

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"

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)

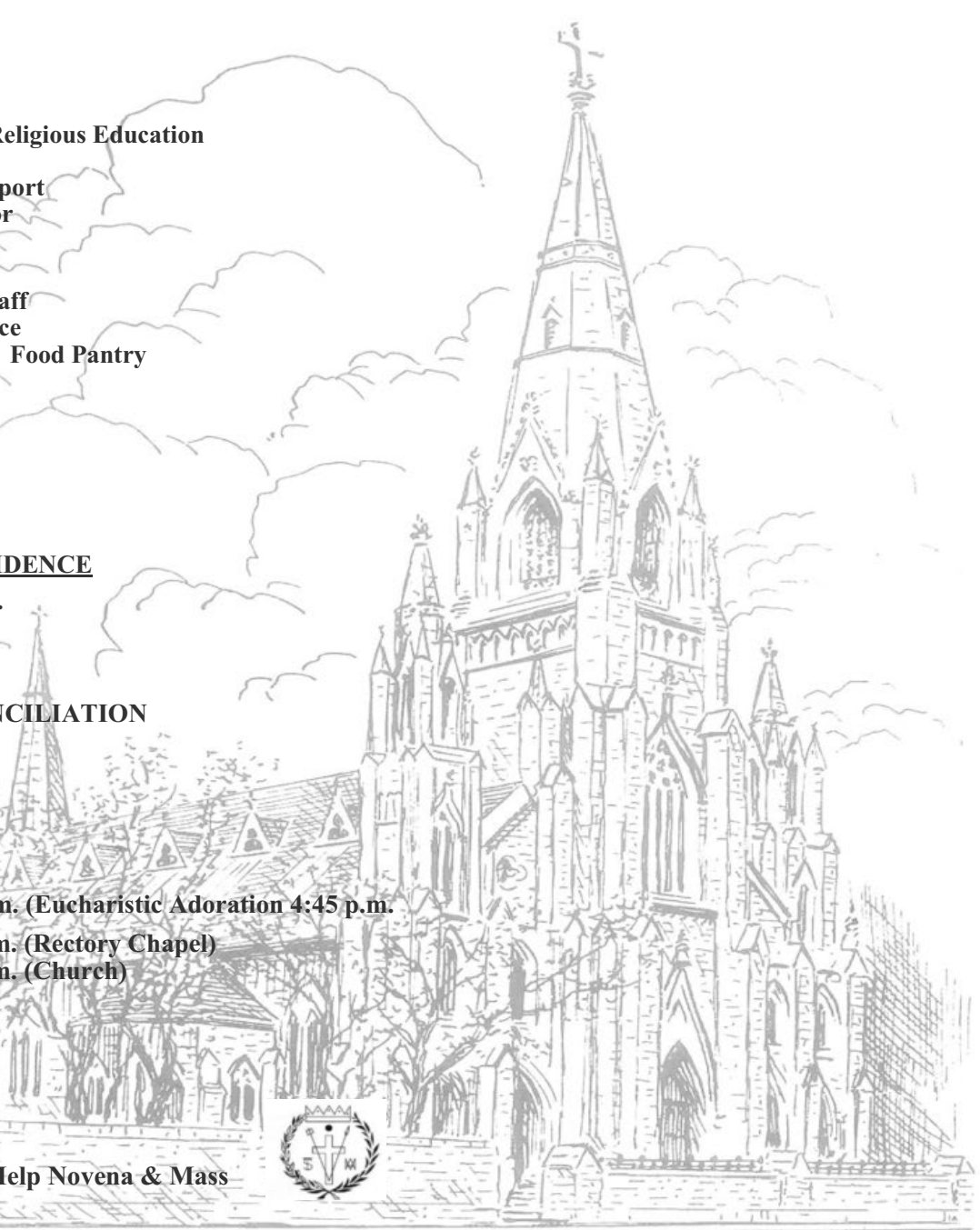
MONDAY:

