

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)

or Like us on Facebook at St Alphonsus "Rock" Liguori Catholic Church

Rev. Rodney Olive, C.Ss.R., Parochial Administrator



Mission

"To Joyfully Preach, Teach, and Live the Word of God"

Theme

"Fill us up with your wisdom and guidance as we strive to do more in 2024!"



PASTORAL STAFF

Sharon Cooney-Smith, Dir. Religious Education
Alicia McClendon, Secretary
Deborah Grant, Clerical Support
Angela Harris, Bulletin Editor
Denise Phillips, Business Manager

SUPPORT STAFF

Bro. Eugene Patin, Pastoral Staff
Terrance Gipson, Maintenance
Terri Schneider, Dir. Hardin Food Pantry

MUSIC MINISTRY

Malcolm Speed
Danny duMaine

REDEMPTORISTS IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Tom Donaldson, C.Ss.R.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

(Call for Appointment)

SUNDAY MASS:

10:00 a.m.

DAILY MASS:

TUESDAY:

11:30 a.m. Our Mother Of Perpetual Help Novena & Mass

(M, W, Th & F.) 11:30 a.m. (Rectory Chapel)

Saturday: 9:30 a.m. (Church)





**From The Desk Of
Fr. Rodney**

2nd Sunday of Advent

Expectations of Hope

Among the glamor and glitter, the rush for Christmas sales opportunities, the stress and anxiety to make sure you and I get what we need to stop. There is a longing in our hearts that is not being satisfied; you and I are wondering why. If we stop and pause the high speed pace of our lives, we will find an answer that has been there all along, just waiting for us to embrace it.

The longing in our hearts wants and needs to be satisfied. You and I want and need harmony and balance in our lives, both physically and spiritually. Our covenant relationship with God is essential in achieving this. Honesty drives us to acknowledge that I want to experience the Messiah in my life today, in our present reality. We want to experience the liberating power of Christ’s love in our lives. This is a liberation that empowers us to unite both body and spirit once again, so that we are ready for a true Christmas miracle of hope.

The Christmas miracle of hope calls us to come to Jesus physically and spiritually, opening ourselves to the redeeming power of his love. Christmas is an opportunity to renew our covenant relationship with God and make the desert of our lives bloom once again with joy, peace, and happiness. Jesus calls us now to experience living life, instead of surviving life. You and I must harness the inner strength and courage to embrace this moment and allow ourselves the experience of liberating love. Yes, this is a challenge and a life-changing moment. Christmas is the time when God keeps his promise and tells us that the “time of our liberation has begun.” Come, Lord Jesus, Come is our cry. Lord, we are ready for a miracle.

Parish Administrator

WEEKLY READINGS...

Sunday:

Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5
6 (3)/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

Monday:

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab
3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12
Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday:

Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac,
11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday:

Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and
10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday:

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a
12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Friday:

Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6
Mt 11:16-19

Saturday:

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b
15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday:

Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)
Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL
OBSERVANCES**

Sunday:

2nd Sunday of Advent

Monday:

The Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday:

Our Lady of Loreto

Wednesday:

St. Damasus I, Pope

Thursday:

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Friday:

St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Saturday:

St. John of the Cross, Priest and
Doctor of the Church



REMEMBER
in your prayers

INTENTIONS 11/26/24

Benden, C.SsR, Steve
Carr, Jeff
Diaz, Evie
Dorge Family
Duclerne, Joseph
Duncan, Kara
Eaves, Douglas
Gipson Family
Golden, Sherrill A.
Golden, James L.
Guiu, Dumitru
Guiu, Viorica
Hatchett, Sharon
Hinton Family
Johnson, Billie Ms.
Johnson, Markiea
McClain, Kenneth
Meeks, Kim
Meeks, Taniyah
Boyd-Merrill, Wanda
Merritt, Tamala
Miller Jr., Antonio
Monroe, Sam
Monroe, Tanya
Pinard, Viviana
Radley, Bryan
Ransome, Gregory
Reed, Jan & Family
Sammons, Bernie
Scott, Devon
Scott, Dorothea
Sher, Lois
Sullivan, Noah
Thomas, April
Walker, Deneen

Walker, Jasmine
Williams, Linda
Williams, Norman

INTENTIONS 12/03/24

Bell, Gilbert
Blanton, Linda
Brasher, Paula
Burnett, Alfred & Family
Brownlee, Ethel
Catchings-Smith, Deborah
Charleston, Dorothy
Clark, Louis
Cooney, Michael
Crafton, Steve
Crawford, Alexis
Dulaney, Linda
Gandaho, Tamar
George Family
Goldston, Natalie
Henry, Janet
Hill, Xavier
Hollins, Albert G.
Hood, Gregg
Humphrey, Shelia
Hunt, JoAnn
Kirksey, Jasmine
Jarvis, Michael
Jones, Ethel
Judge, Larry
Kemp, Monterio
Lee, Pearl Etta
Lesueur, JaVaughn
Manuel, Keshon
Martin, Michael
Miller, Jr., Antonio

