**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
In today’s Gospel reading Jesus reminds us that he is the way, truth, and life. This is really important for us to hear. If we want to live a life devoted to Christ we must learn to walk in his ways. One of my favorite movies is called Kelly’s Heroes. The main character is played by Clint Eastwood. It is set during World War II. A group of US soldiers decided they are going to steal some money and gold bars from a German bank. At one point they are going through a field where one of the men steps on a land mine. The other men are frightened because any step they take could also be on a mine. They are very careful about how they proceed the rest of the way through the field. One of the men is further along in the field than the others and so they all eventually make it over to his footsteps and follow his footsteps the rest of the way out of the field. It is by following in his footsteps, literally, that they escape unharmed.

Jesus Christ is inviting us to follow in his footsteps in just the same way. Our world is full of landmines trying to blow us up. The harm does not affect our bodies, but rather our souls. To the extent that we give ourselves over to all that the world has to offer, we are not following in the steps of Our Lord Jesus Christ; this is an important concept. The world offers us all kinds of ways to try and distract us from the direction of Christ, and it is only by keeping our eyes intently fixed on walking in his footsteps that we can escape unharmed. Jesus is the way, truth, and life. If we believe this, we will do everything in our life possible to follow in his footsteps.

I hope everyone is doing well at home as things begin to open up around us. I mentioned at Mass this past weekend and reminding us again today that we are not sure when we are going to open up the church officially, but when we do, things are going to be different for a while. We are not going to be able to just jump back into where we were before. There is going to have to be designated seating positions making sure we give each other the space we need. I know this is going to be hard for everyone because we are used to being huggers, but at least, for the time being, we still have to keep our distance for everyone to stay healthy.

I hope everyone has a good week and looking forward to when we can all be together again—God’s peace.
**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?

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**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
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...

Bishops throughout the United States re-consecrated the country to Mary as the nation continues to struggle in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, led a “Renewal of the Consecration of the United States of America to the Blessed Virgin Mary” May 1, 2020. Archbishop Gomez said: “In this difficult time we turn to the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of the church. She intercedes with her Son for all are affected in this way by the pandemic. We implore her maternal care for her children.”

Archbishop Gomez noted Mary’s history in the United States. “The first missionaries came to this country under the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Later, the bishops consecrated her as patroness of the United States of America,” he said. “The Virgin Mary has accompanied this great nation since our beginnings,” he added. “Now in this difficult hour, we renew our consecration to her.” “Mary was the first person to consecrate herself to Jesus, the first to offer her whole heart to do his will, to set his beautiful plan of redemption,” Archbishop Gomez said. “We ask God to give us that same faith, that same courage … the strength to follow Jesus, to seek his holiness and his kingdom.”

This consecration reaffirms the bishops’ previous consecrations of the United States to Mary. In 1792, the first bishop of the United States, Bishop John Carroll, consecrated the nation to Mary under the title Immaculate Conception, and in 1846, the bishops unanimously chose Mary under that title as the patroness of the nation. In 1959, Cardinal Patrick O’Boyle of Washington again consecrated the United States to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This was the year when construction of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington was completed. This re-consecration follows the Latin American bishops’ council who consecrated Latin America and the Caribbean to Our Lady of Guadalupe on Easter.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**

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.

5th Sunday of Easter

“In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places”

John 14:2
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 10, 2020

Financial Corner...

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Stewardship Prayer…

That we encourage those who are struggling to find direction in their life and help them discern how they might use their gifts.

“The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.”

(1 Peter 2:7)

Every person has been given gifts from the Holy Spirit. These are called “charisms” and they are used to build God’s kingdom on earth. While many people are able to recognize their natural talents and abilities, they may be unsure of their charisms. If you know someone who is struggling for a direction in life, give them a little encouragement. Help them discern their charisms and how God is calling them to use them. Remember - no gift is too small or insignificant in God’s salvation plan.

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! -

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

How do we know the way to God the Father? Only because Jesus has shown it to us by His life on earth, His Passion, death, and Resurrection. How do we know that Jesus is the Truth? Because all He said and prophesied came to pass. He is faithful to His promises. How is Jesus the Life? Building upon last week’s Gospel, because we can truly live only by obeying His commandments and walking with Him in humility. In the world today, in which philosophies, ideologies, and political agendas do everything but lead us to the truth and show us how to live, Jesus gives us the simple solution. How do we know what to do and how to live our lives in a fallen world? Because Jesus has shown us and told us that the one who trusts in Him shall not be put to shame (Isaiah 28:16, Romans 10:11). 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, 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 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.