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:
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
Recently I was talking to a young adult about going to Sunday mass. I asked them about whether they attended Sunday mass regularly. She said no, but that she did not think she was going to hell for it. I thought about that response and said that going to Sunday mass has nothing to do with whether we will be saved or not. Actually, I do believe it is a sin to willfully miss Sunday mass, but that was not the point of me asking her this question. For me, it has much more to do with our attitude towards the ever good and loving God. We owe God absolutely everything in our lives. We are totally indebted to him for everything, and the least we could do is show our gratitude to him for our salvation.

In God's eternal plan, he asked his Son to willingly come to earth, to suffer and die on our behalf. He did this because he loves us beyond anything we can imagine. He willingly gave his life for us that we might live. This is really too much for us to comprehend. How could a God, the creator of all things, take upon our sinfulness and make reparation for us? This question baffled St. Alphonsus all his life, the depth of the love of God for his creatures.

The word Eucharist comes from the Greek meaning THANKSGIVING. When we come to mass, we come to give thanks. We don't come to mass out of obligation, or because we think God will throw us in hell if we don't go, we go to give thanks for all God has done for us. This is important, God has created us in his own image. He formed us from the dust of the earth to be in a relationship with him. That really is the meaning of life; to be in relation with God who loves us so much. This is why we must make every effort to come to mass as often as we can in our lives. We don't come out of obligation, we come because this is where Jesus, the Son of God, is present, and where he wants to feed us his sacred body and blood.

When you look at it, if you have faith, and many people don't, this is the real problem with people not appreciating the liturgy. Why wouldn't we put the liturgy first in our life? I want to go to mass today because I want to give God all the praise, honor and glory. I go to mass because I realize that my soul is going to die without it. I go to mass because I want to love God with everything in me and because he deserves it. Me going to mass has nothing to do with me going to heaven or hell. I should go to mass even if there were no heaven or hell. I go to mass because this is where Jesus, my friend, has come to be with me. What ingratitude on my part if I don't thank Jesus for all he has done for me.
THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OCTOBER 27, 2019

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

NOTE: Names will remain listed for 2 weeks

INTENTIONS 10/15/19
Adams, Latoya
Ambus, Ruby
Cloyd, Cori
Cloyd, Kalonda
Dyle, Ayrielle
George, Darrion
Hardy, Pier Angela
Jackson, Tamica
Parran, Kristin
Pickett, DaShaun
Reedy, Judy
Reedy, Sid
Smith, Paulette
Weaver Family
Woolfork, Virginia

INTENTIONS 10/22/19
Adams, Latoya
Ambus, Ruby
Cloyd, Cori
Cloyd, Kalonda
Dyle, Ayrielle
George, Darrion
Hardy, Pier Angela
Jackson, Tamica
Parran, Kristin
Pickett, DaShaun
Reedy, Judy
Reedy, Sid
Smith, Paulette
Weaver Family
Woolfork, Virginia

INTENTIONS 10/22/19
Cummings, Alice
George, Roberta
Schneider, Terri

SICKNESS 10/15/19
Ambus, Larry
Fisher, Kyle Fr.
Greer, Lois
Jones, Imani
Luster, Juanita
Mosby, Jerry
Ortwerth, Gloria
Parran, Rodrick
Reedy, Christian
Sams, Mary
Valle, Jr., Robert (Bobby)

SICKNESS 10/22/19
Atherton, Vertibe
Banks, Anita
Calhoun, Debi
Caprese, Britanny
Chapman, Bonnie
Cummings, Cleophes
Haine, (Bill) Wm
Harris, Tobey
Hood, Rosalind
Howard, Yvonne
LaBerta, Steve
Lane, Joan
Latham, Jean
Mccalebb, Barbara
Moore, Brenda
Pointer, Patti
Remsberg, Cory Sgt.
Schneider, Roy
Schnelle, Laverne
Serio, Jessica
Smith, Melba
Thompson, Mary Ann
Weaver, Stephen
Vet, Alphonso

HOSPITAL 10/15/19
Herron, David
Jackson, Akeelah
Martin, Maxine

SHUT-IN’s
Atherton, Andrew
Bohamon, Ida
Brack, Dorothy
Clay, Irving
Lee, Rosemary

McCoy, Bernice
McCoy, Carolynn
Peters, Mae
Thomas, Bernice
Turner, Hortense

Pray for the Deceased
Pray for the repose of the soul of †Laura Quintilla Dowdy, mother of Shirley Dye and Grandmother of Margaret Dye, and Amber Moore.

