

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)





3rd Sunday of Advent
15 December 2024

Hope that Fuels Our Anticipation

**From The Desk Of
Fr. Rodney**

This week provides us with a reason for anticipating a time of rejoicing and joy in our personal lives and the lives of our Rock Church Family. The prophet Zephaniah offers us Hope for remaining faithful, seeking reform, and renewing our covenant relationship with the Lord. We are being given a message of liberation and vindication for all of us. God is reaffirming his love for us because we are his people. Our hearts call us to a renewal of love. As we realize God's reassuring presence, as we did last Sunday, our response is an experience of contagious joy.

This joy fuels our anticipation to hear Paul as he calls our Rock Church Family to dismiss our anxiety and call out to God. As a result, God's extraordinary peace will come to rest on us. So, rejoice in the Lord always. Our community must continue to say, from the heart, "I am blessed. We are blessed." Like Paul, we openly acknowledge the hostility, violence, suffering, fear, and persecution of our present time. We must now show the community around us our fair mindedness, graciousness, and integrity. The society we live in should be awed and overwhelmed by the Christians they see being lived. A people filled with a sacred peace that comes from an experience of the Lord.

Peace is a messianic blessing promised to those who pray. This kind of peace calms our fears, settles all our unruly thoughts, and dispels our doubts. The power of the Lord within us can do far more abundantly than all we ask for or imagine. Jesus brings us and calls us to embrace his ministry of mercy, compassion, and forgiveness. This is truly good news. With Jesus a new age will dawn on Christmas Day. Like all of you, I find myself getting excited, because Jesus is coming once again to restore the power of joy and happiness in our lives. A joy and happiness the world cannot take away or destroy. Now is our time for us as a Rock Church Family to stand and shout from the roof tops, that our Messiah is coming to renew us in his peace.

Parish Administrator

WEEKLY READINGS...

Sunday:

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

Monday:

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab
6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday:

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab
7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday:

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13
18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Thursday:

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a
5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Friday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
Lk 1:26-38

Saturday:

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
Lk 1:39-45

Sunday:

Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
(4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:

3rd Sunday of Advent



Saturday:

St. Peter Canisius, Priest
and Doctor of the Church

Sunday:

4th Sunday of Advent



REMEMBER
in your prayers

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

INTENTIONS 12/10/24

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

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

SICKNESS 12/10/24

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, 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

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

Finding Reasons to Rejoice

During these final days before the Christmas festivities, the anticipation grows as we are inundated with carols and ads for this season's hottest gifts. There is much preparation to be done, most of which will be frantically accomplished while singing, "*All is calm, all is bright.*" For many in our communities, this season is experienced as one of sadness or even loss.

On this Gaudete Sunday, we wrestle with an important tension that seeks to be reconciled: What does it mean to access a spirit of rejoicing *now*, from the context of this Advent season, a season that can be lonely and dark? Or, even more broadly, what does it mean to find joy in what can sometimes seem like a relatively joyless society? One perspective lies in today's response from Isaiah, which invites us to give thanks to the Lord and acclaim his name.

Rejoicing is intimately connected with gratitude. In the Ignatian tradition, the daily Examen incorporates an intentional reflection on thankfulness, as well as experiences of loss, disappointment, and sin. This prayer of discernment can be a helpful way for us to find God in all things by both recognizing God's gifts and giving thanks for them. It can also encourage us to consider how it is that we are using and enjoying what God is offering us. This exercise is especially useful when we find ourselves in moments of darkness, disappointment, sin, or failure.

The Examen reorients our reflection away from our own activity by situating it in the context of God's activity. While we will soon rejoice in the fullness of Christ's presence when he comes, we rejoice even now as we wait in the darkness of night. We express our joyful hope as we acknowledge the glimmer of his radiant light and gracious care shining through the gifts he offers us each day.

PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

- Which of John's exhortations in the gospel speaks to you most strongly? What do you have that could be better shared? How could you reform your work to more fully conform with God's will?
- The first and second readings both tell us to rejoice, but life does not always lend itself to rejoicing. How do you find the joy God promises in the midst of life's darker seasons?
- Rest in the last lines of the first reading; know that God rejoices over you and sings joyfully because of you. Is it hard for you to accept such love? What would help you trust in God's delight in you?

(Source: Liturgical Press/www.litpress.org)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good news!!



'Rock' Seniors in Action Christmas Brunch has been rescheduled to Tuesday, Jan 7, after OLPH Devotions. All parishioners 65 or older are invited to attend. We will still have our gift exchange, so bring a gift valued at \$5.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the Usher's table, so please be sure to add your name to it if you intend to participate.



A good time will be had by all!

