

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

"One Hundred Fifty Years of Standing on the Rock"

PASTORAL STAFF

Sharon Cooney-Smith, Dir. Religious Education
Roberta George, Secretary
Deborah Grant, Clerical Support
Angela Harris, Bulletin Editor

SUPPORT STAFF

Bro. Steve Fruge, Pastoral Staff
Terrance Gipson, Maintenance
Terri Schneider, Dir. Hardin Food Pantry
Athletic Office: 314 533-0304
Teen Ministry: 314 533-0304

MUSIC MINISTRY

Malcolm Speed
Danny duMaine

REDEMPTORISTS IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Tom Donaldson, C.Ss.R.
Rev. Dave Polek, C.Ss.R.
Rev. Peter Schavitz, C.Ss.R.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

(Call for Appointment)

SUNDAY MASSES:

10:00 a.m.

DAILY MASSES:

Monday 5:30 p.m.

(Tu, W, Th & F.) 11:30 a.m.

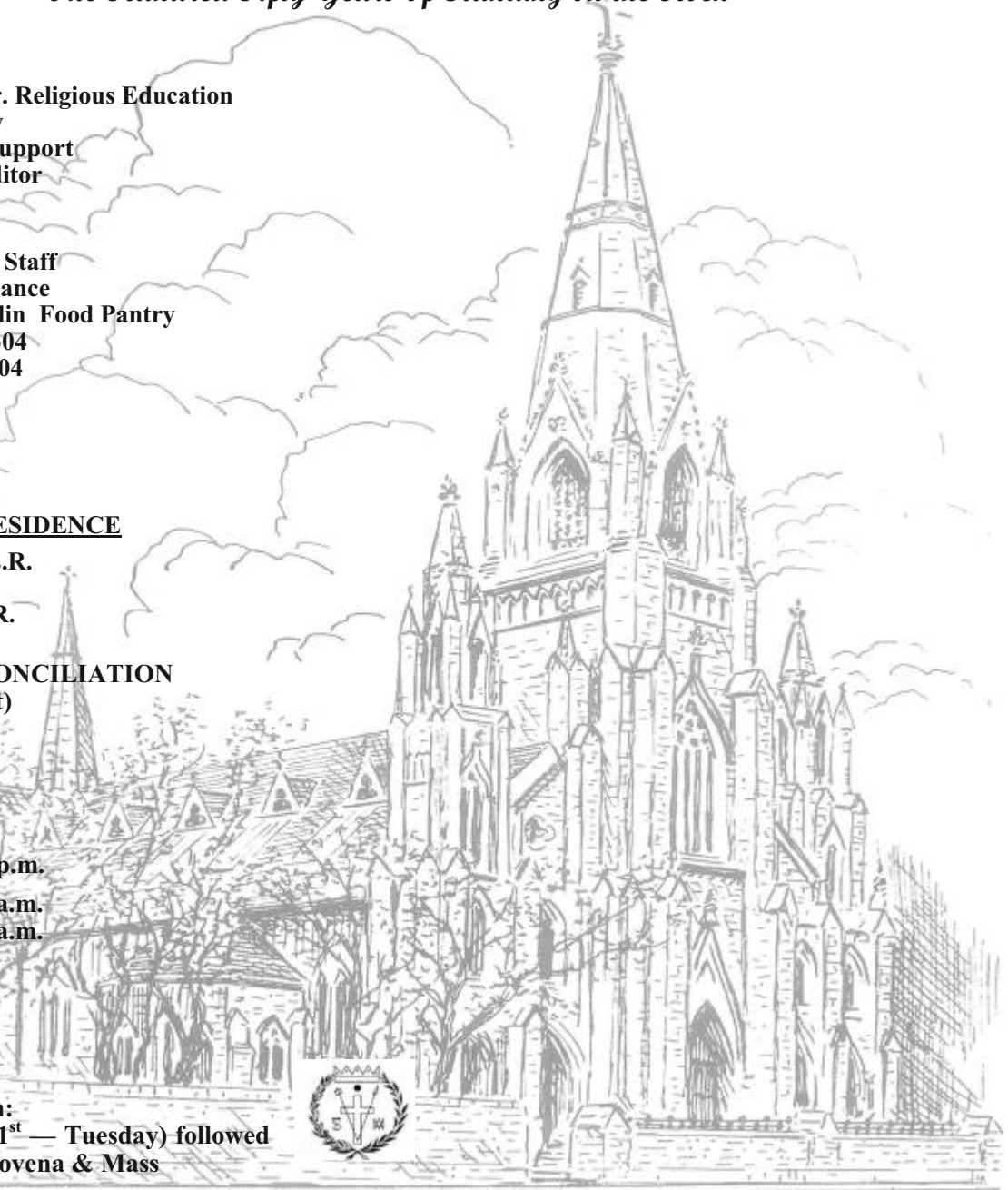
Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.

