

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.

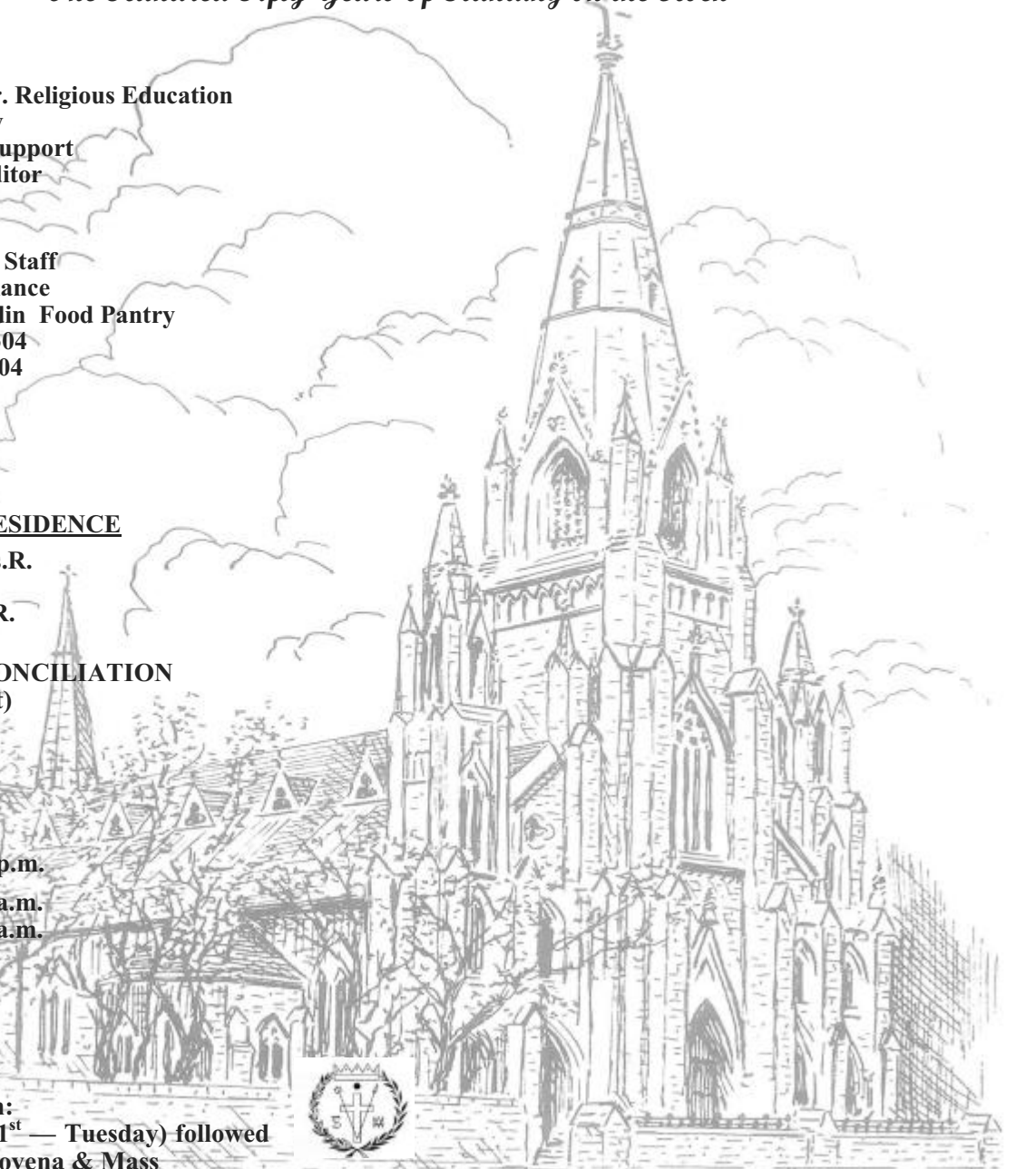
Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.

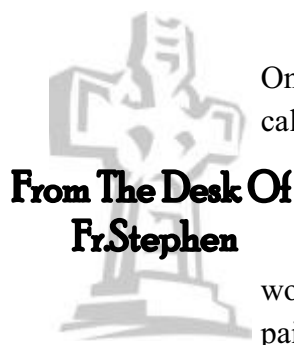
MONDAY:

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





On this 3rd Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, we are called to rejoice. That is what the word Gaudete means “Rejoice.” I guess because the Lord is near, we should rejoice. It is good for us always to rejoice, and it is important to do this in the Lord. As we look at the world, it may not cause us to rejoice. There is so much pain and suffering, but if we see the Lord of Power and Might as our source of strength, we can and will endure.

What child has not rejoiced on a Christmas morning when they saw all those presents under the Christmas tree. Christmas day is one of the days many of us look forward to all year. We gather together as a family to share our mutual love and happiness with one another. We take plenty of photos to remember the event by and we may even have loved ones over for a big fancy Christmas feast. These are memories we will always cherish.

