

# *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:**

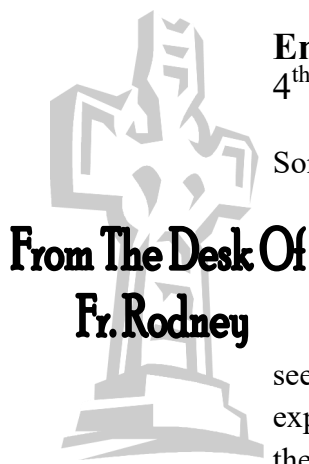
### **TUESDAY:**

**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**

## Embracing the Promise of God 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Something has started to happen. All of creation is revealing this happening to all who make the time to hear, see, and react. We ask ourselves, “to hear what,” “to see what,” and “react to what.” This is the time, the moment, to hear the sound of peace. You and I want to see the messiah, “the Prince of Peace.” We react to the experience that Jesus is filling our hearts with Joy. He is the promised peace for our lives.

God is keeping his promise to us, so we must purify ourselves and be ready to receive this amazing gift. When training young leaders, I recall, “Never make a promise you cannot keep.” “Once a promise is made, you are honor bound to keep and fulfill that promise.” Once again, the barren deserts of our lives become lush green fields of life-giving joy. The prophet Micah tells us that we will enjoy the blessing of Peace. Our messiah comes to restore justice and peace.

A hymn of thanksgiving needs to begin, because we are coming to the realization the true, heavenly reality will replace the earthly view of reality. God calls us to obedience and sacrifice, which Jesus shows us. He shows us that from our obedience, our sacrificial offering will emerge. The promise of the good things to come brings one radical change, the promise is actually here. We are the recipients of the Promise of Christ. Now that we are renewing ourselves and following Christ, we can never go back to the old ways. Mary shows us the reality of this radical change.

The visitation of Mary to Elizabeth is a recognition of the fulfillment of the prophecy. The Baptist in his mother’s womb causes his mother to realize this. Mary is called blessed for the part she is playing in God’s plan of salvation. She brings to God’s plan a deep, committed faith that acknowledges that his plan will be fulfilled. When you and I greet each other, we say, “I am blessed,” so then we know and experience what Mary is saying. We join Mary in declaring the greatness of God and what He has done. The coming of Jesus marks the beginning of a radically new era. Let’s go and join Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Parish Administrator

### WEEKLY READINGS...

#### *Sunday:*

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

#### *Monday:*

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab  
8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

#### *Tuesday:*

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16  
Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29  
Lk 1:67-79

#### *Wednesday:*

*Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17,  
27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/  
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

*Day:* Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6  
Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)  
Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

#### *Thursday:*

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4  
6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17  
Mt 10:17-22

#### *Friday:*

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/  
Jn 20:1a, 2-8

#### *Saturday:*

1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5  
7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

#### *Sunday:*

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3  
5-6, 9-10 (see 5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2  
21-24/Lk 2:41-52

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

#### *Sunday:*

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

#### *Monday:*

St. John of Kanty, Priest

#### *Tuesday:*

Christmas Eve

#### *Wednesday:*

The Nativity of the Lord

#### *Thursday:*

St. Stephen, First Martyr

#### *Friday:*

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

#### *Saturday:*

The Holy Innocents, martyrs

#### *Sunday:*

The Holy Family



# REMEMBER in your prayers

## 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

## INTENTIONS 12/17/24

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 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

## SICKNESS 12/17/24

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](mailto:scooneysmith@stalphonsusrock.org).*

## LITURGY NOTES

### *Blessed Are You Who Believed*

Scripture intimates that Mary's travel preparations were incredibly brief. After her *fiat*, she sets out "in haste," traveling eighty miles to rejoice with her cousin Elizabeth. Mary is not making this trip to verify the words of the angel; rather, she is drawn to Judah out of a desire to celebrate the incredible ways in which God is manifesting his glory. She believes that what was spoken to her by the Lord will be fulfilled. The vocation of Mary is undoubtedly unique and brings with it an immense responsibility, but there must have been some comfort in her sharing with Elizabeth, considering their familial bond and their mutual surprise and joy at the ways God chose to bless them.



In the midst of questions, confusion, surprise, or anxiety, Mary has an ability to re-orient and focus on the Lord's call, trusting every time that somehow, some way, he will be faithful to her. She seeks to understand, but she is not paralyzed with fear. At the moment of Jesus's conception, during Jesus's public ministry, at the foot of the cross, and in the upper room with the apostles at the descent of the Holy Spirit, she is consistently found with an unwavering hope and trust in the Lord.