Monroe, Dionne
Monroe, Reginald
Page, Connie
Page, Mike
Patton, William Joshua
Pena, Emelyn de la
Potts, Pamela
Reed, Tory
Robinson, Darby
Sheperd, Dorothy
Smith, June
Sullivan, Jeremiah
Thames, Michael
Thompson, Louisa
Thomas-Crumbley, Mary
Valle, Dorothy
Wallace, Delanca
Wallace, Travia
Weston, Dorothy
Woolfork, Virginia
Williams, Linda

SICKNESS 11/26/24

Barnett, Jewel
Blake, Maria
Brown, Joyce
Brownlee, Ethel
Buckley, Darrell
Busy, Brittney
Cloyd, Selena
Cole, Barbara
Conner, Jack
Cox, Jonathan Jr.
DeClue, Rosalynn
Delaney, J.
Dye, Margaret

George, Betty
George, Christine
Gilliand, John
Guin, Viorioa
Gurley, Earline
Jones, Keiarra
Latanya Harris
Leong, Desmond
Lewis, Joi
Harris, Anna
Harris, Tobey
Harris, Willie
Hart, Edgar
Hollins, Albert Rev.
Jammer-Webb, Jallah
Latham, Jean
Lehmkuhl, Karen
Littleton, Ginny
Magnus, Sonette
Moore, Wilbert
O'Brien, Nancy
Officer, Marion E. Jr.
Oldani, Shirley
Payne, Lonnie
Pointer, Nelson
Polek, Dave Fr.
Remsberg, Cory Sgt.
Roberts, Nounita
Robinson, William, Jr.
Rodgers, Erby Lee
Salter, Debi
Sheppard, Joyce
Sigari, Alexandria
Simpson, Lisa
Simpson, Ronald
Smith, Melba
Sonnenschein, Joseph
Sparkman, Judah
Stayton, Michael
Strong, Betty
Townsend, Bob
Venverloh, Karen

Washington, Lewis
SICKNESS 12/03/24
Andrews, Sarah
Anthony, Jean
Brown, Travis, Ofcr.
Brownlee, Paul
Buck, Victoria
Boyd, Wanda
Butler, Thomas
Crump, Flo
Darden, Veronica
Davis, Stephanie
Dulaney, John
George, Donna
Goldston, Natalie
Guevara, Shannon
Harris, Bob
Henry, Clem
Hodges, Carolyn
Hubbard, Patricia
Hutson, Jacquelyn
Johnson, Jennier
Jones, Ethel
Lee, Pearletta
Mahr, Brenda
McClain, Kenneth
McClain, Victoria
McDonnell, Brenda
Mozee, Sylvester
Parran, Rodrick
Price, Wayne
Rasales, Devon
Reedy, Sid

Richardson, Jr., Marshall
Schneider, Roy
Shackleford, Joseph
Smith, Valerie
Thames, Garnetta
Thames, Lamar
Thomas, Aubrey
Thompson, Henry
Townsend, Sue
Valle-Lee, Laura
Vet, Alphonso
Westley-Coleman, Denise
Wallace, Trevia
Washington, Joanne
Wester, Tyson
Welch, Tony

SHUT-INS

Atherton, Andrew
Brack, Dorothy
Darris, Martha
Hughes, Irene
Lee, Hazel
McCoy, Carolyn
McGinnis, Kathy
Moore, Brenda
Skinner, Joanna
Whitfield, Edna (Mother)

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

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

All Flesh Shall See the Salvation of God

John the Baptist preaches repentance and conversion, inviting us to commit our lives to a new path, the way of the coming Messiah. This way of life, described by the prophet Isaiah, is one of equity and justice. In other words, God's vision is something of a divine leveling that will allow *all people* to experience his glory.

At the heart of any true conversion is the acknowledgment of sin together with some concrete action to uproot it. On a personal level, this will mean examining our hearts to identify areas that harbor bias, bigotry, hypocrisy, defensiveness, or fear. On a communal level, too, we must name laws, systems, and attitudes that form crooked ways in the midst of our civic and faith communities. Finally, it will require action, making amends, and doing the work of "leveling" so that we can experience in our flesh the hope that God desires for people who are broken, weary, and starving for the truth of their worth. This work isn't simply a way for us to be more welcoming or inclusive; this is a prophetic *command* rooted in Sacred Scripture and an integral way that we embody our Christian belief that all people are imbued by God with an inviolable dignity.


