

# *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](http://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.

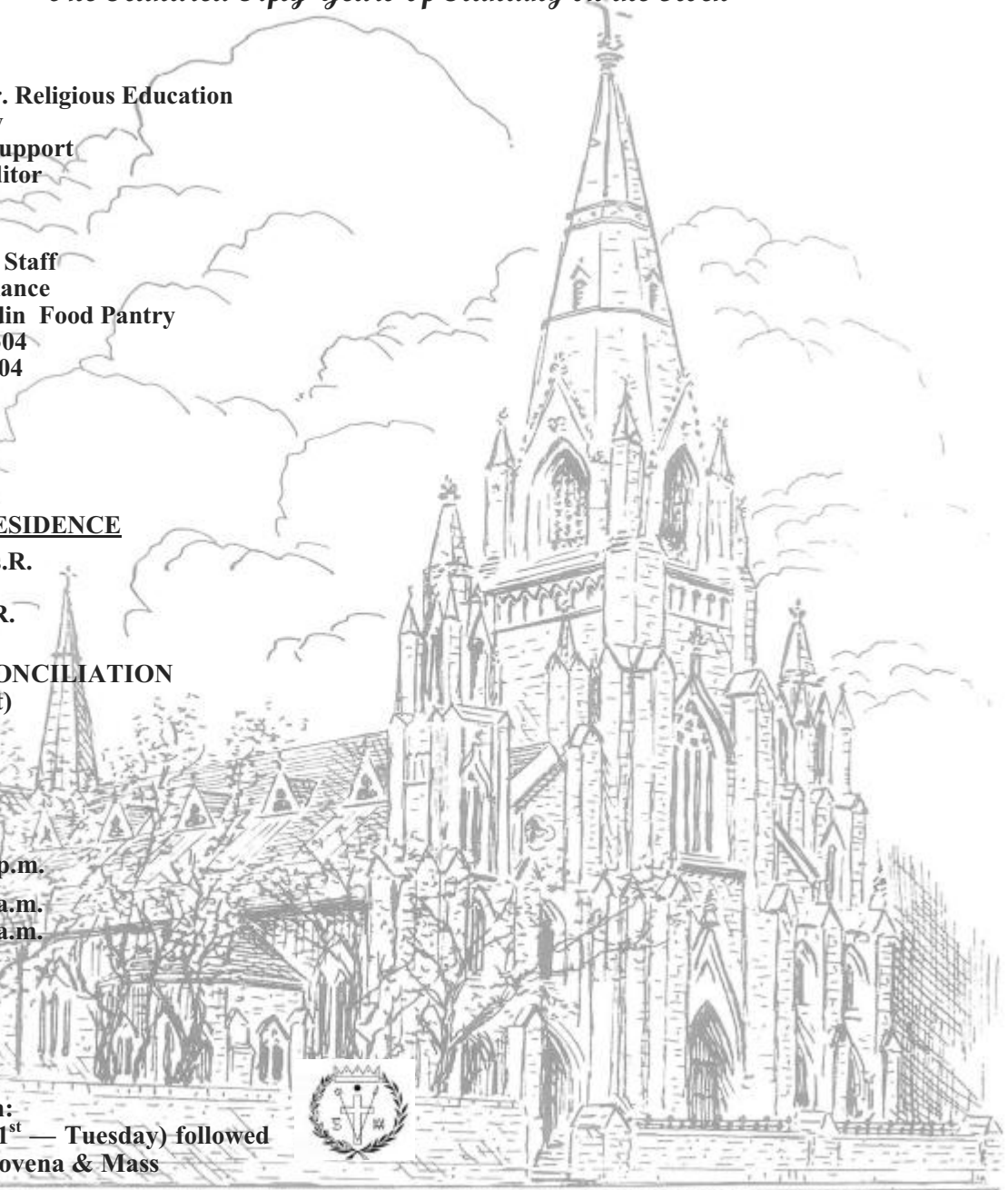
Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.

### MONDAY:

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

### TUESDAYS:

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





## From The Desk Of Fr. Stephen

When I lived at our Redemptorist retreat house in Wisconsin, I lived in the country. It was about 25 miles from Milwaukee, in the country far away from the city lights - the moon and the stars were bright in the sky at night. There would be times when the moon was so full that you could walk safely and see just where you were going. It was amazing. The next morning the moon would still be out as the sun began to rise. You could tell, as the sun got brighter, the moon got dimmer. It took place right before your eyes. As bright as the moon was the night before, the moon was just a reflection of the light of the sun. Maybe we can't appreciate the difference until we see it up close and first hand.

John the Baptist is like that moon in the sky. He was a bright light, but he himself knew he was not the source of the light. He had come to Prepare the Way. He had come into a world of sin and darkness, and the people were moved. They came out to see him thinking he might be the Messiah, but his answer was "one mightier than I is coming; one whose sandals I am not fit to untie." As bright as John might have been, when Jesus comes upon the scene, John is like the moon next to the sun. John, a reflection of the Lord, the Son of God, was not the source of the light itself. Jesus is the infinitely brighter light in the dark sky.

