

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)

or Like us on Facebook at St Alphonsus "Rock" Liguori Catholic Church

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

"Praising God For All He Will Continue To Do In 2022"



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

Malcolm Speed
Danny duMaine

REDEMPTORISTS IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Tom Donaldson, C.Ss.R.
Rev. Peter Schavitz, C.Ss.R.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION **(Call for Appointment)**

SUNDAY MASSES:

10:00 a.m.

DAILY MASSES:

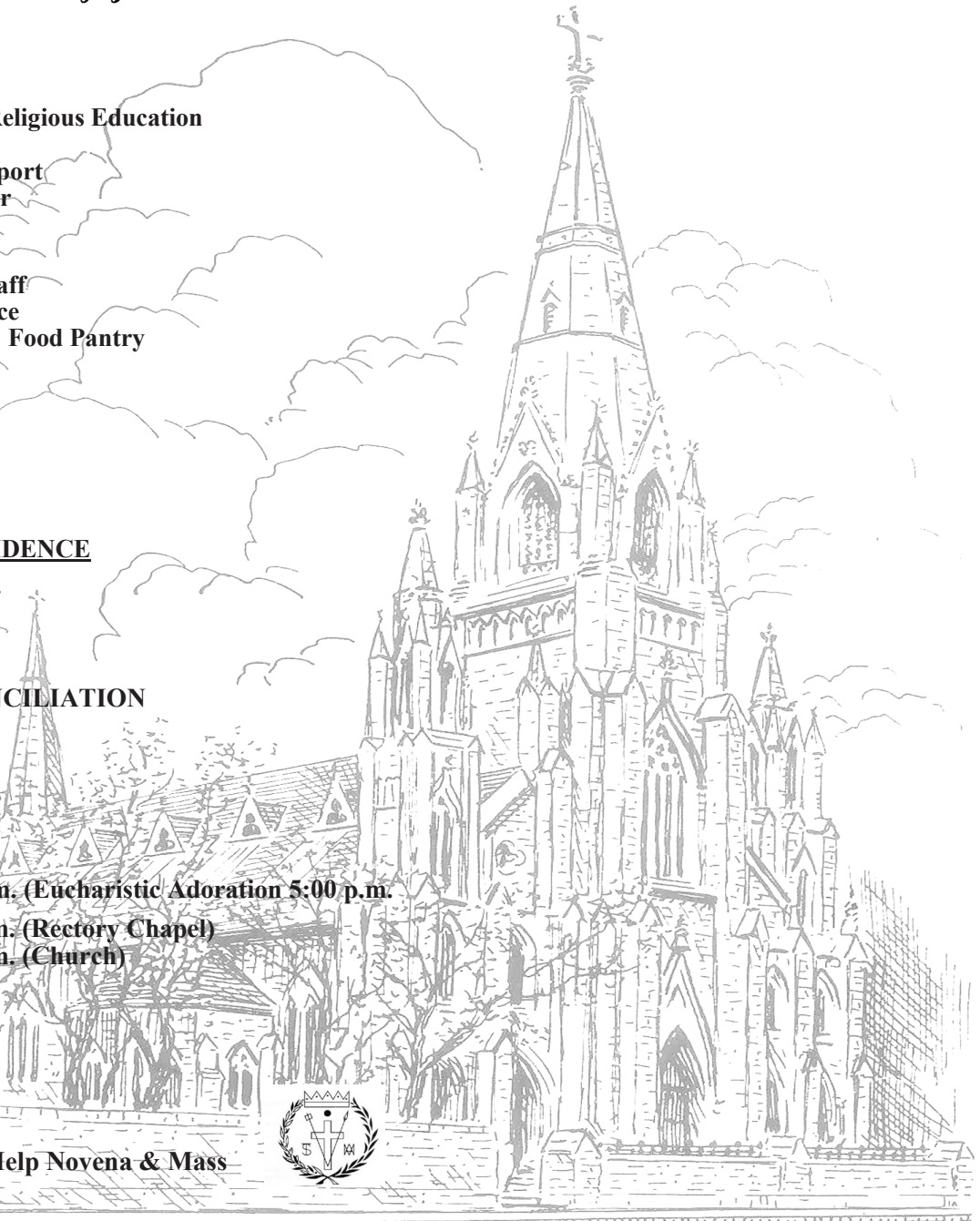
Monday 5:30 p.m. (Eucharistic Adoration 5:00 p.m.)
(W, Th & F) 11:30 a.m. (Rectory Chapel)
Saturdays: 9:30 a.m. (Church)

MONDAY:

Eucharistic Adoration
5:00 p.m.—5:30 p.m.

