

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. 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

“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.

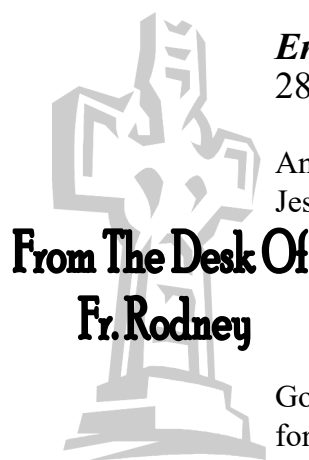
DAILY MASS:

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)





Embracing the Power of God’s Word
28 Sunday in OT

Anyone in a covenant relationship with God who claims Jesus is their Lord and Savior knows that a proper relationship is understood and exists. Such a relationship requires wisdom, which is beyond mere human wisdom. Like Solomon, we must pray for this gift of Wisdom, which is a gift that comes only from God. A wisdom that will be the foundation and vessel for God’s graces and blessings. Divine wisdom empowers us to acknowledge and embrace the power of God’s Word.

The Word of God is true power that gives life to those who freely open themselves to it. The Word of God speaks to people and holds them accountable. We are called to heed and believe the Word of God, a responsibility we must take seriously. The scriptures tell us what happens when we don’t. The amazing thing is that the blessings and promise of sharing in the presence of God are available to anyone who will hear the Word of God.

At times we can be like the wealthy young man in chapter 10 of Mark’s gospel. He wanted to get rid of anything that stood in the way of him being a follower of Jesus. He was intent on achieving wisdom and everlasting life. Jesus tells him the price he will have to pay. We witness the reaction of the wealthy young man. Wealth is no indicator of God’s pleasure; in this case, it is a great obstacle. Embracing the power of God’s Word does not depend on our wealth or social status. Jesus lets us know that purely human efforts cannot gain us salvation. We must humble ourselves and receive this power of God as a gift from him.

The question remains as real for us, as it was for the apostles. What do we get for giving up everything to be a disciple of Christ? We receive a hundredfold, which includes persecution, the cross, and the resurrection. This is the reality of authentic Christian existence. It is a letting go of control and embracing the power of the Word, Jesus. The wealthy young man chooses to retain his wealth and social status, passing up the opportunity to attain the wisdom offered by Jesus. True wealth and power are found in Jesus. Wisdom is letting go, looking at life with discerning eyes, and pursuing what really makes a living and vibrant life.

WEEKLY READINGS...

Sunday:
Wis 7:7-11/Ps 90:12-13, 14-15
16-17 (14)/Heb 4:12-13
Mk 10:17-30 or 10:17-27

Monday:
Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31—5:1
Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7
Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday:
Gal 5:1-6/Ps 119:41, 43, 44, 45
47, 48/Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday:
Gal 5:18-25/Ps 1:1-2, 3 and 6
Lk 11:42-46

Thursday:
Eph 1:1-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab
3cd-4, 5-6/Lk 11:47-54

Friday:
2 Tm 4:10-17b/Ps 145:10-11
12-13, 17-18/Lk 10:1-9

Saturday:
Eph 1:15-23/Ps 8:2-3ab, 4-5
6-7/Lk 12:8-12

Sunday:
Is 53:10-11/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19
20, 22, (22)/Heb 4:14-16
Mk 10:35-45 or 10:42-45

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday:
St. Callistus I, Pope and Martyr
Columbus Day

Tuesday:
St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and
Doctor of the Church

Wednesday:
St. Hedwig, Religious
St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin

Thursday:
St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and
Martyr

Friday:
St. Luke, Evangelist

Saturday:
Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues
St. Peter of Alcantara

Sunday:
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
World Mission Sunday



REMEMBER
in your prayers

INTENTIONS 10/01/24

Benden, C.SsR, Steve
Carr, Jeff
Diaz, Evie
Dorge Family
Duclerne, Joseph
Duncan, Kara
Eaves, Douglas
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, Dionne
Monroe, Reggie
Monroe, Sam
Monroe, Tanya
Pinard, Viviana
Radley, Bryan
Rauch, Gerry
Reed, Jan & Family
Sammons, Bernie
Scott, Dorothea
Sher, Lois
Sullivan, Noah
Thomas, April
Walker, Deneen

