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. Terry Burke, C.Ss.R., Plant Manager
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:
8:15 & 11:00 a.m.

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

MONDAY:
Eucharistic Adoration
4:30 p.m.—5:15 p.m.

TUESDAYS:
Exposition & Benediction:
10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. (1st—Tuesday) followed by our Perpetual Help Novena & Mass
This week we want to welcome our 3 new Redemptorists who have been assigned to our community. They will be a welcomed addition to our Redemptorist house. We hope you all take the time to reach out to Fr. Rodney Olive, Bro. Steve Fruge and Fr. Pete Schavitz and give them a welcoming in the ROCK tradition. It will take some time for all of us to get to know one another, and we all need to be patient. Things will all work out, but we need to give everyone the space they need to grow into their new roles.

Today we have a very interesting story in St. Paul’s letter to Philemon. Philemon was a slave owner, and he had a particular slave called Onesimus. Onesimus has gotten to know St. Paul and has become a Christian. In this letter, Paul is asking Philemon to take Onesimus back, not as a slave, but as a brother in Christ. This was not an easy request. I am not sure if Philemon treated Onesimus in the same way the slave owners treated slaves here in this country, but it was asking a lot of Philemon to give Onesimus his freedom, and not only that but embracing Onesimus as an equal in the fellowship of Christ.

This story got me wondering about my attitude in how I might treat people. Although you and I are not slave owners in the traditional sense, I wonder, at times, if I might still have an attitude of control of another and not allowing a person to exercise their freedom around me. This thought takes some thinking about on our part. Even though we would consider owning another person and keeping them bound as a slave is wrong, it is also wrong to have such a holding control of a person that they can hardly make any move at all without our permission. I have known many controlling people in my life, where everyone walks on eggshells around that person, fearing not to upset them in any way. This is a very subtle way of owning another person or persons.

In the gospel today, Jesus talks about loving God above all else. This is an important thing for us in our lives, but we do have to put some flesh on this thought. Jesus is not calling us to abandon or hate another in the traditional sense, but to love them without regard for their station in life. We must learn to love another and accept that we can’t control them. We must give them their freedom and allow them to develop into the person God is calling them to be. In this way, we are passing on our love of God in such a way that they can take ownership of their own lives, and develop for themselves, a love of God and neighbor.

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sunday:**
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Grandparents' Day

**Monday:**
St. Peter Claver, Priest

**Wednesday:**
Patriot Day

**Thursday:**
The Most Holy Name of Mary

**Friday:**
St. John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

**Saturday:**
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

**Sunday:**
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday
SISTER THEA BOWMAN
CANCER SUPPORT MINISTRY

On Sign Me Up Sunday, September 15, 2019, we invite you to come by our table. We will have prayer request slips available to list someone you know who has been diagnosed with cancer or is in remission.

As Father announced a few Sundays ago, you may make this prayer request with a first name (only). These names will be placed in the Sister Thea Bowman Shrine at the Rock to be prayed for daily.

We will also have copies of the Prayer for the Canonization of Sr. Thea Bowman at our table on Sign Me Up Sunday.

♦ Prayer request forms can also be picked up at the Sister Thea Bowman Shrine at the Rock. Please place this request in the box at the usher station.

♦ Please consider joining our ministry, you do not have to have a cancer diagnosis to join us. Cancer has touched many lives (family members, friends and acquaintances).

♦ On Sunday, September 29, 2019 after the 11:00 a.m. Mass, we will be showing the Emmy-award winning video about Sister Thea Bowman. The video is approximately 30-35 minutes. Please join us in the gym after Mass.

Job Opportunities at Regina Cleri

Regina Cleri, located at 10 Archbishop May Dr. St. Louis, MO 63119 is an independent living community for Retired Priests, has the current job opportunities:

Housekeeper part-time M-F morning shifts pays $10.30 per hour, and full-time & part-time Kitchen/Dining Room Server 7:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m. split shifts pays $9.79 per hour.

All positions have health insurance and benefits available on first day of hire.

This is rewarding work where you will find yourself serving our retired Archdiocesan Priests. Submit your resume and cover letter to MikeMiller@archstl.org or call Mike at 314-792-7742.

Lwanga Center News...