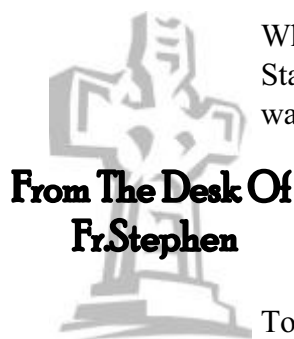
MONDAY:

Eucharistic Adoration
5:00 p.m.—5:30 p.m.

TUESDAYS:

Exposition & Benediction:
10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. (1st — Tuesday) followed
by our Perpetual Help Novena & Mass





**From The Desk Of
Fr. Stephen**

When I was younger, my family used to go to Montauk State Park for a few days in the summer to trout fish. It was always a nice time. In Missouri, there is a season for catching trout. It ran from about March 1st to Oct. 30th. I had gone to opening day a couple of times where there would be people everywhere trying to catch fish. There is nothing like OPENING DAY.

Today we start the Advent Season. The 1st Sunday of Advent is like opening day of fishing or baseball. It is the 1st Sunday of the church calendar year. It is the very beginning of anticipation for the coming of Jesus once again as a babe. It is a season where we can once again open ourselves to the ongoing legacy that Jesus has left us with his life. The Advent season is a time of preparation, a being ready to experience once again God's goodness and love in taking on human flesh by becoming one of us. What a beautiful thing to remember, i.e., how much God loves each and every one of us.

I was reading a quote recently from a saint I had never heard of before. Her name is St. Gianna Molla. She was a woman who lived in Italy from 1922-1962 and was canonized by St. John Paul II in 2004. She was a woman and medical doctor who had become pregnant with her 4th child. When she was pregnant, she developed a malignant tumor in her uterus. The doctors gave her a choice of abortion that would save her life or cut out the tumor, which would save her child's life and ultimately kill her. St. Gianna chose to cut out the tumor, choosing life for her child rather than for herself. The quote that I read from her life was this. "Let us entrust the past to God's Mercy and the future to God's Providence. Our task is to live HOLY the present moment." I like that quote a lot. Right now, many of us are afraid of all that is going on around us. Racial injustice continues to raise its ugly head, and the COVID pandemic is not going away. We may wonder where our country is headed and if God is really out there. St. Gianna's quote hopefully can put us at ease. Do you believe God is all good? Do you believe God is all loving? Do you believe God created you so that you might enjoy the beauty of Heaven with Him for all eternity? If so, let us put away all fear and worry. Let God's Mercy take care of the past, and let God's Providence carry us into the future. We have nothing to fear. God is with us. The only thing we have is the present. Every day God gives us a certain amount of time to do good rather than evil. As Christians, we firmly believe, even during the pandemic, God is guiding us. Our goal is to live so much in the present that nothing else matters. It only matters here and now that God is present, and so no matter how long the virus remains, let it try and do its thing. It can never conquer us because we are so rooted in God it doesn't have a chance. Only God and his people last forever; the virus is an afterthought. Be at peace.

Weekly Readings...