TUESDAYS:

Exposition & Benediction:
11:30 a.m. Our Perpetual Help Novena & Mass





**From The Desk Of
Fr. Stephen**

It's a gift from God! Yes, my friends, all things are a GIFT FROM GOD. I believe the earth and everything in it is a gift from God. Each of us has been blessed with many gifts, and when we die, we will meet the Almighty and he will ask us what we did with the gifts we were given. Just like the parable of the Talents Mt. 25:14-30, God has given us specific blessings or talents. Each of us has been gifted with certain intelligence, acumen, good looks, family of origin, skin color, and the Lord has asked us to use these talents to further the Mission of Jesus Christ. We, here in this country, are consumed with consumption. We feel entitled to so many things just because God has blessed us. God deserves the praise and credit, not us. I

do not know if it is human nature or not, but it seems the more people have, the more people feel entitled to what they have like it is because of their hard work, and their hard work alone, that they have accumulated what they have. Have we forgotten God in the equation?

In the Acts of Apostles 2:42-47, the early church community shared everything in common; there were no poor among them. Because God has so blessed us, it is good to look at the common good rather than our own consumption. Here at the Rock, we have been blessed with so many generous people over the years. Thousands have given back to God with their Time, Talent, and Treasure, and it is time to think about this once again. This Fall, you will be given the opportunity to sign up for some parish ministries. I ask you to take this seriously because we can only do the ministry we do here because of your hard work. But the time has come for us to consider the financial offering we give to God seriously. Recently, I have been having conversations with many in the parish and how we might get the Sunday offerings increased. In reality, we are about 20% short of where we need to be every week; this is a significant amount. We need about \$3,000 more per week. I want everyone to think about how much God has blessed you and consider increasing your offering by 20%. You can get a calculator and do the math yourself, but we need to continue to look to the Common Good. We will be hiring a company to help us raise some of this money.

Besides the shortfall in the collection, the buildings are in a constant state of repair. The church was constructed 155 years ago from people's offerings just like you. When they first started thinking about such a beautiful church, many thought there was no way they would be able to afford it, and now we are 155 years later, and so proud of the legacy that has been left to us. As faithful parishioners, we must do everything we can to ensure that the parish is here for another 155 years.

One final thought. I would also like you to consider placing the Rock church in your will. I know it is not easy to think about things like this. No one wants to think about the end of their lives, and the planning that needs to occur. It would be an honor to have you remember us with a gift to God as you leave this earth, just like your weekly offering is doing so much for the ministry here at the Rock. You will certainly be thinking of your loved ones during this process, but we ask you to consider how much good work can be done with your gift at the end of life.

I do thank you for your consideration in these matters. May God continue to bless everyone with His goodness in your charitable work. God's peace.

Fr. Steve

Weekly Readings...

Sunday:

Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

Monday:

Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday:

Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday:

Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Jn 15:1-8

Thursday:

Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11

Friday:

Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12/Jn 15:12-17

Saturday:

Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5 Jn 15:18-21

Sunday:

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [4]/Rv 21:10-14, 22-23 Jn 14:23-29

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:

5th Sunday of Easter;
St. Isidore

Wednesday:

St. John I, Pope and Martyr

Friday:

St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest

Saturday:

St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest,
and Companions, Martyrs
Armed Forces Day

Sunday:

6th Sunday of Easter
St. Rita of Cascia, Religious

INTENTIONS 05/03/22

Burke, Terry Bro.
Collins, Tamika & Family
Hearns, DeShaun
Hearns, Michael
Hearns, Zeysean
Jackson, Tamica
LeSeur, JaVaughn
Luster, Juanita
Patrick, Antoinette
Perry, Kameron
Polek, David Fr.

