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
The month of December is usually spent getting ready for Christmas by doing all kinds of shopping for the people we love. We pulled all of the Christmas decorations out and put them up. We might start baking Christmas cookies and store them in the freezer. We might be invited to numerous parties where we fill our bellies with all kinds of good food. It can be a very busy time of the year. But do we feel the need for repentance in our lives?

For the Christian Church, Advent is the time for preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ. John the Baptist is called to “Prepare the Way.” He is a prophet called by God to announce the good news of the Messiah, but he also calls us to repentance. I am not sure how many people feel the call to repentance anymore. Do people go to confession anymore? What do we need to repent from? It is not Lent where we might be called upon to do more in terms of penance, but the scriptures are challenging us to a different way of life.

The Jews who lived at the time of Christ thought it was their birthright to be saved and to go to heaven. For them, it was like being born into royalty. For a person born into royalty, you have done nothing to deserve your status except having the bloodlines of royalty. John the Baptist challenges this thinking saying to the Pharisees, “you brood of vipers, you have done nothing in your lives that deserve redemption. You must repent of your sins and ask God’s forgiveness.” Of course, the Pharisees did not want to be talked to like that, and the animosity grew between them and John.

To truly repent of our sins, we need to recognize our sinfulness; this is a big step for some people who do not think they have done anything wrong. After we have acknowledged our sinfulness, then we must turn away from the sins we have been committing. And the 3rd step is to turn ourselves over to God. It takes all 3 of these steps to repent and focus on the good things of life, which included Christ coming as a babe. If we are so consumed with the worldliness of Santa Claus, there is no room in our hearts for Jesus Christ. Jesus, the Son of God, is coming to us once again. John has come to “Prepare the Way.” Hopefully, we follow his lead and prepare our hearts for Jesus the Christ.
**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
LITURGY NOTES...

We light a second purple candle on the second Sunday of Advent to represent the hope of Christ coming to the world. The word "hope" has two meanings in the Bible. The first, tiqvah, contains the sense of eager anticipation or waiting. The second, elpis, depicts a sense of confident expectation based on certainty. Biblical hope is secured by God's faithfulness to His promises. For the Old Testament leaders, their hope was in the Messiah's arrival. For us, it is the hope of the Messiah's return.

God's plan for humanity unfolded in the town of Bethlehem, the birthplace of the Messiah, joyously fulfilling a long-awaited promise. Today we confidently wait for the Messiah's triumphant return.

"But you, Bethlehem, only a small village in Judah, yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from a distant past ... And He will stand to lead His flock with the Lord's strength ... Then His people will live undisturbed, for He will be highly honored all around the world. And He will be the source of our peace."

This is one of the most powerful messianic passages because Bethlehem is pinpointed as the birthplace of the Messiah. Written 750 years before Christ, Micah tells of the honor which will belong to Bethlehem. Christ's deity and humanity are shown here -- He is a shepherd, leading with the strength of God, bringing peace to His people.

The precision of God's promises proclaimed and fulfilled inspire us continually to hope in God. The hope of Christians is not wishful thinking, but based on the historical facts of Christ's birth, death and resurrection, and in the confidence of His eagerly anticipated return.

Heavenly Father, You are the source of all hope and we know our hope is in You -- You will not disappoint us. Teach us this week to anchor our hope in Jesus. Help us to persevere with You when we feel like giving up. We eagerly wait for Your return. Amen.

(Source: www.cbn.org)
In order for everyone to enjoy The Most Wonderful Time of the Year, please take an ornament or two from The Giving Tree so that others can enjoy A Merry Little Christmas. Too busy to shop, stop in the back of church and purchase a Gift Card.

Return all gifts by December 8th
Please return ornament with gift

**Rock Seniors In Action**

It’s that time again Seniors, we are having our Christmas party with our friends. The only requirement is to sign-up, show-up, and eat up.

Following the Novena in Church please join us at Mass, Tuesday, December 17, 2019.

Sign-up sheets located at ushers’ table. For additional information, call the parish office-533-0304 or contact Eileen McClure-995-3032 or Reola Weaver-533-9953

If there is anyone in the parish who has knowledge and experience with grant writing, please contact Fr. Rodney at the parish office. Your experience and knowledge is needed to help the parish find source funding for projects like a new sound system, and other development projects.

Thank you,
Fr. Rodney J. Olive C.Ss.R.

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**A big Thank You for your work on Operation Door Hanger!**

- Ruby Brown
- Deborah Grant
- Sam Britts
- Linda Kamp
- Joy Camp
- Jeffrey McDonald
- Selena Cloyd
- Derrick Pou
- Mike Coffman
- Pat Pou
- Roberta George
- Maria Thorpes

**Linda R**

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**RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)**

RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation of Children)

The RCIA/RCIC is the Church’s process for educating and forming adults and youth (ages 11 through 18) who wish to be baptized in the Catholic Church. Those seeking baptism are known at various points in the process as inquirers, catechumens and elect. A parallel or even combined process is used for adults who have been baptized in another Christian denomination and wish to profess the Catholic faith, be confirmed and receive first holy communion. Included in this process are baptized Catholics who have not been confirmed or made their first holy communion.

For information on the RCIA or RCIC, please contact Sharon Cooney-Smith via email scooneysmith@stalphonsusrock.org or by phone at 314-533-0304

**The Sister Thea Bowman Cancer Support Ministry** will meet on, Sunday, December 15th after the 11:00 am Mass in the Parish Hall.

**Inclement Weather**

*Office Closed When... STL Public School Is Closed*

- **December 8, 2019**
  - VOSA Christmas Concert
    - 4:00 p.m.
  - December 9, 2019
  - Feast of The Immaculate Conception
- **December 14, 2019**
  - Hardin Center Christmas Giveaway
  - December 22, 2019
  - Parish Christmas Party
    - Unity Mass 10:00 a.m.
  - December 24, 2019
  - Midnight Mass
    - Doors Open 11:30 p.m.

**From Amazon.com...**

St Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church has been issued a $23.32 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and Sept 30, 2019. Funds were deposited Nov. 14th.
Financial Corner...

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HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2019

- AT&T Foundation Multipurpose Room | Museum
- December 10, 2019
- 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Celebrate Human Rights Day with a panel discussion centered around the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This program will have a special focus on voting rights.

THEME: “VOTING BARRIERS: IT’S A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION!”

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights underscores the rights of people to vote and to fully participate in their government. (See Articles 19 and 21.) What protections are in place to guarantee people can access this human right? What recourse do people have when voter restrictions come from the very government which is supposed to protect that right?

PANELISTS

Demarco Davidson, Organizer for Metro Congregations United

Dr. Cassandra Gould, Executive Director for Missouri Faith Voices

Janis Mensah, Youth Organizer for the Organization for Black Struggle

Presented with the Coalition of Human Rights

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
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, Barbara McCalebb
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 Angela Thames Linda Kamp
President Vice President Secretary
Linda Brown Reed Ben Phillips
Wanda Caldwell Angela Thames
Joy Camp Travis Threats
Mike Coffman Eric Thurman
Rhonda Graham 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.

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.