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 we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. It’s a great feast for us because we all come from a family of some sort. It is good for us to focus on our family from time to time because sometimes we can take one another for granted, and this is not a good. Sometimes families can give life to one another and sometimes they can take life away. It is good for us to take inventory of how our families interact and relate with one another and try to do better if we need to. It is always important for us to love one another. I know some families who make a vow not to ever go to bed angry with someone else in the family. This takes a lot of work but is worth it. We shouldn’t go to bed mad with one another because sometimes that one night of anger turns into years of resentment. Some members of families can go years without speaking to one another — what a sad situation.

In today’s 2nd reading from St. Paul, he gives us some excellent advice about how we should be acting with one another. Husbands love your wives. Wives love your husbands. When I am preparing a couple for marriage I will say to them that I think their love for one another has to be the most important thing for them in their lives. I think the best gift any parent can give to their children is the love that exists between them. Children need a father and mothers love modeled for them. Many families don’t have this. Again I say, the best gift a parent can give a child is love, especially when love is modeled for them in the marriage.

I have a shirt that I sometimes wear that says WE MUST STOP KILLING EACH OTHER. I know you have seen shirts like this. I think it would be more appropriate, however, to have a shirt that read WE MUST START LOVING EACH OTHER. Love must start in the family, we must begin to change the world from within. We can’t expect other people to do it without doing it ourselves. We must be patient, kind, generous, caring, faithful and compassionate with each member of our family. In this way we can model for others what they may not be able to do.

On this feast of the Holy Family let us make that extra effort to love those who we sit next to every day in the car or at the dinner table. It feels good when things are going well. No one wants to live in a family with lots of yelling and screaming, or maybe worse yet, cold silence. May you be blessed this day and be a blessing to others.

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**Weekly Readings…**

**Sunday:**
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/ Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23, 1-7/
Mt 1:18-24

**Monday:**
1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/ Lk 2:36-40

**Tuesday:**
1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

**Wednesday:**
Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/
Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

**Thursday:**
1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2, 3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28

**Friday:**
1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 [3cd]/Jn 1:29-34

**Saturday:**
1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [3cd]
Jn 1:35-42

**Sunday:**
Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12

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**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sunday:**
The Holy Family

**Tuesday:**
Saint Sylvester I, Pope

**Wednesday:**
Mary, the Holy Mother of God (holy day of obligation)
New Year’s Day
World Day of Peace

**Thursday:**
Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church

**Friday:**
The Most Holy Name of Jesus

**Saturday:**
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious; National Migration Week

**Sunday:**
The Epiphany of the Lord
INTENTIONS 12/17/19
Cummings, Alice
George, Roberta
Hearns, Zeysean
Miller, Jr., Antonio
Perry, Kameron
Schneider, Terri

INTENTIONS 12/23/19
Ambus, Ruby
Bowers, Lynette
Carr, Cheryl & Family
Cloyd, Cori
Cloyd, Kalonda
George, Darrion
Henry, Aliyah
Jackson, Tamica
Parran, Kristin
Pickett, DaShaun
Reedy, Judy
Reedy, Sid
Smith, Paulette

SICKNESS 12/17/19
Atherton, Vertibe
Banks, Anita
Calhoun, Debi
Caprese, Brittany
Chapman, Bonnie
Clancy, Jimmy
Cummings, Cleophas
Haine, (Bill) Wm
Harris, Tobey
Herron, David

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

McCoys, Bernice
McCoys, Carolyn
Peters, Mae
Thomas, Bernice
Turner, Hortense

SICKNESS 12/23/19
Collins, Tamika
Duplantier, Tyrond Sr.
Fisher, Kyle Fr.
Greer, Lois
Jones, Deborah
Luster, Juanita
Parran, Rodrick
Reedy, Christian
Valle, Jr., Robert (Bobby)
Watkins, Darnell (Chef D)

HOSPICE 12/23/19
Ambus, Larry

Pray for the Deceased
Pray for the repose of the soul of †Nadine Jones, mother of Cheryl (George) Carr, grandmother of Shaun and Felicia Carr

NOTE: Names will remain listed for 2 weeks

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

What Catholic Man Do You Know Who
Humbly & Faithfully Serves Others?
The Catholic Man of the Year lives out his faith by sharing
his time and talent for the good of others.
The award dinner will take place on April 19, 2020
at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac.
Bishop Mark Rivituso will present this special award.
Nomination forms available by January 15, 2020
at www.saintjosephradio.net or by calling 636-447-6000
Sponsored by:
St. Joseph Evangelization Network-St. Joseph Radio

Save the Date! April 19, 2020

CATHEDRAL CONCERTS

2019-2020
FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2020
UMSL UNIVERSITY SINGERS WITH ARIANNA STRING QUARTET
8:00 PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2020
VOCES8 WITH CROSSROADS QUARTET
8:00 PM