Walker, Jasmine
Williams, Linda
Williams, Norman

INTENTIONS 10/08/24

Bell, Gilbert
Blanton, Linda
Brasher, Paula
Catchings-Smith, Deborah
Charleston, Dorothy
Clark, Louis
Cooney, Michael
Crafter, Steve
Crawford, Alexis
Dulaney, Linda
Gandaho, Tamar
Gilbert Family
Goldston, Natalie
Hill, Xavier
Hood, Gregg
Humphrey, Shelia
Hunt, JoAnn
Kirksey, Jasmine
Jarvis, Michael
Jones, Ethel
Judge, Larry
Kemp, Monterio
Lesueur, JaVaughn
Martin, Michael
Miller, Jr., Antonio
Monroe, Dionne
Monroe, Reginald
Page, Connie
Page, Mike
Pena, Emelyn de la
Potts, Pamela

Reed, Tory
Sheperd, Dorothy
Smith, June
Sullivan, Jeremiah
Thames, Michael
Thompson, Louisa
Thomas-Crumbley, Mary
Valle, Dorothy
Weston, Dorothy
Woolfork, Virginia
Williams, Linda

SICKNESS 10/01/24

Barnett, Jewel
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
Gurley, Earline
Jones, Keiarra
Latanya Harris
Leong, Desmond
Lewis, Joi
Harris, Tobey
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
Patton, William Joshua
Payne, Lonnie
Pointer, Nelson
Polek, Dave Fr.
Remsberg, Cory Sgt.
Roberts, Nounita
Robinson, William, Jr.
Rodgers, Erby Lee
Salter, Debi
Sheppard, Joyce
Simpson, Lisa
Simpson, Ronald
Smith, Melba
Sonnenschein, Joseph
Sparkman, Judah
Stayton, Michael
Strong, Betty
Townsend, Bob
Venverloh, Karen

SICKNESS 10/08/24

Andrews, Sarah
Anthony, Jean
Brown, Travis,
Ofcr.
Brownlee, Paul
Buck, Victoria
Boyd, Wanda
Crump, Flo
Darden, Veronica
Davis, Stephanie
Dulaney, John
George, Donna
Goldston, Natalie

Guevara, Shannon
Harris, Bob
Hodges, Carolyn
Hubbard, Patricia
Johnson, Jennier
Jones, Ethel
Lee, Pearletta
Mahr, Brenda
McClain, Kenneth
McClain, Victoria
McDonnell, Brenda
Moze, 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
Whitfield, Edna (Mother)
Townsend, Sue

Valle-Lee, Laura
Vet, Alphonso
Westley-Coleman, Denise
Wallace, Trevia
Washington, Joanne
Wester, Tyson

SHUT-INS

Atherton, Andrew
Brack, Dorothy
Darris, Martha
Hughes, Irene
Lee, Hazel
McCoy, Carolyn
McGinnis, Kathy
Moore, Brenda
Peters, Mae
Skinner, Joanna
Thomas, Bernice

Pray for the Deceased



Pray for the repose of the soul of
†Roberta George, mother of Tamika
Collins and Darrion George, sister
of Dorothy Gipson and Betty George, aunt of
Terrance Gipson and Yalonda Gipson



*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*

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



Why do Catholics make the sign of the cross?

Making the sign of the cross is a gesture that says, in shorthand, that a person is Catholic. It appears as an icon in popular culture, and as a gesture it is scattered throughout film history. Moving priests make solemn signs over newly dead persons or penitents in the confessional, boxers make clumsy signs with their gloved fists, tonsured monks in medieval garb make the same gesture as a shorthand way of indicating that they are either superstitious or in the presence of some eerie portent, and there is nothing like a vivid sign of the cross (made preferably with a raised crucifix) to get Bela Lugosi as Dracula to turn away dramatically from a previously inviting neck. The same sign is ubiquitous in Catholic piety. We begin our prayers with the sign of the cross. We use the thumb sign of the cross on forehead, lips, and breast before the reading of the gospel. At the liturgy and in various sacramental rites, the priests trace the sign of the cross over persons and objects.

Where did the custom of signing with the cross originate, and what does it signify?

