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’s 1st reading from Acts is one of my favorite readings in scripture. I say that because it puts away so much of the ambition we might have for acquiring things. This reading shows how people in the early church watched out for and loved one another. They pulled all of their resources and put them in a common pot so that there were no poor or rich among them. It’s a lot like the way we Redemptorists live. When we are able to let go of all we so much want to guard it helps us to be free. The most generous people I know are already pretty poor. They don’t have a whole lot but what they do have they are willing to give away. What a far cry from the way most of us live. We accumulate more and more wealth, to what purpose. That’s one of the things I am looking forward to in heaven. There will be no rich or poor. We won’t have to put up walls to keep people out, and there won’t be anyone trying to take our stuff. Everyone will be content just living in the presence of Almighty God and being at peace with one another.

I want to thank the core group of people who have worked very hard to bring our masses to the faithful. We’ve had a team of folks here ensuring that the masses are streamed that the sound, lights, and everything else is in place. I also want to thank those who are a part of the music ministry. Everything has worked out very well. I can see that so many are tuning in at home. I know it is not the same as being in church, but that will happen soon, and when it does, all of us will rejoice. We should all get to church one hour before mass to reintroduce ourselves to one another – I look forward to that day.

It seems the virus is slowly ebbing here in America, but I don’t see how we are going to get back to normal any time soon. If there is just one person out there still with the virus, it has not been contained yet. Until a vaccine is produced, I don’t think it will stop. Until then, we must continue to lay low. It is difficult, but it is the thing we must do, this has caused all of us to slow our pace; that, I believe, is a good thing. Eventually, we will look at the overall picture and see what is important – that we don’t have to always be on the go. It is good for us to slow down and communicate with one another as we did years ago. I hope the Good Lord will continue to be with us on our journey.

Remember to reach out to those members of the parish who might be feeling lonely, frightened, or depressed. Look to lift their spirits. Have a good week.

---

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Saint(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>2nd Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>St. Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Earth Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>St. George, Martyr; St. Adalbert, Bishop and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Martyr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arbor Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>St. Mark, Evangelist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>3rd Sunday of Easter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Weekly Readings…**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/Jn 3:1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Jn 3:7b-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/Jn 3:16-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/Jn 3:31-36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/Jn 6:1-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>1 Pt 5:17-24/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 [2]/Mk 16:15-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTENTIONS 04/07/20
Cummings, Alice
Farr, Synthia
Fite, Maudelle
Garnett, Pat
George, Roberta
Hearns, Zeyesean
Miller, Jr., Antonio
Schneider, Terri

Lund, Grace
Moore, Brenda
Petropulos, Bill
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

INTENTIONS 04/15/20
Bowers, Lynette
Cloyd, Cori
Cloyd, Kalonda
George, Darrion
Goss, Michael
Henry, Aliyah
Jackson, Tamica
Perry, Cameron
Pickett, DuShaun
Reedy, Judy
Reedy, Sid

Bell, Gilbert
Collins, Tamika
Cunningham, Rodrick
Duplanlier, Tyrond Sr.
Fisher, Kyle Fr.
George, Betty
Greer, Lois
Hatchett, Sylvia
King, Calvin
Luster, Juanita
Lyons, Sharon
Martin, Maxine
McGinnis, Theresa
Mozee, Sylvester
Parran, Rodrick
Reedy, Christian
Stamps, Arlecia
Valle, Jr., Robert (Bobby)
Watkins, Darnell (Chef D)

SICKNESS 04/07/20
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, Pam

SHUT-IN’s
McCoy, Carolyn
Peters, Mae
Thomas, Bernice
Turner, Hortense

SICKNESS 04/15/20
Bell, Gilbert
Collins, Tamika
Cunningham, Rodrick
Duplanlier, Tyrond Sr.
Fisher, Kyle Fr.
George, Betty
Greer, Lois
Hatchett, Sylvia
King, Calvin
Luster, Juanita
Lyons, Sharon
Martin, Maxine
McGinnis, Theresa
Mozee, Sylvester
Parran, Rodrick
Reedy, Christian
Stamps, Arlecia
Valle, Jr., Robert (Bobby)
Watkins, Darnell (Chef D)

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

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

The term The Spiritual Life is a phrase that calls to mind our relationship with God. Most people I know are not aware that God is inviting them into a deeper and more profound sense of who He is every day. God is trying to communicate to us in varying ways, but I am not sure that most people are aware of this at all and so consequently make little or no growth in Spirit.

Many can rattle off statistics about countless things or about what this or that person said about whatever topic, but so few can talk about their faith in any depth. Weekly attendance at Sunday mass is about all they are willing to do to enhance their spiritual life; this is unfortunate because all of us are called to a deeper relationship with God, this is not going to happen on its own. Like anything else worth pursuing, we have to take ownership of it.

