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
Today, the Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday. The word Gaudete means rejoice. The Church is calling us to rejoice in the Lord Jesus, who is coming into the world. To be a people of joy is very important. It means that we are committed to the Lord in such a way that we give Him praise at all times. When we rejoice in the Lord, we can hold our heads high even when life is trying to drag us down. It may not always be easy to give praise to God, but we are so blessed. The more we consider ourselves blessed, the more we can rejoice in the Lord.

In the gospel reading today, John the Baptist has been thrown into prison. John is having doubts about whether Jesus is the Christ. He hears all of the good the Lord is doing but is not sure. Ultimately though, John has a profound trust in God even when he is in prison. Soon John will be put to death - there is a peace in him. He realizes he has done all he can to bring about the “Preparing the way of the Lord.” A job that he did the best he could, even if it meant his beheading.

Besides the word rejoice, I think Gaudete also means absolute peace in our lives. The Lord Jesus came to bring peace to the world, and although the world is not always at peace, we can be if we are united to the Lord with ever firming faith, nothing can put us down; nothing can overcome us. We can have peace even in oppression and suffering because we know we are united to the Lord. Again, this is very important in our lives because even Jesus suffered rejection and pain. I don’t know about you, but I can endure much more suffering when I know the Lord himself went through the same thing. “Gaudete,” let us rejoice at all times, good and bad.

I want to thank once again all who took part in the concert last Sunday. It was a great event. It is incredible just how much talent we have here in the parish. It’s a shame more people aren’t able to hear it every week. I also want to thank all who took part in the Christmas giveaway yesterday. People would not have had a good Christmas if it were not for the generosity of so many here at the Rock, and from other parishes, who donated so much. This time of the year, especially, it is helpful for people to be of good cheer. We can all rejoice in the goodness of so many. I hope all have a good week this week. Just a few more days, and we welcome Jesus once again into the world.
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 15, 2019

REMEMBER
in your prayers

NOTE: Names will remain listed for 2 weeks

INTENTIONS 12/03/19
Cummings, Alice
George, Roberta
Hearns, Zeysean
Miller, Jr., Antonio
Perry, Cameron
Sanders, Sharron & Family
Schneider, Terri

INTENTIONS 12/10/19
Ambus, Ruby
Beasley, Walter & Family
Bowers, Lynette
Buford, Susan & Family
Cloyd, Cori
Cloyd, Kalonda
Duncan, Ruth & Family
George, Darrion
Henry, Aliyah
Jackson, Tamica
Okpalake Family
Parran, Kristin
Pickett, DaShaun
Reedy, Judy
Reedy, Sid
Smith, Paulette

SICKNESS 12/03/19
Atherton, Vertibe
Banks, Anita
Calhoun, Debi
Caprese, Brittany
Chapman, Bonnie
Clancy, Jimmy
Cummings, Cleophes
Haine, (Bill) Wm
Harris, Tobey
Herron, David
Hood, Rosalind
Howard, Yvonne
LaBerta, Steve
Lane, Joan
Latham, Jean
Letterman, Annette
Moore, Brenda
Pointer, Patti
Reedy, Judy
Reedy, Sid
Smith, Paulette

SICKNESS 12/10/19
Ambus, Ruby
Beasley, Walter & Family
Bowers, Lynette
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Herron, David
Hood, Rosalind
Howard, Yvonne
LaBerta, Steve
Lane, Joan
Latham, Jean
Letterman, Annette
Moore, Brenda
Pointer, Patti
Remsberg, Cory Sgt.
Schneider, Jeanne
Schneider, Roy
Schnelle, Laverne
Serio, Jessica
Smith, Melba
Thompson, Mary Ann
Weaver, Stephen
Vet, Alphonso

HOSPITAL 12/03/19
Ambus, Larry

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

Pray for the Deceased

Pray for the repose of the soul of †James Henry Buford, husband of Susan Buford

ST. ALPHONSO LIGUORI "THE ROCK"

Lwanga Center’s Bible Study group has resumed. Please join us on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. We are located at 4746 Carter Ave., St. Louis, MO 63115.

We are praying with and exploring the Book of Psalms. Please bring a Bible (New American Edition is preferred). There is no charge for the sessions. Free will offerings are always welcome.

Call the Center for more information if needed at (314) 367-7929.

The Rock’s Got Talent!

Calling all parishioners to show case their talent – singing, dancing, comedy, magic, stunts, etc., during our Parish Christmas Party

Celebrity Judges and Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners!

Sign up at the Usher’s table and let us know what your Great Talent is!

Parish Christmas Party!