Fr. Doug Fater, a priest who lives in San Antonio, who is a former Redemptorist, writes this month in the Liguorian magazine about four actions we can take in Advent to prepare the Way of the Lord in our hearts. These are some very practical suggestions I pass along to you for purifying ourselves for the Babe's coming.

- Take time to repair and restore peace in a broken relationship (Mt. 11:28-30)
- Act with empathy. Look for opportunities to support family and friends. (Philippians, 4:4-7).
- Assess your inner self, consider your faults and failings. Reflect on feelings of anger, bitterness, and jealousy. Ask Our Lord to put these things aside. (Philippians, 2:5-11).
- Strive to maintain an attitude of gratitude, thanking God for His blessings both big and small. (Isaiah, 55:6-11).

Hopefully we can try and put some of these things into our lives. These are ways we can truly open our hearts and minds to Jesus, especially now as so many are hurting. God's blessings on you.

## Weekly Readings...

### *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

### *Monday:*

Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

### *Tuesday:*

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

### *Wednesday:*

Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30

### *Thursday:*

Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15

### *Friday:*

Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19

### *Saturday:*

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d] Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

### *Sunday:*

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

### *Sunday:*

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

### *Monday:*

St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

### *Tuesday:*

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

### *Wednesday:*

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

### *Friday:*

St. Damasus I, Pope

### *Saturday:*

Our Lady of Guadalupe

### *Sunday:*

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**NOTE: Names will remain listed for 2 weeks**

**INTENTIONS 11/24/20**

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

**INTENTIONS 12/01/20**

Bowens, Patricia  
Burke, Terry Bro.  
Corbett, Dan  
Day, Jackie  
Darden, Priscilla  
Downs, Gwendolyn  
Dyle, Ayrielle  
George, Darrion  
Grove, Nancy  
Haine, Wm (Bill)  
Hearns, Zeysean  
Hinton, Maryann  
Jackson, Tamica  
LeSuer, JaVaughn  
Logan, Carlita  
Middleton, Mary  
Parram, Monica  
Perry, Kameron  
Polek, David Fr.  
Reedy, Judy  
Reedy, Sid  
Samuels, Nancy  
Serio, Coman  
Stewart, Michael  
Sullivan, Betty  
Voss, Greg

**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  
Remsberg, Cory Sgt.  
Schnelle, Laverne  
Smith, Melba  
Strong, Betty  
Thompson, Mary Ann  
Weaver, Stephen  
Vet, Alphonso  
Vinson, Kelly  
Vinson, Tyler

**SICKNESS 12/01/20**

Bell, Gilbert  
Brown, Henrene  
Brown, Joyce  
Collins, Tamika  
Collins, Tony  
Dye, Margaret  
Fite, Maudelle  
George, Betty  
Green, Alonzo  
Guest, Lois  
Harris, Ashley  
Lubinski, Tiffany  
Massingale, Bryan Fr.  
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)

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 †Garvin Anderson, father of Leshia Anderson

*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 29<sup>th</sup> 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...

### Liturgy Notes – Immaculate Conception

*“O Mary, conceived without sin,  
pray for us who have recourse to you”*



On Tuesday, **December 8<sup>th</sup>**, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

An essential part of God’s plan for the mother of his Son was that she be conceived free from Original Sin. “Through the centuries, the Church became ever more aware that Mary, ‘full of grace’ through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception.”

In anticipation that she was to bear the Son of God, Mary was preserved from the time of her conception from Original Sin.

We call this the Immaculate Conception. No sin would touch her so that she would be a fitting and worthy vessel of the Son of God. The Immaculate Conception does not refer to the virginal conception and birth of Christ, but rather to Mary’s being conceived without inheriting Original Sin.

In the course of time, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception became more precisely enunciated, as its truth—long supported by the universal popular devotion of the faithful—was better understood by deepening theological inquiry.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed this dogma infallibly: that is, in his role as the supreme teacher of the Church, he declared that this doctrine is divinely revealed and must be accepted with faith by the entire Church.

#### **Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, we fly unto you, O Virgin of Virgins, our Mother. To you, we come. Before you, we kneel, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your clemency, hear and answer them. Amen.

—St. Bernard of Clairvaux

*This article was an excerpt from the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults  
(Washington, DC: USCCB, 2006) 141–143, 149.*


**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**T**eaching true ruth

The Rock's Peace and Justice Commission is hosting a fundraiser for their recent education project, Teaching True Ruth. The cost of this fundraiser, the Commission is selling T-shirts. Please visit a sample T-shirt below. The website has a variety of styles and colors.

