

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.

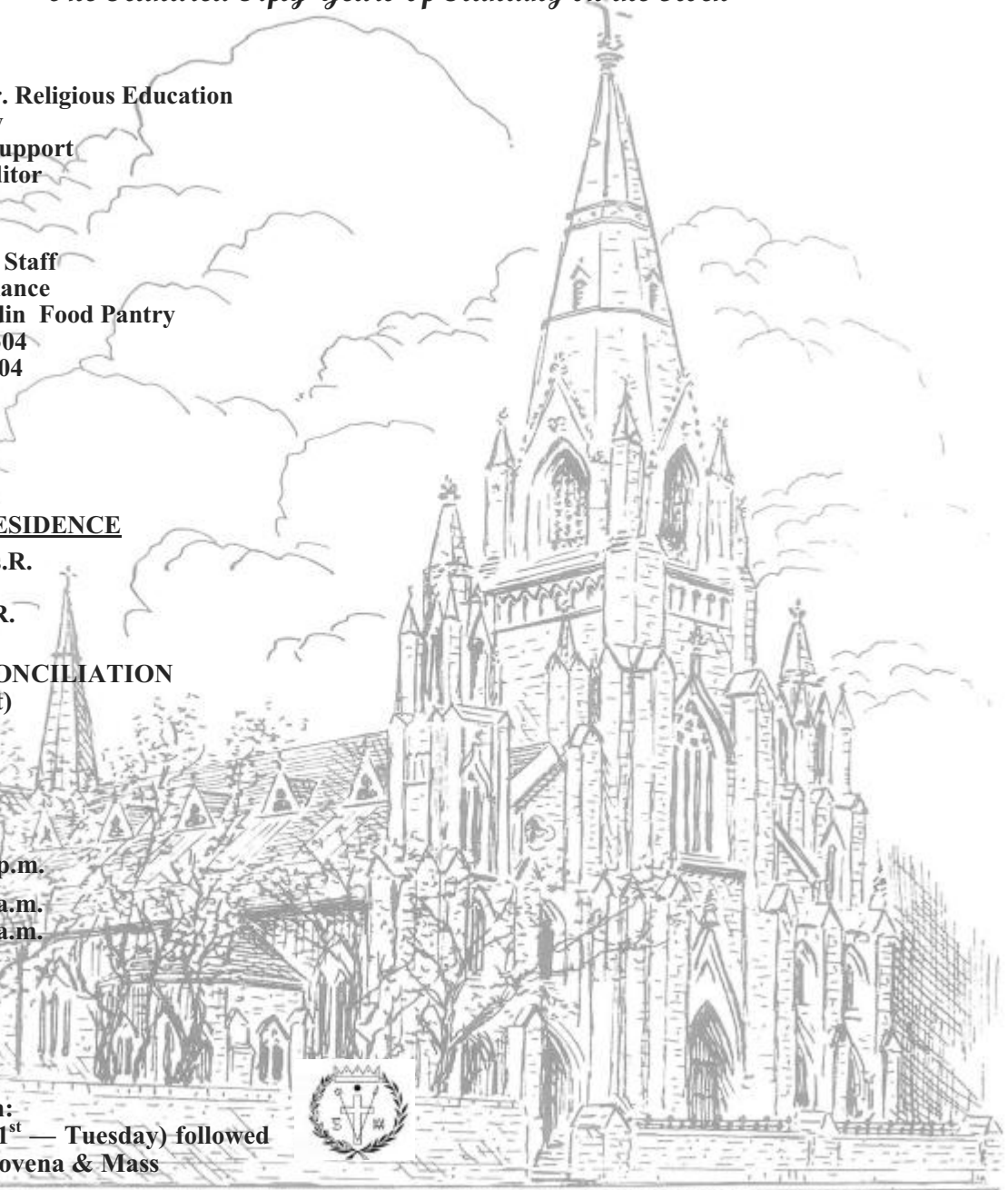
Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.