In this final week of preparation during our annual retreat of Advent, we take stock of our own receptivity to God's unfolding plan. As Christ comes to meet us, what is it we hope to bring forward on our journey? What must we leave behind? Can we trust that Divine Providence is at work in our lives, even when our own plans do not materialize? Through Mary, God proves his tender love for us and his faithfulness. In turn, Mary foreshadows the special grace in store for all those who are receptive to God.

#### PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

- How has this Advent season been for you? Do you feel prepared for Christ's coming at Christmas? How could you still prepare in these last few days of the season?
- Elizabeth recognizes something holy in what she could have experienced as ordinary fetal movement. Where have you found God in the everyday experiences of your life?
- How could you cultivate greater awareness of God's promised presence in the midst of your ordinary realities?

*(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 <sup>rd</sup>	December 29, 2024
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	January 5, 2024



**Parish Office Closure ...**

**Dec. 24th—Jan. 2nd**



The excellent programming of **Covenant Network** Catholic radio will keep you focused on the things that matter for eternity, your spiritual life. Pray the Holy Mass, the Rosary, the Angelus and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, each of which is broadcast daily. Many inspirational and educational programs will lift your heart throughout the day.

Tune in to WRYT 1080 AM or 92.7 FM or listen anytime on the Covenant Network app or at [OurCatholicRadio.org](http://OurCatholicRadio.org)



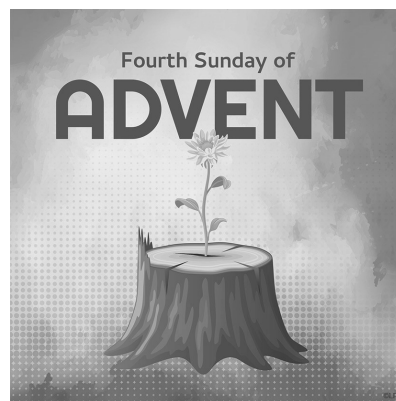
**Winter Jam in St. Louis  
Saturday, January 18th!**

**Enterprise Center  
1401 Clark Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63103**

We're looking for World Vision Volunteers to join us for this exciting event. Volunteering comes with some fantastic perks, like free access to the show while helping out! We'd love for you to be part of this opportunity! Anyone aged 14-17 can volunteer alongside adults, making it a great chance for youth groups, young adult groups, and anyone looking to give back to the community.

We need lots of volunteers, so feel free to spread the word! Volunteers will walk through the aisles during intermission and after the show, distributing Child Sponsorship packets to those interested in sponsoring a child Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. Contact Laura Balmer at (205) 719-7452.

You can get registered at:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/winter-jam-world-vision-volunteers-st-louis-mo-tickets-1102556519229?aff=laurie>



Dear Jesus,  
The news of your coming  
was met with boundless  
joy – fill us anew with the  
wonder of your presence.  
You are Emmanuel, God  
with us.  
Amen.



**HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.**

**General Fund Actual Contributions Received**

DECEMBER	01 <sup>st</sup>	08 <sup>th</sup>
Envelopes	\$ 4,460.00	\$10,207.00
Electronic Offering	\$ 2,673.00	\$ 1,273.00
Loose Offering	\$ 96.00	\$ 183.00
Total Offering	\$ 7,229.00	\$11,663.00
Weekly Target Amount	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00
Under/Over Weekly Target	\$( 5,271.00)	\$ (837.00)

**Stewardship Prayer...**

That we take time to prepare ourselves to celebrate Mass each Sunday properly.

“For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy.”

LUKE 1:44

When you hear the scripture and Gospel readings at Mass, do you “leap for joy?” If not, don’t blame the lecturer or priest; rather, look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Do you show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called active participants, not just passive observers.

**Missionary Discipleship – Fourth Sunday of Advent-Surrender to God**

*Ecce ancilla Domini. Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.* “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). This is one of the most beautiful lines in Scripture. It conveys to us the total surrender and power of obedience to God’s will. Because of Mary’s *fiat*, the Savior entered the world to save us from our sins and to bring us back to God.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us do so in the spirit of joy, welcoming the humble Christ-child into our hearts once more and asking Him to conform our hearts to His most sacred heart. In this joyful time, let us show love, kindness, and mercy to our loved ones who have fallen away and never lose hope in their return home. The angel Gabriel tells us, “For nothing will be impossible for God” (Luke 1:37). May God bless you and your family this Christmas! Venite adoremus Dominum!



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](http://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](http://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, Mae Peters, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*