INTENTIONS 05/10/22

Blackwell, Jan
Bowens, Pat
Collins, Tamika
Cooney, Valerie
George, Roberta
Kakre, Cydney
Martin, Michael
Page, Connie
Phillips, Ben
Sanders, Sharron
Smith, Jaden
Smith, Noah
Smith, Paulette

SICKNESS 05/03/22

Anthony, Jean
Buck, Victoria
Davis, Stephanie
Guest, Lois
Hinton, Joslyn Patrice
Hodges, Carolyn
Mahr, Brenda
Massingale, Bryan Fr.
Mozee, Sylvester
Parran, Rodrick
Patrick, Bernard
Potts, Rick Fr.
Thames, Lamar
Turner, Lucy
Valle, Jr., Robert (Bobby)
Wallace, Eugene
Walton, Darrell
Washington, Willa
Watkins, Darnell (Chef D)

Whitfield, Edna (Mother)

SICKNESS 05/10/22

Adams, Keven
Anderson, Peggy
Brewster, Chelsey
Cloyd, Selena
Engel, Therese
Gardner, Tracy
George, Betty
Gunn, Tasha
Harris, Cora Orphe
Harris, Tobey
Hart, Edgar
Herndon, Lillian
Hill, Bernice
Howard, Yvonne
Jackson, Pat
Jammer, Laura Valle
Jones, Dolly
Jones, Evelyn
Lane, Donna
Latham, Jean
Martin, Michael
McDaniels, Yvonne
Moore, Brenda
O'Brien, Nancy
Oldani, Shirley
Page, Mike
Pointer, Nelson
Raiford, Cheryl
Reed, Trevor
Remsberg, Cory Sgt.
Robben, Kathy
Smith, Melba
Stayton, Michael
Strong, Betty
Thompson, Mary Ann
Topps, Naomi
Townsend, Bob
Townsend, Sue
Vet, Alphonso
Weaver, Stephen
Wraggs, Anita

HOSPITAL 05/10/22

Cauley, Delores

SHUT-IN's

Atherton, Andrew	McCoy, Carolyn
Bohannon, Ida	Moore, Brenda
Brack, Dorothy	Peters, Mae
Clay, Irving	Skinner, Joanna
Lee, Hazel	Thomas, Bernice

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...



What Are Sacramentals?

While they are similar in name, sacraments and sacramentals have a unique and distinct role in the life of the Catholic Church. Sacraments are outward signs that give grace to those who receive them in a worthy manner. Sacramentals, on the other hand, “are sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the sacraments. They signify effects, particularly of a spiritual

nature, which are obtained through the intercession of the

Church. By them, men are disposed to receive the chief effect of the sacraments, and various occasions in life are rendered holy” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 1667).

When it comes to prioritizing sacramentals, the Church emphasizes the importance of blessings. “Among sacramentals, blessings (of persons, meals, objects, and places) come first. Every blessing praises God and prays for his gifts. In Christ, Christians are blessed by God the Father ‘with every spiritual blessing”

(Catechism, No. 1671). Blessings of priests and bishops have the power, so to speak, to turn objects such as a new rosary or statue into a sacramental. While the laity can bless, their blessings are more of a prayer or a plea to God. For example, the blessing at meals is a chance to offer God a prayer of praise and thanksgiving. It makes holy the mere need for nutrition and is a reminder of the most blessed meal, the Eucharist. In a similar manner, a parent’s blessing of their children serves as a petition to God to keep their kids safe from all evil.

Interestingly, exorcism is a sacramental. It takes place when the Church asks publicly and authoritatively in the name of Jesus Christ that a person or object be protected against the power of the Evil One and withdrawn from his dominion. Exorcisms may either be minor, also called simple exorcisms, or major, called solemn exorcisms. Minor exorcisms occur in the Rite of Baptism and during the RCIA process, where candidates are asked to rebuke Satan and all his evil ways. Thus if you have been baptized you have been part of an exorcism. A major exorcism, which attracts much attention and curiosity, is directed at the expulsion of demons or freedom from demonic possession through the spiritual authority which Jesus entrusted to his Church (see Catechism, No. 1673). Often used in a major exorcism are the sacramentals of holy water, blessed salt and a crucifix.

(Source: www.simplycatholic.com)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The Fish Fry Fundraiser has ascended to the top fundraising spot at the church and your service, dedication, donations and purchases helped to make it so.

2022 Fish Fry Report

Total Revenue: \$43,279

Expenses: (\$16,171)

Total Income: \$27,108

We know we can always count on you! See you next year!!

Fish Fry Committee

USHERS NEEDED

We need to reestablish our Ushers' Group List for the 10 a.m. mass. Those interested in recommitting to being an usher or would like to be a 10 a.m. usher please provide your information on the Ushers' Sign-Up sheet located at the ushers' table. We will contact you with more details. Thank you in advance for your service!

GRANT WRITING EXPERTISE NEEDED

If you have experience and/or a desire to research potential grant sources for the church physical plant, and you can write grant proposals, we ask that you contact the church office to volunteer your time and expertise.

