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
I am not sure how much time you spend thinking about the next life, but it should not be anything that causes us to worry. In fact, I think it is something that should give us a lot of hope. In today’s reading from Corinthians, St. Paul says as much. He says that “eye has not seen nor ear heard, and it has not entered the heart of a person what God has prepared for the person that loves Him.”

That is really something to think about. When we look out into our world today, we notice a mixture of both good and evil. There are plenty of sights that bring us pleasure and peace, but there are also plenty of things that cause us fear and harm. The world we live in is not heaven, far from it, and I don’t know about you, but that is one of the things that gives me hope. I know this world is not perfect, but that is one of the things I am looking forward to in heaven. I am looking forward to a place where I can live in peace and harmony with every other human person. Heaven is going to be a place where everyone is a saint. I mean that; there will be no one who is going to deceive us. Everyone will be living the truth, there will be no anger, lust, greed, envy, hatred, or war. It will be a place where everyone loves and respects one another. We won’t have to live in fear. There will be no more poverty because everyone will be looking to share. Heaven won’t be a place where people are exploiting one another, there will be no abuse. Heaven will be a place of perfect peace and happiness, not only will all of this be true, but God can bless us with an infinite assortment of things that will give us unbounded pleasure. Because God is infinite, every day can be a new experience for us. Each day we can wake up and say to ourselves, “I wonder what remarkable thing God is going to show me today.”

Now, to get to heaven, we still have work to do on earth. It is essential for us, in thinking of heaven, to try and bring as much heaven on earth as we can. If we want to get to heaven, we must work for it. It is not as much of our proving ourselves to God, but allowing God’s goodness and grace to come into our lives. It is as if God were reaching out to us and offering us a gift of invaluable worth, but we have to embrace it for us to experience it. Heaven is a place that we cannot comprehend, but only to say it is a place where the infinitely good God resides. That is good enough for me.
SHUT-IN’S

Atherton, Andrew
Bohannon, Ida
Brack, Dorothy
Clay, Irving
Lee, Rosemary

McCoy, Bernice
McCoy, Carolyn
Peters, Mae
Thomas, Bernice
Turner, Hortense

Pray for the Deceased

Pray for the repose of the soul of †Shalibah Amun Chaney, grandmother of Jasmine Cobb and great-grandmother of Leilani Billups.

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

FALL FESTIVAL/CARD PARTY

SAVE THE DATE: February 29, 2020

The wrap-up meeting to celebrate the event’s success and plan for its future will be Saturday, Feb. 29th at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall conference room.

All are welcome, especially those willing to help plan and implement this year's fundraiser.

Please join us, we need your help!

University of Missouri—St. Louis
African American Alumni Chapter
And Associated Black Collegians
Present

Black in St. Louis
An Evening With

Percy Green II, Civil/Human Rights Protest Icon

This Event is FREE to the public and will be held on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The location of this event is at the UMSL Campus, J.C. Penney Conference Center 5 Arnold B Grobman Dr. St. Louis, MO 63121. J.C. Penney Ballroom

For more information visit www.umslalumni.org.

SAVE THE DATES
April 20th, 21st, and 22nd
6:00 p.m. each evening

Light refreshments and Reception to follow

Father Maurice J. Nutt, C.Ss.R.

Will be fellowshipping at St. Augustine of Hippo Catholic Church revival for three evenings. Please come join and fellowship, located at 408 Rev. John A. Brown Blvd. East St. Louis, IL 62205. For more information contact the church office by phone (618) 274-0655

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.
LITURGY NOTES...

Racism has rightly been called America's original sin. It remains a blot on our national life and continues to cause acts and attitudes of hatred, as recent events have made evident. The need to condemn and combat, the demonic ideologies of white supremacy, neo-Nazism and racism has become especially urgent at this time. Our efforts must be continuously led and accompanied by prayer—but they must also include concrete action. People of faith call on the Divine Physician, Christ the Lord, to heal the wounds of racism throughout our land.

As Sacred Scripture teaches, each one of us is made in the image and likeness of God (Gen. 1:26-27). The mission of the Church is to teach and to witness to the intrinsic dignity of the human person. Marches by hate groups such as the KKK and Neo-Nazis are outrageous to the sensible mind and directly challenge the dignity of human life. It is time for us to recommit ourselves to eradicating racism.

Prejudice can lurk unnoticed in the soul. Without prayerful reflection, it can feed on the fear of what is different. It can grow into overt racism. But self-reflection is not enough. It must lead to action. May the work of the USCCB serve as a call to conversion for those hiding behind white hoods and Nazi symbols. The vile chants of violence against African Americans and other people of color, the Jewish people, immigrants, and others offend our faith but unite our resolve. Let us not allow the forces of hate to deny the intrinsic dignity of every human person. Let the nation and world see the one body of Christ move to the defense of our sisters and brothers who are threatened.

(Source: usccb.org)

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**

**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!!

**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 23, 2020**
Friendship Club Meeting
after 11:00 am Mass
Parish Gym

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

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

**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

**2020 LENTEN FISH FRY**

Please join us from 11:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Parish Gym. March 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th and April 3rd.

Soul food Fridays will be held March 20th and April 3rd.

Come fellowship, eat delicious fish dinner and support your church!

**DONATION REQUEST:**

Please consider donating spaghetti, large cans of tomato sauce, case(s) of bottle water, an assortment of cans sodas and desserts. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Contact the Parish Office for more information or drop-off instructions 314 533-0304.

**SCRIPT GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE**

Why not purchasing gift cards?
The ROCK Church has many great gift cards that you pay only the face value, including $50 Visa Gift cards with no service fee!

This is a fundraising effort for our church and we carry a variety of cards your convenience.

Plan ahead, our cards are not just to use as gifts, but for daily use as a specific debit card.

We have an assortment cards not just to use as gifts, but for daily use as a specific debit card. We carry fast-food/restaurant cards, as well as cards for discounted stores, department stores, and home improvement stores.

Come to the Baptismal room in the rear of church to get your card TODAY!
Financial Corner...

<table>
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<th>General Fund Actual Contributions Received</th>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Envelopes</td>
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<td>Loose Donations</td>
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Stewardship Prayer…

That our faith grows, and we generously share out of love and not out of obligation.

“For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” *(Matthew 5:20)*

The scribes and Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law, and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear – it’s the love that you have in your heart that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules out of obligation, not love, does not put you on the path to heaven. Attending Mass on Sunday and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner on the parking lot is an example of a modern day Pharisee.

Dynamic Catholic, *Alive!* – Reconciliation

With whom do you need to be reconciled in life? Maybe you have sinned against the law of God through anger, lust, dishonesty, gossip, or other evil actions. Jesus reminds us that the Christian life calls for higher standards. It is essential to keep in mind that we can live up to these standards by cooperating with the grace God gives to us in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation. These sacraments give us sanctifying grace and bring us back to life when we are dead in our sin. As we approach the altar each Sunday, let us examine our consciences and seek the Lord’s mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation if we are guilty of mortal sin. Let us heed the Lord’s wisdom to seek perfection by listening to His voice and responding to the graces He grants us. The Eucharist and Reconciliation are two extraordinary blessings we have as Catholics! “Confession is an act of honesty and courage – an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God.”

~Pope Saint John Paul II

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 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, 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  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.