

# *St. Alphonsus Liguori "Rock" Catholic Church*

1118 North Grand Blvd. St Louis, MO 63106

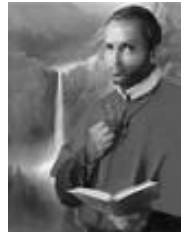
314-533-0304 (ph) 314-533-4260 (fax) parish130@archstl.org (e-mail)

[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.

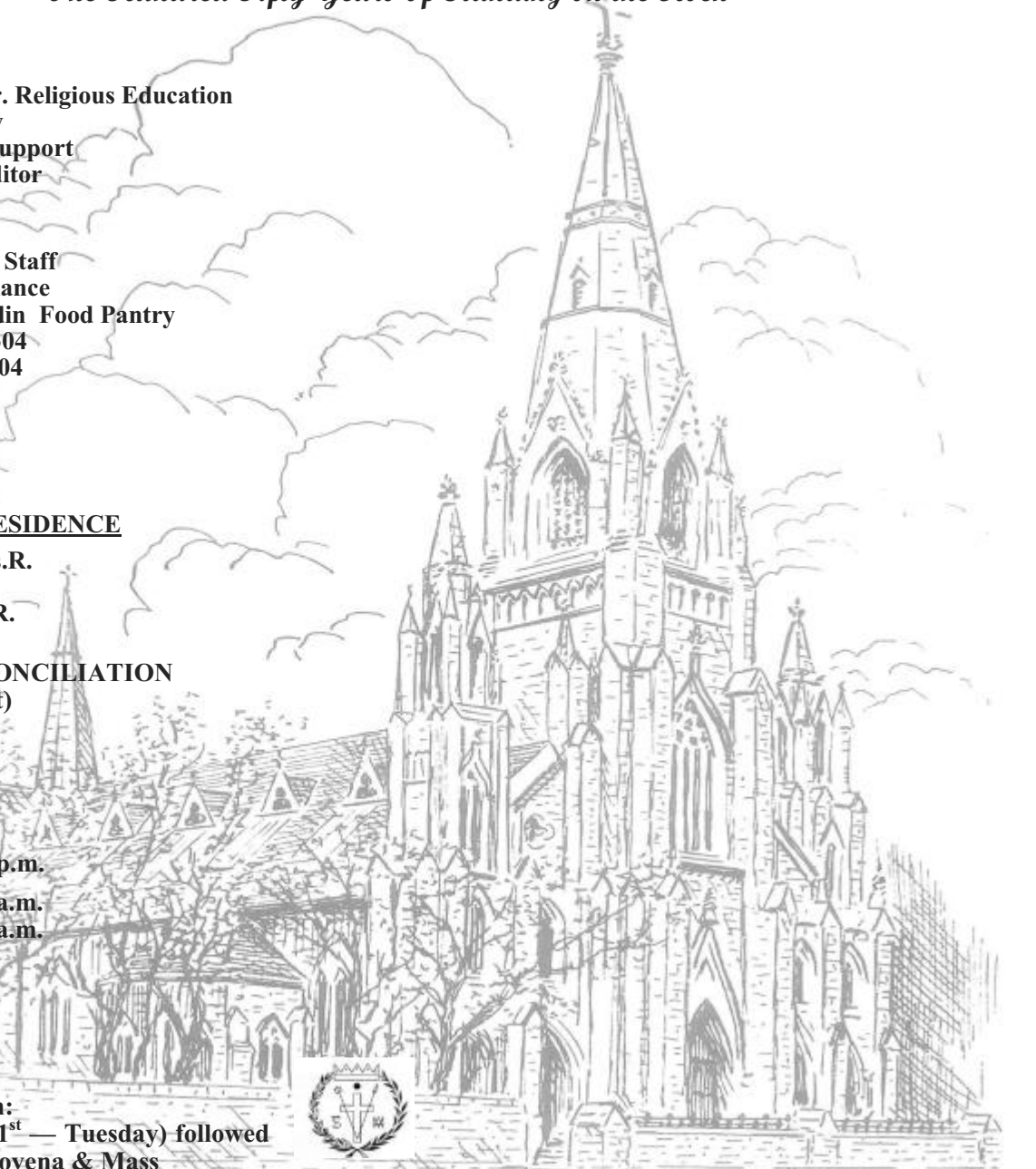
Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.

### 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

Today we celebrate the feast of Epiphany, the Wisemen seeking the Lord. The tradition is that they traveled hundreds of miles, following the STAR in the sky.

Recently, we saw something in the sky that had not been seen in 800 years. Jupiter and Saturn were aligned in a very special way. Fr. Rodney and I went out past Hwy 270 on the 21<sup>st</sup> to get away from the city lights, and we think we saw the STAR in the sky. It was just along the horizon and was much brighter than any other star. It was very special to see.

