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
In today’s gospel, Jesus calls us to be the “salt of the earth”, and “light of the world.” Both of these examples make sense but may take some explaining. Salt is used to enhance the flavor of food. Most people would not sit down and just eat a handful of salt; we may do that with sugar, but not with salt. In and of itself, salt may not taste that great. Salt is used to enhance the flavor of something else. If we use this analogy for ourselves, we see that our lives should not be about us. Like salt, we are encouraged to flavor the lives of others. If we are living for Christ, our actions will bring life or flavor to those around us. Salt is a good reminder for us to enhance the lives of those around us. Light is probably easier to see, no pun intended. We are called to be a bright light to those parts of the world where darkness, or sin, is still prevalent. Jesus challenge to be salt and life is a challenge, but can be done with his help.

As you know, this is Black History Month. I was reading the inserts in the bulletin today and was reminded how much black history is in the Catholic Church even here in America. It is good for us to recall, and then try to emulate those who have gone before us. On one of the inserts, it shows six black Catholics from our history who are on the road to canonization. All of these people were called by Christ Jesus to be salt and light to those they served in their lives. They lived lives of heroic virtue, just like we are called to live. They gave of themselves as salt and light and so now are called forth for us as good examples. Yes, there are good and holy African American souls for us to follow in serving God’s people.

The other insert is more of a history of black Catholicism. It points out some of the things that black people have been involved with here in America. One of the lines in the material calls us to remember the history of black people here in America. It is a long and rich history filled with many holy people. It is important to recall just how much of an impact black people have had on the Catholic church. Sometimes we might feel that there are not many black Catholics here in America. And although this might be true in case of numbers, it is not true in case of impact. Again, the Catholic church here in America has a long and rich history of people stepping forward and being light and salt to those around them. And so as we continue to take part in Black History Month, we want to remember all of those who have gone before us and have made their impact on others, and may God give us the strength and courage to do the same.
INTENTIONS 01/28/20
Cummings, Alice
Fite, Maudelle
Garnett, Pat
George, Roberta
Hardy, Pier Angela
Hearns, Zeysean
Jackson, Fredrick
Miller, Jr., Antonio
Schneider, Terri

INTENTIONS 02/04/20
Bowers, Lynette
Cloyd, Cori
Cloyd, Kalonda
George, Darrion
Henry, Aliyah
Jackson, Tamica
Parran, Kristin
Pickett, DaShaun
Reedy, Judy
Reedy, Sid

SICKNESS 01/28/20
Atherton, Andrew
Atherton, Vertibe
Calhoun, Debi
Caprese, Brittany
Chapman, Bonnie
Clancy, Jimmy
Cummings, Cleophes
Herron, David
Hood, Rosalind
Howard, Yvonne
Hughes, Deborah
Hughes, Vanessa
LaBerta, Steve
Latham, Jean
Lund, Grace
Moore, Brenda
Patterson, Patti
Remsberg, Cory Sgt.
Schneider, Jeanne
Schneider, Roy
Schnelle, Laverne
Serio, Jessica
Sheets, Jean
Smith, Melba
Smith, Paulette
Strong, Betty
Thompson, Mary Ann
Weaver, Stephen
Vet, Alphonso

SICKNESS 01/21/20
Bell, Gilbert
Collins, Tamika
Duplantier, Tyrond Sr.
Fisher, Kyle Fr.
George, Betty
Greer, Lois
Luster, Juanita
Lyons, Sharon
Martin, Maxine
McGinnis, Theresa
Parran, Rodrick
Reedy, Christian
Sims, Romericus Jose
Valle, Jr., Robert (Bobby)
Watkins, Darnell (Chef D)

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

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.

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

"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!"

NOTE: Names will remain listed for 2 weeks

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!

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.

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

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!
**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.

---

In the Mass, should we acknowledge current events affecting our community or world? Beyond generic intercessions, should more be said in the prayers or homily about divisive topics?

For some, the Mass is a retreat from the concerns of life, and they argue that secular issues have no place in the liturgy. Partisan politics certainly must be avoided. However, we cannot pretend that faith is lived in a vacuum removed from the human concerns of our day.

The incarnation teaches us that God entered into the very real and specific issues of the polis. The society in which Jesus and his first disciples lived was filled with political and systematic injustice. An oppressive social and religious system often privileged the powerful, despised the immigrant, and withheld support for the poor. Yet this was the very locus in which God's saving power was being revealed in Christ.

