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:
10:00 a.m.

DAILY MASSES:
Monday 5:30 p.m.
(Tu, W, Th & F.) 11:30 a.m.
Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.

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

TUESDAYS:
Exposition & Benediction
10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. (1st—Tuesday) followed by our Perpetual Help Novena & Mass
Today’s Gospel follows the Gospel we heard last week. As you recall, last week, the Lord was sending out the twelve Apostles to preach in his name. Today we hear one of the most challenging lines in all of Sacred Scripture. Jesus says we must love God above all else – something we have heard many times before, but we need to hear it again and again and again. We need to hear it over and over because it is so easy to get lost in all the things of life. Jesus makes it practical for us today. He says we must love God before our families and before our jobs. He says we must love God before any relaxation we may partake in; God must be the absolute center of our lives. We must plan the rest of our day around our relationship with God.

As a religious and a priest, this applies to me in an even greater way. Right now, I am reading the life of St. Alphonsus, I am on page 350 and half-way done. He had a long life committed to God. I am ashamed of my commitment to God and the way I lead my life when I read about the 1st Redemptorists. When they were on missions, they spent the whole day in the confessional and preaching the Good News. When at home, they were in their rooms praying or studying or in the chapel praying. Their whole life was caught up in evangelizing or preparing to evangelize. Where did they get the focus and resolve to commit themselves to God in this way? Certainly, for St. Alphonsus, he heard the Gospel and decided to live it totally. He called other men who also lived the Gospel out in their lives. I am now challenged to do more myself. Jesus would not have said this to his Apostles if he didn’t mean it. He says we must love nothing else before God, but not only that, we must pick up our cross daily and follow in his footsteps. What a command! And we must do it with a joyful spirit. So often we lose perspective of our time here on earth. We should spend our time getting to know God now so that he is not a stranger to us if and when we might meet him in heaven.

Some of you might be getting this bulletin before Sunday, and so I want to encourage you to come to the church on Saturday, June 27th, for the Novena at 9:30 a.m. and then at 11:00 am, we are going to have a prayer service outside. It is important for the parish and the city to give witness on behalf of those who have died because of racism. So many have suffered and we need to stand with them and for them. It is good to give witness to those who may not have a voice. We cannot continue to sit idly by and watch from afar. The pandemic of racism is not going to go away on its own. We must stand united as a parish and a church and not let evil prevail.

Weekly Readings…

**Sunday:**
2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a/Ps 89:2-3 16-17, 18-19 [2a]/Rom 6:3-4, 8-11 Mt 10:37-42

**Monday:**
Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [5b]/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19

**Tuesday:**
Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12/Ps 5:4b-6a, 6b-7, 8 [9a]/Mt 8:23-27

**Wednesday:**
Am 5:14-15, 21-24/Ps 50:7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 16bc-17 [23b]/Mt 8:28-34

**Thursday:**
Am 7:10-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10cd]/Mt 9:1-8

**Friday:**
Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Jn 20:24-29

**Saturday:**
Am 9:11-15/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. 9b]/Mt 9:14-17

**Sunday:**
Zec 9:9-10/Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14 [cf. 1]/Rom 8:9, 11-13/Mt 11:25-30

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:**
13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Monday:**
Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles

**Tuesday:**
The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

**Wednesday:**
St. Junipero Serra, Priest

**Friday:**
St. Thomas, Apostle

**Saturday:**
Independence Day

**Sunday:**
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Independence Day
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 with us in varying ways, but I am not sure that most people are aware of this at all and consequently experience 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 our relationship with the Lord.

St. Alphonsus developed a process called Alphonsian 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. The 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 Mass is celebrated in the church Mondays 5:30 p.m., Tuesday—Friday 11:30 a.m., and Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.

Eucharistic Adoration at 5:00 p.m. followed by Mass at 5:30 p.m. What a beautiful thing to be able to sit quietly with the Lord.

Mother Of Perpetual Help Devotion and Mass each Tuesday at 11:30 a.m.

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

SHUT-IN’s
Atherton, Andrew
Bohannon, Ida
Brack, Dorothy
Clay, Irving
McCoy, Bernice

McCoy, Carolyn
Peters, Mae
Thomas, Bernice
Turner, Hortense

Prayer For Renewed Strength

O Lord, my God,
Please give those listed above the grace to
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and to taste and see Your goodness.
Amen

NOTE: Names will remain listed for 2 weeks

INTENTIONS 06/16/20
George, Darrion
Goss, Michael
Jackson, Tamica
Pickett, DaShaun
Reedy, Judy

INTENTIONS 06/26/20
Dyle, Ayrielle
Fite, Maudelle
Garnett, Pat
George, Roberta
Hearns, Zeysean

SICKNESS 06/16/20
Bell, Gilbert
Cunningham, Rodrick
Dampier, Angel
Duncan, Kara
Duplantier, Tyrond Sr.
Haine, William (Bill)
Hatchett, Sylvia
Jones, Josephine
King, Calvin
Luster, Juanita
Lyons, Sharon
Martin, Maxine
McGinnis, Theresa
Mozee, Sylvester
Parran, Rodrick
Reedy, Christian

SICKNESS 06/26/20
Atherton, Andrew
Atherton, Vertibe
Baby Pruitt
Burks, Michael
Caprese, Brittny
Chapman, Bonnie
Collins, Tony
Hart, Edgar
Hood, Rosalind
Howard, Yvonne
LaBerta, Steve
Latham, Jean
Lyons, Sharon
Moore, Brenda
Remsberg, Cory Sgt.
Schnelle, Laverne
Smith, Melba
Smith, Paulette
Strode, Fred
Strong, Betty
Thompson, Mary Ann
Walker, Deneen
Weaver, Stephen
Vet, Alphonso

SHUT-IN’s
Atherton, Andrew
Bohannon, Ida
Brack, Dorothy
Clay, Irving
McCoy, Bernice

McCoy, Carolyn
Peters, Mae
Thomas, Bernice
Turner, Hortense
LITURGY NOTES...