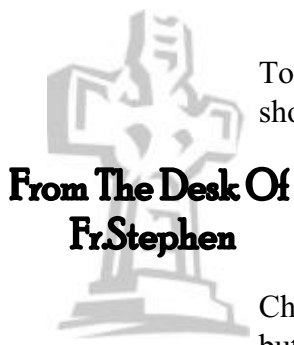
MONDAY:

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





Today we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent. In just five short days, we will once again celebrate that event so long ago where Jesus, the Messiah, comes among us, as one of us, in all things but sin. Just a reminder that the church is open now for Sunday liturgy if you want to come. We will celebrate Christmas Mass at 10 a.m. on Christmas day. Again, there is no expectation on anyone, but we are open if you want to come and worship here.

In the gospel today, we hear the angel Gabriel asking Mary if she would be the Mother of God. I say it that way because Mary did have free will and could have said no. In our own country, much has been made, ever since we became a country really, of our constitutional rights to be free independent people. This has become such a focal point at times for people that sometimes we lose the ability to see the corporate good. We become so wrapped up in MY rights; we forget about the interest of the rest. Thank God the Blessed Mother was not so short-sighted. In this example, she sets aside her own will, her own rights, completely. She is so focused on the Will of God, and the good of all humanity, that she said yes to the angel. Unlike so many in our country who are only concerned with themselves, her commitment to the corporate work of salvation is keenly in her sight. Unlike others, she cannot think of doing anything but what God is asking her to do. She completely sets aside her own agenda and responds to God's invitation with a resounding yes.

When we look at Mary and the yes, she gives to Gabriel, it is important for us to look into the future. Of course, Mary knew nothing of the circumstances about what God might be asking of her, yet she says yes anyway. If she had known that she was to give birth away from her home in a stable; if she had known that Herod would seek to kill her child and she needed to flee to a foreign land; if she had known her son was to be brutally killed before her eyes, would her answer have been any different? I do not think so. Unlike many in our world and country, Mary's focus was so GOD CENTERED that she could think of nothing else but doing what God was asking of her. When we say "God be praised," we say it in the same way as the Blessed Mother. Like Mary, we must try and see the whole picture as God sees it, for the good of others, and be open to whatever the Father has in store for us. This is not easy, but with Mary as our guide, all things are possible.

Our prayers continue to go out to those suffering from Covid-19. May God be with you all this day.

Weekly Readings...

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

Monday:

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3,
11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday:

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7,
8abcd]/Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday:

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9,
10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Thursday:

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

Friday:

Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/
Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday:

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

Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6;
21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or
Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8,
11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22,
39-40

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:

4th Sunday of Advent

Monday:

St. Peter Canisius, Priest and
Doctor of the Church

Wednesday:

St. John of Kanty, Priest

Thursday:

Christmas Eve

Friday:

The Nativity of the Lord
(holy day of obligation)

Saturday:

St. Stephen, the First Martyr

Sunday:

The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph

NOTE: Names will remain listed for 2 weeks**INTENTIONS 12/08/20**

Cooney, Michael & Lillian
Cooney, Sheonna
Cooney, Sylvia
George, Roberta
Hatchett, Sylvia
Smith, Paulette

INTENTIONS 12/15/20

Anderson, Iesha & Family
Bowens, Patricia
Burke, Terry Bro.
Corbett, Dan
Day, Jackie
Darden, Priscilla
Downs, Gwendolyn
Dyle, Ayrielle
George, Darrion
Grove, Nancy
Hearns, Zeysean
Hinton, Maryann
Huffmon, Barbara & Family
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 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

SICKNESS 12/15/20

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	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

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...



This Sunday we read the story of the Angel Gabriel’s announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke’s Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist’s announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary’s example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel’s message that God’s Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel’s news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God’s own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary’s response to the angel, which is called her *fiat*, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God’s wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God’s salvation. Mary, already full of God’s grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God’s saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.

“Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your Baby Boy has come to make you new?

This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you,”

(Source:www.loyalpess.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

Parish Office Closure...

**Friday, December 25, 2020
Until
Monday, January 4, 2021**

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.

If interested email:
dixie.meyer@health.slu.edu

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 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	6 th	13 th
Envelopes	\$ 8,087.00	\$
Loose Donations	\$ 2,313.00	\$
Total Contributions	\$10,400.00	\$
Weekly Target Amount	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Under/Over Weekly Target	\$(1,600.00)	\$()

Stewardship Prayer...

