

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

*"Leaning On His Everlasting Arms, Knowing That
We Will Overcome In 2021"*



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. Peter Schavitz, C.Ss.R.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Call for Appointment)

SUNDAY MASSES:

10:00 a.m.

DAILY MASSES:

Monday 5:30 p.m. (Eucharistic Adoration 4:45 p.m.)

(W. Th & F.) 11:30 a.m. (Rectory Chapel)

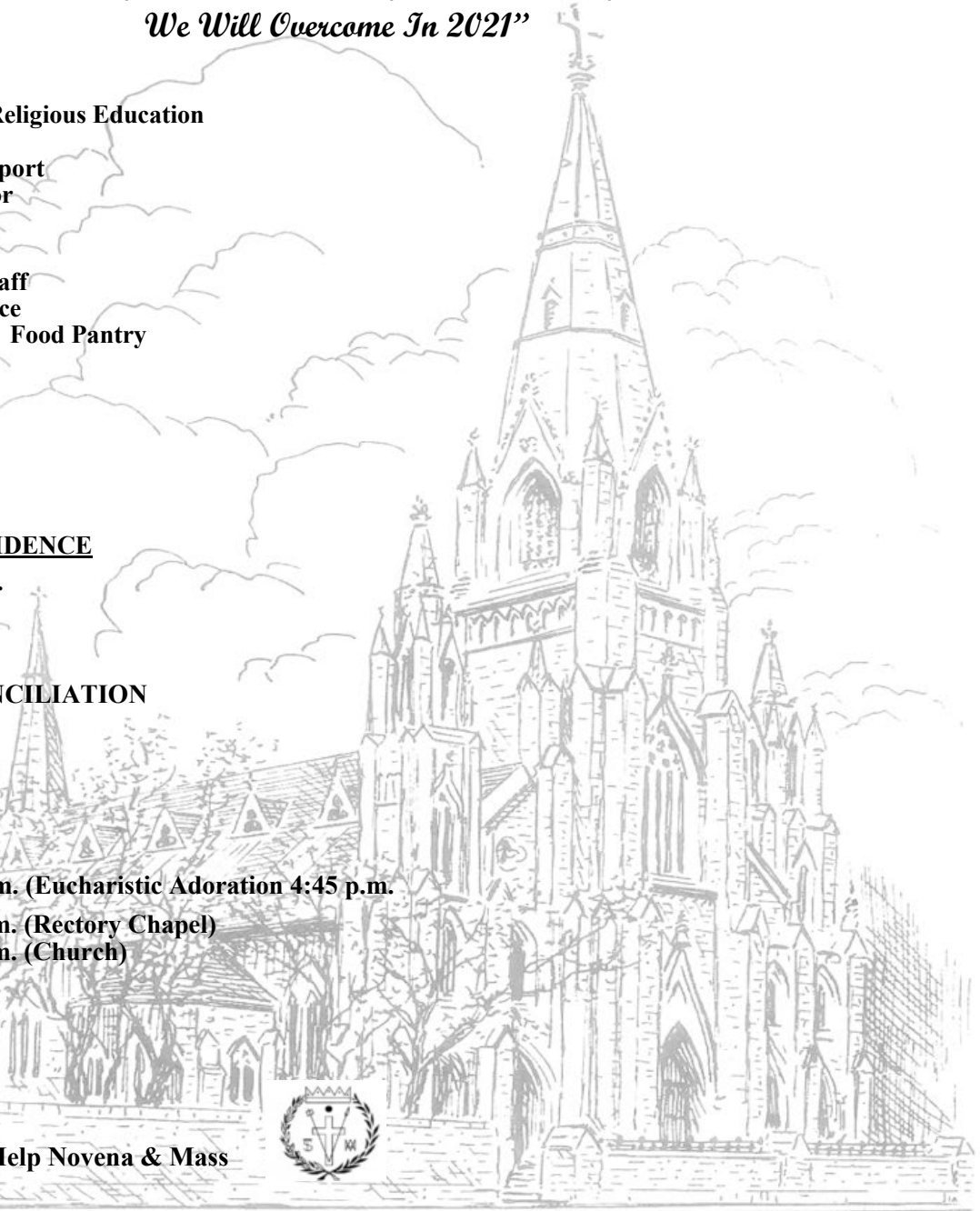
Saturdays: 9:30 a.m. (Church)

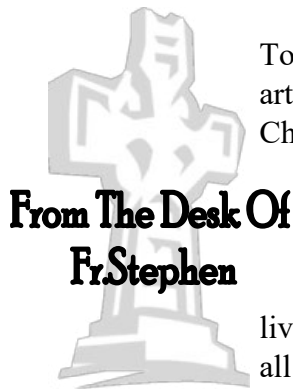
MONDAY:

**Eucharistic Adoration
4:45 p.m.—5:30 p.m.**

TUESDAYS:

**Exposition & Benediction:
11:30 a.m. Our Perpetual Help Novena & Mass**





Today is a very Blessed Day. At least here in my bulletin article, it is the first time that I can wish you a Merry Christmas. I hope all had a Blessed Christmas with family and friends. In the African tradition, today is also the first day of Kwanzaa. For the next eight days, officially called an Octave, we will celebrate Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa is a time set aside to honor our human experience and live together as a family. Kwanzaa reminds us that we are all in this together. Pope Francis has mentioned this time and again. We are not an individual inhabiting the earth; we are all interconnected. And for the next eight days, we can allow this thought to permeate our lives. Out of the African tradition, so much of life is to be celebrated, especially as a community.

The first day of Kwanzaa brings this thought out so beautifully. This first day calls us to a UNITY OF FAMILY, RACE, AND NATION. When we look around our world and our country, there does not seem to be a unity of people. Unfortunately, we can be people of individual time and talent, wanting to better our own lives, consequently forgetting about everyone else. In our country, the idea of being an individual is part and parcel of the American experience. We have seen it acted out most recently with the COVID pandemic and the individualism that goes along with “I have certain rights of freedom in this country, and you cannot tell me what to do.” Yes, we all have the right to freedom, but when does my freedom begin to affect the idea of UNITY IN A COMMUNITY negatively? Is my own personal freedom jeopardizing the future of the American people? Sometimes the pursuit of our freedom and liberty can seem so selfish. Kwanzaa calls us back to thinking about our existence as a community of people who all need to live in peace with one another.

Finally, in the Church Calendar, today is the feast of the Holy Family. This feast seems to fall right in line with Kwanzaa. As a family, we are also asked to live in harmony with one another. The family unit seems to have suffered much in our country. Our families seem to be going in many different directions and, consequently, spending little quality time with one another. If the family, especially under the constant guidance and love of the parents, does not spend time together, it has been shown the children lack the social skills to survive in our world. If children are left to themselves with no support, it is no wonder they get involved in all kinds of unhealthy things. The feasts of Kwanzaa and the Holy Family can bring us back to how important it is for us to spend this quality time together. As a human family, we desperately need the love and attention this unit requires.

May God guide us in these crucial matters.

Weekly Readings...

Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
[cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
Lk 2:41-52 or 1Sm 1:20-22, 24-28
Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]
1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday:

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]
Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday:

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

Wednesday:

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

Thursday:

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

Friday:

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

Saturday:

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

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

Monday:

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Tuesday:

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Wednesday:

St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

Friday:

St. Sylvester I, Pope

New Year's Eve

Saturday:

New Year's Day

Mary, The Holy Mother of God

World Day of Peace

Sunday:

The Epiphany of the Lord

Sts. Basil the Great and

Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and
Doctors of the Church

INTENTIONS 12/14/21

Burke, Terry Bro.
 Jackson, Tamica
 Jenkins, Ursula
 Polek, David Fr.
 Scott, Clara

INTENTIONS 12/21/21

Beasley, Stephanie
 Bohannon, Ida
 Bowens, Pat
 Collins, Tamika
 Ford, Eric
 George, Roberta
 Gilkesan, Alyssa
 Hearn, DeShaun
 Hearn, Zeusean
 Henderson, Christine
 Kakre, Cydney & Family
 LeSeur, Ja Vaughn
 Martin, Michael
 McCoy Family
 Perry, Kameron
 Smith, Paulette
 Valle, Dot
 Woolfork, Virginia

SICKNESS 12/14/21

Anthony, Jean
 Gathright, Alice
 Hebron, Sylvester
 Jones, Lavell
 Massingale, Bryan Fr.
 Mitchell, Debra
 Monroe, Tanya
 Moore, Joyce
 Mozee, Sylvester
 Jones, Orianna
 Parran, Rodrick
 Perkins, Stephen
 Potts, Rick Fr.
 Valle, Jr., Robert (Bobby)

Watkins, Darnell (Chef D)
 Whitfield, Edna (Mother)

SICKNESS 12/21/21

Atherton, Andrew
 Bolden, Roderick
 Caprese, Brittany
 Cloyd, Selena
 Fulsom, Dawn
 Hart, Edgar
 Hebron, Sylvester
 Howard, Yvonne
 Jones, Harriett
 Latham, Jean
 Lubinsky, Tiffany
 Luster, Juanita
 Miles, Charles
 Moore, Brenda
 Moore, Joyce
 Muich, Bill
 Napper, Margaret
 O'Brien, Nancy
 Oldani, Shirley
 Payne, Lonnie
 Pointer, Nelson
 Reedy, Judith
 Remsberg, Cory Sgt.
 Robinson, Sylvia
 Rodriguez, John
 Samuels, Nancy
 Smith, Melba
 Strong, Betty
 Thames, Lamar
 Thompson, Mary Ann
 Townsend, Bob
 Townsend, Sue
 Vet, Alphonso
 Voss, Greg
 Weaver, Stephen
 Williams, Kelly
 Woolfork, James

SHUT-IN's

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



Pray for the Deceased



Pray for the repose of the soul of †Bernice McCoy, mother of Stephan, Michael and Chester McCoy

Pray for the repose of the soul of †Jermaine Orlando Gordon, son of Candice Gordon

Pray for the repose of the soul of †Saundra Brooks Wallace, mother of Raquelle Wallace, grandmother of Taylor Osuji

*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*

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.