Morning Prayers-- can refresh and recharge your soul as you get ready to take on the day with help from the best place possible: Our Creator! Father F.X. Lasance wrote in the introduction to his work *My Prayer Book* that Morning Prayer “floods the heart with the breath of life and bathes it in the sunshine of God’s smile.” By giving God your day in prayer first thing in the morning, you get “the clear air of heaven,” as he put it, flowing into your heart. That’s especially helpful on days that seem anything but heavenly. We should treat morning prayers, like prayer itself, as a time to get closer to God by expressing our love for Him, thanking Him for His blessings, and offering Him everything good and bad in our day in doing His will.

It’s always good upon rising to make the Sign of the Cross (“In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”) followed by a Morning Offering, like this one:

*O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all my relatives and friends, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father. Amen.*

There are many other good morning prayers including other Morning Offerings, an offering from St. Therese, prayers for God’s blessing, prayers for grace and guidance, a prayer of resolution, and a moving morning prayer to God.

Along that line, it’s a good idea to look at the day’s Gospel reading and meditate on it whenever possible, preferably in the morning, with your own thoughts and ideas or ones such as those given here, perhaps. The important thing is to “check in” with our Lord as soon as you can in morning prayers for daily guidance and support. And, no matter how busy you might be, He’s never too busy to hear for you.

(Source:ourcatholicprayers.com)

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.*
Parish Office Closure…
July 3, 2020 & July 4, 2020
Independence Day Observance

Upcoming Bulletin Announcement Deadlines
All items must be in the office, faxed or emailed no later than 12 noon on the dates listed below:
(314) 533-4260 (fax)
parish130@archstl.org

Deadline  Bulletin Publication
June 28th  July 5th issue

About upcoming events:

ACA Weekends  Archdiocese of St. Louis
June 28th

We look forward to returning to a more normal schedule of activities and sacramental celebrations, you are invited once again to participate in the Annual Catholic Appeal by making a gift.

If your circumstance permit and your family is blessed with good health and employment, please consider increasing your gift to make up for those who are unable to make a gift at this time.

More information can be found at aca.archstl.org. Your gift will help many who have been impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak in our archdiocese.

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.

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

from the Peace and Justice Committee
On August 4th, the issue of Medicaid Expansion will be on the ballot.
The Peace and Justice Committee in conjunction with Catholic Charities of St. Louis, is offering information on the Sundays’ leading up to the election.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
- Twelve hospitals have closed in Missouri since 2016.
- States that do not expand Medicaid cause crucial problems – it affects the hospital’s financial health.

**Wilhelmina Hardin Center...**
The Hardin Center Food Pantry is open on Tues. and Thurs. from 10 a.m.—12 noon.
Volunteers are needed to help pack bags and assist in distribution.
Donations needed include peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, canned chili, ravioli, soup (not tomato). The pantry is asking for toiletries—soap, body wash, toothpaste, mouthwash, lotion, deodorant, etc.

**REWARD**
“Amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward”
Matthew 10:42

**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.
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 28, 2020

Financial Corner...

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Stewardship Prayer…

That we learn to put our trust in God in everything we do.

“...whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.”
(Matthew 10:38)

Pope Benedict XVI said, “The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort, you were made for greatness.” “Comfort” puts me first. “Picking up your cross and following Jesus” puts God and others first. Why settle for comfort when you can achieve greatness! Pick up your cross, ask Jesus for guidance on using your gifts and live the life God intended for you!

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – The Wonderful Cross

When Jesus says these blunt words today, how do we receive them? Do we understand the conditions of being a missionary disciple of Christ? Throughout the centuries, many saints and theologians have written on the importance of honoring the Creator more than creatures. In our personal lives, this means loving God more than any other human being, whether that person is our father, mother, sister, brother, son, daughter, etc. When we love God above all else, He will properly order our relationships so that we can serve Him most effectively. The Christian life always passes through the cross. There is no way around it, as Jesus tells us today. We must pick up our cross each day and follow Him, knowing that He will present us with struggles and suffering but never in vain. As Saint John Paul II wrote in Salvifici Doloris n.23: “To suffer means to become particularly susceptible, particularly open to the working of the salvific powers of God, offered to humanity in Christ. In him God has confirmed his desire to act especially through suffering, which is man’s weakness and emptying of self, and he wishes to make his power known precisely in this weakness and emptying of self. 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!

Congratulations! Our May 2020 Winner is Yetta Kilgore

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
Janice Day
Janice Englander
Kurt Englander
Maudelle Fite
Paul & Shirley Foster
Wanda Garner
Gregory Glore
Alonzo Green
Angela Harris
Carl Harris
Kalyrn 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-Red
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 & Admin. Monica Huddleston
Liturgy Richard Buckley
Social Life Rose Graham
Youth & Young Adults TBD

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
Kurt Englander Angela Thomas 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, 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.