Our beloved St. Alphonsus Liguori "ROCK" church is facing several major capital improvement and maintenance challenges in the short, medium and long term.

Our church is registered as a historic property. Our hope is that there are grants out there somewhere to help fund things like the stone wall, the failing roof plaster sections, and more.

We need help identifying and pursuing grants.

Thank you for your consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



ALL THINGS NEW
STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son Jesus as the first Evangelizer of the Good News. Send forth the power of the Holy Spirit upon the Church of St. Louis and grant us the gift of true discernment so we may do your will in all thing.

Help us be totally free to follow wherever you lead us, totally generous to be good stewards of your many gifts, and totally passionate to suffer all in order to be more closely united to you.

Commissioned by your Son and empowered by the Spirit to "Go and Make Disciples of all Nations," strengthen us by the power of your grace as we bring the Good News of Salvation into the lives of all those we touch, so that individual hearts and all of society may be converted to you and all things might be made new.

Inspired by the apostolic zeal of previous generations, as we begin the process of planning for the future may our only desire be to do all things for the greater glory and honor of your name and for the good of your people in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Through Christ our Lord.

PARISH EVENTS



We are ready to launch the *Appeal* follow-up efforts.

Please help our volunteers, Angela and Beth by making your pledge TODAY!

The ACA pledge cards are still available. Make a one time gift or spread your gift donation over time to help and serve others in need

You can also make your gift online at aca.archstl.org, or using Text-to-Give by texting "ACA" to 243725.

No gift is to small!**Participation is our key goal!**

We accept cash, checks, debit or credit card payments.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis
Open Interviews
May 16-20

Positions are available throughout the archdiocese for elementary and secondary teachers, teacher aides, and school administrators.

Upload your resume and sign up for an in-person or virtual interview at [//bit.ly/HigherCalling2022](http://bit.ly/HigherCalling2022) or view open positions and/or apply online: at [//bit.ly/ArchSchoolJobs](http://bit.ly/ArchSchoolJobs).

General Fund Actual Contributions Received

APRIL/MAY	1 st	8 th
Envelopes	\$12,491.00	\$ 6,448.00
Loose Donations	\$ 590.00	\$ 1,278.00
Total Contributions	\$13,081.00	\$ 7,726.00
Weekly Target Amount	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00
Under/Over Weekly Target	\$ 581.00	\$(4,774.00)

Stewardship Prayer...

That we have the courage to love someone that I don't like, I don't know or doesn't look like me

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."

(JOHN 13:34)

"As I have loved you," this is the hard part – Jesus's love is unconditional; our love usually comes with strings attached. It is easy to love someone when they love you back. But it takes mercy and compassion to love someone when you feel unappreciated, feel used or feel like your opinion doesn't matter. It takes courage and the grace of God to "love my neighbor" when they may be someone you don't like, someone you don't know or someone that doesn't look like you.

Dynamic Catholic, *Alive!* – Love one another as I have loved you

How do we love others like Jesus loves us? To answer that question we have to ask ourselves: what are the qualities of Jesus' love? His love is **free**. We didn't have to earn it or work to receive it. Jesus just loves us with no strings attached. Jesus' love is **total**, because He sacrificed everything for us even His life. His love is **faithful**, because no matter what we do He will never stop loving us! Finally, Jesus' love is **fruitful**, because His love shines through us to others. Fruitful love begets more love. Another way for us to crosscheck whether we are loving as Jesus loves is by meditating on 1 Corinthians 13: 4-13. In this letter Paul describes the love that Jesus has for us and the kind of love we are called to have for others. This is the passage that says, "Love is patient, love is kind..." We can meditate on this by replacing the word "love" with the word "I" and ask ourselves if that is really true. For instance, we would say, "**I** am patient, **I** am kind..." and then be totally honest with ourselves to see if that is the truth. This week we can pray that Jesus will give us the strength and courage to love the way He does.



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!