That like Mary, our lives, too reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"

Luke 1:28

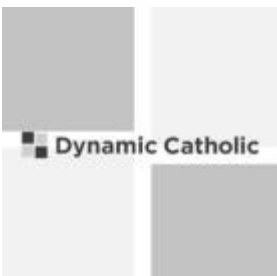
After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

Dynamic Catholic, *Alive!* – Fourth Sunday of Advent Surrender to God

"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 in our lives. 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!

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

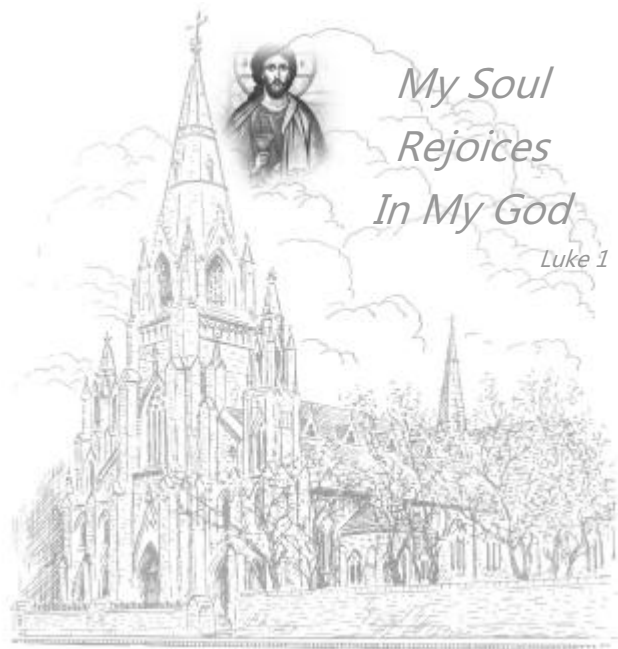
Congratulations!

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.

**AVAILABLE
FOR A LIMITED TIME**

ADVERTISE YOUR
**BUSINESS
HERE**

Contact **Richard Brogna** to place an ad today!
rbrogna@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6602



**WE'RE HIRING
AD SALES EXECUTIVES**



- Full Time Position with Benefits
- Sales Experience Preferred
- Paid Training
- Overnight Travel Required
- Expense Reimbursement

CONTACT US AT
careers@4LPi.com • www.4LPi.com/careers



Specialized Services in:

- Registrations • Post Award
- 8(a) • Certifications
- GSA Schedules and Lambert STL M/D/WBE
- HUBZone • MO M/WBE
- Proposal Preparations

Carolyn Jones – President/CEO

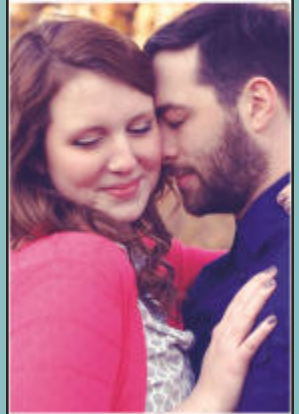
Office: (314) 354-8303 | Mobile: (314) 753-4620
carolyn@eagleglobalent.com | www.eagleglobalent.com
6439 Plymouth Ave., Suite W127 • St. Louis, MO 63133



**MCCORMACK
BARON
SALAZAR**

Developing and
Managing Communities
Across America
www.mccormackbaron.com

**catholicmatch[®]
Missouri**



CatholicMatch.com/ MO



**CATHOLIC
SUPPLY[®]**
OF ST. LOUIS, INC.

RELIGIOUS GIFTS & DECOR | SCHOOL UNIFORMS

BOOKS & BIBLES | STATUARY | NATIVITIES

CHURCH SUPPLIES | CANDLES

SEASONAL & SACRAMENTAL GIFTS

ST. LOUIS HILLS (314) 644-0643

MANCHESTER (636) 220-8319 | O'FALLON (636) 379-3705

SHOP ONLINE!
catholicsupply.com



2405 Marcus Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63113
Phone: (314) 533-3400

"Caring Beyond A Lifetime"

Too Sick for Mass?

SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!

*Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered
right to your inbox!*

www.parishesonline.com



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St Alphonsus Liguori, St Louis, MO

A 4C 01-1425