These days, it seems one is better off being rich and guilty than being poor and innocent. The work of conversion--examination and action is the work of God's divine construction to *make straight his paths!* Our change of direction will no doubt make some people uncomfortable, especially those who enjoy positions of power or privilege. But for those still walking in the valleys, who are still oppressed and persecuted, there is collective work to be done. Saint John the Baptist intercedes for us as we make room in our hearts for the Lord and cooperate in the prophetic vision God has for the entire human family.


PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

- The gospel names specific people and places to locate John the Baptist in real human history. What is the context for God's work in your life? What are the people and places that would describe your spot in history? How does God enter into your specific time and place?
- What "mountains" are keeping you from God right now? What do you need to be leveled in order to run more freely to God?
- What does your baptism mean to you in this season of life?
If you don't know the date, try to find out and add it to your calendar for the coming year. How could you remember or honor that date in a special way?

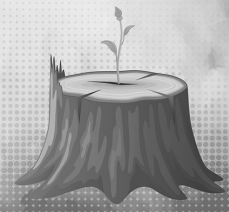
(Source: Living Liturgy Press.org)

ANNOUNCEMENTS


It's time for our **GIVING TREE!** 

“Sleep In Heavenly Peace!” Wouldn't that be wonderful, but “It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas,” and everyone is busy preparing for “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year.” 

In order for everyone to enjoy Christmas, please take an ornament or two from the Giving Tree so everyone can have a “Merry Little Christmas.” Gifts are to be returned no later than December 8.









Second Sunday of **ADVENT** 


With abiding hope we look forward to Jesus' arrival — Make straight the paths, Lord! Fill us with holy excitement, in Your name. Amen.


 **NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS**

Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia. This progressive brain disease develops slowly but has a huge impact on those who are living with it, their families, and caregivers. An early diagnosis of Alzheimer's and other dementia can provide a person with a better chance of benefiting from treatment. Alzheimer's is NOT a part of the natural aging process but it is estimated that over 6.2 million Americans are currently living with this progressive brain disorder. The Health and Social Services Committee has provided information on identifying the warning signs of Alzheimer's as early detection can help in the treatment and the management of this disease.

10 Warning Signs of Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease

1. Withdrawal from work or social activities 
2. Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, work, or leisure
3. Decreased or poor judgement 
4. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
5. Changes in mood and personality 
6. Confusion with time or place 
7. Memory loss that disrupts daily life 
8. Challenges in planning or solving problems 
9. New problems with speech and writing 
10. Misplacing things and losing ability to retrace steps 

Alzheimer's Disease is the **6th** leading cause of death in the United States 

Recognizing symptoms early helps families plan for the future 

SOURCES: Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures Infographic; Alzheimer's Association (https://www.alz.org/alzheimers-disease-facts-and-figures-infographic-2019); "10 Early Signs and Symptoms of Alzheimer's"; Alzheimer's Association (https://www.alz.org/alzheimer-disease/10-signs); "Dementia Fact Sheet"; National Institute on Aging (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services); "10 Warning Signs of Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease"; Alzheimer's Association

CHRISTMAS SEASON FLOWER DONATIONS

 If you would like to donate poinsettias to the church during the Christmas Season, contact the parish office. Your donation of flowers will glorify God and enhance the worship services. 

DEADLINE FOR ALL TRIBUTES & PAYMENTS IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15.

Please make your check payable to St. Alphonsus Liguori Church and place in the collection basket along with the form, marked "altar flowers" or mail to:

St. Alphonsus Liguori Church
1118 North Grand Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108

Thank you! The 'Rock' Church Arts & Environment Committee

General Fund Actual Contributions Received		
Envelopes	\$	\$
Electronic Offering	\$	\$
Loose Offering	\$	\$
Total Offering	\$	\$
Weekly Target Amount	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00
Under/Over Weekly Target	\$	\$

Stewardship Prayer...

That we may resist the lure of holiday advertising and instead concentrate on the message of simplicity and trust that is found in the Christmas manger scene.

“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value...”

(PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10)

It is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts during the Christmas shopping season. But is that “gift” truly an expression of your love for the other person? Or are you just fulfilling your “obligation” to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them and learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less “stuff” and spend more time with those you.

Missionary Discipleship – Baptism of Repentance

We should be grateful that we have been baptized and claimed for Christ. The Holy Spirit has come into our hearts, and Christ has washed away the stain of original sin. As a result, we can enter into heaven and attain union with God in eternal beatitude (CCC 1213-1216). The work is not done, though. We still suffer from concupiscence, our natural inclination to sin, and we must face trials and temptations in our spiritual journey of life. Fortunately, the Holy Spirit guides us to repent and to turn away from our sins. He enables us to accept our adoption as sons and daughters of God who walk in the light of Christ. What is holding you back from fully embracing your status as a child of God? How can you more fully repent and experience the grace of God working in your life?