It is also important for us to rejoice that Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God, is coming into the world. The Messiah had been promised to the Israelite people, but until this very moment, Jesus had not appeared. Oh, what joy and happiness the heavens proclaimed as the babe was wrapped in swaddling clothes. Finally, the time had come. All the anticipation of all those years had finally arrived. What better present could humanity want than for the Son of God to come amongst us. This was better than any Christmas present we could ever think of. No one would have ever thought that God would become flesh to be with us because he loved us. Oh, what happiness we have as we gaze at the babe so humble and meek. The heavens have rejoiced, and so should we.

I want to thank once again all who were involved in our Fall Festival. The day was a huge success. I know a lot of time and energy went into the day in preparation, and I want to thank the team who pulled it off and everyone who participated with their money. We were able to make \$22,356 in profit, which is better than we have ever done. Fr. Dave brought in half of the money, so we certainly want to thank him, but I also want to thank everyone involved. It was a much different event this year, but we made it work, and so again, I want to thank everyone, and hopefully, we will be able to do something like this again next year.

Weekly Readings...

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

Monday:

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

Tuesday:

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday:

Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday:

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

Friday:

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Saturday:

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Sunday:

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]
Rom 16:25-27, Lk 1:26-38

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:

3rd Sunday of Advent

Monday:

St. John of the Cross
Priest, and Doctor of the Church



Sunday:

4th Sunday of Advent

NOTE: Names will remain listed for 2 weeks

INTENTIONS 12/01/20

Bowens, Patricia
 Burke, Terry Bro.
 Corbett, Dan
 Day, Jackie
 Darden, Priscilla
 Downs, Gwendolyn
 Dyle, Ayrielle
 George, Darrion
 Grove, Nancy
 Hearn, 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

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)

SICKNESS 12/08/20

Anders, Douglas
 Atherton, Vertibe
 Baby Pruitt
 Caprese, Brittany
 Chapman, Bonnie
 Gregory, Georgette
 Haine, William (Bill)
 Hart, Edgar
 Howard, Yvonne
 Latham, Jean
 Lubinski, Tiffany
 Moore, Brenda
 Oldani, Shirley
 Remsberg, Cory Sgt.
 Serio, Jessica
 Smith, Melba
 Strong, Betty
 Thompson, Mary Ann
 Weaver, Stephen
 Williams, Pauline
 Vet, Alphonso
 Vinson, Kelly
 Vinson, Tyler
 Voss, Greg

INTENTIONS 12/08/20

Cooney, Michael & Lillian
 Cooney, Sheonna
 Cooney, Sylvia
 Day, Jackie
 George, Roberta
 Hatchett, Sylvia
 Smith, Paulette
 Sullivan, Betty

SICKNESS 12/01/20

Bell, Gilbert
 Brown, Henrene
 Brown, Joyce
 Collins, Tamika
 Collins, Tony
 Dye, Margaret
 Fite, Maudelle
 George, Betty

SHUT-IN'S

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

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

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:

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

LITURGY NOTES...

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for **rejoice**, and this Sunday is the time for us to rejoice because Jesus came and died so that we may live forever with him!

The third Sunday of Advent gives us the opportunity to prepare in our hearts a sense of holy anticipation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus as well as for his promised second coming. On the third Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect on the **joy** we have access to because of our faith in Jesus. One of the defining characteristics of Christ-followers is their *joyful demeanor*. Let's not allow the struggles of this year to steal from the **great joy** we have because of Jesus.

Advent season is an invitation to set your mind off the stresses of the year. We can take our focus off of the crazy hustle of the season and the sadness that could accompany the different ways some of us may be choosing to observe the holiday season this year. Even when things feel chaotic, we can find peace in Jesus. Advent is a chance to focus our thoughts on the gift God has given us in his son Jesus who stepped down from heaven and took the form of a man *so that we might believe*.

The tradition for the third Sunday of Advent includes lighting a third, sometimes pink candle that is a symbol of **joy**. This third Sunday of Advent, we read, pray, and reflect on the joy that God's plan gives us (foretold by the prophets and fulfilled by the life and death of Christ), and we meditate on the promise of Christ's coming glory-filled return.

“Lord, would you restore the joy of our salvation? Help us to be willing to follow you with all we have. As we read the Scriptures that remind us who you are and the ways you love us, ignite in us a sense of joy that overflows out of our hearts! Let this holy joy be contagious and spill over onto the lives of those around us. May your peace that surpasses all understanding be upon us...especially as we're wrapping up a year that has felt very scary and uncertain. Encourage our hearts with the knowledge that with you we can live in your perfect peace, no matter our circumstances. We thank you for the joy and peace you give! Amen.”

(Source: www.crosswalk.com)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU, ROCK CHURCH AND FRIENDS!