I am not sure how people are spending their days now that we are asked to stay home. Because there isn’t as much activity in most of our lives, it offers us an opportunity to delve deeper into or relationship with the Lord. St. Alphonsus developed a process called meditation, where a person sits in God’s presence. That person offers themselves over to God for a few minutes. That person then will read a story from scripture. It could be the daily mass readings, and meditate and ponder what you have read. After a few minutes, he invites the person to focus on one area of their life they would like God to help them make a change, being more patient, for instance. A person is then called to offer God some petitions for whatever they want God to do for them. I person is then called to make a resolution as to how they are going to better follow God in the future. Finally, they make a profession of faith hope and charity to God. This whole process, at least at the beginning, would take 15 minutes. After you become accustomed to it, it might be half an hour; this is an excellent way to make daily progress on your spiritual journey. This practice, along with the rosary, spiritual reading, the Divine Mercy chaplet, can make a difference in our spiritual life.

Just a reminder that the church is open every day during the week from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Not very many are taking advantage of this; you can not get the virus by coming to church and sitting for a few minutes.

Take this to heart – what an opportunity God is giving us. When is the church going to be so available to us again?
**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.***

---

**LITURGY NOTES...**

**Divine Mercy Sunday** occurs on the Sunday after Easter. The Feast of Divine Mercy was recorded in the diary of St. Faustina, granting the biggest promise of Grace from the Devotion of Divine Mercy. On this day, all who receive communion may obtain total forgiveness of all sins, meaning that the person would go directly to heaven without suffering in purgatory. Plenary indulgences are granted by the catholic church by reciting certain simple prayers.

Saint Faustina Kowalska was a Polish nun who received visitations and visions of Jesus, where he asked specifically for a feast of Divine Mercy to be founded the Sunday after Easter. She wrote about her vision of the Feast of Divine Mercy being attended by innumerable participants and the pope in 1937. The first Mass for Divine Mercy Sunday was held on March 23, 1937. Both Faustina Kowalska and her confessor Father Micheal Sopocko attended the Mass. Saint Faustina was canonized on April 30, 2000, by Pope John Paul II on Divine Mercy Sunday.

The Diary of St. Faustina holds a record of conversations the Saint had with Jesus during which Our Savior made promises to those devoted to His Divine Mercy. Below are some of these conversations:

...tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. – St. Faustina Diary, 699

*This Feast emerged from the very depths of My Mercy, and it is confirmed in the vast depths of My tender Mercies. Every soul believing and trusting in My Mercy will obtain it.— St. Faustina Diary, 420*

The Feast of the Divine Mercy, also called the Divine Mercy Sunday, is a very important Sunday. Let us dedicate our time to Jesus every first Sunday after Easter Sunday.

(Source: www.divinemercysunday.net)
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.

Pope Francis tells us, “Jesus is a specialist at turning our deaths into life, our mourning into dancing (cf. Ps 30:11). With Him, we too can experience a Pasch, that is, a Passover from desolation to consolation, from fear to confidence.

Let us not keep our faces bowed to the ground in fear, but raise our eyes to the risen Jesus. His gaze fills us with hope, for it tells us that we are loved unfailingly... His love remains unchanged.”

Click the link(s) below to donate:

**General Offertory**

General Offertory is used for the day-to-day operation of the parish. You may set up a one-time or recurring donation to our parish.

**Harden Food Pantry**

Thank you for your generosity with assisting the poor. We are grateful for your willingness to share your gifts.

**Benevolence**

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.
Financial Corner...

Stewardship Prayer...
That we help our parish create a welcoming environment where people feel included.

“Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” (John 20:19)

Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, like a new neighbor, a new work colleague or a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home? Many of us can probably do a much better job at this. When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded. We are made for relationships – with God and each other. A simple “hello” and a smile goes a long way.

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Mercy
In the Gospel, Jesus institutes the Sacrament of Reconciliation, authorizing the Apostles to forgive sins in the name of Jesus. It is no coincidence that Jesus says, “Peace be with you” more than one time to them as he greets them. When was the last time you went to the Sacrament of Reconciliation? What beautiful peace in our hearts is found in this sacrament! Through the priest, Jesus forgives us of our sins when we are truly contrite. We receive sanctifying grace and actual graces that will help us to overcome sin in the future. Although sometimes we may still be restless and doubt God’s forgiveness, we must remember the words of Christ to St. Faustina: “I am love and Mercy Itself. There is no misery that could be a match for My mercy, neither will misery exhaust it, because as it is being granted – it increases. The soul that trusts in My mercy is most fortunate, because I Myself take care of it.”

God’s mercy is always greater than our sins. Let us approach the throne of grace and mercy, trusting in the goodness of the Lord.

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. 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
Rosemary Lee, Eldwyn Lewis, Anice Mahone, Barbara McCalebb, Leon Zack McClendon, Marshall Mosley
Anne Ortwerth, Lucille Palmer, Kathy Lin Cheers Parran, Alton Pritchard, Drene 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.

COMMISSIONS HELP
Wilhelmina Hardin Food Pantry
Terri Schneider, Dir. of Wilhelmina Hardin Food Pantry (Emergency Aid) (314) 531-1040
St. Charles Lwanga Center (314) 367-7929
Community Health In Partnership Services (C.H.I.P.S.) (314) 652-9231
Community Women Against Hardship (CWAH) (314) 289-7523
HIV/AIDS: 314 531-0304 Ext. 1502

ANOINTING OF THE SICK & VISITS
"Is anyone sick among you? Call 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.