Sunday:

Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9 Mk 13:33-37

Monday:

Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday:

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday:

Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday:

Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a] Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday:

Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday:

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d] Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday:

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:

1st Sunday of Advent



Monday:

St. Andrew, Apostle

Thursday:

St. Francis Xavier, Priest

Sunday:

2nd Sunday of Advent



NOTE: Names will remain listed for 2 weeks

REMEMBER
in your prayers

INTENTIONS 11/17/20

Bowens, Patricia
Burke, Terry Bro.
Corbett, Dan
Dyle, Ayrielle
George, Darrion
Grove, Nancy
Haine, Wm (Bill)
Hearns, Zeyean
Hinton, Maryann
Jackson, Tamica
LeSuer, JaVaughn
Logan, Carlita
Middleton, Mary
Perry, Kameron
Polek, David Fr.
Reedy, Judy
Reedy, Sid
Samuels, Nancy
Serio, Coman
Stewart, Michael
Voss, Greg

Miller, Roy
Moore, Joyce
Klein, Mary
Luster, Juanita
Mozee, Sylvester
Parran, Rodrick
Reedy, Christian
Richards, Dave
Stamps, Arlecia
Valle, Jr., Robert (Bobby)
Watkins, Darnell (Chef D)
Whitfield, Edna (Mother)

SICKNESS 11/24/20

Anders, Douglas
Atherton, Vertibe
Baby Pruitt
Burton, Talana
Caprese, Brittany
Chapman, Bonnie
Coffman, Michael
Coffman, Cherina
Coffman, Zoe
Cooney, Sheonna
Gregory, Georgette
Hart, Edgar
Hatchett, Sylvia
Howard, Yvonne
Latham, Jean
Moore, Brenda
Oldani, Shirley
Remsburg, Cory Sgt.
Schnelle, Laverne
Smith, Melba
Strong, Betty
Thompson, Mary Ann
Weaver, Stephen
Vet, Alphonso
Vinson, Kelly
Vinson, Tyler

INTENTIONS 11/24/20

Cooney, Sylvia
Doss, Anthony & Vicki
George, Roberta
Smith, Paulette
White, Evan

SICKNESS 11/17/20

Bell, Gilbert
Collins, Tamika
Collins, Tony
Dye, Margaret
George, Betty
Green, Alonzo
Guest, Lois
Lubinski, Tiffany
Massingale, Bryan Fr.

SHUT-IN'S

Atherton, Andrew
Bohannon, Ida
Brack, Dorothy
Clay, Irving
McCoy, Bernice
McCoy, Carolyn
Peters, Mae
Thomas, Bernice
Turner, Hortense



Pray for the Deceased



Pray for the repose of the soul of †Glenn Miller, husband of Deborah Miller.

*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*

Mass Cancellation Notice

These past months the COVID virus has taken quite a toll on the nation and we have certainly seen our share of cases here in St. Louis.

It is the recommendation of the Parish Council that because of the virus and its serious nature, that we stop all public masses.

Starting on Sunday November 29th the masses offered at the Rock will be **VIRTUAL ONLY** until further notice.

There will be **no public weekday masses and no virtual weekday masses.**”

In March 2020, Archbishop Carlson issued a dispensation for the faithful regarding their obligation to attend Sunday Mass. This dispensation is still in effect in light of the recent spike in COVID-19 cases.

The dispensation for public Mass attendance includes Sunday obligations and Holy Days of Obligation.

For the foreseeable future, this includes:

- ⇒ Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th
- ⇒ Christmas Day, December 25th
- ⇒ Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on January 1, 2021

LITURGY NOTES...

The Black Catholic Movement



On April 16, 1968, just two weeks after Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, TN, Father Herman Porter, a black priest from Rockford, Illinois, convened the first meeting of the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus in Detroit. Fifty-eight black priests gathered with at least one Brother and woman religious to draft the statement that inaugurated a national Black Catholic Movement. Its provocative opening words were: “The Catholic Church in the United States, primarily a white racist institution, has addressed itself primarily to white society and is definitely a part of that society.”

The priests accused the U.S. Church of complicity with white supremacy; they demanded that black people be given control of the Catholic institutions in black communities; and, perhaps most surprising of all, they insisted that “the same principles on which we justify legitimate self-defense and just warfare must be applied to violence when it represents black response to white violence.”

Later that same year, Sister Martin de Porres Grey organized the National Black Sisters’ Conference, challenging black sisters to involve themselves in the liberation of black people. The sisters’ statement was no less radical than that of the priests. They denounced the “racism found in our society and within our Church,” declaring it “to be categorically evil and inimical to the freedom of all men everywhere, and particularly destructive of Black people in America.” The sisters pledged themselves “to work unceasingly for the liberation of black people” by promoting “a positive self-image among [black folk]” and stimulating “community action aimed at the achievement of social, political, and economic black power.” The National Convention of Black Lay Catholics, organized in 1969, soon followed suit and, by 1970, these allied organizations had exerted enough pressure on the national body of U.S. Catholic bishops to win official approval for a National Office for Black Catholics based in Washington, D.C.

