**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”

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**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
This past Sunday my homily focused on the belief of the Samaritan woman and then asking ourselves just who and what we believe in. Today’s gospel follows along the same lines. Jesus cures the man born blind. The Pharisees and Scribes do not like this because Jesus cures on the Sabbath. The man is not really sure who Jesus is, but is very grateful that he has been cured. Eventually, Jesus finds the man and asks him if he believes in the Son of Man. The man wants to know who it is so that he might believe. Jesus says he is the one and the man responds I do believe. It’s a beautiful story and it does challenge us to our belief system. Do we really believe in an all loving merciful God? If we do this should really help us in times of doubt.

I give this example today because our society, country, and world is not at peace right now. For once, it is not about people killing each other, but about a tiny micro-organism that is doing the damage. People are in a panic about COVID-19. We can hardly blame people for being nervous because our opponent, the virus, is so small we don’t know where it is hiding. Does the person I just shared the elevator with have the virus? They seemed to have a runny nose. Does that mean I am infected? I was in Sam’s this past week, and everyone was busy in the store, making sure they got their allotment of toilet paper and hand sanitizer. Unfortunately, both of those items were sold out. I don’t think Black Friday had as much activity as what has taken place in our country this past week.

We all have to take a moment to stop and breathe. Yes, the virus may continue to spread some before we contain it, but God is in the moment. It might make us stop and breathe, not just the air, but of the mercy and goodness of God. When we breathe, stop, and think, we are breathing in God’s beauty and trusting that everything is going to be OK.

Jesus reminds us also in the gospel that worry is useless. The flowers and birds don’t worry and see how God takes care of them. Coincidentally, I have found myself recently listening to the birds in the back yard more. I know part of this is the springtime that is fast approaching. Everywhere I have ever lived, I have always enjoyed the birds chirping as the weather gets warmer. I have especially enjoyed listening to the cardinals. I have always enjoyed listening to the Cardinal broadcast of baseball on the radio, and now I hear them singing in the back yard of the church. It is free for anyone else if you want to come and listen with me. Have a great week.
 Shuttle-in’s  
Atherton, Andrew  
Bohannon, Ida  
Brack, Dorothy  
Clay, Irving  
Lee, Rosemary  
McCoy, Bernice  
McCoy, Carolyn  
Peters, Mae  
Thomas, Bernice  
Turner, Hortense

**INTENTIONS 03/10/20**
Carter, Elissa  
Carter, Percy  
Cummings, Alice  
Farr, Tearah  
Fite, Maudelle  
Garnett, Pat  
George, Roberta  
Hearns, Zeyesan  
Huffinon, Barbara & Family  
Kakre, Cydney  
Miller, Jr., Antonio  
Petersen, Gregory  
Ransom, Asha  
Schneider, Terri  
Smith, Amy & Family  
LaBerta, Steve  
Latham, Jean  
Leong, Pam  
Lund, Grace  
Moore, Brenda  
Pointer, Patti  
Remsberg, Cory Sgt.  
Schneider, Jeannine  
Schneider, Roy  
Schnelle, Laverne  
Serio, Jessica  
Sheets, Jean  
Smith, Melba  
Smith, Paulette  
Strong, Betty  
Thomas, Nigel  
Thompson, Mary Ann  
Turner, Hortense  
Weaver, Stephen  
Vet, Alphonso  
**SICKNESS 03/17/20**
Bowers, Lynette  
Cloyd, Cori  
Cloyd, Kalonda  
George, Darrion  
Henry, Aliyah  
Huddleston, Monica & Family  
Jackson, Tamica  
Perry, Kameron  
Pickett, DaShaun  
Reedy, Judy  
Reedy, Sid  
Bell, Gilbert  
Collins, Tamika  
Dupliclantier, Tyrold Sr.  
Fisher, Kyle Fr.  
George, Betty  
Greer, Lois  
Hatchett, Sylvia  
Luster, Juanita  
Lyons, Sharon  
Martin, Maxine  
McGinnis, Theresa  
Mozee, Sylvester  
Parran, Rodrick  
Stamps, Arless  
Valle, Jr., Robert (Bobby)  
Wallace, Saundra  
Watkins, Darnell (Chef D)  
Williams, Gwendolyn  
**HOSPITAL 03/10/2020**
Reedy, Christian

Pray for the Deceased
Pray for the repose of the soul of †Anise Mahone, aunt of Barbara Huffmon

Good Friday (April 10) is a day of abstinence for all Catholics over the age of 14; fast, as well as abstinence, is also obligatory for those from the ages of 18-59. Abstinence means abstinence from meat. Fast means one full meal a day, with two smaller meals and nothing between meals (liquids are permitted). No Catholic will lightly excuse himself/herself from this obligation.

All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence from meat for those from the ages of 18-59. Here again Catholics will not hold themselves lightly excused, but if there is a serious health problem, this obligation would not apply. We should strive to make all days of Lent a time of prayer and penance.

**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

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.

St. Alphonsus “Rock” Church  
Sermon CDs, Concert CDs

Uplifting Words and Music of GOD
For
Home, Work or Car
Cost $5.00
8:15 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
See Lorenzo or Veronica, Media Technician(s)
Or
Contact the Parish Office 314 533-0304
LITURGY NOTES...

**Almsgiving**—The third call of the Lord is to give alms. Jesus was always concerned about those who were poor and in need. He was impressed by the widow who, though having so little, shared her resources with others: "I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood" (Lk 21:3-4). To be a disciple of Christ means to live a life of charity. To be a disciple of Jesus is to live a life of stewardship, generously giving of our time, talent, and treasure.

