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
In 1987, I was studying Theology in Chicago and during the summer of that year I had the good fortune of going to Manhattan in New York to work at Covenant House. Covenant House is an organization set up to help young kids who are living on the streets. The goal of the organization is to try and help them either get back home or if they are older to help find them jobs so they could then venture out on their own when they are old enough. It was a good summer job, but sad in a lot of ways. You came across situations in some of these kids’ lives that just broke your heart. Many of them came from dysfunctional families who rarely received the love they needed. Some of the kids were abandoned by their parents and really had no home to go back to. I guess you could say they were orphans left in this world to fend for themselves. It must be awful to be an orphan. Sometimes this happens because the parents die early in the child’s life, but many times it is because the parents cannot or will not take care of that child. It must feel awful for a person to think that their parents just abandoned them.

In our Gospel today, Jesus says he is going, but that he is not going to leave the disciples as orphans. The people he is saying this to are not children, but in Jesus’ mind they are small children spiritually. He knows that if he leaves them as they are they are going to splash about in the water and drown. They are not ready to be on their own, and so he promises them he will send an advocate to plead their cause and to help them as they try and navigate life without him. He promises them the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Father and Son, the Spirit of love and life that will lift the disciples to a higher life in God. Jesus certainly knows they need this Spirit and he does not want to abandon them all together. We will see in two weeks this sending of the Spirit at Pentecost and how this Spirit, in fact, does change the disciples’ lives completely.

Last Sunday was a Sunday of a bountiful harvest. The collection for the week was $27,463. We had a couple of big checks come in. I don’t know what to say. I am overwhelmed with the generosity to the situation we are all facing at this time. This will certainly go a long way to help our financial situation. As you know, we received $50,000 from the government last week. This will get us by for the next couple of months, but we need to continue to step up. I want to thank all for being so giving at this time. We are making every effort to keep the good news of Christ going at the corner of Cook and Grand.
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?

SHUT-IN’s
Atherton, Andrew
McCoy, Carolyn
Bohannon, Ida
Peters, Mae
Brack, Dorothy
Thomas, Bernice
Clay, Irving
Turner, Hortense
McCoy, 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
LITURGY NOTES...

Loving the Lord and Keeping Your Conscience Clear

Today’s Second Reading commands Christians to keep their conscience clear. But this commandment is hard to hear, isn’t it? If we are honest with ourselves, we know how unclear our consciences are.

Of course, we might think confusedly, we do not need to be too worried about our unclear consciences, because, after all, no one is saved by doing good works or keeping one’s conscience clear. Our contribution to our salvation is not to try to do the works of the law. Our contribution to our salvation is just to love the Lord. And this thought might be comforting to us when our unclear conscience hurts us, except for this uncomfortable, nagging question: what is love of the Lord?

In the Gospel Reading, the Lord himself explains the answer to this question: “Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me.” And now, unfortunately, we have come full circle. Christians are commanded to keep their consciences clear. To do so, they need to love the Lord. To love the Lord they need to keep his commandments. And to keep his commandments they apparently need to keep their consciences clear. What sense can be made of this?

Here it helps to consider Peter himself, who is the author of the Second Reading. Peter betrayed the Lord in the Lord’s great hour of need. Is this keeping one’s conscience clear? Is this keeping the commandments of the Lord?

But when, in the days after his Resurrection, the Lord asks Peter, “do you love me?” what does Peter answer? He says, “Yes, Lord, you know I love you.” In spite of his betrayal of the Lord, Peter does not let go of Christ. He is willing to affirm his commitment to Christ in spite of his own failings.

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.

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?

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wilhelmina Hardin Center...

Hello Rock Church

For those of you who are not aware, we reopened the food pantry on April 21st. We have been packing bags in the pantry and giving them to clients outside. Fr. Steve, Fr. Rodney, and Br. Steve have been a great help in hauling the bags down the steps, as you know, there is no way into the pantry that doesn’t involve steps.

Because the Coronavirus is still a threat, we will continue to operate in this fashion for the foreseeable future. Unfortunately, Fr. Steve will not be able to commit this time indefinitely, and some of my family members who have been helping will be returning to work soon. So we need volunteers. I understand if many of you are uncomfortable exposing yourself to other people. Therefore, if you would feel more comfortable packing bags that will be distributed, you could be in the pantry with one or two other people and not have contact with the clients. However, we are looking for people who are willing and able to run the steps. On rainy days, we will hand out the bags at the door.

We are wearing masks and gloves for protection, and if you could give us a few hours a week, it would be much appreciated. We are open from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Any time you could give us would be greatly appreciated. Of course, the pantry is always in need of food or monetary donations as well.

We are grateful for the support you always give us. God bless you and keep you all safe and well.

Terri Schneider

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

6th Sunday of Easter

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth”

John 14:16-17

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...

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Stewardship Prayer…
That we recognize that things don’t always go the way we plan, and God has a better plan in store for us.

“For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be God’s will, than for doing evil.”
(1 Peter 3:17)

The old line says “if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans.” Many of us are diligent in our planning and making sure things are progressing smoothly. Then disaster strikes, we don’t get the result that was intended or an unforeseen problem arises. Many times we may respond negatively and ask, “Why me? I did everything right!” Here’s the thing—adversity humbles us and reminds us of our dependence on God and not on our own self-reliance. Rest assured, God has a better plan in store for you.


The Holy Spirit is called the Advocate, the Paraclete, and the Consoler in Scripture. He is the gift of the Father whom we received at Baptism and then more fully in Confirmation. The Holy Spirit is our defender, the one who stands by us in the midst of the attacks of Satan (the accuser). Constantly reminding us of what Jesus has taught us and guiding us into prayer, the Spirit leads us just as He led Jesus. “The Holy Spirit, whom Christ the head pours out on his members, builds, animates, and sanctifies the Church” (CCC 747). Praise God for the gift of the Holy Spirit, our anointing, our dove, our fire.

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!

ROCK Church
Winners Club
Current Members
New Season
September 2019—August 2020

Jean Anthony
Elizabeth Boykin
Ruby Brown
Virginia Brown
Richard Buckley
Susan Buford
James Butler
Cheryl Carr
Anne Marie Clarke
Damon Clay
Mike & Cherina Coffman
Anne Conte
Willie & Bessie Cunningham
Esther Darris
Jackie Day
Janice Englander
Kurt Englander
Maudelle Fite
Paul & Shirley Foster
Wanda Garner
Gregory Glore
Alonzo Green
Angela Harris
Carl Harris
Kalytn Harris
Sharon Hawthorne
LaMarr Huddleston
Monica Huddleston
Pat Jackson
Donald and Joyce Jones
Mark & Linda Kamp
Yetta Kilgore
Helene Laberta
C.C. Lee
Pamela Leong
Sharon Lyons
Brenda Mahr
Laurel Martin
Charles Martin
Brenda McDonnell
Deborah Miller
Sylvester & Karen Mozee
Ernest Nashville
Jean Nashville
Leo & Linda Peoples
Ben & Denise Phillips
Linda Brown Reed
Betty Sullivan
Adlean Thomas
Kim Thomas
Monica Tyler
Eugene Wallace
Janis Weaver McSpadden
Jocelyn Woodson-Reed
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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
Kurt Englander
President
Angela Thames
Vice President
Linda Kamp
Secretary
Linda Brown Reed
Ben Phillips
Wanda Caldwell
Travis Threats
Joy Camp
Eric Thurman
Mike Coffman
Kevin Triggs
Rhonda Graham

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

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

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

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.