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 Baptism of the Lord. I have been reading Pope Francis' book about the gospel of Mark. One of the 1st things that happen in this gospel is the Baptism of Jesus. John the Baptist is introduced to us, announcing a way to God through baptism. Pope Francis makes the comment that Jesus goes to be baptized and that he stands in line waiting his turn like everyone else. I think this is significant. In Jesus' humility, he waits his turn. He does not CUT THE LINE. I think this says a lot about how our attitude should be. Jesus waited in line like everyone else, standing around waiting his turn. He did not consider himself anything special but assumed our humanity in this way.

Of course, Jesus does not need to be baptized. John announces the need for repentance, but Jesus does not need to repent. Again, for Jesus to Redeem us, he takes on our sinfulness, but because of his mission from the Father, he knows it is essential to set an example. Even though Jesus does not need to be baptized, he stands in solidarity with those who do. This is an important lesson for us. Right now, we have those in our country who want to walk alone. We need to come together as a people and learn from the Lord. Each of us is interconnected in so many ways, and we need to continue to come together in solidarity. Even though we may not think something is important, for example, getting vaccinated, we can learn from Jesus and do it anyway. We need to continue to love and support one another. We are all in this together.

The feast we celebrate today is important because it helps us focus our attention more on the Lord. Each of us has been given the gift of baptism. Except for receiving the Lord in Holy Communion, this is the greatest thing that could happen to us. I hope we can learn to appreciate this. I had said on numerous occasions that we should find out when we were baptized and celebrate this like our birthday because, in a sense, it is a birth. It is not a physical birth but a spiritual one. We are consecrated to the Lord through our baptism in a special way. Sin is removed, and we are given Sanctifying Grace to lift us unto the Lord. The Holy Eucharist is important to us, but we could not receive that sacrament without 1st being baptized. Our baptism sets the stage, our spiritual stage, for the rest of our spiritual lives. Without our baptism, we are not connected to God in this important and unique manner. And so once again, I invite you all to find out the date of your baptism and celebrate it. I was born on December 30th, and my baptism date is January 17th. I will celebrate this date until the end of my life. May God bless us always, and remember to give thanks for our gift of life in the Spirit.

Have a great week.

Weekly Readings...

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

Monday:

1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17
18-19/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday:

1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7
8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday:

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5
7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday:

1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15
24-25/Mk 1:40-45

Friday:

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17
18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday:

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a
Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

Sunday:

Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10
[3]/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:

The Baptism of the Lord



Thursday:

St. Hilary, Bishop and
Doctor of the Church

Sunday:

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



NOTE: Names will remain listed for 2 weeks

INTENTIONS 12/28/21

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

Mozee, Sylvester
Jones, Orianna
Parran, Rodrick
Perkins, Stephen
Potts, Rick Fr.
Valle, Jr., Robert (Bobby)
Watkins, Darnell (Chef D)
Whitfield, Edna (Mother)

INTENTIONS 01/04/22

Bowens, Pat
Bowman, Dorothy & Family
Collins, Tamika
Cooney, Sylvia
George, Roberta
Hinton, Jonathon
Hinton, Mary Ann
Jackson, Pat
Kakre, Cydney & Family
Smith, Paulette
Valle, Dot
Woolfork, Virginia

SICKNESS 01/04/22

Bolden, Roderick
Burks, Teri
Cameron, Keyuana
Davis, Roycelyn
Haymore, Aleah
Howard, Yvonne
Latham, Jean
Littleton, Ginny
Moore, Brenda
Moore, Joyce
Reedy, Judith
Skinner, Joanna
Smith, Melba
Strong, Betty
Vet, Alphonso
Weaver, Stephen

SICKNESS 12/28/21

Anthony, Jean
Gathright, Alice
Hebron, Sylvester
Jones, Lavell
Mahr, Brenda
Massingale, Bryan Fr.
Mitchell, Debra
Monroe, Tanya
Moore, Joyce

SHUT-IN's

Atherton, Andrew
Bohannon, Ida
Brack, Dorothy
Clay, Irving

McCoy, Carolyn
Peters, Mae
Thomas, 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

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...