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

St. Alphonsus “Rock” Catholic Church
Fall Festival / Card Party 2019
November 10, 2019

Ladders of Remembrance

Once again, we will remember our departed loved ones by placing their pictures on our Ladders of Remembrance during the month of November.

Please place your pictures in the basket near St. Joseph’s Altar. The Ladders will remain up from November 1st through November 29th.

Please put your name and phone number on the reverse of your picture so we can return it to you.

Please attend the All Saints Liturgy on Friday 11/1/19 at 6pm as we bless the ladders and honor and pray for our loved ones and all the Saints of God.

North City Deanery—Sunday, December 1st
3:00—5:00 p.m.
Presenter: Fr. Don Wester
Sts. Teresa and Bridget Church
2401 N. Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63106
314 381-1190
For more dates, times and locations or to register, visit www.catholicfaithstl.com/catholic-faith-stl-adults.
LITURGY NOTES...

Should Catholics Celebrate Halloween?
Every year, a debate rages among Catholics and other Christians: Is Halloween a satanic holiday or merely a secular one? Should Catholic children dress up like ghosts and goblins, vampires and demons? Is it good for children to be scared? Lost in this debate is the history of Halloween, which, far from being a pagan religious event or a satanic holiday, is actually a Christian celebration that's almost 1,300 years old. Is Halloween Catholic?

Halloween is a name that means nothing by itself. It is a contraction of "All Hallows Eve," and it designates the vigil of All Hallows Day, more commonly known today as All Saints Day. Hallow, as a noun, is an old English word for saint. As a verb, hallow means to make something holy or to honor it as holy. Both the feast of All Saints Day (November 1) and its vigil (October 31) have been celebrated since the early eighth century when they were instituted by Pope Gregory III in Rome. A century later, the feast and its vigil were extended to the Church at large by Pope Gregory IV. Today, All Saints Day is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Despite concerns among some Catholics and other Christians in recent years about the "pagan origins" of Halloween, there really are none. While Christians who are opposed to the celebration of Halloween frequently claim that it descends from the Celtic harvest festival of Samhain, the first attempts to show some connection between the vigil of All Saints and Samhain came over a thousand years after All Saints Day was named a universal feast. There's no evidence whatsoever that Gregory III or Gregory IV was even aware of Samhain. The pagan festival had stopped being celebrated when the Celtic peoples converted to Christianity hundreds of years before the Feast of All Saints was instituted.

In Celtic peasant culture, however, elements of the harvest festival—shorn of their pagan roots—survived, even among Christians, just as the Christmas tree owes its origins to pre-Christian Germanic traditions without being a pagan ritual.

Some Celtic elements from Samhain that are still used at modern Halloween celebrations include lighting bonfires, carving turnips (and, in America, pumpkins), and going from house to house collecting treats, as carolers do at Christmas. But the supposed "occult" aspects of Halloween—ghosts and demons—actually have their roots in Catholic belief. Christians believed that, at certain times of the year (Christmas is another), the veil separating earth from Purgatory, Heaven, and even Hell becomes thinner, and the souls in Purgatory (ghosts) and demons can be more readily seen. Thus the tradition of Halloween costumes owes as much, if not more, to Christian belief as to Celtic tradition. (Source: Richert, Scott P. "Should Catholics Celebrate Halloween?" Learn Religions, Aug. 22, 2019.)

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 at scooney smith@stalphonsusrock.org.
We want to thank our church family for their prayers, condolences and support during the loss of our Matriarch of the family, Lillian Barnes. Your thoughtfulness, generosity and kindness was greatly appreciated. It warmed our hearts to see how much love was shown to our family during our difficult time.

