

# *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.

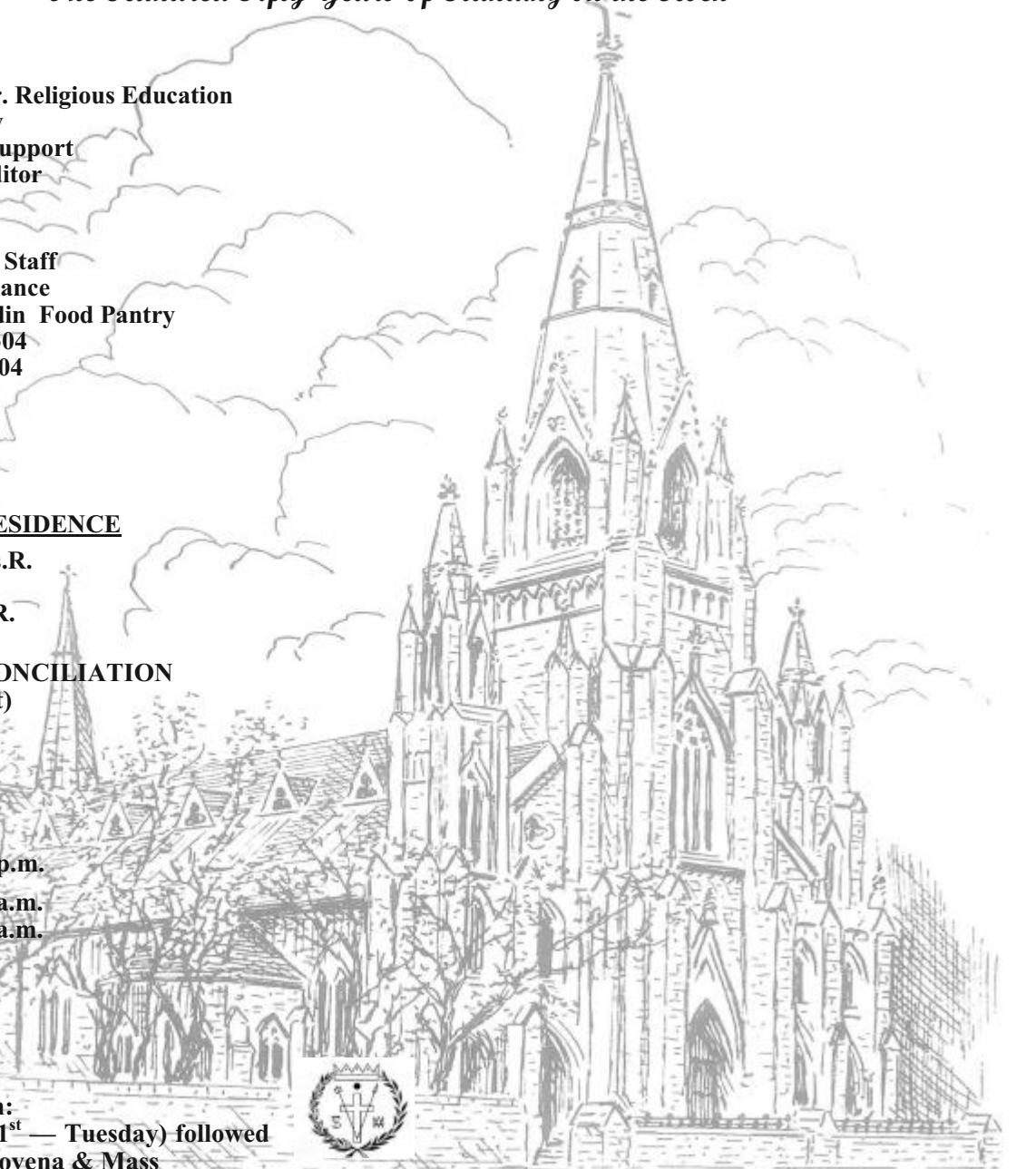
Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.

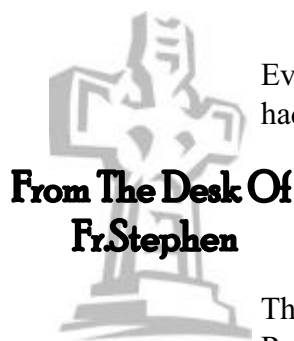
### MONDAY:

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**

Every one of us has been born into a family. We all have had a mother and father, even though some may not have known them. Some of us are blessed with large families, and some are blessed with smaller ones. There is a Redemptorist family in our Province called Patin. Some of you may remember Brother Gene. There are four brothers in the family who are Redemptorists. I mention them because they all look like they come from the same family. If you lined them up with others, it would be pretty easy to pick out Leo, Andy, Eugene, and Gerard. Maybe in your family, you have some characteristics that are very recognizable to others. It may be your facial features, but it may be the way you say a particular word or identify with a specific town or city.

