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
This summer, I decided to plant some tomato plants. I put them in the ground out behind the garage. For me, there is nothing better tasting than homegrown tomatoes. So far, everything is going well. One of the plants already has about ten tomatoes on it, although none of them looks ripe yet. They are just doing their thing and growing just a little bit every day. It’s really fun because they started at about 6 inches tall, and now they are about 4 feet tall.

I have good healthy plants under ideal circumstances, but back in Jesus’ day, the planter just threw the seed anywhere and everywhere, hoping it would find good soil and produce some fruit. As Jesus explains the story, he gives reference to the seed falling on good and bad soil. He says that this soil represents the way people receive the Word of God in their lives. Not everyone receives the Word of God in their lives in the same way. Some people are the good and fertile soil, while others are not. God’s Word cannot take place in soil that is not predisposed for growth; this is why so much of God’s Word falls on deaf ears, and no product is brought forth.

As much as anything else, as people of God, we must make ourselves available to His Word by opening ourselves to that Word. In other words, we must continuously be digging and hoeing around our area so that when the Word comes, it can take growth within us. Jesus says that we must be vigilant in awaiting the Word in our lives. When we begin to relax and let all kinds of weeds grow around us, the Word of God has to fight with the weeds for nutrients. Jesus names the types of weeds that can choke off the Word of God, i.e., lack of faith in God, worldly allurements, persecution from others. If we are not fertile ground in which the Word of God is to be planted, these things choke off God’s Word, and the Word dies. Every day it is essential for us to connect with God. Every day we must spend time in prayer; this is like pulling weeds from around the plant; otherwise, there is no Word within us.

In the next month, we will celebrating a couple of feasts that honor the Redemptorist community. Next week, we will celebrate the title of Most Holy Redeemer; this is the title Redemptorists use for themselves. On August 2nd, we will celebrate the feast of St. Alphonsus, the patron Saint of the Redemptorists. On Aug 2nd, Fr. Pete Schavitz will celebrate 50 years of being a Redemptorist – this is a long time to committing yourself to anything, and so we will remember him at this Mass. The Redemptorist community will also renew our vows to Christ, recommitting ourselves to serve the poor and most abandoned. God bless us all.
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 so 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.
Jesus Fish - What is it?

The Jesus fish is a well-recognized symbol consisting of two curved lines that resemble the image of a fish. The symbol is also known as an Ichthys (coming from the ancient Greek word for fish). IXIYYY is an acronym coming from the first letter of words that mean “Jesus Christ God’s Son is Savior.”

Those words are:
- I – Iota or Iesous - Greek for Jesus
- X – Chi or Christos - Greek for Christ
- Η – Theta or Theou - Greek for God
- Y – Upsilon or Yios/Huios - Greek for Son

The Jesus fish is a symbol of Christianity that reemerged in popularity in the mid 1960's and can be seen today on everything from religious clothing to auto bumper stickers. Those who want to identify themselves as followers of Jesus Christ often display the Jesus fish on things such as their key chains, car windows, and business cards.

The Christian or Jesus fish logo is also used in company and store ads to attract consumers looking for businesses that operate with Christian integrity and ethics. The fish also publicizes businesses that carry Christian items such as Bibles, books, and Christian music. The Jesus fish is perhaps the earliest symbol for Christianity. Some reports of its use date back to the end of the 1st Century AD and it is believed to predate the symbol of the cross. The fish is reported to have given Christians a simple means by which to identify themselves as believers in a time of persecution. This was a time when Christians began to come against pagan emperors and others who called themselves gods. As Christians proclaimed the sin of idol worship and false saviors, it was important to boldly stand on and state their beliefs even though it placed them in danger.

Fish are talked about many times throughout the New Testament Gospels. The symbol probably came about because of those references. One of the most notable is found in Matthew 4:19. Many of Jesus’ original disciples were fishermen by profession. He told them that if they would follow Him, He would make them fishers of men. The symbolism to these fishermen represented their commitment to bring souls into the knowledge and recognition of Jesus as the Savior. Spreading the good news of Jesus is at the very heart of the calling of all Christians still today.

There are other biblical scriptures that include fish such as the miracle Jesus performed by feeding five thousand listeners when He multiplied a young boy’s “five small loaves and two fishes.” This story is told in all four Gospels, Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9 and John 6. The Jesus fish is a symbol that says, with Jesus the Savior, all things are possible.

(Source:www.allaboutgod.com)
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY, 12 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACA Progress Report Detail

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Annual Silver & Gold Wedding Jubilee Mass

Are you celebrating 25, 50, or over 50 years of marriage during 2020? Register today! Couples registered by September 11th will have their names and wedding date printed in the Sunday, October 11, 2020 Mass Program.

Mass Celebrant: Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski
Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis
4431 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108

For details, or to register, visit archstl.org/jubilee or call 314.792.7598

Incarvate Word Academy is seeking an Advancement Assistant. Experience with donor databases, preferred. Job responsibilities include: gift entry, preparing acknowledgment letters and other correspondence, generating accurate and timely admissions and financial reports, general administrative and event support, and other duties as assigned. This is a full-time position, with some evening and weekend responsibilities.

Qualifications: Bachelor’s Degree with 2+ years of applicable experience

If interested, please email a cover letter and resume to Josh McIntire, Director of Development at jmclintire@iwacademy.org

Applications accepted until July 13, 2020. Digital submissions only.

SOWN

“The seed sown on rich soil, is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.”

Matthew 13:23

NOVENA PRAYER

TO OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

ADAPTED TO BE PRAYED IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 SITUATION

-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?

- Vote YES on 2 (Medicaid Expansion)
- Medicaid expansion provides healthcare to more than 230,000 Missourians including more than 50,000 parents and 18,000 near-retirees.

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.

SOWN

“Then the sower went out again. He took seed and sowed it among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell among the thorns and the birds came and devoured it.”

Matthew 13:20-21
Financial Corner...

<table>
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<th>General Fund Actual Contributions Received</th>
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Stewardship Prayer…

That the seeds God sows in our lives may take root and lead to greater prayer, participation, and generosity.

“The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then the cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word, and it bears no fruit.”

Matthew 13:22

Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in earthly activities that you have no time for God? Gratitude and generosity are virtues that we should strive to do daily. Every decision we make either takes us one step closer to God or one step further away. What we receive at Mass every Sunday should be shared with others all the other days of the week as well.

Dynamic Catholic, *Alive! – The Word*

Many of us have heard the jokes that Catholics don’t read the Bible. While it is true that the sacramental life of the Catholic Church is wonderful and surpasses the power of Scripture alone, it is imperative for us to read and pray with Scripture. Jesus, the Word made flesh, reminds us in His words to the disciples how important it is to hear the Word of God, to meditate on it, and to implement its truths into our daily lives. He reminds us of the necessity to be rooted in it and to allow it to become the wellspring from which all of our thoughts, words, and actions flow. We should read Scripture every single day of our lives, whether that means going to daily Mass and listening to the readings, praying lectio divina, or praying a daily Bible verse on one of the various apps. St. Jerome once said that ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ. We come to a fuller knowledge and relationship with the Lord when we read the Scriptures.

Visit archstl.org/dynamic to view all the resources available to you!

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 Winner's 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
Kalyan 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, 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 Trigg
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.