

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.

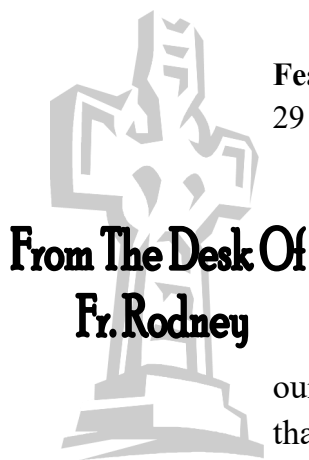
DAILY MASS:

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)





Feast of the Holy Family

29 December 2024

**From The Desk Of
Fr. Rodney**

A blessed and joyful Christmas to everyone. It is that time of the year when we plan to travel and get together with family and relatives. We may also be preparing to receive family and relatives in our homes. This is a time to cherish the bond of love that gives life to a family. I have heard it said, “When everyone comes together, you realize what is

important in life.” Praising God for these precious moments where we experience his love and blessings.

You and I also make time to praise God for our Rock Church Family. Here, we have the opportunity to gather and worship the Lord, fellowship, and break bread together in the Eucharist. As a church family, we empower each other to renew our covenant commitment to God’s plan of salvation for all of us here and now. We nurture a confidence that is found in a true relationship with God and the family of God. True community is found where people love each other as the abiding place of the Spirit of God. We know this confidence because we belong to this Rock Family community in which the Spirit of God dwells. The Rock Community is seen in our belief in Jesus and our practice of fellowship and love.

Belonging to a God centered Family empowers us to remain committed to our sense of mission and purpose in this life we have. In Luke’s gospel (2:41-52) the experience in the Temple witnesses to the meaning of Jesus’ mission. His second visit to the Temple emphasizes the ultimate meaning of his life. Jesus’ journey with his parents points to the family “that hears the word of God and does it.” Our family is the repository for the love for life’s fulfillment, God’s plan of salvation for our lives, and to make sure we know that we belong.

Parish Administrator

WEEKLY READINGS...

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

Monday:

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

Tuesday:

1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13
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/Jn 1:19-28

Friday:

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

Saturday:

1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9
Jn 1:35-42

Sunday:

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11,
12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:

The Holy Family

Tuesday:

St. Sylvester I, Pope
New Year’s Eve

Wednesday:

Mary, The Holy Mother of God,
New Year’s Day, World Day of
Peace

Thursday:

Sts. Basil the Great
and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops
and Doctors of the Church

Friday:

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Saturday:

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

Sunday:

The Epiphany of the Lord



REMEMBER
in your prayers

INTENTIONS 12/17/24

Bell, Gilbert
Blanton, Linda
Brasher, Paula
Burnett, Alfred & Family
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 12/24/24

Barnett, Alfred, Mr&Mrs
Benden, C.SsR, Steve
Carr, Jeff
Diaz, Evie
Dorge Family
Duclerne, Joseph
Duncan, Kara
Eaves, Douglas
Gipson Family
Golden, Sherrill A.
Golden, James L.
Golden, Patricia
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 12/17/24

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, Pearlletta
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 12/24/24

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
Hayes, Regina
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

Of the Fathers Love Begotten



We all make sacrifices for our families and those we care for. Most of our day-to-day sacrifices are likely relatively small in the grand scheme of things and probably go unnoticed. Other sacrifices are perhaps less frequent but more significant. Whatever the case may be, if the recipient of our sacrifice is someone we love, the gesture may seem easier. In fact, we might even find that we *want* to sacrifice for them. Love begets sacrifice, sacrifice of the very things that mean the most to us. Love can even turn a sacrifice from something that was once a burden or a duty into something of gain or value, something that I actually cherish and desire to do, not for my benefit but for the benefit of the other.

For the Holy Family, love consistently begets sacrifice in the form of obedience to the Father. From those early questions brought on by the annunciation to the flight into Egypt, Mary and Joseph cling together in obedience, trusting in God's Providence. The National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC, displays a painting by Rigoberto A Gonzalez entitled *Refugees Crossing the Border Wall into South Texas*, which provides a snapshot of what many families are experiencing today as they desperately seek a life that affords them basic human freedoms, among them the right to flourish with dignity. The Holy Family may have experienced something like this as they fled from Herod in their early days of caring for the child Jesus. Despite the unspeakable fear and uncertainty, they held on to hope and the promise of God's plan for their lives.

Jesus, love incarnate, in the act of ultimate obedience to the Father, will freely offer his life on the cross and will redeem us from death. This is the embodiment of God's love: freely given, selfless, patient, generous. The Holy Family teaches us that obedience to God will keep us united with him. Sacrifices made with a generous spirit transform our hearts and manifest love in a way that mirrors the love of Christ.

PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

- In this week's readings, Jesus and Samuel both show us the importance of sacred space. What places have been meaningful in your walk with God? Where do you find God most clearly present?
- On this feast of the Holy Family, we also recognize that our very homes can be sacred spaces. How do you express your faith in your home? How might you carve out a more intentionally sacred space there?
- How does your family life reveal God to you? How do you struggle to find God present in your family members?

(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)

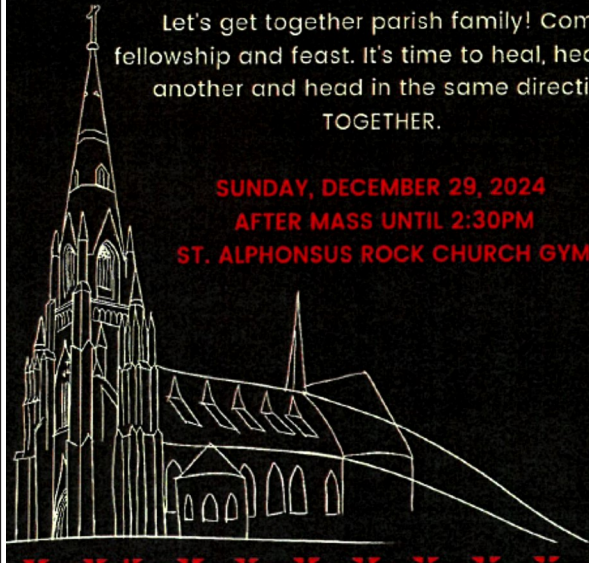
parish130@archstl.org

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

YOU'RE INVITED!

**ROCK FAMILY
KWANZAA KARAMU
& STATE OF THE PARISH
TOWN HALL**

Let's get together parish family! Come fellowship and feast. It's time to heal, hear one another and head in the same direction
TOGETHER.



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024
AFTER MASS UNTIL 2:30PM
ST. ALPHONSUS ROCK CHURCH GYM**



**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>

**Happy
New Year**

**Parish Office
Closed ...
UNTIL—
Jan. 2nd**

**A PRAYERFUL
NEW YEAR'S
RESOLUTION
IDEA:
COMMIT TO
SAYING THE
ROSARY
EVERY DAY.**

General Fund Actual Contributions Received		
DECEMBER	08 th	22 nd
Envelopes	\$10,207.00	\$ 7,086.00
Electronic Offering	\$ 1,273.00	\$ 968.00
Loose Offering	\$ 183.00	\$ 187.00
Total Offering	\$11,663.00	\$ 8,241.00
Weekly Target Amount	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00
Under/Over Weekly Target	\$ (837.00)	\$(4,259.00)

Stewardship Prayer...

That as grateful children of God, we remember to tell family and friends that we love them every day and to pray for those people that may annoy us.

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”

1 JOHN 3:1

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift we have received – being children of God! As God’s children, it is in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members, and friends that you love them daily! Also, pray for those different from you, those you may not like, or those who go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

Missionary Discipleship – 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. We can discern God’s will for us and our families through silence. Studies show that when a 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 calls us to be, the spiritual leaders for our families. The best gift we can give our families is to teach them how to pray.



Dynamic Catholic started with a dream: to help ordinary people discover the genius of Catholicism.

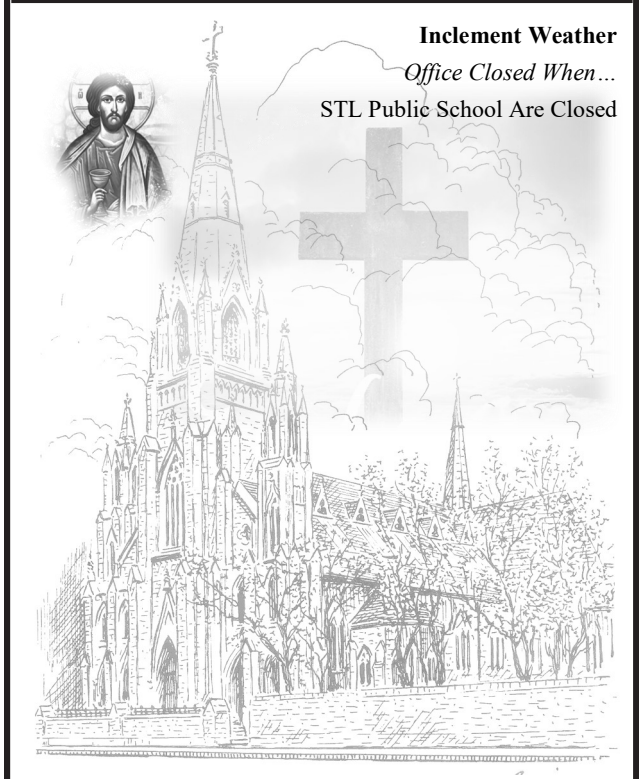
This is an organization where you can go to find many resources for free.

Visit archstl.org/dynamic to view all the resources available to you!



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.

PRAY FOR OUR COMMUNITY



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.

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.