LITURGY NOTES...

KWANZAA PRINCIPLES AND SYMBOLS



The 7 Kwanzaa Principles were designed to solidify the values of African culture. These principles are based on family, culture and community among all African Americans regardless of their religious affiliations. Known as *Nguzo Saba*, these principles are the basic foundation upon which all values are reinforced and in which a solid commitment is formed.

Umoja or Unity: To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

Kujichagulia or Self-Determination: To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

Ujima or Collective Work and Responsibility: To build and maintain our community together and make our brother's and sister's problems our problems and to solve them together.

Ujamaa or Cooperative Economics: To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Nia or Purpose: To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Kuumba or Creativity: To do always as much as we can, in any way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Imani or Faith: To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness will victory of our struggle.

The 7 Symbols of Kwanzaa -- In addition to the 7 Kwanzaa Principles there are also the **7 Symbols of Kwanzaa**. Each of these symbols represents the values of the African culture and is used to reinforce one's commitment to community, family and unity.

Mazao or The Crops: These are symbolic of African harvest celebrations and of the rewards of productive and collective labor.

Mkeka or The Mat: This is symbolic of our tradition and history and therefore, the foundation on which we build.

Kinara or The Candle Holder: This is symbolic of our roots, our parent people—continental Africans.

Muhindi or The Corn: This is symbolic of our children and our future which they embody.

Mishumaa Saba or The Seven Candles: These are symbolic of the Nguzo Saba, the Seven Principles, the matrix and minimum set of values which African people are urged to live by in order to rescue and reconstruct their lives in their own image and according to their own needs.

Kikombe cha Umoja or The Unity Cup: This is symbolic of the foundational principle and practice of unity which makes all else possible.

Zawadi or The Gifts: These are symbolic of the labor and love of parents and the commitments made and kept by the children.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Office Closure ...

December 24th — January 2nd

For Christmas/New Year

Re-Opens January 3rd

From Amazon.com...

AmazonSmile Foundation issued a **\$50.57 donation**, a percentage of their proceeds to our church as a result of the AmazonSmile activity between July 1st—September 30th.

Donations increase for our church if supporters go to Smile.Amazon.com for their shopping.

Thanks to the following parishioners who donated Christmas Trees to help make our Nativity Scene beautiful:



Michael and Cherina Coffman

Rochelle Wilkerson

Courtney Hinton

Jan Reed

Jeff Scott

COVID vaccines available at the "Rock"

Mon/Tue/Wed/ Thu 10am—6pm

Re-opens Monday, Jan 3, 2022

Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are being offered

All boosters are provided for those who need one

Vaccinations for children 5-11 years old are available

COVID testing is also available

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Saintly Six



We are proud of our ancestors. We need their intercession as men and women who know what it means "to shoulder the responsibility of being both Black and Catholic."

The cause for their canonization needs us. Since we want American Catholics to know and honor saintly Black Catholic men and women, we need to work to advance their causes of canonization. We need to pray for their canonization and support the organizations that are working to advance the causes of canonization of these six holy people.

Pierre Toussaint— <https://archny.org/ministries-and-offices/cultural-diversity-apostolate/black-ministry/venerable-pierre-toussaint/the-pierre-toussaint-cause-guild/>

Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange – www.motherlange.org

Henriette Delille – www.henrietedelille.com

Fr. Augustus Tolton—Augustus Tolton Canonization - Stewardship and Development (archchicago.org)

Sr. Thea Bowman, FSPA – www.sistetheabowman.com

Julia Greeley – www.juliagreeley.org

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.

General Fund Actual Contributions Received		
DECEMBER	5 th	12 th
Envelopes	\$ 9,488.00	\$ 7,791.00
Loose Donations	\$ 1,096.00	\$ 1,551.00
Total Contributions	\$10,584.00	\$ 9,342.00
Weekly Target Amount	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Under/Over Weekly Target	\$(1,416.00)	\$(2,658.00)

Stewardship Prayer...

That as grateful children of God, we remember to tell family and friends that we love them every day and to pray for those people that may annoy us.

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”

(1 JOHN 3:1)

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received – being children of God! As God’s children, it’s in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

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



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!