The Black Catholic Movement was many things all at once. It was a series of political struggles for self-determination in the institutional Church, fought in the circumstances of specific communities. The Black Catholic Movement also inspired unprecedented liturgical innovation as musicians, theologians, and local congregations integrated African American and Afro-Diasporic religious practices into Catholic worship. The movement made intense intellectual contributions, as a generation of black Catholic activist-scholars challenged the unspoken but ever-present assumption that white ways of being Catholic were the right ways to be Catholic.

The Black Catholic Movement culminated in 1984 when the 10 black bishops of the United States declared that the black Catholic community in the United States had “come of age.” After more than a decade of activism, scholarship, and struggle, it was finally possible for black Catholics to be, in their words, both “authentically Black” and “truly Catholic.”

*Excerpted from an article By Matthew J. Cressler, [Zócalo Public Square](#)
SMITHSONIANMAG.COM*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WATCHFUL



“Be watchful! Be Alert!
You do not know when
the time will come”

Matthew 13:13

**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

Deadline Bulletin Publication

Dec. 7th Dec. 13th issue

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ROSARY PRAYER

Join us every Tuesday/Thursday
at 11 a.m. as we seek

Our Holy Mother's
intercession in prayer

DIAL-IN NUMBER
978-990-5000

ACCESS CODE 544322#

Parish Office Closure...

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

In observance of the Solemnity of the
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed
Virgin Mary



Please call the office to arrange
a time to pick-up your loved
ones' photos from the Ladders
of Remembrance.

The office is open Monday
through Saturday from 9 am until
12 noon.

One of our family members needs
some loving encouragement! Fr Dave, as
he always does, worked tirelessly to help
raise money for our Fall Festival/Card
Party. This year alone, he raised more
than \$10,000!

Fr Dave had a serious fall and is in
rehab. Let's all show Fr Dave some love
by sending him a Get Well cards at:

Ascension Living Sherbrooke Village
4005 Ripa Ave
St Louis, MO 63125

A while ago, Get Well cards were at the
Usher's table to sign for Bro. Terry.

In case you missed that opportunity,
here is his information:

Bro. Terry Burke
St Andrews at Francis Place
300 Forby Rd
Eureka, MO 63025

PARISH EVENTS

**NOVENA PRAYER
TO OUR MOTHER OF
PERPETUAL HELP**

ADAPTED TO BE PRAYED IN
RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19
SITUATION



Mother of Perpetual Help, with
the greatest confidence we come
before your holy picture to
beseech your intercession.

We think of you, Mother, at the
foot of the Cross. Your heart
must have bled to see your Son
in agony. But your joy was great
when He rose from the dead,
victorious over the powers of
evil.

Mother of Sorrows, pray for us
in this time of trial. Help us not
to lose heart. Intercede for your
people who are afflicted with
Coronavirus.

Comfort your people who are
vulnerable and anxious. Protect
healthcare workers who put their
lives at risk. Inspire our leaders
to make good decisions. Change
our hearts so that we may act
responsibly.

Teach us to trust in God's love
and mercy and to share with you
the joy of having courageously
faced up to all the challenges of
Life. Amen.

Financial Corner...

General Fund Actual Contributions Received		
NOVEMBER	15 th	
Envelopes	\$ 6,227.00	\$
Loose Donations	\$ 975.00	\$
Total Contributions	\$ 7,212.00	\$
Weekly Target Amount	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Under/Over Weekly Target	\$(4,788.00)	\$

Stewardship Prayer...

That we don't take our time on Earth for granted and look at each day as a gift from God.

"Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come."

