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 du Maine

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 this week’s gospel reading we hear of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. This is certainly an important reading for all of us to hear because we all have faith in the Resurrection. In this particular example Jesus wants to make sure, without a doubt that Lazarus is dead. He has been in the tomb four days. Everyone is astounded when Jesus asks them to move the stone away. He has been dead four days and the body certainly has begun its process of decomposing, but Jesus insists, and Lazarus arises. Certainly, this must have had a great effect on everyone who saw it. Jesus raises two other people in the gospel stories but no one who has been in the tomb for four days. This scene must have come back to the minds of those who witnessed it many times. What a scene. Someone is raised from the dead who has been in the tomb for four days. How did Lazarus spend the rest of his days until he passes on a second time? It should give us comfort to realize we shall also rise to live with Jesus forever.

I am hoping that all are well and coping with the Coronavirus situation as best you can. We have been asked by the government to limit our activities as much as possible. Just about everyone we meet is a potential carrier, and so we must be cautious about being around other people. It is going to start getting a lot worse before it gets better. I was reminded the other day about a phrase that came out of England during WWII. Germany was bombing England, and everything was all turned upside down. People were panicking, as well they should, but the phrase said “STAY CALM. CARRY ON.” A phrase all of us could use right now. None of us has ever been through anything like this before. There have been other pandemics down through history much worse than this. It will pass, but we must remain calm during this storm. If anyone needs any pastoral assistance at this time, do not be afraid to ask.

We are now offering Mass shown on Sundays. The first Mass was said March 22nd and downloaded on YouTube, https://youtu.be/AcTYm-C888E. Fr. Rodney gave a great inspiring homily, and I hope you enjoy it. Malcolm was present, and there was music. Offering Mass shown on Sundays is one good way for all of us to stay connected with God and each other. This past week several people remarked to me by phone that they feel weird, out of touch, sinful because they cannot get to Mass. I hope you can put those troubles aside. We are doing the best we can do right now, and remember God is good all the time, and all the time God is good. Have a nice week.

Weekly Readings...

Sunday:
Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Monday:

Tuesday:
Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday:
Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday:
Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Jn 8:51-59

Friday:
Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/Jn 10:31-42

Saturday:
Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/Jn 11:45-56

Sunday:

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:
5th Sunday of Lent

Wednesday:
April Fools’ Day

Thursday:
St. Francis of Paola, Hermit

Saturday:
St. Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Sunday:
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
**INTENTIONS 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

**SICKNESS 03/17/20**
- Valle, Jr., Robert (Bobby)
- Wallace, Saundra
- Watkins, Darnell (Chef D)
- Williams, Gwendolyn

**INTENTIONS 03/24/20**
- Cummings, Alice
- Farr, Synthia
- Fite, Maudelle
- Garnett, Pat
- George, Roberta
- Hearns, Zeyean
- Jones, Lawanda & Family
- Miller, Jr., Antonio
- Peterson, Gregory
- Ransom, Asha
- Schneider, Terri

**SICKNESS 03/24/20**
- Atherton, Andrew
- Atherton, Vertibe
- Calhoun, Debi
- Caprese, Brittany
- Chapman, Bonnie
- Clancy, Jimmy
- Cummings, Cleophes
- Danter, Mary
- Gunn, Tasha
- Herron, David
- Hood, Rosalind
- Howard, Yvonne
- LaBerta, Steve
- Latham, Jean
- Leong, Pami
- Lund, Grace
- Moore, Brenda
- Pointer, Patti
- Remsberg, Cory Sgt.
- Schneider, Jeanne
- 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

**HOSPITAL 03/24/2020**
- Reedy, Christian

**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.

**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.

**5th Sunday of Lent**

Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live.” - Jn 11:2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass

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**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**
**LITURGY NOTES...**

What does the Bible teach us about having faith? Faith is defined as a complete trust or confidence in someone or something. Having faith in the love and sovereignty of God is arguably the most prevalent idea of the Bible. Scripture compels us to have faith in God and the commandments of his Word, following the teachings of the Old and New Testaments.

It's easy to "lose faith" in life. Undoubtedly, we are hit with devastating news, difficult situations, and worries. The storms that come can cause us to doubt God really loves us and knows best for us. It is in these difficult times that it's vital we recall God's promises from Scripture for those who believe. As followers of Christ, those who have faith are promised blessings and a prosperous future. The Bible verses listed below can offer you strength and hope today and for tomorrow. May these be a source of growing faith in your life during these trying times and forever.

- **Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- **Matthew 21:22** And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.
- **Romans 10:17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
- **Mark 11:22-24** And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Bulletin Publication</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 30th</td>
<td>April 5th issue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3rd</td>
<td>April 12th issue</td>
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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

PARISH EVENTS

NOVENA PRAYER TO OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP
ADAPTED TO BE PRAYED IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 SITUATION

Mother of Perpetual Help, with the greatest confidence we come before your holy picture to beseech your intercession.

We think of you, Mother, at the foot of the Cross. Your heart must have bled to see your Son in agony. But your joy was great when He rose from the dead, victorious over the powers of evil.

Mother of Sorrows, pray for us in this time of trial. Help us not to lose heart. Intercede for your people who are afflicted with Coronavirus. Comfort your people who are vulnerable and anxious. Protect healthcare workers who put their lives at risk. Inspire our leaders to make good decisions. Change our hearts so that we may act responsibly.

Teach us to trust in God’s love and mercy and to share with you the joy of having courageously faced up to all the challenges of Life. Amen.

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 re-discover 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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<tr>
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Stewardship Prayer…
That we open our hearts to see God’s active presence in our daily lives.

“Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’”

(John 11:40)

Many of us say that we believe in God. We go to church on Sunday. We volunteer for events at our parish. But when life gets hard and the pressure is on, when things aren’t going our way, do we really believe and put our trust in the Lord? When we live a life of gratitude, being thankful for the gifts we have been given, we really do see that God is providing all that we need. It opens our hearts to see God’s active presence in our daily lives.

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – The Theological Virtues

The Gospel story of Christ raising Lazarus from the dead is a beautiful account that teaches the power of faith, hope, and charity. These virtues are essential in allowing us to participate in the life of God. Christ states that he is the resurrection and the life and that those who have FAITH in Him will never die but will live forever. Those who HOPE in the Lord will not be disappointed but will look forward to eternal life with a fervent desire for heaven. Hope enables us to trust in God’s promises and to rely on His grace and not our own efforts. Finally, the story shows the LOVE Jesus had for His friend Lazarus. Jesus loves the Father perfectly and all His creation for the love of God. The theological virtues are infused by God into our souls to make us capable of acting as God’s children and of meriting eternal life (CCC 1813). As we approach Holy Week, let us pray for a deeper awareness of these glorious virtues that are present in us when we are in the state of grace. 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!
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. Antonia 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, Anice Mahone, Barbara McCalebb, Leon Zack McClendon, Marshall Mosley
Anne Ortwerth, Lucille Palmer, Kathy Lin Cheers Parran, Alton Pritchard, 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

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
Kurt Englander
President
Angela Thomas
Vice President
Linda Kamp
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 him 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.