With the New Year upon us, we all want to put 2020 behind us and start anew. I have been thinking about what it will be like to be back as a family again. I am not just talking about Sunday mass, but getting together as families do for special occasions. I thought about what it will be like to have fun at the picnic this summer. We can all hope this will happen, but only with the Grace of God with us.

I think about some of the other things we were in the habit of doing during the week. Before COVID, some of us were taking time to feed the neighborhood on Saturday mornings, and we called that Grill to Glory. I am hoping we might be able to do this again whenever we can get back together. At times, I see some of the men we used to serve, and they always ask if we are going to do Grill to Glory again. The parishioners we had a year ago were very dedicated, and I am very proud of them for the service they offered. However, we need some younger people to step up and help us with this—what a way to serve the Lord each Saturday. God will be so proud of our young people.

I also was thinking about the age of our crowd here at the Rock. Everyone can see we are aging. I need some of our young people to continue reaching out to other young people and bring them to the church. I know many do not feel the need for a formal church anymore, and I am not sure where this all comes from, but I ask our young people to reconsider. I would still like to create a space in the lower Parish Hall for young people to have fun. As well as this, I would like to open the gym at designated times for the neighborhood. Again, we would need some people to step up and help us to bring about this dream.

The COVID pandemic will not last forever, Praise God. I am looking forward to the day when we will be able to meet again and have fun. I hope you are too. With God's help, we will continue to carry out His mission on the corner of Cook and Grand.

## Weekly Readings...

### *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

### *Monday:*

1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

### *Tuesday:*

1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:34-44

### *Wednesday:*

1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52

### *Thursday:*

1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a

### *Friday:*

1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16

### *Saturday:*

1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30

### *Sunday:*

Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3] 1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

### *Sunday:*

The Epiphany of the Lord  
National Migration Week

### *Monday:*

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

### *Tuesday:*

St. John Neumann, Bishop

### *Wednesday:*

St. André Bessette, Religious

### *Thursday:*

St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

### *Sunday:*

The Baptism of the Lord



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

**INTENTIONS 12/22/20**

Hatchett, Sylvia  
Smith, Paulette

**INTENTIONS 12/29/20**

Bowens, Patricia  
Burke, Terry Bro.  
Corbett, Dan  
Day, Jackie  
Darden, Priscilla  
Downs, Gwendolyn  
Dyle, Ayrielle  
George, Darrion  
Grove, Nancy  
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 12/22/20**

Cooney, Gregory  
Latham, Jean

Moore, Brenda  
Smith, Melba  
Strong, Betty  
Weaver, Stephen

**SICKNESS 12/29/20**

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, Antonio Jr.  
Miller, Roy  
Moore, Joyce  
Klein, Mary  
Luster, Juanita  
Moze, 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

***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

**THE SPIRITUAL LIFE**

The term The Spiritual Life is a phrase that calls to mind our relationship with God. Most people I know are not aware that God is inviting them into a deeper and more profound sense of who He is every day. God is trying to communicate with us in varying ways, but I am not sure that most people are aware of this at all and so consequently experience little or no growth in Spirit.

Many can rattle off statistics about countless things or about what this or that person said about whatever topic, but so few can talk about their faith in any depth. Weekly attendance at Sunday mass is about all they are willing to do to enhance their spiritual life; this is unfortunate because all of us are called to a deeper relationship with God. This is not going to happen on its own. Like anything else worth pursuing, we have to take ownership of it.

Mass is celebrated in the church Mondays 5:30 p.m., Tuesday—Friday 11:30 a.m., and Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.



Eucharistic Adoration at 5:00 p.m. followed by Mass at 5:30 p.m.



Mother Of Perpetual Help Devotion and Mass each Tuesday at 11:30 a.m.



**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#

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...

### BAPTISM GUIDELINES:

**Newborn – 6 years old.** A parent or legal guardian and godparent(s) must attend a Baptism preparation class, instruction materials are provided.

**Ages 7 – 10:** The child must attend special Baptism preparation classes and the parent(s) or legal guardian and godparent(s) must attend a Baptism preparation session prior to the ceremony.

**Ages 11 – 17:** The young person must enroll in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC) program.

**Age 18 and Older:** The Candidate must enroll in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program.

**MATRIMONY** – Engaged couples, seeking to be married at the Rock Church, must meet with the Pastor before setting a date.

### RCIA/RCIC – ARE YOU SOMEONE OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...

- Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
- Has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized?
- Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

We offer an opportunity to come together in a group to learn more about the Catholic Faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of the Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. There are separate sessions for children and youth. You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, insights and your faith story in a warm accepting setting.

*For information on requesting any of the above Sacraments and/or to register for classes, please contact the Director of Religious Education, Sharon Cooney-Smith at 314-533-0304 ext. 1001, or via e-mail @ [scooneysmith@stalphonsusrock.org](mailto:scooneysmith@stalphonsusrock.org).*

## LITURGY NOTES...



Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The Solemnity of the Epiphany is celebrated either on January 6 or on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. The young Messiah is revealed as the light of the nations.