Mark 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our time, our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! --The Gift of the Present

Our Lord once again reminds us of the necessity of being alert and watchful and serving Him even when He seems to be absent. We all experience those times of dryness and desolation in life. We experience the ups and downs, the joys and sorrows, the victories and defeats. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta wisely taught us that God does not ask us to be successful but just to be faithful to God. When we are grateful for the present moment and the gift here and now that the Lord has given us, our whole outlook on life can change. We can encounter the Lord anew in different places and in different ways. It is not always easy, but we must live in the present moment and cherish the gift of life that is before us. "Would that you might meet us doing right, that we might be mindful of you in our ways!" (Isaiah 64:4).

archstl.org/dynamic



**ROCK Church
Winners Circle Club**

New Season

October 2020—September 2021

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Stephanie Brown | Donald and Joyce Jones |
| Virginia Brown | Mary Ellen Judge |
| Cheryl Carr | Mark and Linda Kamp |
| Ann-Marie Clark | Steve and Helene LaBerta |
| Esther Darris | Pamela Leong |
| Janice Englander | Brenda McDonnell |
| Kurt Englander | Karen and Sylvester Mozee |
| Paul Foster | Barbara Jean Nashville |
| Shirley Foster | Leo & Linda Peoples |
| Richard Gaines | Ben and Denise Phillips |
| Carl Harris | Eugene Wallace |
| Kalyn Harris | Janis Weaver-McSpadden |
| Monica Huddleston | Sheila Williams |
| Deborah Jones | Jocelyn Woodson-Reed |

**PRAY FOR OUR
COMMUNITY**



*Lord Make Us
Turn To You*

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PRAYER MEMORIALS

Tillie Mae Alexander, Larry Ambus, Hortense Anderson, Elizabeth Henckler Aton, Anita Louise Banks
 Lillian Barnes, Jean Irene Becker, Herron Beckley, Mother Dorothy Granberry Bennett,
 Deacon Morris E. Bohannon, Willie Steve Bowens, Dorothy Brady, Theodore Branch, Jr.
 Irma King Brown, James Buford, Kenita Bush Anna Chopin, Betty Jean Colbert, Charmaine Davenport
 Walterene Dougherty, Roger Downs, Sr., Sr. Antona Ebo, FSM, Jerome Fields, Ossie R. Foster
 Queen E. Dunlap Fowler, Craig Franklin, Willie Goss, Ann Marie Hatchett, Rosalind Hood
 Cherry Ophelia Jackson, Mark Jones, Nadine Jones, Mother Ruth Jones, Stephen LaBerta
 Rosemary Lee, Eldwyn Lewis, Anice Mahone, Barbara McCaleb, Leon Zack McClendon
 Eric L. McKinnie, Louis T. McKinnie, Marshall Mosley, Anne Ortwerth, Lucille Palmer
 Kathy Lin Cheers Parran, Alton Pritchard, Drene Sanders, Eugene Sanders, Christine Slaughter
 Irma Steen, Lorraine Fite Stewart, Susan Colbert Threats, Ralph Tyler, Robert Joseph Valle
 Ralph Watkins Jr., Juanita West, Marlene Williams, Richard Williams, Vernie Woolfork, Clarence Zacher

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Sharon Cooney-Smith, DRE
 314-533-0304 ext. 1001

RCIA/RCIC
 Children's Liturgy of the Word
 Baptism
 First Reconciliation
 First Communion
 Confirmation
 Matrimony

COMMISSIONS & CHAIRS

Christian Formation	Jean Anthony
Christian Service	TBD
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) 531-1040
 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
 HIV/AIDS: 314 531-0304 Ext. 1502

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Kurt Englander President	Angela Thames Vice President	Linda Kamp Secretary
Linda Brown Reed	Ben Phillips	
Wanda Caldwell	Travis Threats	
Joy Camp	Eric Thurman	
Mike Coffman	Kevin Triggs	
Rhonda Graham		

ATTENTION

If your telephone number, home address or email address has changed, please contact the office at 533-0304 or email parish130@archstl.org. You may also put your updated information in the locked multipurpose box located on the north-side entrance ushers' table.

Bulletin announcements must be in the office 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.

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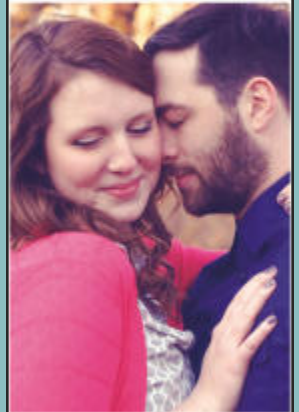
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Carolyn Jones – President/CEO

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