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
It never ceases to amaze me when I read the Acts of the Apostles just how changed the Apostles were after they receive the Spirit at Pentecost. Whereas they were terrified and confused before this event, they are utterly without fear afterward. This particular story we hear today fascinates me because of the size of the crowd baptized. It says here that 3,000 people were baptized that day. Three thousand people is a lot of people; I am not sure how many people our church at the Rock seats, maybe 600, which means that the people that were baptized in this story was about five times the number of people that could fit into our church. How is it they all wanted to be baptized? Was the speech of the Apostles that entertaining or compelling that so many want to leave their faith and become committed to the Lord Jesus? I guess I have to give all the credit to this Spirit of God. Maybe St. Peter was that great of an orator, but I prefer to think he was just an instrument in the hands of the Spirit, providing beautiful music for all to hear. The Spirit’s voice proclaims the Way of the Lord for all to hear; it just happens to be coming out of Peter’s mouth.

My friends, this same Spirit is within each of us. If we align ourselves with God every day, we become an instrument in the hands of the Spirit, and we can play beautiful music for the Lord. Keep that in mind as you go about your day. Even though we are still enclosed within our homes, by taking on the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives, we can announce his message. As we continue through the Easter Season, we will continue to read from Acts how the early church brought the message of Christ to the world. I encourage you to read this book of the Bible. We are studying this sacred Word from scripture every Wednesday and Friday at 10 am. I invite you to be a part of this. The times in which the apostles proclaimed the Word was even scarier than the times we are living in. They did not have to be afraid of the Coronavirus but of the Jewish leaders who wanted to put them to death. And yet, as we read, these faithful Christian men and women rose to the occasion and proclaimed the Word anyway. This should not be taken too lightly. These faithful Christians, in spite of imprisonment, flogging, stoning, beheading, worked tirelessly to bring others the story and Spirit of the Lord. Three thousand people were baptized in one day! Blessed be the name of the Lord.

May God’s blessing be on all of you this week. May God be with you.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:**
4th Sunday of Easter

**Monday:**
Cinco de Mayo

**Tuesday:**
National Day of Prayer

**Saturday:**
5th Sunday of Easter; Mother’s Day

**Weekly Readings…**

**Sunday:**
Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10

**Monday:**
Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 3a]/Jn 10:11-18

**Tuesday:**
Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [Ps 117:1a]/Jn 10:22-30

**Wednesday:**
Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 [4]/Jn 12:44-50

**Thursday:**

**Friday:**
Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab [7bc]/Jn 14:1-6

**Saturday:**
Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 14:7-14

**Sunday:**
Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12
INTENTIONS 04/21/20
Cummings, Alice
Farr, Synthia
Fite, Maudelle
Garnett, Pat
George, Roberta
Hearns, Zeysen
Miller, Jr., Antonio
Mitchell, Debra & Family
Schneider, Terri

INTENTIONS 05/03/20
Bowers, Lynette
Cloyd, Cori
Cloyd, Kalonda
George, Darrion
Goss, Michael
Henry, Aliyah
Jackson, Tamica
Perry, Cameron
Pickett, DaShaun
Reedy, Judy
Reedy, Sid
Walters, Darnell & Family

SICKNESS 04/21/20
Atherton, Andrew
Atherton, Vertibe
Calhoun, Debi
Caprese, Brittany
Chapman, Bonnie
Clancy, Jimmy
Cummings, Cleophs
Crump, Michael
Danter, Mary
Gunn, Tasha
Herron, David
Hood, Rosalind
Howard, Yvonne
LaBerta, Steve
Latham, Jean
Leong, Pam
Lund, Grace
Miller, Mary
Moore, Brenda
Petropulos, Bill
Pointer, Patti
Ramsberg, 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

SICKNESS 05/03/20
Bowers, Lynette
Cloyd, Cori
Cloyd, Kalonda
Cunningham, Rodrick
Duplantier, 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?
LITURGY NOTES...

Sts. Philip and James

Today's Mass tells us that the example of the Apostles is the most certain and direct path to heaven. They suffered and were persecuted, but they placed their confidence in God and now they rejoice in heaven. We too must have confidence in God and not be troubled in our adversities. In our Father's house there are many mansions, and if we follow the way indicated by Him, Christ will come at the end of our life and take us to Himself. Today is the Feast Day of two of Christ’s Apostles – Sts. Philip and James.

St. Philip, was one of Christ's first disciples, called soon after his Master's baptism in the Jordan. The fourth Gospel gives the following detail: "The next day Jesus was about to leave for Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him: Follow Me. Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathaniel and said to him: We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets wrote, Jesus the Son of Joseph of Nazareth. And Nathanael said to him: Can anything good come out of Nazareth? Philip said to him: Come and see" (John 1:43ff).

