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
In the gospel today, Jesus asks the apostles who he is. They know who he is, but they give answers that other people have given. Jesus does not want to hear what other people are saying; he wants to know what the apostles, those closest to him who have left everything to follow him, think. Peter responds, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” What an answer. Did Peter know what he was saying?

It certainly is important for all of us to try and answer that question, “Who do you say that I am?” As Jesus did not want to hear what other people were saying but wanted to know what the apostles thought, I don’t want to hear what the apostle Peter thought, but rather want to know what you, the average Jane/Joe in the pew say in response to that question. In answering who we believe Jesus is, it can go a long way in showing how we orient our lives. There is certainly more than one way to answer that question. In fact, the answer may be as numerous as the number of people in the world. Everyone can, and I think everyone should try and answer that question from their perspective. No one can determine what your own experience of God is. There is no right or wrong answer, but I do believe there are different levels of responses that can tell us how deeply we have thought about the question. Some answers could be, “Jesus is the reason I get up in the morning.” Or “Jesus is the one who forgives me of my sins.” Or “Jesus is the center of my life.” All of these are good answers, but what is the personal answer suited just for you. This week I encourage you to answer that question for yourself, and if you wish to share it with someone you trust and love, it becomes more real to us and may lead to action in our lives.

This afternoon I am going to be going to the farewell mass of Archbishop Carlson at the Cathedral. Please say a prayer for him as he closes out his time here in St. Louis. He will be missed by so many. On Tuesday, I am going to the installation of Archbishop Razanski. He, of course, will be taking over as our new Archbishop. He also could use our prayers. I believe he has already accepted an invitation to come to the Rock and celebrate a mass in the not too distant future. We are looking forward to that time where we can open ourselves in our usual friendly manner to him as he will lead us into the future.

Yesterday, Londynn Johnson and Aiden Mason made their 1st reconciliation, preparing them for their 1st communion. In past years, this would have taken place already, but with COVID, we are a little behind. Please pray for both of them as they prepare to receive the Lord Jesus. Have a great week.

Weekly Readings…

**Sunday:**
Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8 [8bc]/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20

**Monday:**
Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11 12-13, 17-18 [12]/Jn 1:45-51

**Tuesday:**
2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10 11-12, 13 [13b]/Mt 23:23-26

**Wednesday:**
2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5 [1]/Mt 23:27-32

**Thursday:**
1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5 6-7 [1] Mt 24:42-51

**Friday:**
1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11 [5]/Mt 25:1-13

**Saturday:**
1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a 5-6ab, 15ab and 17 [cf. 15ab] Mk 6:17-29

**Sunday:**
Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [2b] Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:**
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Monday:**
St. Bartholomew, Apostle

**Tuesday:**
St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest

**Thursday:**
St. Monica

**Friday:**
St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

**Saturday:**
The Passion of St. John the Baptist

**Sunday:**
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
INTENTIONS 08/11/20
George, Darrion
Goss, Michael
Jackson, Tamica
Key, Jasmine
Pickett, DaShaun
Reedy, Judy
Reedy, Sid
Watkins, Jackie & Family

VALLY, Jr., Robert (Bobby)
Voissy, Greg
Watkins, Darnell (Chef D)
Whitfield, Edna (Mother)

SICKNESS 08/12/20
Atherton, Andrew
Atherton, Vertibe
Baby Pruitt
Caprese, Brittany
Chapman, Bonnie
Corbette, Dan
Haine, William (Bill)
Hart, Edgar
Hood, Rosalind
Howard, Yvonne
Hutchinson, Terrence
LaBerta, Steve
Latham, Jean
Moore, Brenda
Remsberg, Cory Sg.
Schnelle, Laverne
Serio, Carmen
Serio, Jessica
Smith, Melba
Smith, Paulette
Stewart, Michael
Strong, Betty
Thompson, Mary Ann
Weaver, Stephen
Woolfork, Vernie
Vet, Alphonso
Voss, Greg

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

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. 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.
The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Many Catholics treasure the sacrament of Reconciliation. The peace of mind and soul which this sacrament imparts to us is one for which there is no substitute. It is a peace that flows from a certainty, rather than from an unsure hope, that our sins have been forgiven and that we are right with God. Although many converts to the Catholic Church initially fear it, they quickly come to love the sacrament of Reconciliation once they get over their nameless fears—fears which come from a misconception of what the sacrament really is.