One of the things we do as a family, is get together at different times of the year. Some of us may be blessed to live close to our immediate family, while others may have to travel a good distance. During this COVID pandemic, we have all been asked to refrain from visiting with one another, even our immediate family. We may not like it, especially at this time of the year. We may have waited all year to be with one another at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year, and it is a hard decision to make, even though all the experts say we should stay home. I applaud those who can have a bit of discipline and wait until later to visit with one another when its safer.

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family; Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. There is little we know of them that we get from Sacred Scripture. Did Mary and Joseph have any extended family in town with them? We don't know. We do not know what they looked like or how old they were. Did they have facial characteristics that would distinguish them from others? Did they say certain words in a way where you immediately recognized their voice? We don't know any of the answers to these questions.

I guess the only thing we do know about them, and this comes from the title in reference to their name. They are the HOLY FAMILY. No one else can lay claim to this title. Two of the three in this family never sinned, and the third probably didn't much either. Wouldn't it have been a pleasure to know them? I say this because if you have ever been around someone you consider holy, you realize there is something different about them. What is this quality that is so endearing? I think it is that they are always thinking of someone else before themselves. If nothing else, the Holy Family can teach us how to love one another. It is my hope this season we are able to spread love to others even if we can't be together physically.

God's blessings on you all.

### Weekly Readings...

#### *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

#### *Monday:*

1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8  
[7]/Mt 2:13-18

#### *Tuesday:*

1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6  
[11a]/Lk 2:22-35

#### *Wednesday:*

1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10  
[11a]/Lk 2:36-40

#### *Thursday:*

1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13  
[11a]/Jn 1:1-18

#### *Friday:*

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]  
Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

#### *Saturday:*

1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4  
[3cd]/Jn 1:19-28

#### *Sunday:*

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11,  
12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6  
Mt 2:1-12

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

#### *Sunday:*

The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph

#### *Monday:*

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

#### *Tuesday:*

St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

#### *Thursday:*

St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve

#### *Friday:*

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

#### *Saturday:*

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

#### *Sunday:*

The Epiphany of the Lord  
National Migration Week



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

**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  
 Hearn, 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 12/15/20**

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)

**SICKNESS 12/22/20**

Cooney, Gregory  
 Latham, Jean  
 Moore, Brenda  
 Smith, Melba  
 Strong, Betty  
 Weaver, Stephen

**INTENTIONS 12/22/20**

Hatchett, Sylvia  
 Smith, Paulette

SHUT-IN's

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



Pray for the Deceased



Pray for the repose of the soul of †Jamar Huffmon, son of Barbara Huffmon

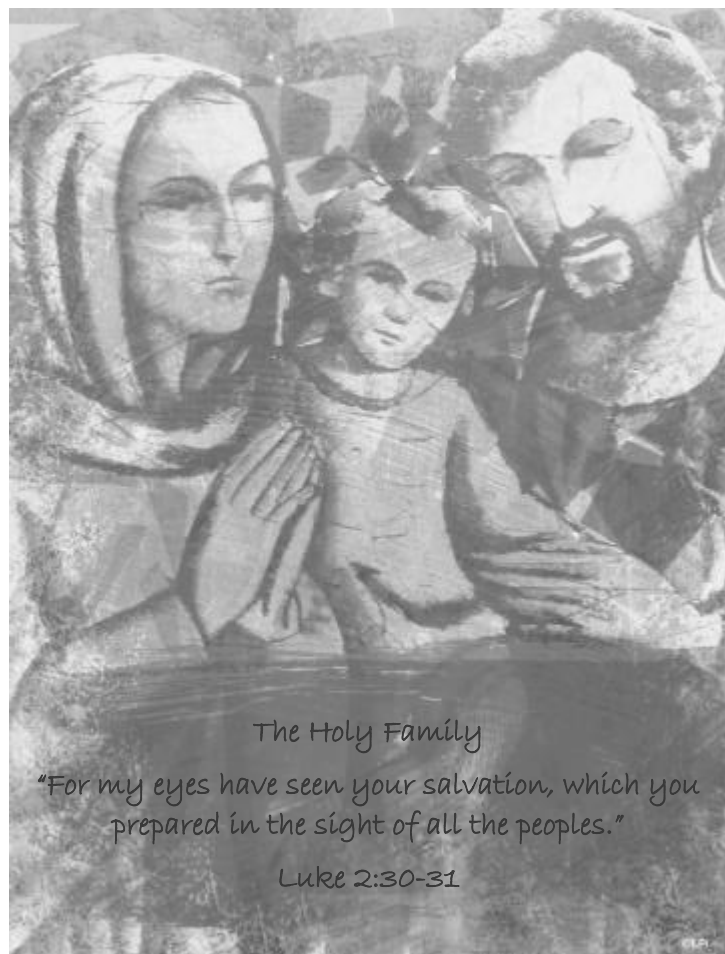
*Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord,  
 and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
 May the souls of the faithful departed  
 through the mercy of God rest in peace.  
 Amen*