The feast of the Epiphany, which was kept in the East and in certain Western Churches before being observed in Rome, seems to have been originally a feast of the nativity; January 6, for those churches where it was kept, was the equivalent of Christmas (December 25) in the Roman Church. The feast was introduced at Rome in the second half of the sixth century and became the complement and, so to say, the crown of the Christmas festival.

Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation. St. Leo brings out this point admirably in a sermon, read at Matins, in which he shows in the adoration of the Magi the beginnings of Christian faith, the time when the great mass of the heathen sets off to follow the star which summons it to seek its Saviour.

That is the meaning, too, of the wonderful prophecy from Isaias which the liturgy appoints to be read in the first nocturn at Matins and at the Epistle of the Mass. This same thought of universal redemption the Church returns to as she sings, in the antiphon to the Magnificat at 2nd Vespers, applying the words to herself, of the union with Christ typified by the wedding feast at Cana, by the baptism of her children foreshadowed by that of Christ in the waters of the Jordan. Formerly the Epiphany was an additional day for solemn baptisms.

*(Source: [www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org))*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



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.

**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](mailto:dixie.meyer@health.slu.edu)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RISING**

"We saw his star at it's rising and have come to do him homage

Matt 2:2



**Sr. Mary Antona Ebo Chapel/Prayer Room**

**Located in the Parish Hall (Room 110)**

This prayer room is designed for you to unwind, relax, and enter into the presence of God. Bring your Bible and your prayer requests. In this room, you can pray and let Jesus minister to you heart-to-heart.

The prayer room is open and available whenever the office is open. Pick up the key from the office staff and return it when you are ready to leave.

The room is also available after office hours to commissions and prayer groups who need a place to begin their meetings with praise and worship.

*"Come and experience your one on one quiet time with Jesus and receive your blessings."*



**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	20 <sup>th</sup>	
Envelopes	\$ 6,638.00	\$
Loose Donations	\$ 1,448.00	\$
Total Contributions	\$ 8,086.00	\$
Weekly Target Amount	\$12,000.00	\$
Under/Over Weekly Target	\$(3,914.00)	\$

### Stewardship Prayer...

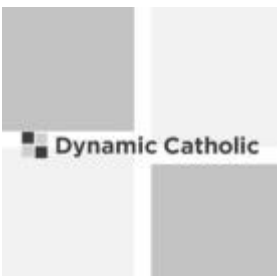
That, like the Magi, we generously share our gifts with the Lord, trusting He will provide all that we need.

*“..they fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh...” –Matthew 2:11*

Notice the order of events in the Magi’s visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

### Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Evangelization

The Gospel today is certainly appropriate for our reflections on evangelization. The wise men journey from the East to pay homage to the King of the World. They then return to their homeland. Evangelization follows a similar process. We must give our Lord homage and worship and journey to see Him and know Him better. Only then, after we have spent time in prayer and worship, can we share the fruits of our prayer with others. Evangelization is sharing our experience of Jesus Christ with others and guiding them into relationship of joy with Him as well. Consider how often you share the Good News of Christ with others in simple ways and in more bold ways. Would there be enough evidence in your home that you are Catholic and follow Jesus Christ? [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

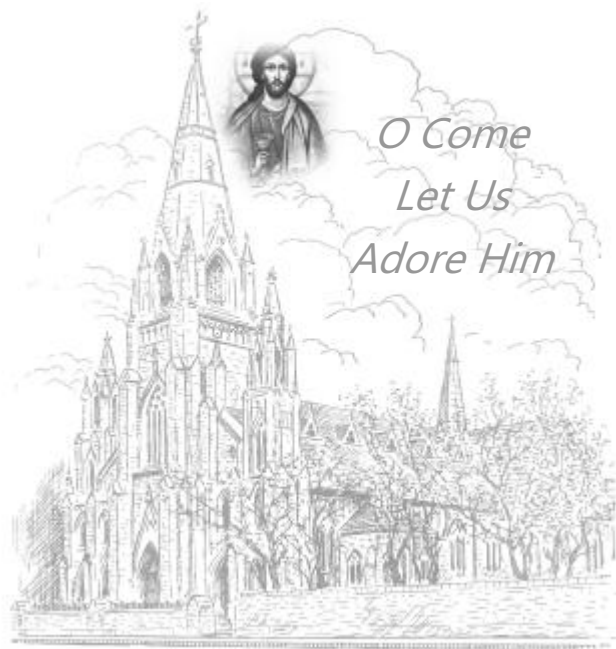
#### Winners Circle Club

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

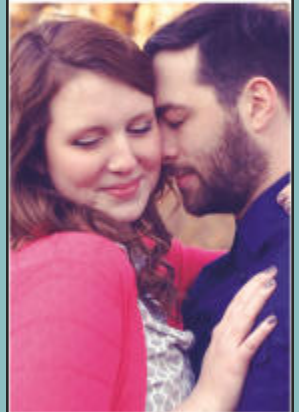
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