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
On Saturday, September 12th, “Rock Church” will be participating in a clean up of Grand Blvd. Listening to some of our parishioners, there was a group of people from the parish, that took part in clean ups in the past called Project Nehemiah. I think it is important for us as a parish, as people heavily invested in the north side of St. Louis, to help with the upkeep of the neighborhood. The Urban League will also be involved with the project.

Along with the cleanup, we hope to instill within the community the idea that north St Louis does not have to have so much trash on the street. I think people have become so accustomed to it that no one seems even to notice it anymore. And so, along with the needed trash pick up, we also will try to get signs up reminding people to throw their trash in the appropriate can. We also hope to remind all the business owners along the Boulevard to try and keep their lots clean. This whole process is going to take time and effort and a lot of patience. Things are not going to change quickly, but with constant effort, things will begin to change.

Already we have several groups who have said they will help with the cleanup. We hope to get at least 100 people, and we need your help. We plan on starting at 9 a.m. on that Saturday and doing as much as we can for three hours. We will have police protection and trucks to load the garbage onto. It is going to be a very dirty job. I recommend bringing your own gloves, but trash bags will be provided. We hope to get T-shirts so that people on the street will know who is sponsoring the event.

Although this is a very important step we are taking, it is just the 1st step. There is a committee from the parish that has a plan to try and also plant some shrubs or trees, along with maybe doing some mural painting to brighten up the Boulevard. We are trying to change the attitude about the North Side, hoping people will notice and join us. The bigger plan is to take down some of the abandoned buildings and begin to get new businesses and housing in place. Again, this is not something that will happen overnight, but we are hoping to get backing from the city for this project. The 1st thing that the city will ask where are we going to get the money for all of this? Well, we are hoping to get some federal money that will help us. I think the money is there. It is just a matter of getting it. This project needs your help. If you cannot help physically, I hope you can help spiritually by lifting your heart in prayer. Thank You.
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.
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.

LITURGY NOTES...

Lectionary Statistics

How much of the Bible is included in the Lectionary for Mass? Not as much as you might think, yet far more than was included in the Roman Missal before the Second Vatican Council! The bishops assembled at Vatican II declared, "The treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly so that a richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's word. In this way the more significant part of the Sacred Scriptures will be read to the people over a fixed number of years" (Sacrosanctum Concilium, #51). The current Lectionary for Mass does indeed offer a "richer fare" of biblical readings during the Eucharistic liturgy than was available before Vatican II. However, since many parts of the Bible (esp. the Old Testament) are still not included in the Lectionary, one must go beyond the readings used at Mass to cover the entire Bible.

Readings from the Old Testament: before Vatican II, each Catholic Mass included only two biblical readings, which were normally referred to as "The Epistle" (since the first reading was almost always taken from one of the New Testament letters) and "The Gospel." Readings from the Old Testament were never used on Sundays, but only at the Easter Vigil, the Vigil of Pentecost, the feast of Epiphany and its octave, during Holy Week, and on some weekdays (esp. Ember days, weekdays of Lent, the feasts of some saints, and some votive Masses).

Since Vatican II, Masses on Sundays and major feast days include three biblical readings, the first of which is usually taken from the Old Testament (except during the Easter Season, when the first reading is from the Acts of the Apostles). The OT reading is normally very brief and thematically related to the Gospel reading of the day, so there is no detectable order or semi-continuous pattern from one Sunday to the next. Weekday Masses usually have only two readings, the first of which is taken from either the OT or the NT, according to a two-year weekday cycle.

Readings from the New Testament: before Vatican II, the same readings were used each year for the various Masses in the Roman Missal. The first reading was usually from one of Paul's Letters or the Catholic Epistles. The Gospel readings were most often taken from Matthew or John, less frequently from Luke, and only rarely from Mark.