St. Alphonsus Liguori ‘Rock’ Church

December 22, 2019

Following the 10:00am Unity Mass

Pot-Luck

The church will provide the meat and drinks
Please sign up to bring a side dish

enough to feed 12!
**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...**

The 3rd Sunday of Advent is also known as “Gaudete Sunday.” *Gaudete* means “rejoice” in Latin. It comes from the first word of the Entrance antiphon on Sunday. The spirit of joy that begins this week comes from the words of Paul, “The Lord is near.” This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose-colored, and the rose-colored vestments often used at the Eucharist.

The second part of Advent begins on December 17th each year. For the last eight days before Christmas, the plan of the readings changes. The first readings are still from the prophecies, but now the gospels are from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. We read the stories of faithful women and men who prepared the way for our salvation. We enter into the story of how Jesus’ life began. These stories are filled with hints of what his life will mean for us. Faith and generosity overcome impossibility. Poverty and persecution reveal glory.

Each day this week, we will continue to go through our everyday life, but we will experience the difference our faith can bring to it. We are confident that the grace we ask for will be given to us. We will encounter sin—in our own hearts and in our experience of the sin of the world. We can pause in those moments and feel the joy of the words, “You are to name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21

We may experience the Light shining into dark places of our lives and showing us patterns of sinfulness and inviting us to experience God's mercy and healing. Perhaps we wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week. We may want to make gestures of reconciliation with a loved one, relative, friend or associate. With more light and joy, it is easier to say, “I'm sorry; let's begin again.”

Each night this week we want to pause in gratitude. Whatever the day has brought, no matter how busy it has been, we can stop, before we fall asleep, to give thanks for a little more light, a little more freedom to walk by that light, in joy.

Our celebration of the coming of our Savior in history is opening us up to experience his coming to us this year and preparing us to await his coming in Glory. *Come, Lord Jesus, Come and visit your people. We await your coming. Come, O Lord.*

*“Taken from Praying Advent, on Creighton University's Online Ministries web site: http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/ CollaborativeMinistry/online.html Used with permission.”*
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Seeking Choir Members

Please lend your voice to the choir being formed for the Archdiocesan Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday Weekend Celebration Mass being held on Sunday, January 19, 2020, at the Cathedral Basilica.

Rehearsals will be held at Cardinal Ritter College Preparatory High School 701 N. Spring Ave. on the following Saturdays: December 21st and 28th, and January 4th and 11th, at 11 a.m. 12:30 p.m. Final Rehearsal will be held on January 18th from Noon—3:00 p.m.

Feel free to contact Fr. Art Cavitt at the Center (314) 367-7929, ext.15, if additional information is needed.

Thank You! Staff and Church Friends for the calls, emails, flowers, and visits of sympathy during the recent death of my husband.

I am so blessed to be a member of the Rock.

Buena L. Davis

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

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

Linda R

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Bulletin Announcement Deadlines

All items must be in the office, faxed or emailed no later than 12 noon on the dates listed below:

(314) 533-4260 (fax)
parish130@archstl.org

Deadline  Bulletin Publication
TODAY  December 22nd issue
Dec. 19th  December 29th issue
Dec. 26th  January 5th issue

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.

PARISH EVENTS

Inclement Weather Office Closed When...
STL Public School Is Closed

December 22, 2019
Parish Christmas Party
Unity Mass 10:00 a.m.

December 24th—27th
Parish Office Closed

December 24, 2019
Midnight Mass
Doors Open 11:30 p.m.

December 25, 2019
Christmas Day Mass
10:00 a.m.

December 29, 2019
Kwanzaa Sunday
Feast of the Holy Family

For Sale:
Shelled Nuts, $11 per pound Almonds, Black Walnuts, Cashews, Pecans & Walnuts

Contact Shirley Foster at 314 382-4282 to place your orders.

You shop! Amazon gives!

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to St Alphonsus Liguori “Rock” Catholic Church.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support the “Rock” by starting your shopping at:

www.smile.amazon.com

You shop! Amazon gives!

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Support the “Rock” by starting your shopping at:

www.smile.amazon.com
Financial Corner...

<table>
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<td><strong>DECEMBER</strong></td>
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Stewardship Prayer...
That through daily prayer we gain patience and align ourselves with God and His plan for us.

“You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

(James 5:8)

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God’s will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Gaudete Sunday

Gaudete Sunday—Rejoice! But true joy comes by way of true repentance, so John the Baptist reminds us. The desire for holiness, the pursuit of genuine freedom from sin and death—these are the things that inspire us first to renounce evil and then to prepare a way for Christ to enter our hearts, minds, and souls to bring not only mercy, forgiveness, healing, consolation, and peace—but also the authentic Christian joy arising from redeeming grace.

(CCC 523-524, 719-720) archstl.org/dynamic

Dynamic Catholic started with a dream: to help ordinary people discover the genius of Catholicism.

This is an organization where you can go to find many resources for free.

Visit archstl.org/dynamic to view all the resources available to you!

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, 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, Mother Ruth Jones, Eldwyn Lewis, Barbara McCalebb
Dreena 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.