DINNERS FOR A HOMELESS SHELTER

The Peace and Justice Commission is once again coordinating dinners for the Assisi House homeless shelter in Baden.

If you would be interested in providing a dinner, please let us know. The number of women at the shelter currently is seven.

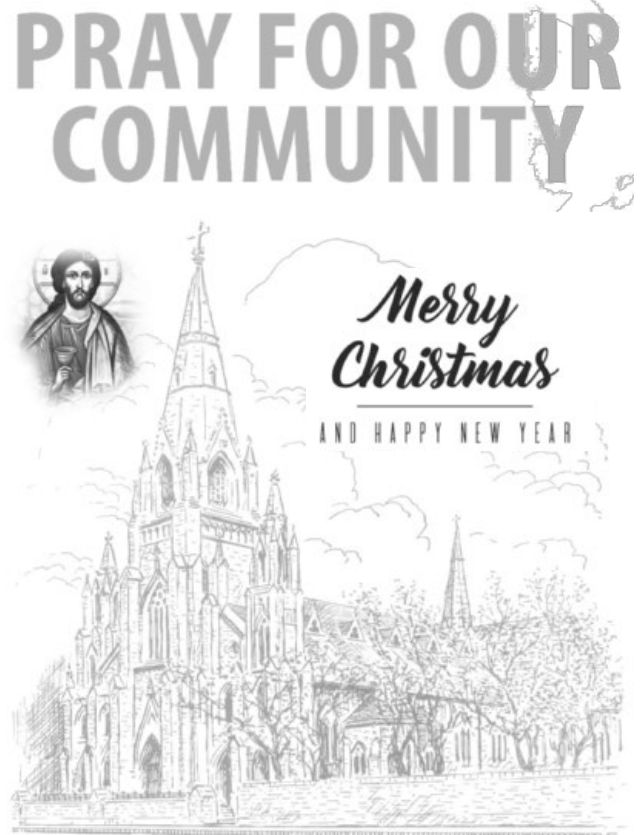
For more information contact:
 Wilma Locke, 314,229-3376 or
 Kathy McGinnis, 314-369-3821

WE STILL SELL GIFT CARDS!

Don't forget that our church receives needed funds from the sale of gift cards. Gift cards cost to you only their face value, nothing more. We accept cash or checks. These cards are not just to use as gifts, but daily at stores or restaurants.

We are counting on you to purchase the cards so the church can get anywhere from 2% to as much as 13% of the value of each sold, at no additional cost to you.

Please support this fundraising effort.



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PRAYER MEMORIALS

Tillie Mae Alexander, Larry Ambus, Garvin Anderson, Hortense Anderson, Elizabeth Henckler Aton
 Anita Louise Banks, Lillian Barnes, Loretta Beasley, Jean Irene Becker, Herron Beckley,
 Mother Dorothy Granberry Bennett, Deacon Morris E. Bohannon, Willie Steve Bowens, James R. Boykin
 Dorothy Brady, Theodore Branch, Jr., Irma King Brown, James Buford, Kenita Bush, Anna Chopin
 Betty Jean Colbert, Willie Cunningham, Charmaine Davenport, Walterene Dougherty, Roger Downs, Sr.
 Sr. Antona Ebo, FSM, Jerome Fields, Ossie R. Foster, Queen E. Dunlap Fowler, Craig Franklin
 Jermaine Gordon, Willie Goss, Georgette Gregory, Ann Marie Hatchett, Rosalind Hood, Jamar Huffmon
 Cherry Ophelia Jackson, Barbara Hudson Jones, Mark Jones, Nadine Jones, Mother Ruth Jones,
 Rev. Fr. Anthony Timothy "Tony" Judge, C.Ss.R., Robin Kyles, Stephen LaBerta, Rosemary Lee
 Eldwyn Lewis, Anice Mahone, Isis Aaliyah Mahr, 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, Christian Reedy, Wendell M. Sams, Drenea Sanders, Eugene Sanders,
 Christine Slaughter, Irma Steen, Lorraine Fite Stewart, Shontea Stricklin, Oswald Lee Thomas
 Susan Colbert Threats, Ralph Tyler, Robert Joseph Valle, Sandra Wallace, Ralph Watkins Jr., Juanita West
 Ruby Wicks, Marlene Williams, Richard Williams, Vernie Woolfork, Clarence Zacher

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Sharon Cooney-Smith, DRE
 314-533-0304

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) 944-2909
 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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Angela Thames President	Robert Caldwell Vice President	Linda Kamp Secretary
Richard Buckley	Patricia Pou	
Nicole Colbert-Bochway	Eric Thurman	
Audrey Ellermann	Kevin Triggs	
Rhonda Graham	Jocelyn Woodson-Reed	
Jessica Pou		

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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