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 last week’s gospel reading, Simon Peter hit a home run. If you remember, Jesus was asking who the apostles thought he was. Peter responds, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” There could not have been a more appropriate response than this. Jesus is the Christ, the one who is to bring salvation to the world. Jesus, and also we who are reading the scriptures, are saying, “Yes, he finally gets it.” Not so fast. In today’s reading, Jesus, as the Christ, predicts his going to Jerusalem to suffer and to die. Peter pipes up again, like last week, but this time he strikes out with the bases loaded. Peter cannot see beyond the immediate; he does not want Jesus to suffer and die; this does not make any sense to him. Jesus is just getting started in his ministry and is about to bring Israel back from the dead and bring it to prominence once again. But Peter does have part of it right. Jesus is bringing Israel back to prominence, but not in the way Peter expects. Jesus has come on this earth to bring salvation to all people, but it is only through this suffering and death that this can happen.

For about three years in my ministry, I gave parish missions; this meant that I would give ten missions in the spring and then ten more in the fall. Many times at the parish, there was a grade school. We always wanted to do something with the kids, and so we would ask to have one day where the kids would come to mass. During the mass, I would get about ten kids to come up to the front, and we would play follow the leader. The kids would get in a line, and I would do all kinds of stupid stuff, and everyone would laugh because the kids were to try and do whatever I, as the leader did. I would ask the kids afterward, which of the kids in the line followed me the best. Of course, it was the kids who were right behind me instead of the person last in line who had to look through nine heads in front of them, trying to see what I was doing. I would then make the point that following Jesus is just the same thing. Those who are closest to Jesus can follow him more closely than being so far away.

In the gospel, Jesus invites us to FOLLOW HIM, but this is not an easy thing to do. He says very directly, “If you want to be my disciple, you must deny yourself, pick up your cross, and follow me.” That is our vocation in a nutshell, but we are often like Peter, saying, “Lord isn’t there another way? God forbid that I suffer. I don’t want to do that.” Well, Jesus may not have wanted to suffer either, but it was the will of his Father, and so he did it, and he was not going to let anything or anyone get in the way of doing what his Father wanted. So it is for the person who wants to follow Christ. We must not let anything or anyone get in our way. Whatever God is asking us to do in our lives, we do it out of LOVE for him. Amen.
NOTE: Names will remain listed for 2 weeks

INTENTIONS 08/18/20
George, Roberta
Lyons, Sharon
White, Evan

INTENTIONS 08/25/20
Cornute, Bonita
George, Darrion
Goss, Michael
Huddleston, Monica & Family
Jackson, Tamica
Pickett, DaShaun
Reedy, Judy
Reedy, Sid
Watkins, Jackie & Family

SICKNESS 08/18/20
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
Rensberg, Cory Sgt.
Schnelle, Laverne

INTENTIONS 08/25/20
Serio, Carmen
Serio, Jessica
Smith, Melba
Smith, Paulette
Stewart, Michael
Strong, Betty
Thompson, Mary Ann
Weaver, Stephen
Woolfork, Vernie
Vet, Alphonso
Voss, Greg

SICKNESS 08/25/20
Bell, Gilbert
Collins, Tamika
Collins, Tony
Dye, Margaret
George, Betty
Green, Alonzo
Klein, Mary
Luster, Juanita
Lyons, Sharon
Mozee, Sylvester
Nardoni, Bill
Parran, Rodrick
Reedy, Christian
Stamps, Arlecia
Valle, Jr., Robert (Bobby)
Watkins, Darnell (Chef D)
Whitfield, Edna (Mother)

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.