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!

Youth And Family Center Health Clinic
All Ages Welcome—Free Clinic
 Tuesdays 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.
 Thursdays 12:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

818 Cass Avenue
 St. Louis, MO 63106

Wellness Exams
 Sick Visits
 Rapid Covid Test
 Women’s Health

Appointments Only
 314 928-1600

School & Sports Physicals
 Health Education
 Medicaid Enrollment

Dear Friends, Who Assist Jesus’ special friends in need, we would like you to join us in meeting our year-end goal to help others.

- OUR Year End GOAL is to raise \$180,000 to help 3,000 families with the following programs:
- Christmas \$50 food gift card or \$50 clothing certificate

Year-end Utility Assistance program (Gas, electric, water, sewer) administrated by:

- Fr. Bob’s Outreach, Wellston Outreach Center, St. Vincent De Paul Conference
- Most Holy Trinity Parish/Our Lady of Perpetual Help Food Pantry

Make an online contributions by going to www.FatherBobsOutreach.com and clicking on **DONATE** or send a check made out to “**Fr. Bob’s Outreach**” to:

Father Bob’s Outreach
 c/o St. Peter Claver Parish
 1371 Hamilton Avenue
 St. Louis, MO 63112

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

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PRAYER MEMORIALS

Continuous prayer for the “Rock” Saints who have transitioned from labor to reward during the past five years

Larry Ambus, Garvin Anderson, Hortense Anderson, Anita Louise Banks, Lillian Barnes, Loretta Beasley

Jean Irene Becker, Herron Beckley, Ida J. Bohannon, Roderick Bolden, James R. Boykin, James Buford

Irving Clay, Willie Cunningham, Judith Dickson-Durham, Kevina A. Doss, Sallie duMaine, Sr. Carolyn Emerson

Fr. Kyle Fisher, C.Ss.R., Alice Gathright, Roberta George, Terrance Gipson, Sr., Jermaine Gordon, Alonzo Green

Catherine Gregory, Georgette Gregory, Walter T. Gregory, Willie “Clarence” Griffin, Donna Hall, Barbara Harris

David Robert Herron, MaryAnn Hinton, Cassandra Hollins, Rosalind Hood, Jamar Huffmon, Willie Huffmon, Barbara Hudson

Jones, Nadine Jones, Fr. Anthony “Tony” Judge, C.Ss.R., Robin Kyles, Stephen LaBerta, Rosemary Lee, Mary Ann Lewis

Joan Lowe, Juanita Luster, Anice Mahone, Isis Aaliyah Mahr, Kyle Martin, Bernice McCoy, Michael P. McCoy Sr.

Eric L. McKinnie, Louis T. McKinnie, Glenn Miller, Roy Miller, Paul J. Naugles, James Joseph O’Brien, Bernice O’Neal

Anne Ortwerth, Thelma Paul, Alton Pritchard, Christian Reedy Judith Reedy, Wendell M. Sams, Pearlie Savoy

Catherine Sherman, Robert Smith, Jr. Lorraine Fite Stewart, Shontea Stricklin, Gloria Taylor, Oswald Lee Thomas

Mary Ann Thompson, Robert “Bobby” J. Valle, Jr., Sandra Wallace, Ralph Watkins Jr., Ruby Wicks, Jessica Williams

Alvin Leon Wilson, Vernie Woolfork, Clarence Zacher

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Sharon Cooney-Smith, DRE
314-533-0304

RCIA/RCIC

Children’s Liturgy of the Word

Baptism

First Reconciliation

First Communion

Confirmation

Matrimony

COMMISSIONS & CHAIRS

Christian Formation	TBD
Christian Service	Hilda Phillips
Finance & Adm.	Monica Huddleston
Liturgy	Richard Buckley
Peace & Justice	Kathy McGinnis
Social Life	Rose Graham
Youth & Young Adults	Ronda Smith Branch

COMMUNITY HELP

Wilhelmina Hardin Food Pantry
Terri Schneider, Dir. of Wilhelmina Hardin Food Pantry
(Emergency Aid) (314) 944-2909

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Robert Caldwell President	Ronda Smith Branch Vice President	Hilda Phillips Secretary
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Theodore Branch

Richard Buckley

Audrey Ellermann

Gregory Hood

Teresa Hudson

David Martin

Jessica Pou

Patricia Pou

Jocelyn Woodson-Reed

ATTENTION

If your telephone number, home address or email address has changed, please contact the office at 533-0304 or email office@stalphonusrock.org.

Bulletin announcements must be in the office for review and approval 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.