCatholicRadio.org.

Pilgrimage to Montgomery, Alabama

Join the Lwanga Center sponsored excursion to the Legacy Museum and Memorial of Peace and Justice. June 12th—14th, which includes, Sunday Liturgy, Motor Coach Transportation, Drury Inn accommodations and two breakfasts all included in the package.

For payment options, please contact Mrs. Corliss Cox, CSJA for additional information: 314 367-7929. Or visit the Lwanga Center located at 4746 Carter Ave. Suite 100 St. Louis, MO 63115.

Save the Date!

37th Annual Testimonial Dinner & Auction on Sunday, March 22, 2020. Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel. Themed “We Don’t Believe He Brought Us This Far to Leave Us!” tickets are $65.00 each. Table of 10 for $650.00.

Contact the Lwanga Center (314) 367-7929 or your local Lwanga Board Representative or Dinner Committee member for additional information about ticket purchase, ads, and auction donations.

"CARD PARTY nets $20,678.37! Thanks to all who contributed time, talent and/or treasure to our annual fall festival fundraiser (2019). It was a fun day and we raised some money to help our church."

"FALL FESTIVAL/CARD PARTY WRAP-UP MEETING Feb. 29th. The wrap-up meeting to celebrate the event’s success and plan for its future will be Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the parish hall conference room. All are welcome, especially if you can help plan and implement this year’s fundraiser. We need your help!"

Prayer For Renewed Strength

O Lord, my God,
Please give those listed above the grace to maintain their hope in You
Through all of life’s changes
and to taste and see Your goodness.
Amen

SHUT-IN’s
Atherton, Andrew
McCoy, Bernice
Bohannon, Ida
McCoy, Carolyn
Brack, Dorothy
Peters, Mae
Clay, Irving
Thomas, Bernice
Lee, Rosemary
Turner, Hortense

"NOTE: Names will remain listed for 2 weeks"
LITURGY NOTES...

The history of incense and why it’s used at Mass

Religions in the western world have long used incense in their ceremonies. Incense is noted in the Talmud and is mentioned 170 times in the Bible. (e.g., Exodus 30: 1): “For burning incense you shall make an altar of acacia wood …” The use of incense in Jewish worship continued long after the beginning of Christianity and was a definite influence in the Catholic Church’s use of it in liturgical celebrations. The Church sees the burning of incense as an image of the prayers of the faithful rising to heaven. The symbolism is mentioned in Psalm 141:2: “Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering.”

There is no specific time frame recorded to let us know when incense was introduced into the religious services of the Church. No evidence is available to show its use during the first four centuries of the Church. But there are references of it being used in the New Testament. Luke, in the beginning of his Gospel, speaking about the birth of John the Baptist, writes: “Then, when the whole assembly of people were praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, the angel of the Lord appeared to him standing at the right of the altar of incense. Zechariah was troubled by what he saw and fear came upon him.”

Incense is a sacramental, used to sanctify, bless, and venerate. The smoke from the incense is symbolic of the mystery of God Himself. As it rises upward the imagery and smell convey the sweetness of Our Lord’s presence and it reinforces how the Mass is linked to Heaven and Earth, ending in the very presence of God. The smoke also symbolizes the intense faith that should fill us and the fragrance is representative of Christian virtue.

The GIRM (General Instruction of the Roman Missal) permits the use of incense at several times during the Mass. There are different times during the Mass that incense may be used.

During the entrance procession; At the beginning of Mass to incense the altar and the cross; Before the Gospel reading; After the bread and the chalice are placed on the altar to incense the offerings, the cross, the altar, the priest, and finally the people.

In addition, incense is used at funerals both in the church at the casket and at the cemetery. It is used on Holy Thursday as the Blessed Sacrament is put in repose. And during the Easter Vigil, five grains of incense are placed into the Paschal Candle.

The use of incense is deeply rooted in our Catholic heritage.

(Source: www.aleteia.com)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...

BAPTISM GUIDELINES:

Newborn – 6 years old. A parent or legal guardian and godparent(s) must attend a Baptism preparation class, instruction materials are provided.

Ages 7 – 10: The child must attend special Baptism preparation classes and the parent(s) or legal guardian and godparent(s) must attend a Baptism preparation session prior to the ceremony.

Ages 11 – 17: The young person must enroll in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC) program.

Age 18 and Older: The Candidate must enroll in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program.