Pray for the repose of the soul of †Ralph Watkins Jr., son of Jackie Watkins and brother of Raoul Watkins

Pray for the repose of the soul of †Louis T. & Eric L. McKinnie, father and brother of Monica Huddleston

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen
The Sanctuary Lamp

If you entered a vacant Catholic Church at night, you would not be in total darkness. A single burning light would guide your way. An oil lamp or wax candle, known as the sanctuary lamp, would be continuously aglow above or near the tabernacle. It is a symbol that Christ is present. The General Instruction to the Roman Missal, a guide for how to celebrate Mass, states, “In accordance with traditional custom, near the tabernacle a special lamp, fueled by oil or wax, should be kept alight to indicate and honor the presence of Christ.”

Catholics have always shown their respect for the reservation of the Eucharist in the tabernacle. The church’s guidelines for art and architecture states: The tabernacle “should be worthy of the Blessed Sacrament – beautifully designed and in harmony with the overall decor of the rest of the church. To provide for the security of the Blessed Sacrament the tabernacle should be ‘solid,’ ‘immovable,’ ‘opaque’ and ‘locked.’ The tabernacle may be situated on a fixed pillar or stand, or it may be attached to or embedded in one of the walls. A special oil lamp or a lamp with a wax candle burns continuously near the tabernacle as an indication of Christ’s presence.” Although sanctuary lamps have been red in many traditions, church documents do not specify a color.

The Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle was originally intended for the Communion of the sick and dying and for those unable to attend the Sunday celebration. “But as the appreciation of Christ’s presence in the Eucharistic species became more developed, Christians desired through prayer to show reverence for Christ’s continuing presence in their midst,” states “Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture and Worship,” the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishop’s guide for worship spaces.

“In reverent prayer before the reserved Eucharist, the faithful give praise and thanksgiving to Christ for the priceless gift of redemption and for the spiritual food that sustains them in their daily lives. Here they learn to appreciate their right and responsibility to join the offering of their own lives to the perfect sacrifice of Christ during the Mass and are led to a greater recognition of Christ in themselves and in others, especially in the poor and needy. Providing a suitable place for the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament is a serious consideration in any building or renovation project,” the book continues. The sanctuary lamp is extinguished on Good Friday when the body of Christ is removed from the main church and relit at Easter.

(Source: www.thecatholiccommentator.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?

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.

(Source: www.thecatholiccommentator.org)
ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOLLOW

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”

MATTHEW 16:24

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.

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.

THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Rock Church ACA Progress Report as of August 21st

2020 Published Goal (revised) $12,000
Total to Date $13,621
Returned to Date 83
# New Donors 27
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.
Financial Corner...

General Fund Actual Contributions Received

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Stewardship Prayer…

That each of us may have the strength and courage to put Jesus first above worldly ways and material gains.

“What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?”

Matthew 16:26)

St. Francis of Assisi once said, “Remember, you are what you are in the eyes of God, and nothing else.” We often forget this stewardship wisdom when we spend all of our time, talent, and treasure to gain more of the world’s riches. We need to set our priorities based on God’s values and not the values of the material world.

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Self-Denial and Sacrifice

One of the most beneficial sources of inspiration in our Catholic Faith is the lives of the saints. The saints, like Christ, offer us a vast number of ways in which we can deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow the Lord. The penances that saints have taken on through the centuries are excellent models for us and give us ideas for denying ourselves and thus surrendering our lives to Christ. Extra prayer, fasting, sleeping on the ground, waking up in the middle of the night to pray, abstaining from alcohol, etc. are just a few of the many actions we can take to grow closer to Christ. What is essential to remember is that these practices must not become a source of pride for us. We must focus on how the actions draw us closer to Christ and allow us to participate in His divine life. We must remember that God must be the source and goal of all of our thoughts, words, and actions. He is worth the sacrifices that we make. archstl.org/dynamic

St. Louis Area Foodbank, along with Wells Fargo is sponsoring Mobile Food Distributions on Sept 4th, 18th, & 25th. Open to the public, the mobile market will be set up on the parking lot on the southwest corner of Jefferson & Market streets. 11am-1pm. Please email or call Margaret with any questions! mkenyon@STLfoodbank.org 314 645-5029

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

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