

# *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

*"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)

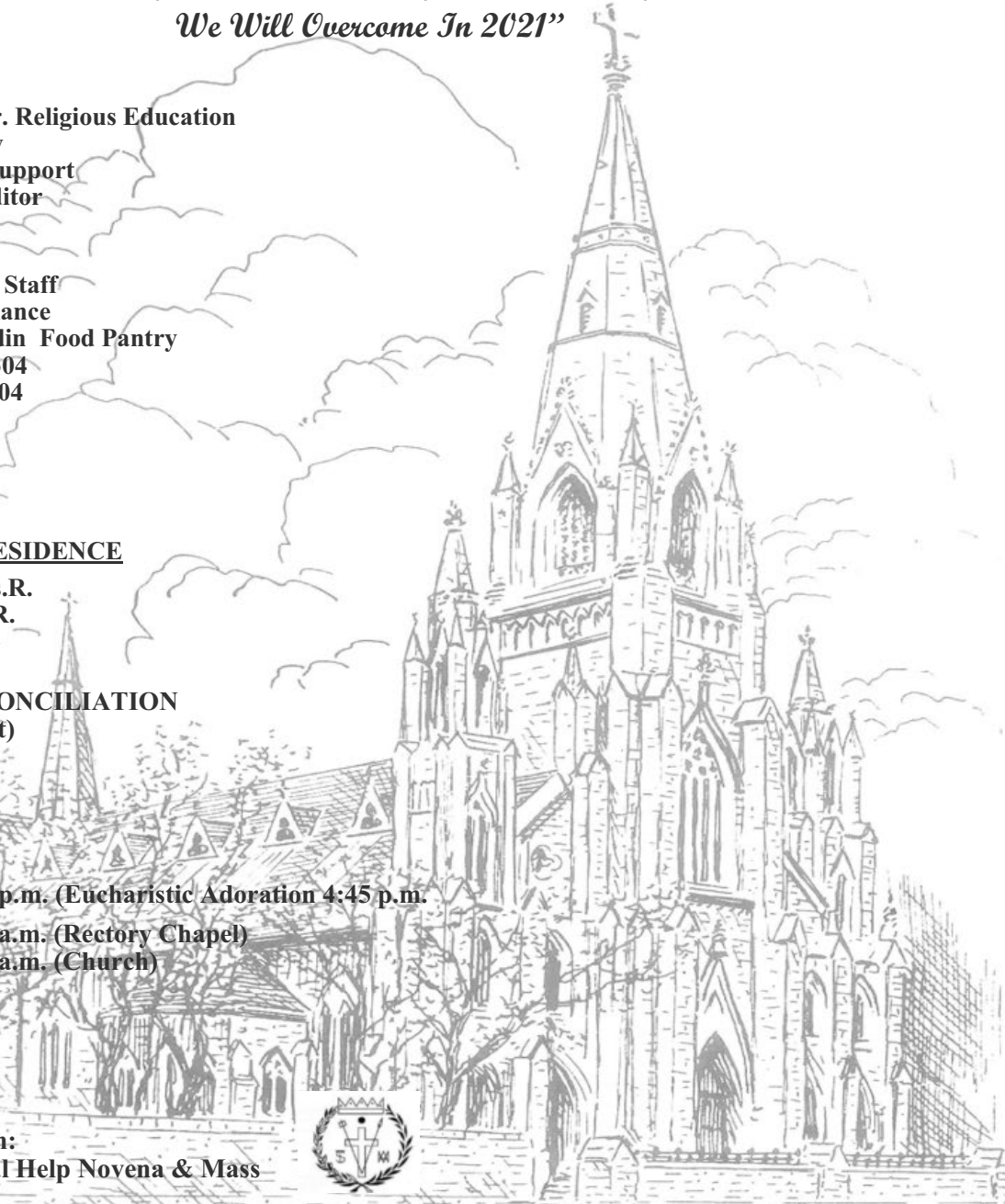
#### MONDAY:

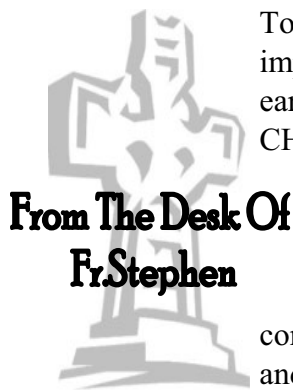
Eucharistic Adoration  
4:45 p.m.—5:30 p.m.

#### TUESDAYS:

Exposition & Benediction:

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





**From The Desk Of  
Fr. Stephen**

Today we celebrate the feast of Epiphany. It is an important feast because it teaches us that Jesus coming to earth and living among us is not just for the elite and CHOSEN few. When God reached out to Abraham, Israel became the CHOSEN people. God promised that he would always be with his people. Because of this, the Israelites thought they had an exclusive right to God and that no other people would be saved. When Jesus comes, this whole idea is questioned. At his birth, the poor and abandoned were the ones who initially had contact with him, and with the arrival of the Wise Men, this whole

theology is turned on its head. These Wise Men are pagans from a foreign land. They know nothing of Abraham and the Israelite heritage; they were inspired to follow the star; they were promised a meeting with a newborn king, and this promise was fulfilled. This feast is for those who feel they are not invited to sit at the table with Jesus. This feast shows that the Salvation that Jesus brought was not meant for a chosen few, but all.