Our Love,
The Barnes, Williams, Muldrow, Taylor and Clay Family

Liturgical Ministers Workshops
Fall 2019

November 2nd
Arts & Environment
9:00 am—3:00 pm

Community Women Against Hardship
31st Annual Circle Of Support Gala

November 3, 2019
Sheldon Concert Hall
Aretha Franklin Portrait of a Queen
Starring CeCe Teneal

CeCe Teneal sings with the same authority and royalty as the Queen herself. CeCe Teneal deserves to perform the music of Aretha Franklin! She’s that good. Darryl Bey Producer—BlueBird Productions.

Call 314 289-7523 for information or email communitywomenstl@yahoo.com
www.cwah.org

From the Peace and Justice Committee

For the fifth year, the Rock Church will be participating in providing a weekly meal at a homeless shelter during the winter months.

The new Assisi House will open at 5075 Durant Ave. Rock Sunday Suppers will begin on November 17th. It is a men’s facility—17 men during the winter months; converting to 13 permanent residents after that. Other churches and groups have been amazed at the number of people participating from the Rock Church. We hope to have even more this year.

Please sign the sheets on both ushers’ tables and you will be contacted about when you can provide your dinner.

Protecting God’s Children
Meeting Date:
November 3, 2019
after the 8:15 a.m. Mass
Parish Hall, Room 113
Financial Corner...

### General Fund Actual Contributions Received

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Stewardship Prayer…
That we may kneel before God every day, humbly recognizing that everything we have is a gift and asking God to guide us in the ways we use and share His many gifts.

“...for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

*(Luke 18:14)*

Pride and ego is the root cause of most of our sins. Thinking your time is so valuable, your talent is better than anyone else and your money gives you status is another way of making those things “gods” before God. Remember all those gifts were God-given. Instead we should be humbled by God’s abundant generosity and our hearts should overflow with gratitude.

**Move to the Right is coming!**

You will hear more about this in the coming weeks
In preparation for our stewardship campaign
we ask that you reflect on the following:

**Prayer for Generosity**

Lord Jesus,
Teach me to be generous;
Teach me to serve you as you deserve,
To give and not to count the cost,
To fight and not to heed the wounds,
To toil and not to seek for rest,
To labor and not to seek reward,
Except that of knowing that I do your will.

Amen

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Congratulations!
Our October 2019 Winner is

Virginia Brown

Jean Anthony
Elizabeth Boykin
Virginia Brown
James Buford
Susan Buford
James Butler
Cheryl Carr
Anne Marie Clarke
Damon Clay
Mike & Cherina Coffman
Anne Conte
Willie & Bessie Cunningham
Esther Darris
Janice Engleander
Kurt Engleander
Maudelle Fite
Paul & Shirley Foster
Wanda Garner
Alonzo Green
Angela Harris
Carl Harris
Kalyn Harris
Sharon Hawthorne

Monica Huddleston
Pat Jackson
Donald and Joyce Jones
Mark & Linda Kamp
Yetta Kilgore
Helene Laberta
C.C. Lee
Pamela Leong
Sharon Lyons
Brenda Mahr
Brenda McDonnell
Sylvester & Karen Mozee
Earnest Nashville
Jean Nashville
Leo & Linda Peoples
Ben & Denise Phillips
Linda Brown Reed
Adlean Thomas
Monica Tyler
Monica Tyler
Eugene Wallace
Jocelyn Woodson-Reed

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*From the Card Party Committee...*

**We Need:**

**Attendance Prizes**
(new, valued at $20 minimum)

And

**Silent / Live Auction**
(new, valued at $25 or more)

Bring these items to the church by early Saturday, November 9th. We ALL have a role to play to make the Nov. 10th largest fundraiser of the year a success for our beloved “ROCK” church.
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PRAYER MEMORIALS

Tillie Mae Alexander, Hortense Anderson, Elizabeth Henckler Aton, Lillian Barnes
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, 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, Mother Ruth Jones, Eldwyn Lewis, Leon Zack McClendon
Marshall Mosley, Lucille Palmer, Kathy Lin Cheers Parran, 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: 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
Ben Phillips
Wanda Caldwell
Angela Thames
Joy Camp
Travis Threats
Mike Coffman
Eric Thurman
Rhonda Graham
Kevin Triggs
Linda Kamp

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.