The sacrament of Reconciliation is a sacrament in which the priest, as the agent of God, forgives sins committed after Baptism, when the sinner is heartily sorry for them, sincerely confesses them, and is willing to make satisfaction for them. By his death on the Cross, Jesus Christ redeemed man from sin and from the consequences of his sin, especially from the eternal death that is sin’s due. So it is not surprising that on the very day he rose from the dead, Jesus instituted the sacrament by which men’s sins could be forgiven. It was on Easter Sunday evening that Jesus appeared to his Apostles, gathered together in the Upper Room, where they had eaten the Last Supper. As they gaped and shrank back in a mixture of fear and dawning hope, Jesus spoke to them reassuringly. Jesus came and stood in the midst and said to them, “Peace be to you!” And when he had said this he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples therefore rejoiced at the sight of the Lord. He therefore said to them again, “Peace be to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” When he had said this, he breathed upon them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit; whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained.”

This power to forgive sin which Jesus conferred upon his Apostles was not, of course, to die with them; no more so than the power to change bread and wine into his Body and Blood, which he conferred upon his Apostles at the Last Supper. Jesus did not come upon earth just to save a few chosen souls, or just the people who lived on earth during the lifetime of his Apostles. Jesus came to save everybody who was willing to be saved, down to the end of time. He had you and me in mind, as well as Timothy and Titus, when he died on the Cross.

It is evident then that the power to forgive sins is a part of the power of the priesthood, to be passed on in the sacrament of Holy Orders from generation to generation. It is the power which every priest exercises when he raises his hand over the contrite sinner and says, “I absolve thee from thy sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” These are called “the words of absolution.”

(Source:www.beginningcatholic.com)
ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Kingdom**

“I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven”

Matthew 16:19

**WINNER’S CIRCLE CLUB**

Thank you for your participation! It is time to sign up for or renew your membership.

**Club Rules:**
- Annual entrance donation is $100 per person/married couple
- Non-parishioners, family, and friends may join
- Your membership enters you into a monthly raffle through August 2021
- There is no limit to the number of times a person can win.

The first drawing for the new year will be on September 13th and each second Sunday of the month thru August, 2021

Mail your donation to the parish office:

ATTN: Roberta George
St. Alphonsus Rock Church
1118 N. Grand Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63106

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Drop Socks in the Box**

We are in the middle of a typical hot St. Louis Summer. But soon the weather will turn cold and the homeless will be in need of Socks—yes, Socks! The St. Patrick’s Center & Sts. Peter and Paul tell us that there are never enough Socks.

Thank you for being a Sock Angel.

Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxilliary is collecting socks for children and adults. This event will end on September 07, 2020, please place the socks in the silver box by the choir area.

**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.

**Rock Church ACA Progress Report**

as of August 14th

| 2020 Published Goal (revised) | $12,000 |
| Total to Date | $12,786 |
| Returned to Date | 76 |
| # New Donors | 24 |
| Pledges Percent | 8% |
| Prior Year Pledges Percent | 12% |
| Matching Gift Cards | 1 |
| Matching Gift Total | $720 |

The Annual Catholic Appeal is the opportunity for Catholic St. Louisans to share their treasures and help fund numerous vital ministries throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

We strongly encourage all Rock Church parishioners to participate in the ACA by making a pledge/donation that works for your financial situation.

We acknowledge that we are one Body in Christ, that we make sacrifices for others, not because they are Catholic, but because We Are Catholic.

You can donate by completing the pledge form you received from the Archdiocese and returning it in the envelope.

You can contribute online at www.archstl.org/annual-catholic-appeal-office or on the parish website at www.stalphonsusrock.org

Information on the services provided and the organizations supported by your donation is available on the Archdiocese website.

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St. Alphonsus Rock Church
1118 N. Grand Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63106
Financial Corner...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Fund Actual Contributions Received</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUGUST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Envelopes</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Weekly Target Amount</td>
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<td>Under/Over Weekly Target</td>
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Stewardship Prayer…

That in gratitude for our gifts, we may grow them and give back with an increase.

“Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid? (Romans 11:35)

St. Paul reminds us of a central fact of stewardship. We cannot give the Lord anything - God already owns it all; God made everything. All we can do is return a portion of God’s many gifts back to Him. Sincere gratitude for our gifts opens our hearts to joyful generosity! Through your generous sharing, you just may be the answer to someone’s prayer.

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – The Papacy

Many Protestants overlook the importance of Matthew 16:18 and do not understand that it is the most prominent passage in which Christ establishes a hierarchy within the Church with Peter as its first leader. Memorize Matthew 16:18. It is a verse that all Catholics should know and be able to respond with when someone says that the Bible doesn’t mention anything about having a pope. Because of his confession of Christ as the son of the living God, Christ chose Peter to be the rock upon which He would build His church. Here we are 20 centuries later, and the gates of hell have not prevailed against it. Christ chose an ordinary, flawed, unqualified individual to lead the Church. Peter would be the first among many popes.

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, Drena Sanders, Eugene Sanders
Christine Slaughter, Irma Steen, Susan Colbert Threats, Ralph Tyler, Robert Joseph Valle
Juanita West, Marlene Williams, Richard Williams, Clarence Zacher

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

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.