The question cannot be if there is a place for such topics in liturgy. The true question is, how could we give authentic worship to the Father if we do not name the world's wounds that long to be healed by Christ's light?

(Source: www.litpress.org – Diana Macalintal)
**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.

**PARISH EVENTS**

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

**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 25, 2020**
Fat Tuesday Celebration
Parish Gym
After 11:30 Mass

**February 26, 2020**
Ash Wednesday
Mass—Noon and 6:00 p.m.

"GIFT CARDS FOR YOUR VALENTINE? Why not include a gift card or two in that flower bouquet or that box of candy this year? ROCK Church has several great gift cards that cost you only the face value, including $50 Visa Gift cards (no service fee!), restaurants, $25 Macy's or Marshall's/TJ Maxx, movie venues, and more. Come to the baptismal room in the rear of church to get yours! This is a fundraising effort of our church, so please support it not only for these special days, but every week. Gift cards are just store-specific debit cards with money loaded onto them that you will be spending at these stores anyway. Please, get those gift cards!"

**COMMUNITY WOMEN AGAINST HARDSHIP**

**Black History Month Benefit Concert**
Sunday February 23, 2020
**Grammy Award Winning Trumpeter: Keyon Harrold**

Raised in Ferguson, Missouri, Keyon has developed a reputation as one of the world’s most sought-after, emotionally electric young trumpeters on the scene.

BB’s Jazz, Blues & Soups
700 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63102
314-436-5222
Doors open at 3:00 pm
www.bbsjazzbluessoups.com

Tickets for $30 available at CWAH
3963 West Belle Pl., St. Louis MO. 63108
(314) 289-7523

"Thank you" 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

"Thank you" 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.

"Thank you" Fr. Stephen Benden, for the visits while I was sick and the prayers from the parishioners during my sickness, love each one of you.

Elder Maudelle Fite

---

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Grill to Glory**
Bringing Love to a Wounded World
11:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Join Us For Fun, Exercise, Games, and Food...
In the Parish Gym
Rain or Shine! Free!!

---

**Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler!**

Join us for our Fat Tuesday Celebration in the Parish Gym
February 25, 2020, following 11:30 Mass!
Fun! Food! Beads! Music & Dancing!
Admission is a side dish (enough to feed 12)! We will provide the meat, dessert and drinks!

---

**Community Women Against Hardship**

**Black History Month Benefit Concert**
Sunday February 23, 2020
**Grammy Award Winning Trumpeter: Keyon Harrold**

Raised in Ferguson, Missouri, Keyon has developed a reputation as one of the world’s most sought-after, emotionally electric young trumpeters on the scene.

BB’s Jazz, Blues & Soups
700 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63102
314-436-5222
Doors open at 3:00 pm
www.bbsjazzbluessoups.com

Tickets for $30 available at CWAH
3963 West Belle Pl., St. Louis MO. 63108
(314) 289-7523
Financial Corner...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Fund Actual Contributions Received</th>
<th>26th</th>
<th>2nd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January/February</td>
<td>$8,753.00</td>
<td>$10,391.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Envelopes</td>
<td>$852.00</td>
<td>$930.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loose Donations</td>
<td>$9,605.00</td>
<td>$11,321.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Contributions</td>
<td>$12,000.00</td>
<td>$12,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Target Amount</td>
<td>$2,395.00</td>
<td>$(679.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under/Over Weekly Target</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stewardship Prayer…
That we let our light shine before others and be a bold witness of our faith!

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”
(Matthew 5:16)

The generosity of being a good steward of your gifts has a positive effect on people, and it is contagious! Good works encourage more good works. Let your light shine! Be careful to recognize that God is working through you, and don’t put yourself above the people you have been called to help.

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – We are the Light of the World

Jesus speaks powerful words for us in the Gospel, proclaiming that we are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. This means that we have been blessed in extraordinary ways. God has given all of us gifts that we must use and develop for the sake of evangelization and sharing the joy of the Gospel. We are precious in the eyes of Christ, who has commissioned us to share our gifts with the world not for our own self-interest but for the interest of God and the benefit of our brothers and sisters. Let us not be ashamed of or seek to hide our gifts. Let us let our light shine before others that they may encounter Christ anew. By works of mercy and charity, let us bring Christ to each soul we meet on this pilgrimage of life. 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!

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 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
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.