One of the things I have been most impressed with in my time at the Rock is the hospitality and kindness we show visitors. Just like the feast today in which the pagan or Gentile world got the first glimpse of Jesus, we must continue to be open to “other” people coming to worship with us. We do this well. We just never know who might be coming to worship with us, and we also don’t see how God might be leading them to us. In the same way, the Magi were guided by the star to Jesus. Others who might be strangers to us, through the inspiration of God, might be visiting us this day. As I have already stated, I think we do an excellent job with this, and it is one of the things I am most proud of; and I hope that the quality of our church family never changes.

I want to commend everyone who visits us at the Rock for taking seriously the facial coverings that we ask you to wear. I, for one, am sick of wearing the mask, but I still think it is essential for the time being. I still hear some people saying that they have a right not to be vaccinated or not to wear a mask. They say they have a right and that the government cannot force them to do these things. Well, maybe it’s not the government telling us to do anything, but the VIRUS ITSELF. I think the VIRUS is still the one in control and telling us what to do. It is saying to us that “unless you all get vaccinated, I am going to continue to be here. In fact, I am only going to get stronger and live longer.” I do not believe we will be rid of the virus anytime soon because some people are too selfish. The virus will continue to mutate, and those trying to comply with the regulations are just going to have to wait until everyone in this country is on board. May God give us patience.

### 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:*

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

#### *Tuesday:*

1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8  
Mk 6:34-44

#### *Wednesday:*

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

#### *Thursday:*

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

#### *Friday:*

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

#### *Saturday:*

1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/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/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]  
Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

#### *Sunday:*

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

#### *Monday:*

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

#### *Tuesday:*

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

#### *Wednesday:*

St. John Neumann, Bishop

#### *Thursday:*

St. André Bessette, Religious

#### *Friday:*

St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

#### *Sunday:*

The Baptism of the Lord

**INTENTIONS 12/21/21**

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

**INTENTIONS 12/28/21**

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

**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

**SICKNESS 12/28/21**

Anthony, Jean  
 Gathright, Alice  
 Hebron, Sylvester  
 Jones, Lavell  
 Mahr, Brenda  
 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)

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 †Bobbie Earl Cox, husband of Rose Cox

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

*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](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, inclusive. 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 Savior.

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**

***Parish Office Closure ...***

December 24<sup>th</sup> — January 2<sup>nd</sup>

For Christmas/New Year

Re-Opens January 3<sup>rd</sup>

***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 1<sup>st</sup>—September 30<sup>th</sup>.

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**



**Recommended Readings on the Black Catholic Experience**

**A Place for My Children: Father Augustus Tolton, America's First Known Black Catholic Priest and His Ancestry**

by Sabrina A. Penn

**The History of Black Catholics in the United States**

by Cyprian Davis

**Authentically Black and Truly Catholic: The Rise of Black Catholicism in the Great Migration**

by Matthew Cressler

**All or Nun: Memoir of a Black Catholic Growing Up**

by Hyacinth Andersen

**Racial Justice and the Catholic Church**

by Bryan N. Massingale

**Thea Bowman: In My Own Words**

by Maurice Nutt CSSR

**Uncommon Faithfulness: The Black Catholic Experience**

by LaReine-Marie Mosely

**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	19 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>
Envelopes	\$11,068.00	\$
Loose Donations	\$ 1,885.00	\$
Total Contributions	\$12,953.00	\$13,629.00
Weekly Target Amount	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Under/Over Weekly Target	\$ 953.00	\$ 1,629.00

**Stewardship Prayer...**

That we reflect God’s wisdom, pray to God and unite our sufferings with Jesus’ every day.

“...They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”

(MATTHEW 2:11)

What gifts do you give to the Lord? Pope St. Gregory said that these three gifts represent what we should give God every day. Gold – we should reflect Christ’s wisdom in all our relationships. Frankincense—represents our daily prayer and adoration to God. Myrrh—is a symbol of our daily sacrifices that we unite with Jesus for the sake of others.

**Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Generosity**

The Gospel for the Epiphany of the Lord is a beautiful one. It beckons us to consider how we pay homage to the Lord in our own lives. We are certainly not kings in the sense that the Magi were. We do not rule nations. But we do share in the kingly office of Christ as a result of our Baptism. This means we must rule as He ruled: offering everything we have to God and being generous with our possessions and treasures. These treasures might not be gold, frankincense, or myrrh. They might instead be our time and energy spent more intentionally for prayer and service to others within our parish and within the wider community. As Pope Benedict XVI said in his homily for World Youth Day in 2008, “The Church needs your faith, your idealism, and your generosity, so that she can always be young in spirit.” [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!

**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 from registered parishioners. 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.

Thank you for supporting this fundraising effort!

**PRAY FOR OUR COMMUNITY**



## 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](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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