You are invited to “Poverty, Family Structure, and the Way Forward”, featuring sociologist Dr. W. Bradford Wilcox with presentation and panel discussion. Saturday, September 14, 2019, 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. at St. Louis University-Busch Student Center. Free admission and parking. Registration required on-line at: svdpstlouis.org/register or call (314) 881-6008.

The Lwanga Center is among the co-sponsors.
What do we think we're doing when we kneel down at the child's bedside and say together, "God bless grandma and grandpa" and "God help Uncle Harry find a job"? Or what is the point of our reader or singer coming forward each Sunday and asking the assembly to pray for this, that and the other thing? There are lots of valid ways to think about praying for someone or something. One beginning point is the psalms. What strikes me if I recite these ancient Jewish prayers that became the core of the Christian prayer book is this: The person who wrote these prayers was never hesitant to point-out to God the urgent concerns of the day. Never. The psalms are full of: Please do this. Do that! Do it now! And for centuries the churches hardly ever gathered without a time for naming the needs of that day. Mornings, evenings, Sundays. Always the Christians rolled out their list of urgent concerns: peace, health, good weather, strength in the face of hardship, the poor. This kind of praying was thought of as something a baptized person had to do. It was, in fact, something the unbaptized catechumens were not allowed to do. They couldn't do eucharist, they couldn't give the peace greeting, and they had to be sent out before the baptized people did those intercession prayers. It was that important.

No one ever said: It isn't working, folks, let's quit. We pray and pray and there are still poor people, still sick people, still all kinds of evil. But interceding was what Christians did-like living thankfully, like sharing with those in need. The baptized were trained in this kind of praying. So are we.

But what did they think they were doing? Probably one thing was this: They thought that the church, the body of Christ, was here to shout in God's ear on behalf of all the helpless people, on behalf of the earth itself, on behalf of the living and the dead. Jesus had prayed and now the body of Christ would pray. I don't think ordinary Christians got too wrapped up in questions of what it meant. They just did it. Somebody had to keep reminding God (that's not such a strange way to think: just check out the psalms) that all was not well. Remember us, remember the poor, remember the prisoners.

No one ever said: It isn't working, folks, let's quit. We pray and pray and there are still poor people, still sick people, still all kinds of evil. But interceding was what Christians did-like living thankfully, like sharing with those in need. The baptized were trained in this kind of praying. So are we.

In our parish book of prayer, in our book of the names of the dead, with our children at bedside each night, with the sick when we visit them, by ourselves - and here in our liturgy every Sunday week after week. Year after year, can we get louder? Put more of our heart and soul in these prayers?

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. 

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grill to Glory Barbeque

September 14, 2019
Join us for Fun, Exercise, Games and Food!
11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

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Senior Rock In Action
First Tuesday meeting cancelled for September ONLY!

Field Trip
Wednesday, September 18, 2019:
Harris Stowe State University Jazz and Blues Memory
3026 LaClede Ave
St. Louis, MO 63103

Lunch: 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.
Soul Food (all you can eat) $5.00
FREE—All Are Welcome

After lunch, Mr. Bernie Hayes will take us on this exciting journey

For more information contact:
Eleen McClue: 314 995-3032
Reola Weaver: 314 533-9953
Parish Office: 314 533-0304

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chris’s Pancake Breakfast TODAY!

All-You-Can-Eat Pancakes
After both Masses
Purchase Plate(s) At The Door

from the Peace and Justice Committee

The next movie in our series with the College Church is SELMA, the historical drama, directed by Ava Duvernay, based on the 1965 Selma to Montgomery voting rights marches led by James Bevel, Hosea Williams, Martin Luther King Jr., and John Lewis

Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., movie at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 12th.
Sign-up sheet on the ushers' table
St. Louis University Campus Tegeler Hall
3550 Lindell Blvd

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Photo Directories Are Here!

If you participated in the LifeTouch photo session, please contact the parish office for your free copy of the Parish Directory. 314 533-0304

PARISH EVENTS

September 8, 2019
Chris Pancake Breakfast
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Grandparents Day

September 15, 2019
Sign Me Up Sunday
Parish Gym
After both Masses

September 22, 2019
Installation of New Pastor
Fr. Steve Benden

Mother Of Perpetual Help Devotion and Mass Tuesdays’
11:30 a.m.