To order, please visit <https://staliphonusrockchurch.itemorder.com/safe>

There is a flat shipping rate per order. Save on shipping by ordering with friends and family! Shipping will take approximately two weeks after you place the order. If you want to receive your order by Christmas, you will need to place your order by December 6, 2020.



The shirt is a commemoration of a story that began on the continent of Africa in 1482. Africans were taken from their homeland and to colonies in Jamestown, Virginia, and enslaved. This was the beginning of the true African American story. The story continues to unfold.

This shirt includes the Pius African colors.

- Most measurements should allow for movement
- Made in America of 100% cotton
- Colors in accordance with the growth and natural beauty of Africa

**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. 7<sup>th</sup>

Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> issue

Available for purchase: already shelled:

**ONE pound bags of :**

Almonds, Black Walnuts, Cashews, Pecans or Walnuts

The cost is \$11. Please call me at 314 382-4282 in advance.

I appreciate your patronage & stay safe!

*Shirley Foster*

**From Amazon.com...**

AmazonSmile donates a percentage of their proceeds at no additional cost to you or our church. This month we received \$44.07.

Donations can increase for our church if supporters like you go to Smile.Amazon.com to do their holiday Amazon shopping

**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#**



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.



Musicians, church staff, ushers and anyone who helped to make Glenn's Funeral Mass a great home going for his family—

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!

God Bless, Deborah Miller, Cory Miller and Chris Miller

**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

**FORGIVENESS**

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Mark 1:4

**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	22 <sup>nd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>
Envelopes	\$ 4,171.00	\$ 6,008.00
Loose Donations	\$ 404.00	\$ 423.00
Total Contributions	\$ 4,575.00	\$ 6,431.00
Weekly Target Amount	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Under/Over Weekly Target	\$(7,425.00)	\$(5,569.00)

**Stewardship Prayer...**

That we are called to live holy lives and invite others to do the same.

*“Prepare the way of the Lord...”*

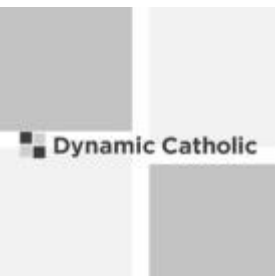
Mark 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well.

**Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Baptism**

We should be grateful that we have been baptized and claimed for Christ. The Holy Spirit has come into our hearts, and Christ has washed away the stain of original sin. As a result, we are able to enter into heaven and attain union with God in eternal beatitude (CCC 1213-1216). The work is not done, though. We still suffer from concupiscence, our natural inclination to sin, and must face trials and temptations in our spiritual journey of life. Fortunately, the Holy Spirit guides us to repent and to turn away from our sins. He enables us to accept our adoption as sons and daughters of God who walk in the light of Christ. What is holding you back from fully embracing your status as a child of God? How can you more fully repent and experience the grace of God working in your life?

[archstl.org/dynamic](http://archstl.org/dynamic)



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!



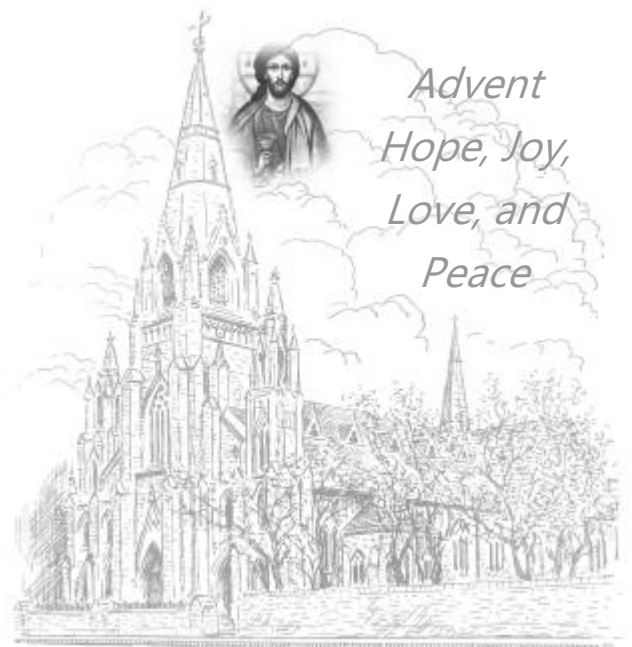
**ROCK Church  
Winners Circle Club**

New Season

October 2020—September 2021

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

**PRAY FOR OUR  
COMMUNITY**



## OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PRAYER MEMORIALS

Garvin Anderson, 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, Glenn Miller, 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](mailto: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](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.*

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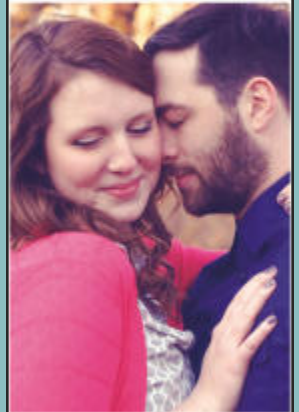
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