

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 20, 2016 Media Contact: Gabe Jones 314.792.7557 gabejones@archstl.org

## Statement Regarding Rev. Thomas J. Graham

**ST. LOUIS** – The Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis, has announced a recently reported allegation of sexual abuse of a minor against retired priest Reverend Thomas J. Graham which occurred in the 1980s at St. Alban Roe Catholic Church in Wildwood.

Due to a previous allegation, Father Graham, who resides in a restricted environment, is already on permanent administrative leave which prohibits him from engaging in priestly ministry, including actions such as presenting himself publicly as a priest, wearing clerical attire, offering Mass publicly, or administering the sacraments.

In keeping with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, to ensure transparency in communicating with the public about allegations of sexual abuse of minors and as an outreach to potential victims, an announcement about this allegation will be made in the archdiocesan newspaper, *The St. Louis Review*, in the parish bulletin where the new allegation surfaced, and in other parishes where Fr. Graham served.

We continue to pray for the victims of the grave evil of sexual abuse.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis encourages all persons with reports of abuse of a minor involving a member of the clergy or other church personnel to contact Deacon Phil Hengen, Director of Child and Youth Protection, at 314.792.7704, the Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 800.392.3738 and/or law enforcement officials.

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