St. James the Less, a brother of the Apostle Jude, was of Cana of Galilee. He is the author of one of the Catholic Epistles in the New Testament. He was favored by an appearance of the Risen Christ (I Cor. 15:7). After the dispersion of the Apostles he was made Bishop of Jerusalem. He was visited by St. Paul (Gal. 1:19). He spoke after Peter at the meeting of the Apostles (Acts 15:13). When he refused to deny the Divinity of Christ, the Jews cast him down from the pinnacle of the temple and clubbed him to death. The Breviary contains a very moving description of his death. "When he was ninety-six years old and had governed the Church for thirty years in a most holy manner, the Jews sought to stone him, then took him to the pinnacle of the temple and cast him off headlong. As he lay there half dead, with legs broken by the fall, he lifted his hands toward heaven and prayed to God for the salvation of his enemies, saying: Lord, forgive them for they know not what they do! While the apostle was still praying, a fuller struck his head a mortal blow." His relics now rest next to those of St. Philip in the church of the Holy Apostles in Rome, and their names are mentioned in the first list in the Canon of the Mass.

(Source:www.divinemercy.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.
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. Tune in to AM 1080 WRYT or 92.7 FM or listen on OurCatholicRadio.org.

**Pope Francis tells us**, “God is thirsty for us. The Lord likes to hear us speak so He can understand us well and to give the correct response to our dissatisfaction. The Lord does not accelerate. He always goes at our own pace... He waits for us to take the first step. And when it is the right moment, He asks us a question... Then He responds. He explains up until the right point... Then He pretends to go farther, to see how deep our dissatisfaction is... At the moment when our dissatisfaction meets Jesus, the life of grace and fullness of life begins there.”

Reis, Bernadette Sr. F.S.P. (2020, April 26)  

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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**

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**4th Sunday of Easter**

Whoever enters through the gate is the Shepard of the sheep

John 10:2

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**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.
**Financial Corner...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Fund Actual Contributions Received</th>
<th>19th</th>
<th>26th</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Envelopes</td>
<td>$12,453.00</td>
<td>$ 6,456.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loose Donations</td>
<td>$ 200.00</td>
<td>$ 777.00</td>
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<td>$12,653.00</td>
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<td>Weekly Target Amount</td>
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<td>Under/Over Weekly Target</td>
<td>$ 653.00</td>
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**Stewardship Prayer…**

That as we struggle to live a faith-filled life, we recognize we are not alone. Jesus is there to help guide us.

“*And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ...’*

(Acts 2:38)

The word “repent” means to turn from sin, to change our actions. Change that is permanent comes from within. It requires prayer, discipline, and perseverance. Change is also hard. We have to recognize that we are broken and need help. The good news - we are not alone in our journey. Ask Jesus daily for guidance and patiently listen for his response.

**Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Abundance of Life**

How comforting it is to know that Jesus came that we may have life more abundantly. The spring is a wonderful time to observe the beauty of life present in God’s creation. Plants are blooming, birds are singing, and people are more visible outdoors because of the warm weather. What does it mean to live more abundantly though? It means living as a person whom God has destined for greatness. It means that Jesus has justified us by His precious blood and called to be people of great sanctity to deposit the scent of holiness everywhere we go. The grace of justification transforms us to live more fully with hope, joy, and zealous charity for God and neighbor. Because of the life Christ gives us, we are a new creation destined for eternal glory in heaven with the Triune God.

[archstl.org/dynamic](http://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](http://archstl.org/dynamic) to view all the resources available to you!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Congratulations! Our April 2020 Winner is Betty Sullivan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jean Anthony</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Boykin</td>
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<td>Ruby Brown</td>
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<td>Virginia Brown</td>
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<td>Richard Buckley</td>
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<td>James Butler</td>
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<td>Cheryl Carr</td>
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<td>Anne Marie Clarke</td>
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<td>Damon Clay</td>
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<td>Mike &amp; Cherina Coffman</td>
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<td>Anne Conte</td>
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<td>Willie &amp; Bessie Cunningham</td>
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<td>Esther Darris</td>
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<td>Kurt Englander</td>
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<td>Maudelle Fite</td>
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<td>Donald and Joyce Jones</td>
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<td>Mark &amp; Linda Kamp</td>
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<td>Yetta Kilgore</td>
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<td>Helene Laberta</td>
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<td>C.C. Lee</td>
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<td>Deborah Miller</td>
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<td>Sylvester &amp; Karen Mozee</td>
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<td>Ernest Nashville</td>
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<td>Jean Nashville</td>
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<td>Leo &amp; Linda Peoples</td>
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<td>Ben &amp; Denise Phillips</td>
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<td>Linda Brown Reed</td>
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<td>Eugene Wallace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janis Weaver McSpadden</td>
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<td>Jocelyn Woodson-Reed</td>
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**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, Drenea Sanders, Eugene Sanders
Christine Slaughter, Irma Steen, Susan Colbert Threats, Ralph Tyler, Robert Joseph Valle
Juanita West, Marlene Williams, Richard Williams, Clarence Zacher

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**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

**COMMUNITY 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**

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**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Kurt Englander  
President  
Angela Thames  
Vice President  
Linda Kamp  
Secretary

Linda Brown Reed  
Wanda Caldwell  
Joy Camp  
Mike Coffman  
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**

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**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.