Dear Covenant-Blu Grand Center,

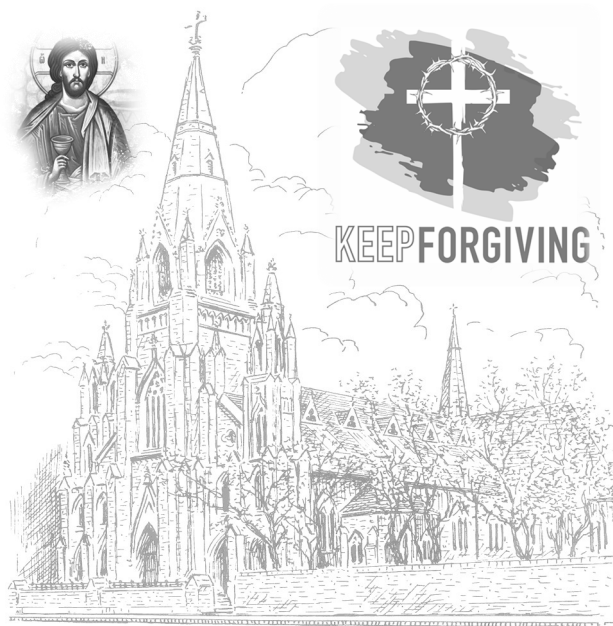
With \$500 million from the American Rescue Plan heading to St. Louis, our city has a once in a lifetime opportunity to reinvest in our neighborhoods.

The Mayor's Office [released a digital survey for residents](#) to weigh in on their priorities for how elected leaders should allocate the remaining \$250 million in federal American Rescue Plan funding heading to the city.

The survey is broken into seven main categories: Household assistance; neighborhood transformation; economic empowerment; government services; support for children and youth; public health; and infrastructure improvements.

Please share the survey at your next neighborhood meeting. If you would like a presentation about the ARPA community needs survey please reach out to Kevin Bailey at baileyk@stlouis-mo.gov or Grace Kyung at kyungg@stlouis-mo.gov.

PRAY FOR OUR COMMUNITY



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PRAYER MEMORIALS

Tillie Mae Alexander, Larry Ambus, Garvin Anderson, Hortense Anderson, Elizabeth Henckler Aton
 Anita Louise Banks, Lillian Barnes, Loretta Beasley, Jean Irene Becker, Herron Beckley,
 Mother Dorothy Granberry Bennett, Deacon Morris E. Bohannon, Willie Steve Bowens, James R. Boykin
 Dorothy Brady, Theodore Branch, Jr., Irma King Brown, James Buford, Kenita Bush, Anna Chopin
 Betty Jean Colbert, Willie Cunningham, Charmaine Davenport, Walterene Dougherty, Roger Downs, Sr.
 Sr. Antona Ebo, FSM, Jerome Fields, Fr. Kyle Fisher, C.Ss.R., Ossie R. Foster, Queen E. Dunlap Fowler
 Craig Franklin, Alice Gathright, Jermaine Gordon, Willie Goss, Catherine Gregory, Georgette Gregory, Barbara
 Harris, Ann Marie Hatchett, Rosalind Hood, Jamar Huffmon, Cherry Ophelia Jackson, Barbara Hudson Jones,
 Mark Jones, Nadine Jones Mother Ruth Jones, Rev. Fr. Anthony Timothy "Tony" Judge, C.Ss.R., Robin Kyles,
 Stephen LaBerta, Rosemary Lee, Eldwyn Lewis, Anice Mahone, Isis Aaliyah Mahr, Kyle Martin
 Barbara McCalebb, Leon Zack McClendon, Bernice McCoy, Michael P. McCoy Sr., Eric L. McKinnie
 Louis T. McKinnie, Glenn Miller, Marshall Mosley, Anne Ortwerth, Lucille Palmer, Kathy Lin Cheers Parran,
 Alton Pritchard, Christian Reedy, Wendell M. Sams, Drenea Sanders, Eugene Sanders, Christine Slaughter
 Irma Steen, Lorraine Fite Stewart, Shontea Stricklin, Oswald Lee Thomas, Susan Colbert Threats, Ralph Tyler
 Robert Joseph Valle, Sandra Wallace, Ralph Watkins Jr., Juanita West, Ruby Wicks, Marlene Williams
 Richard Williams, Alvin Leon Wilson, Vernie Woolfork, Clarence Zacher

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Sharon Cooney-Smith, DRE
 314-533-0304

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) 944-2909

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Angela Thames President	Robert Caldwell Vice President	Linda Kamp Secretary
Richard Buckley	Patricia Pou	
Nicole Colbert-Bochway	Eric Thurman	
Audrey Ellermann	Kevin Triggs	
Rhonda Graham	Jocelyn Woodson-Reed	
Jessica Pou		

ATTENTION

If your telephone number, home address or email address has changed, please contact the office at 533-0304 or email parish130@archstl.org. 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.