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CAME OUT TO
CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL!
**LITURGY NOTES...**

The Holy Family is the name given to the family unit of Jesus: The Divine Son of God Jesus, his mother, the Virgin Mary, and his foster-father Joseph. We know very little about the life of the Holy Family through the canonical Gospels. They speak of the early years of the Holy Family, including the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, the flight into Egypt, and the finding of Jesus in the temple. Various non-canonical works, including the Infancy Gospel of Thomas, try to fill in the blanks. However, even though these apocryphal works may contain some truth derived from oral tradition, they have been deemed unworthy of canonical status because of the way they present Jesus. While the exact details of the day-to-day life of the Holy Family may be unknown, we can still learn a lot from the stories we do have.

Devotion to the Holy Family is a recent development, but one that naturally grows out of love for Jesus and his family. On October 26, 1921 the Congregation of Rites (under Pope Benedict XV) inserted the Feast of the Holy Family into the Latin Rite general calendar. Until then it had been celebrated regionally. Popes before and including Benedict XV promoted the feast as a way to counter the breakdown of the family unit. Today the Church celebrates the Feast on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day (Known as the Feast of Mary Mother of God in the Catholic Church). If both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Sundays, no Sunday exists between the two dates, so the Church celebrates the Holy Family Feast on December 30th. If the feast falls on the 30th, attendance is not obligatory. Up until 1969, the Holy Family feast was kept on the first Sunday after the Epiphany. It was transferred to its current date in 1969.

The Feast of the Holy Family is not just about the Holy Family, but about our own families too. The main purpose of the Feast is to present the Holy Family as the model for all Christian families, and for domestic life in general. Our family life becomes sanctified when we live the life of the Church within our homes. This is called the "domestic church" or the "church in miniature." St. John Chrysostom urged all Christians to make each home a "family church," and in doing so, we sanctify the family unit. Just how does one live out the Church in the family? The best way is by making Christ the center of family and individual life. Ways to do this include: reading scripture regularly, praying daily, attending Mass at least on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, imitating the actions of the Holy Family, going to confession frequently, and so forth, all done together as a family unit.

(Source: www.churchyear.net)

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**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.

(Source: www.churchyear.net)
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: January 4th & 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.

Attn: Ushers and Security:

Ushers and Security are needed to serve in ministry for New Year's Day Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (10 am).

Ushers, if you are able to serve please sign the Usher Sign-Up Sheet located on the Usher Table.

Security, if you are able to serve, please contact security leader Herb Parran.

Poker Tournament

Assumption Church located at 4725 Mattis Rd St. Louis, MO 63128 will host its annual poker tournament, Saturday, Feb. 15th

Doors open at 6:00 p.m., proceeds will support spiritual activities done by the Knights of Columbus.

There will be gift card prizes for top finishers. The cost is $25 per person, if interested contact Steve at 314 680-3393.

PARISH EVENTS

Inclement Weather
Office Closed When...
STL Public School Is Closed
January 1, 2020
Parish Office Closed
New Years Day
Holy Day of Obligation
Mass 10:00 a.m.

January 5, 2020
Epiphany of the Lord

January 12, 2020
Baptism of the Lord

January 20, 2020
Parish Office Closed
Martin Luther King Day

1st Reconciliation
1st Communion

Classes begin on Feb. 8, 2020 with an Introductory Session for Parents/Guardians and Children in the Parish Hall, Room 113.

Children must be at least 7 years old and in the 2nd grade or higher. Registration packets with a schedule of classes and registration form are on the Usher’s Table.

Please complete the form and return to the office no later than Friday, January 31, 2020.

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
Financial Corner...

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Stewardship Prayer…
That through prayer and love, our family relationships put us on the path to holiness.

“Wives, be subordinate to your husbands...Husbands, love your wives...Children, obey your parents in everything...Fathers, do not provoke your children…”

(Colossians 3:18-21)

Pope Francis said that families, through their life of prayer and love, become "schools of true human growth." Being credible witnesses of Christian love, especially that of family members, exerts the most positive influence on our children. We are all children of God, let us pray and love each other as God, Our Father, does for us.

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Spiritual Leadership

Joseph is a model of spiritual leadership. Humility and obedience are not things that are praised in our culture today. But, remember, our goal is not possessing more things on earth, rather our goal is eternal life with God! Spiritual warfare is real. Through silence, we are able to discern God’s will for us and our families. Studies show that when dad takes his faith seriously, so do his children. Men, the best thing we can do for our families is to be the men God is calling us to be, to be the spiritual leaders for our families. The best gift we can give our families is to teach them how to pray. archstl.org/dynamic

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, Nadine 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 Adult    TBD

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

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.