Our Lord's threefold call to pray, to fast, and to give alms is richly interconnected. In prayer, the Holy Spirit, always active in our lives, shows us those areas where we are not free—areas that call for penance—as well as those people who are in need of our care. Through fasting, our spirit becomes more open to hearing God's call, and we receive new energies for performing works of charity. Almsgiving puts us in contact with the needy whom we then bring back to God in prayer.

The foundational call of Christians to charity is a frequent theme of the Gospels. During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on "almsgiving," which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. As one of the three pillars of Lenten practice, almsgiving is "a witness to fraternal charity" and "a work of justice pleasing to God."

*(Source: www.usccb.org)*

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**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

Upcoming Bulletin Announcement Deadlines

All items must be in the office, faxed or emailed no later than 12 noon on the dates listed below:

(314) 533-4260 (fax)
parish130@archstl.org

**Deadline**  | **Bulletin Publication**
---|---
Mar. 30th  | April 5th issue
April 3rd  | April 12th issue

Sr. Mary Antona Ebo
Chapel/Prayer Room
Located in the Parish Hall
(Room 110)

This prayer room is designed for you to unwind, relax, and enter into the presence of God. Bring your Bible and your prayer requests. In this room, you can pray and let Jesus minister to you heart-to-heart. The prayer room is open and available whenever the office is open. Pick up the key from the office staff and return it when you are ready to leave.

The room is also available after office hours to commissions and prayer groups who need a place to begin their meetings with praise and worship.

"Come and experience your one on one quiet time with Jesus and receive your blessings."

Listening to Catholic radio in your car or your home will help smooth out any rough edges in your day and keep you on the right path during this season of Lent.

Tune in to AM 1080 WRYT or 92.7 FM, download the free Covenant Network App or listen on OurCatholicRadio.org.

**2020 TESTIMONIAL DINNER AND AUCTION POSTPONED**

Due to the widespread mandates and precautions around the recently declared pandemic, the Lwanga Center’s Testimonial Dinner and Auction that was scheduled for TODAY, March 22nd, has been postponed. We are in regular contact with the hotel for a reasonable rescheduled date that is contingent upon compliance with the Archdiocesan and governmental mandates.

We hope to have a public announcement for a rescheduling of the celebration soon.

However, please feel free to contact the Center for information at 314 367-7929.

**Join us for the Rock Church Spring Parish Mission/Revival**

"Return! Renew! Revive!"

- **Sunday, April 26, 2020**
  - 4pm

- **Monday, April 27, 2020**
  - 6pm

- **Tuesday, April 28, 2020**
  - 6pm

**Preachers**
Rev. Tom Donaldson
Rev. Steve Benden
Rev. Rodney Olive

Reception following service each evening in the Church Gym.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- **March 26, 2020**
  - Sweet Hour of Prayer
    CANCELLED

- **March 27, 2020**
  - Lenten Fish Fry
    CANCELLED
  - Stations of the Cross
    CANCELLED

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**PARISH EVENTS**

**A Message from Pope Francis**

"Let us continue to pray for the sick. I think of the families under lockdown. Children who can't go to school, perhaps parents who can't leave the house, some who are in quarantine. May the Lord help families to discover new ways, new expressions of love, of living together in this new situation. It's a beautiful opportunity to rediscover affection, with creativity, in the family. Let us pray for families, that the relationships within the family might flourish always for the good. United to Christ we are never alone, but we form one body and he is the head. It is a union that grows with prayer and spiritual Communion, a practice strongly encouraged when it is not possible to receive the sacrament. Our God lets us understand that he always operates in simplicity, in the simplicity of the house of Nazareth, in the simplicity of everyday work, in the simplicity of prayer.

March 17, 2020"
Financial Corner...

General Fund Actual Contributions Received

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Stewardship Prayer…

That we are less concerned about our outward appearance and more concerned with our interior conversion of heart.

"’Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart.’"

1 Samuel 16:7

How often do we invest our time, talent, and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car, and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent, and treasure here on earth.

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Spiritual Sight

There are simply times in life where we are in the dark and do not see as the Lord sees. Lent is a time of going into the desert, a time that can be dry and desolate in our spiritual lives. In the midst of this darkness, however, the Lord can work wonders and purify our relationship with Him and family members and friends. Just as the blind man could not see but obeyed the Lord, we too must continue to heed the voice of the Lord so that we may truly see with the eyes of faith. As the Pharisees shows us, it is often when we think we know it all or see everything already that the opposite is true. Jesus came that we may see. We pray that Jesus might open the eyes of our hearts and minds to see Him. 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!

ATTENTION:

MEN OF ST. ALPHONSUS ROCK CHURCH!!!

"Working Hands"

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord....

We are asking for all able bodied men to consider helping with small projects around the church. It is a privilege to serve the church and our church family.

Please consider donating your time, talents, and skills. Sign-up sheets are available at the usher’s table, you will be contacted. We are looking for:

Carpenters Handymen
Electricians Plumbers
Etc...

Congratulations!
Our March 2020 Winner is
Eugene Wallace

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

archstl.org/dynamic
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PRAYER MEMORIALS
Tillie Mae Alexander, Larry Ambus, Hortense Anderson, Elizabeth Henckler Aton, Anita Louise Banks
Lillian Barnes, Herron Beckley, 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 McCallebb, Leon Zack McClendon, Marshall Mosley
Anne Ortwerth, 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 Travis Threats
Joy Camp Eric Thurman
Mike Coffman Kevin Triggs
Rhonda Graham

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.