The NET PROFIT from this year’s virtual Fall Festival is \$22,356.95. What an incredible blessing and such a great success, thanks to the hard work and generosity of ROCK church family, Fr. Dave Polek and his inner circle, and friends of the ROCK who bought raffle tickets, participated in the virtual bingo, bought/sold ads, donated in kind, or donated money.

A special thank you to the technical and planning team who put in so many hours to make the virtual event happen. All the hassle was worth it. This year’s total beats last year’s card party/fall festival by \$1,399, so this is great news.



The Rock’s Peace and Justice Commission is hosting a fundraiser for their racism education project, Teaching True Truth. As part of this fundraiser, the Commission is selling T-shirts.

Click the link below to visit the website to see the variety of styles and colors.

www.stalphonsusrockchurch.itemorder.com/sale

The shirt is representative of a story that began on the continent of Africa. In 1619, Africans were taken from their homeland, sold to colonists in Jamestown, Virginia, and enslaved. This was the beginning of the true African American story.

The story continues to unfold...

The shirt includes the Pan African colors: • Red represents blood shed for liberation, • Black is symbolic of skin color, • Green is symbolic of the growth and natural fertility of Africa.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT

Preparing the Way

Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel!

Join us on Thursday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m. as we celebrate the Season of Advent with prayer, scripture, reflection and song, through a virtual prayer service.

ZOOM login information:

811 2779 1805

**Password
947405**

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#

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 13 th	December 20 th
December 17 th	December 27 th
December 27 th	January 3 rd

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	29 th	6 th
Envelopes	\$ 6,008.00	\$
Loose Donations	\$ 423.00	\$
Total Contributions	\$ 6,431.00	\$
Weekly Target Amount	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Under/Over Weekly Target	\$(5,569.00)	\$(0)

Stewardship Prayer...

That we realize suffering is a gift and helps us build empathy for others and build our dependence on God.

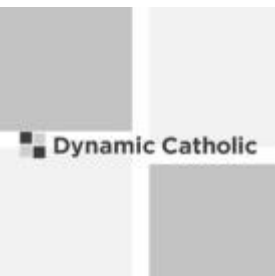
Stressed about Covid?

We are seeking parents over 21 and living together to discuss their experiences since COVID-19 began. This SLU ONLINE study includes both romantic partners completing four surveys at bedtime across two weeks and emailing an OPTIONAL audio conversation between partners about your experiences. We will thank couples with either a \$10 Amazon e-gift card for completing the surveys or a \$20 Amazon e-gift card for completing the surveys and conversation.

Email dixie.meyer@health.slu.edu if interested.

Dynamic Catholic, *Alive!* – Gaudete Sunday

Rejoice! On Gaudete Sunday, we remember the joy that is 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 missioning 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 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, and peace, along with joy. (CCC 523-524, 719-720) 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 to view all the resources available to you!



Congratulations!

Janis Weaver-McSpadden

November 2020 Winner

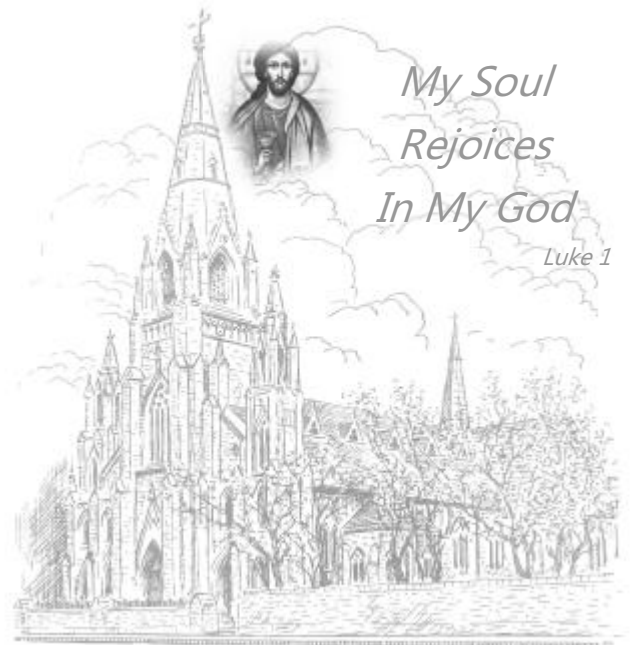
Congratulations!

Ben and Denise Phillips

December 2020 Winner

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 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. 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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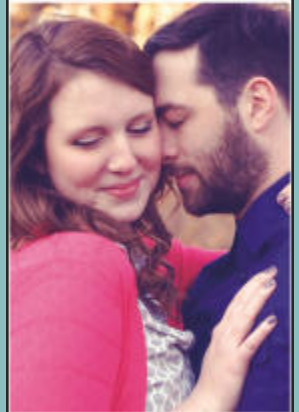
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Carolyn Jones – President/CEO

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