It is a curious fact that the cross does not appear in Christian art until the fourth century, but the tracing of the cross on the forehead with thumb or index finger is found in popular Christian usage as early as the second century. The more expansive sign of the cross (touching forehead, chest, and shoulders) is first mentioned in the devotional life of Christians in the fifth century, but it was not until the early Middle Ages, largely through the influence of monasteries, that the gesture came into general use. By this time there was also a widespread custom of blessing in the form of a cross using the eucharist, the gospel book, or a reliquary.

Today, of course, the gesture of the large sign of the cross with the invocation, "In the name of the Father . . ." is common and universal in the Catholic Church. But we are so accustomed to making the sign of the cross that we may have never stopped to ask what the gesture means. First, every religious tradition incorporates bodily gestures to "thicken" the power of religious language. In that sense, the sign of the cross is a form of body language like the gestures of raising the hands in prayer, kneeling, bowing, and so on. Making the sign of the cross says something, and when it is done in public (for example, at the blessing before meals in a public place) it is also an act of faith. The sign of the cross *speaks* and *confesses*. Second, powerful symbolic gestures, when examined up close, say more than one thing. Quite obviously, signing ourselves is a mark of our belief in the saving actions of Jesus Christ. We also make the sign in the name of the Holy Trinity by invoking Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

At least in the Byzantine tradition, where it is stipulated that the sign be made either with two fingers (symbolizing the two natures of Christ) or three fingers (symbolizing the Trinity), a theological statement is being made. A common Byzantine formula used while signing oneself is, "Blessed is our God at all times now and always and forever. Amen." A final point: Making the sign of the cross, in whatever form (think of the lovely custom of a parent tracing the cross on the forehead of an infant who readies for bed or an older child who goes off on a journey), is so common as to be a routine. One practical strategy for our common Christian spiritual life is to relearn what we are doing when we sign ourselves. In his evocative book *Sacred Signs* the late Romano Guardini made the point so beautifully that I will give him the last word: It is the holiest of all signs. Make a large cross, taking time, thinking what you do. Let it take in your whole being—body, soul, mind, will, thought, feelings, your doing and not-doing—and, by signing it with the cross, strengthen and consecrate the whole in the strength of Christ, in the name of the triune God.

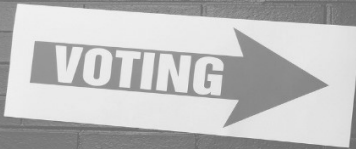
This essay was originally published in the August 1995 issue of U.S. Catholic (Vol. 60, No. 8)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



EARLY VOTING IN MISSOURI STARTS
OCTOBER 22ND!

Make your plan to vote



On November 5th!



JOIN US FOR AN AMAZING AFTERNOON
FILLED WITH FALL FESTIVAL FUN AND
BINGO! RAFFLES, FOOD, ATTENDANCE
PRIZES AVAILABLE!

St. Alphonsus "Rock" Gym 1118 N. Grand Blvd Sunday, Nov 10, 2024
12:00PM-3:00PM

\$25.00 TO PLAY- PAY IN ADVANCE AFTER MASS
OR PAY AT THE DOOR PER SEAT FOR FALL
FESTIVAL BINGO



4 ways to book your appointment...

Call 888-814-0466 and use
promo code HSCA001

Visit [LLSA.SOCIAL/HLSA](https://llsa.social/hlsa)



Text the word "circle"
to 216-279-1607

Who should attend:

Anyone over the age of 40

Special Member Pricing for \$159

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Plus a FREE Hypertension Screening

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

Where: St. Alphonsus Rock Church
1118 N. Grand Blvd., St. Louis

When: Monday, October 28th

The honor of your presence is being requested to
attend our **Annual Elders Day Luncheon**
October 26th, 2024 in the parish gym, from noon
until 3:00pm.



Prepare to be razzle dazzled by the winter wonderland
theme. Only registered members and their spouses may
attend. A senior is anyone 62 years and older. If you plan to
attend, please call the parish office and register.

No children or friends may attend due budget constraints.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

**Protecting God's
Children**

Training session will be held in the gym after
Mass on Sunday
October 20, 2024

Contact H Denise Phillips In The Parish Office
To Sign Up

General Fund Actual Contributions Received		
SEPT / OCT	28 th	06 th
Envelopes	\$11,652.00	\$ 8,467.00
Electronic Offering	\$ 1,713.00	\$ 2,113.00
Loose Offering	\$ 283.00	\$ 145.00
Total Offering	\$13,648.00	\$10,725.00
Weekly Target Amount	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00
Under/Over Weekly Target	\$ 1,148.00	\$(1,775.00)

Stewardship Prayer...