**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

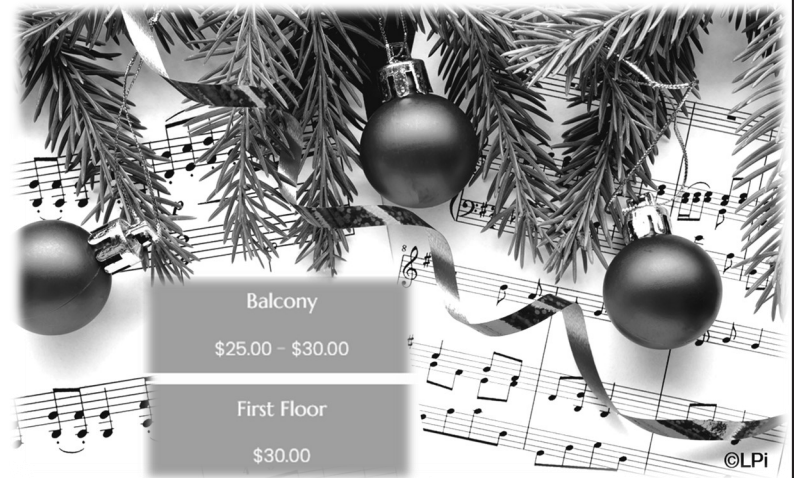
<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Bulletin Publication</u>
December 23 rd	December 29, 2024
December 31 st	January 5, 2024

Denise Thimes' Soulful, Swingin' Holiday



Vocalist Denise Thimes returns to the Jazz St. Louis stage with her soulful take on your favorite holiday classics! Now splitting time between St. Louis and Chicago, Thimes is a favorite of audiences wherever she goes. Don't miss her soulful take on your favorite holiday classics!

Dec 18, 2024 7:30PM



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 63106

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...

We may take time every day to show our gratitude to God, who is the ultimate giver of all gifts.


“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.”
(PHILIPPIANS 4:6)

St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God – The ultimate gift giver. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember that we are created in God’s image and likeness. We, too, are also made to be generous with all of our gifts. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to share ourselves and our goods gratefully and generously with others.

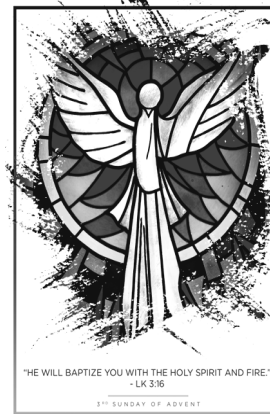
Missionary Discipleship – Gaudete Sunday

Rejoice! On Gaudete Sunday, we remember the joy coming soon to the world: Jesus Christ. Where do we find our joy in life? If we seek it in anything but Christ, we are missing out because true joy comes from knowing that God loves us and has come to save us from sin and death. As John the Baptist preached, true joy comes by way of repentance. Our desire for holiness and pursuit of genuine freedom from sin and death inspire us to renounce evil and to open a place for Christ to enter our hearts, minds, and souls. When we are open to experiencing the grace of Christ, we can receive mercy, forgiveness, healing, consolation, peace, and joy.

(CCC 523-524, 719-720)



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!



Through the intercession of St. John the Baptist, help us to remember the east fortunate, and how caring for them shares in the caring of the beloved Christ-child. Bring Your generosity into our community.

Amen

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.

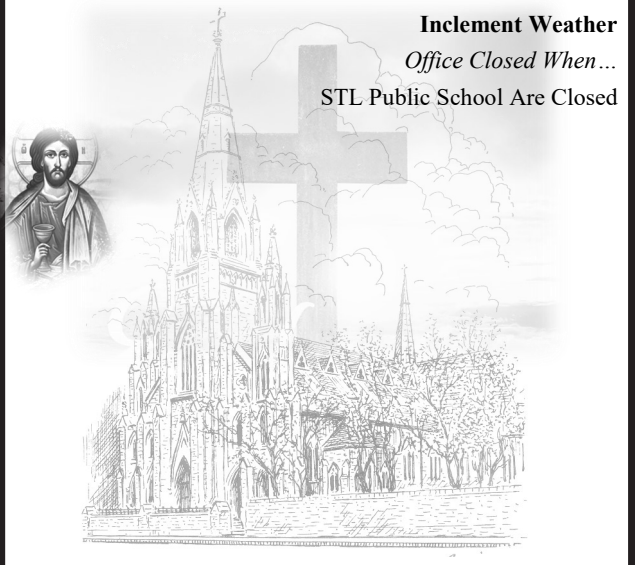
- OUR Year End GOAL is to raise \$180,000 to help 3,000 families with the following programs:
- Christmas \$50 food gift card or \$50 clothing certificate

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
Theodore Branch	Richard Buckley	David Martin
Audrey Ellermann	Gregory Hood	Jessica Pou
Teresa Hudson	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.