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is observed annually. It falls on the Sunday after January 6, so this year the date is January 9. It commemorates the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. It is also known as “Theophany”. The event is a distinct feast day observed in the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican, or Episcopalian Church, as well as the Eastern Orthodox Church. Believers are invited to not only think about the baptism of the Lord

Jesus but also of their own baptism.

Baptism is not uniquely Christian — Mesopotamian, Egyptian, and Eastern religions all practiced forms of baptism in antiquity. It is a central religious rite in Hinduism, various Indigenous American nations, and Judaism. Different types of washings and purification by water are practiced in almost every other religion in the world, including Islam, Buddhism, and Shintoism. It is a central religious rite in Hinduism, various indigenous American nations, and Judaism.

The Baptism of the Lord memorializes the baptism of Jesus Christ in the Jordan River by John the Baptist at the start of His ministry. Although it was originally one of three Gospel events marked by the Epiphany, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord was declared as a separate entity from the other two events — the coming of the Magi, and the wedding at Cana. This was done in 1955 by the then Pope, Pius XII.

This feast closes out the Christmas cycle in the Roman Catholic calendar. The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is considered one of the most important Christian holidays, and it is well-known and looked forward to. It is seen as God revealing Himself to man as people identify with Jesus. It reminds the believer that just as Jesus moved from the baptism waters into ministry, they need to move as His disciples in their lives. On the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, they recommit themselves to their Christian identity. Sunday School and church lessons are prepared on the topic to help congregants with this.

(Source:www.nationaltoday.com)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Inclement Weather
Office Closed When...
STL Public School Is Closed

Parish Office Closure ...

January 17, 2022
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

COVID vaccines available at the "Rock"

Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu 10am—6pm

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

ST. CHARLES LWANGA CENTER ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICE OF BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRY NEWS

46th Annual Celebration on the Holiday Weekend
Commemorating the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Sunday, January 16, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

Cathedral Basilica
4431 Lindell Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108

Eucharistic Adoration Mondays at 5:00 p.m.



What a beautiful thing to be able to sit quietly with the Lord. Mass will follow at 5:30 p.m. I hope you can make time for Jesus.

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

DEC. / JAN.	26 th	2 nd
Envelopes	\$ 9,856.00	\$ 7,685.00
Loose Donations	\$ 3,723.00	\$ 1,842.00
Total Contributions	\$13,579.00	\$ 9,527.00
Weekly Target Amount	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Under/Over Weekly Target	\$ 1,579.00	\$(2,473.00)

Stewardship Prayer...

That we may fulfill our own Baptismal call by giving ourselves entirely to God and answer His call to holiness.

“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...’”

(LUKE 3:16)

The Catholic Catechism states that *“Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.”* In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Prayer

We hear in this week’s Gospel about how Jesus visited John the Baptist and was baptized with water. We also hear that after His baptism, Jesus took time to pray. Jesus was commissioned by God for a large and vital mission, and He knew that He only had three short years to accomplish it! His example shows us that no matter how busy we are or how much we have to do it is vital that we take time to pray. In fact, the examples shown by Jesus and many of the saints teach us that the need to take time to pray grows with the busyness of our lives. Please, Jesus, instill in all of us the desire to build a deeper relationship with you through prayer. Amen.



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!

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!

Wilhelmina Hardin Center

The Hardin Center Food Pantry is open on Tues. and Thurs. from 10 a.m.—12 noon.

Volunteers are needed to help pack bags and assist in distribution.

Donations needed include peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, canned chili, ravioli, soup (not tomato). The pantry is asking for toiletries—soap, body wash, toothpaste, mouthwash, lotion, deodorant, etc.

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. 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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