That we are generous with all our gifts, especially those that mean the most to us.

“It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

(MARK 10:25)

Jesus uses tough language that we may not want to hear. However, we are all called to be generous with all of our gifts. Not just the ones we pick and choose, but all our gifts, and especially the one that means the most to us! That includes our time in prayer to God, our talent in participating in parish ministries and our treasure supporting our local parish and other charities.

Missionary Discipleship – Share Everything

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells the rich young man to sell everything, give to the poor, and follow Him. The rich young man’s response he went away sad for he had many possessions. Each of us is that rich young man. God calls us to be generous with all of our gifts, not just the one or two gifts that we choose, but especially that one gift that means the most to you. When it comes to sharing, we typically give away what we have the most of. We share what we have “leftover” instead of sharing our “first fruits” – our first and best. Of all the gifts that God has given us the one that He wants the most is our heart. When we share all of our gifts, we keep God first in everything.



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!

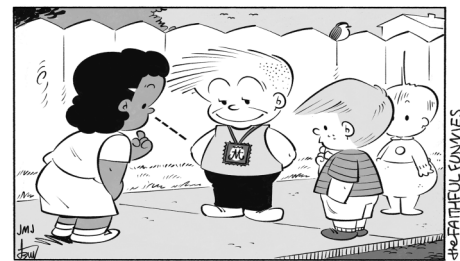


A Celebration of History: 150th Anniversary of Greenwood Cemetery

Greenwood Cemetery was established in 1874, serving as the first non-sectarian commercial cemetery for African Americans in the St. Louis area after the Civil War. Greenwood has faced periods of hardship and neglect, yet through dedication, the cemetery is undergoing a beautiful restoration, reclaiming its rightful place as a cornerstone of our community’s heritage.

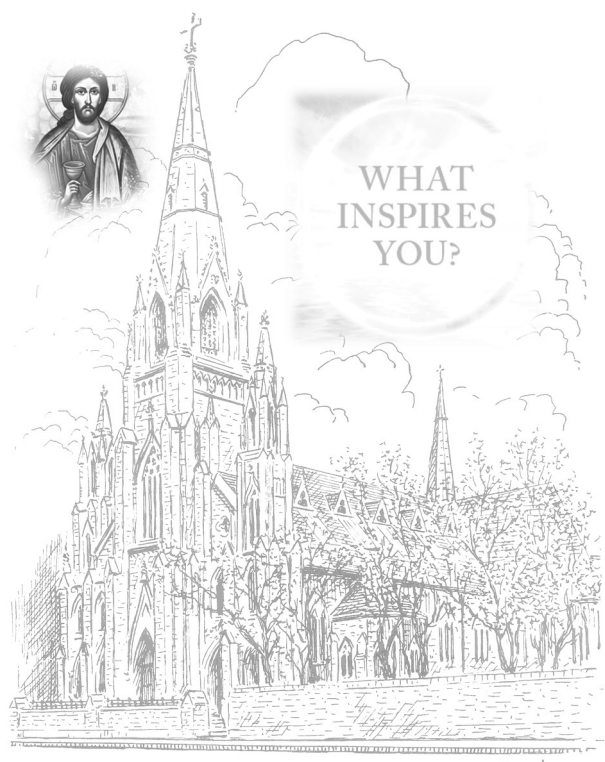
Join us in celebrating its rich legacy on Saturday, October 19th, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Missouri History Museum.

“What’s a shoulder’s favorite sacramental?”



“The Scapular!”

FUN FACT! “Scapular” actually means “shoulder” in Latin. Scapulars have changed through history, now they are small pieces of wool worn between the shoulders, reminders of devotion to God.



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, 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, 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.

Saundra 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
Social Life	Rose Graham
Youth & Young Adults	TBD

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
Theodore Branch	David Martin	
Richard Buckley	Jessica Pou	
Audrey Ellermann	Patricia Pou	
Gregory Hood	Jocelyn Woodson-Reed	
Teresa Hudson		

ATTENTION

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