Since Vatican II, much more of the New Testament is included in the Lectionary for Mass. The Acts of the Apostles is used as the first reading on the Sundays and weekdays during the Easter season. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are read semi-continuously on the Sundays of Ordinary Time on a three-year cycle, while passages from the Gospel of John are used mostly during the seasons of Lent and Easter and on several major feast days. Excerpts from all other NT books and letters are used as the second reading at Masses on Sundays and major feast days according to a three-year cycle, and/or weekday Masses on a two-year cycle.

(Source:www.Catholicresources.com)
VOTE!!! VOTE!!! VOTE!!!

NOVEMBER 3RD will be a crucial election in many ways.

Prepare now to vote. Information will be coming about mail-in and absentee voting for those who cannot get to the polls on that day.

For all of us, the crucial decision is

I AM GOING TO VOTE!!!

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 October 11th and each second Sunday of the month thru September, 2021

Mail your donation to the parish office:

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

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.

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 21st

2020 Published Goal (revised) $12,000
Total to Date $14,051
Returned to Date 85
# New Donors 27
Pledges Percent 9%
Prior Year Pledges Percent 12%
Matching Gift Cards 1
Matching Gift Total $720
Financial Corner...

<table>
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<th>General Fund Actual Contributions Received</th>
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<td>Loose Donations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under/Over Weekly Target</td>
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Stewardship Prayer…

That we go beyond the minimum required and give generously in proportion to what God has given each of us.

“‘You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel…’”

(Ezekiel 33:7)

Many of us are generous with our gifts. However, many of us are not generous in proportion to the gifts we have been given. How often do we give at the minimum level required? Remember, the Lord calls us to nurture and develop our gifts. He calls us to be generous with all the gifts He has given us, especially the one that means the most to us.

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Genuine Love

When was the last time you corrected another person in charity? Did you recently pass up an opportunity to teach the truth to someone who was in error? Today, Ezekiel, St. Paul, and Jesus all remind us how important it is to be a witness to Christ and to love each and every person whom we encounter. We are called to be missionary disciples; we have a duty and responsibility to share our faith with others and to lead people from their sins back to God (cf. Ezekiel 33:8). Of course we are not perfect ourselves, but that does not mean that we should let our friends and enemies wallow in their sins. Let us bring others back into the light of Christ and allow others to lead us back to this light when we stray.

archstl.org/dynamic

St. Louis Area Foodbank, along with Wells Fargo is sponsoring Mobile Food Distributions on Sept 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. From 11am-1pm. Please email or call Margaret with any questions!

mkenyon@STLfoodbank.org

314 645-5029

ROCK Church
Winners Club
New Season
October 2020—September 2021

Thank you, Rock Church Family, for another Winner’s Circle Year! Congratulations to our FY 19/20 winners! We had a total of 58 members ($5800) our payout was $1650 for a profit of $4150 to be put into our savings.

Membership into the FY 20/21 Winner’s Club is now open. The entry fee is $100. Drawings will be monthly October 2020 – September 2021.

Members have a chance to win $125 each month except for December and August ($200 will be paid to the winners in December 2020 and August 2021).

Our first drawing will be in October 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount Won</th>
<th>Month Won</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buford, James</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>September 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown, Virginia</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>October 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillips, Ben &amp; Denise</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>November 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay, Damon</td>
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<td>December 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffman, Mike &amp; Cherina</td>
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<td>January 2020</td>
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<td>Nashville, Ernest</td>
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<td>February 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallace, Eugene</td>
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<td>Sullivan, Bettie</td>
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<td>April 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boykin, Elizabeth</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilgore, Yetta</td>
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<td>June 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozee, Karen &amp; Sylvester</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>July 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaver-McSpadden, Janis</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>August 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Happy Labor Day
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 Chapin, 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, Drene Sanders, Eugene Sanders, Christine Slaughter,
Irma Steen, Susan Colbert Threats, Ralph Tyler, Robert Joseph Valle, Ralph Watkins Jr.
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 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.