MATRIMONY – Engaged couples, seeking to be married at the Rock Church, must meet with the Pastor before setting a date.

RCIA/RCIC – ARE YOU SOMEONE OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...

• Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?

• Has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized?

• Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

We offer an opportunity to come together in a group to learn more about the Catholic Faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of the Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. There are separate sessions for children and youth. You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, insights and your faith story in a warm accepting setting.

For information on requesting any of the above Sacraments and/or to register for classes, please contact the Director of Religious Education, Sharon Cooney-Smith at 314-533-0304 ext. 1001, or via e-mail @ scooneysmith@stalphonsusrock.org.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Our family would like to thank everyone for their support, cards, flowers, and gifts that expressed their condolences for the loss of my mom. Thank you also for attending her home going, for the choir and Malcolm, for those who were ushers, for those who prepared the food for the repast. Also, our thanks go out to the staff who helped put everything together. Finally to Fr. Steve who officiated the service. We love you all. The Carr Family

Ruby Ambus and family would like to thank you for your many prayers, expressions of sympathy, cards, visits, flowers, phone calls, preparation of food and general concern. We thank you, you all for the love you have shown us. This time of loss would not have been as bearable.

Elder Maudelle Fite

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Inclement Weather
Office Closed When...
STL Public School Is Closed

February 2, 2020
National Day of Prayer
For The African American Family

February 16, 2020
Unity Mass
10:00 a.m.
Most Rev Fernand Cheri, OFM
Guest Celebrant/Homilist
Voices of Praise Choir Concert
4:00 p.m.

February 17, 2020
Parish Office Closed

President’s Day
February 26, 2020
Ash Wednesday
Mass—Noon and 6:00 p.m.

PARISH EVENTS

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 parish office no later than Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

Attention Parishioners

We are seeking volunteers to assist with the strategic planning process for ‘Rock’ Church. If you are interested in volunteering to help identify Parish priorities, please contact Brenda Mahr via email at brendamahr@gmail.com or text Brenda at 314-580-5155.

The deadline for submission is February 3rd.

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, soda and parking. Visit website: stpatrickcenter.org/triviaparty.

Rock Seniors In Action

Rock Seniors next meeting will be Feb. 4th, 2020 after the Perpetual Help Novena at 11:30, we will meet in the gym to have lunch, and play cards (are there any bid-whist players? bingo?) Ready for a game?
Financial Corner...

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<th>General Fund Actual Contributions Received</th>
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<td>Envelopes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under/Over Weekly Target</td>
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<td>$(2,395.00)</td>
</tr>
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Stewardship Prayer…

That others can see we live as Christians by the way we act, dress, and talk.

“… they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord…”

(Luke 2:22)

How seriously do you take being a Catholic? Is “being Catholic” something I just do when I attend Sunday Mass or attend one of my parish functions? It’s easy to be Catholic then, it’s harder to be Catholic when I am out in the world. Would someone recognize you as a Catholic by the way you act, dress, and talk? How do you present yourself to the Lord and to others?

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! - Our First and Best to the Lord

How do you present yourself to God when you attend Mass? Do you make Sunday Mass a priority or just try to fit it in when it is convenient? Do you prepare for Mass ahead of time? Do you read the Scripture readings and think about what the Lord may be saying to you? What is your disposition when you attend Mass? Are you looking to be entertained? How often do you complain about the homily or the music? Or, do you ask God what He is going to do for you like He is a genie in bottle granting wishes? Or, do you ask God what you can do for Him to help build His kingdom on earth? How do you dress for Mass? Do you take time in silence before and/or after Mass to talk to God personally? Do you make an offering to the Lord or just let the collection plate go by thinking that’s someone else’s burden. Think of it this way, when you go to a friend or family member’s house, you typically prepare ahead of time. You shower, put on nice clothes, think about the other people who may be attending and usually you don’t come empty-handed, you bring a bottle of wine or an appetizer. Why wouldn’t you do the same before you go to God’s house? Remember, God is the Creator of the Universe, He ranks higher than family and friends. Why do you go to great lengths to prepare to meet family and friends, yet for God, you do the bare minimum? Worse, yet, do you just go to Mass out of obligation and not out of love for God? As we start the new year, let’s make God the priority and give Him our first and best every day.

archstl.org/dynamic

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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 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
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, Walterere 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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
Kurt Englander  Angela Thames  Linda Kamp
President  Vice President  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.