Eucharistic Adoration Mondays’
4:30 p.m.—5:15 p.m.
What a beautiful thing to be able to sit quietly with the Lord. This will be followed by mass at 5:30 p.m. I hope you can make time for Jesus.
Please use the entrance off the parking lot to enter the Church.

Catholic Divorce Ministry Conference
September 14, 2019
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Cardinal Rigali Center
20 Archbishop May Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63119

Speakers: Joe Miller, Deacon Turf Martin, Fr. Aaron Nord, and Bishop Robert Hermann
Visit www.nacsdc.org for more information or to register
Financial Corner...

**General Fund Actual Contributions Received**

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**Stewardship Prayer…**

That we may come to recognize that everything we have is a gift from God and we are called to generously share all of our gifts.

“Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:33)

When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.

**Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Proper Ordering of Love**

Does Jesus really think we should “hate” our fathers and mothers in order to follow Him? Well, not unless He decided to repeal the Fourth Commandment. Rather, in keeping with the Fourth Commandment, our first and most necessary “honoring” goes to God our Father. If our family members draw us away from this truth, then true discipleship calls us to cling all the more to Him Who made us. Love God first and always. (CCC 2067, 2197-2200) [archstl.org/dynamic](http://archstl.org/dynamic)

**ROCK Church Winners Club**

Current Members
New Season

September 2019—August 2020

- Virginia Brown
- James Buford
- Susan Buford
- Anne Marie Clarke
- Anne Conte
- Janice Englander
- Kurt Englander
- Wanda Garner
- Pat Jackson
- Angela Harris
- Kalyn Harris
- Sharon Hawthorne
- Mark & Linda Kamp
- Monica Huddleston
- Donald and Joyce Jones
- Brenda McDonnell
- Linda Brown Reed

**Ladies at the ‘Rock’**

Thank you for inviting Ignited For Christ Dance Ministry to your WATW Day of Reflection 2019.

One of the ladies asked for my contact information and it is as follows:

Makia V. Hardy
810 Forest Ave.
Belleville, Illinois, 62220
Email: Makia339@gmail.com
CASH APP:$ignitedforChrist
Phone: (618) 580-7326

Check or Money Order: Please make out to Makia Hardy (until we get our official account with our name). Also, please visit our FB page Ignited for Christ-Arts Ministry for updates on all that we are doing!

Thank you! Lots of love!

*Kia and Dancers*
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PRAYER
MEMORIALS

Tillie Mae Alexander, Hortense Anderson, Elizabeth Henckler Aton
Mother Dorothy Granberry Bennett, Deacon Morris E. Bohannon, Willie Steve Bowens, Dorothy Brady
Theodore Branch, Jr., Irma King Brown, Kenita Bush, Anna Chopin, Betty Jean Colbert
Charmaine Davenport, Walterene Dougherty, 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, Mother Ruth Jones, Eldwyn Lewis, Leon Zack McClendon
Marshall Mosley, Lucille Palmer, Kathy Lin Cheers Parran, Drenea Sanders, Eugene Sanders
Christine Slaughter, 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 Sheila Grigsby
Finance & Adm. Monica Huddleston
Liturgy Richard Buckley
Social Life Rose Graham
Youth & Young Adults TBD

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
Kurt Englander President
Linda Brown Reed Vice President
Wanda Caldwell Ben Phillips
Joy Camp Angela Thames
Mike Coffman Travis Threats
Rhonda Graham Eric Thurman
Linda Kamp Kevin Triggs

ATTENTION
If your telephone number or address has changed, please contact the office at 533-0304. You may also put your updated information in the locked multipurpose box located on the north-side entrance ushers’ table.

COMMUNITY HELP
Wilhelmina Hardin Food Pantry
Terri Schneider, Dir. of Wilhelmina Hardin Food Pantry
(Emergency Aid) (314) 531-1040
St. Charles Lwanga Center (314) 367-7929
Community Health In Partnership Services (C.H.I.P.S.)
(314) 652-9231
Community Women Against Hardship (CWAH)
(314) 289-7523
HIV/AIDS: 314 531-0304 Ext. 1502

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.