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



The Holy Family

*"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples."*

Luke 2:30-31

## LITURGY NOTES...

**Habari Gani?** These Swahili words, meaning *What's the News?* is the ritual greeting of Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa is a family holiday that seeks to reinforce the bonds between parents and children, and to teach new views and values that will aid in self-consciousness and support. Kwanzaa is celebrated from December 26 through January 1 each year. Although Kwanzaa is a cultural and not a religious holiday, the Seven Principles of the Nguzo Saba offer a connection to the Bible in ways you may not have considered.

**Unity/Umoja:** *Psalms 133:1. How good and how pleasant it is, when brothers dwell together as one!* This Psalm supports the Umoja principle of togetherness and harmony and instructs that our speech, strategies and behavior should be directed toward coming together.

**Self-determination Kujichagulia:** *1 Timothy 4:12. Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.* Timothy urges us to lead by example, avoiding the temptation to go along with the crowd or what's popular. In particular, he instructs us to be exemplars in speech, love and faith.

**Collective Work and Responsibility/ Ujima:** *1 Corinthians 12:21-25. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," nor again the head to the feet, "I do not need you." Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another.*

St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians reminds us that we are one nation, one people, and one world.

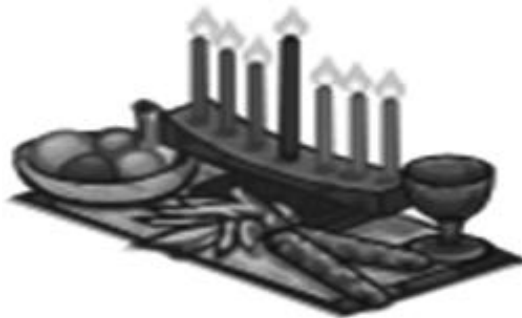
**Cooperative economics/ Ujamaa:** *Hebrew 13:16. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have; God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind.* As reflected in this bible verse, we are instructed to share our wealth and make sacrifices for others.

**Purpose/Nia:** *Mathew 6:33. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,\* and all these things will be given you besides.* Mathew's admonishment is relevant and instructive for a world, especially the "superpowers" and "economically developed" nations that are so consumed by the profit and control motive. He suggests that the priority for nations should be on morality, ethics, and righteousness.

**Creativity/Kuumba:** *Romans 12:2. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.* This is a strong reminder that perfection is achieved through the renewing of the mind, set against high spiritual and ethical standards.

**Faith/Imani:** *Mathew 17:20 If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.* This verse is applicable to so many people in the world who are struggling against insurmountable odds to live a life of dignity and righteousness. In today's world where acts of evil defy reason and morality, and are seemingly more prevalent than good and right, keeping faith is an act of extraordinary courage and, and a testimony to the human will.

Happy Kwanzaa!



**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](http://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...*

**Monday December 28, 2020**

*thru*

**Sunday, January 3, 2021**

**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 27 <sup>th</sup>	January 3 <sup>rd</sup>

**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#**

*Thank You Parish Family:*

The family of Garvin Anderson would like to express our sincere appreciation for your support, gifts, and the many acts of kindness which were extended to our family during this difficult time.

Iesha Anderson & Family

**Honor The Role of Family**



**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		
DECEMBER	13 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>
Envelopes	\$ 5,820.00	\$
Loose Donations	\$ 705.00	\$
Total Contributions	\$ 6,525.00	\$
Weekly Target Amount	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Under/Over Weekly Target	\$(5,475.00)	\$()

### Stewardship Prayer...

That God will provide us the strength to forgive those that have hurt us.

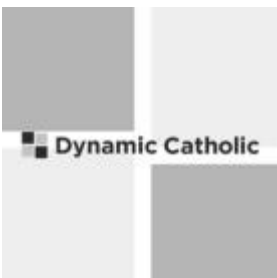
*"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"*

– 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!* – 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. Through silence, we are able to discern God's will for us and our families. Studies show that when 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 is calling us to be, to be the spiritual leaders for our families. The best gift we can give our families is to teach them how to pray. [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  
 Jamar Huffmon, 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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**Carolyn Jones** – President/CEO

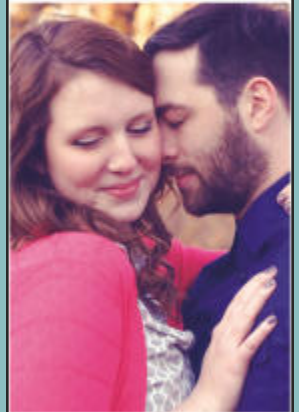
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