

THE PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS...

Looking Ahead

Merry Christmas my sisters and brothers in Christ, as we gather to celebrate the great Feast of Epiphany. As we enter the end of the Christmas Season, I hope that your celebration of His Incarnation has been joyful and significant. Our lives can be truly transformed by meditating upon the great mysteries of "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Thanks to all of our ministries that helped to make our celebrations holy and memorable. Our Kwanzaa luncheon also seemed to be a hit.

As we look to our celebration for this Sunday, we see the Magi, led by a star, coming to give gifts and honor to the newborn King. We refer to this revelation of God's Presence among us as "the Epiphany". For centuries this has been a major celebration in the Catholic Church. In some countries, it rivals Christmas as a day of gifts and feasting. There are many traditions surrounding Epiphany in different cultures.

I would like to use this celebration as an opportunity to look at our own direction in life. The Magi were led by a star to find Jesus. They had a mission, a drive, to find the important person that inspired this new star. They were led to find the newborn King, as a sign that salvation would be offered to the Gentiles, and not only to the people of Israel. They had a long journey, but they would not quit until they found the One that their hearts had longed for. It took dedication and commitment to make this journey.

It is the same for us. We also need to figure out where we are headed. Some people treat Christianity as a journey away from something. We walk away from sin and death, but that path must also lead us TO somewhere. What is our focus? Where is our mission? To follow



From The Desk Of
Fr. Matthew S. Bonk

Jesus is more than just leaving our sins behind; we have to have some direction that leads us to Jesus in an intentional way. To be a disciple is not only about what I have given up, but it is defined by my drive and commitment to get to Jesus and His will for my life. We die to our old selves and start a whole new journey in a different direction.

This is not a journey that we make alone. We travel with Jesus, and with each other. Our community also has to have direction and focus. Together, we strive to find where the Lord is calling us. This is the main purpose of our Parish Council. The Council is gathered to discern the parish's vision and mission. We are all called to use our gifts at the service of the mission. As a parish we also need to look forward and discern where Jesus is calling us to go.

This Feast of the Epiphany is a reminder to us that we are on a journey. We are either traveling toward God or away from Him. Everyone has a goal in life. We need to determine whether our goals are God's goals, or our own. Are we going along His path, or are we following the world and distractions? These are important, fundamental questions for us to consider. The Magi made a difficult journey to Jesus. In the end, all they wanted to do was to give Him gifts. What a beautiful sign of dedication, inspiration, and generosity. I hope each of us continues to be driven to deeper love and service of our Lord Jesus. So . . . where are you going?

Fr. Matthew S. Bonk
C.S.S.R.

Mass
Schedule...

SUNDAY MASSES:

8:15 & 11:00 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

(before each Mass)

7:30-8:00 a.m. and 10:15-10:45 a.m.

DAILY MASSES:

(M.W. Th. & F.) 5:30 p.m.

Tuesdays: 7:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.

TUESDAYS:

Exposition & Benediction: 9:30 am-10:30 am (1st Tuesday) followed by our Perpetual Help Novena & Mass

Weekly
Readings...



January 3, 2010 - January 10, 2010

Sunday:

Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2,7-8,10-13
Eph 3:2-3a,5-6 Mt 2:1-12

Monday:

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

Tuesday:

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

Wednesday:

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

Thursday:

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

Friday:

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

Saturday:

1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-6a,9b Jn 3:22-30

Sunday:

Is 40:1-5,9-11 Ps 104:1b-4,24-25,27-30
Ti 2:11-14,3:4-7 Lk 3:15-16,21-22

SCHEDULE OF LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3rdALTAR SERVERS

8:15 Tony Conte
Robert Caldwell

PASTORAL AIDES

8:15 Mark Kamp

EUCCHARISTIC MIN.

8:15 Andrew Atherton
Ann Conte
Jacquie Crawford
Martha Darris
Maudelle Fite
Michelle Dillehay
Lois Greer
Linda Kamp

Host: Audrey Ellermann

Host: Michael Ellermann

ELDERS

8:15 Ernest Nashville
11:00 Dorothy Bennett

INCENSE BEARERS

8:15 Lynda Crymes
11:00 Cathy Burt

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10thALTAR SERVERS

8:15 John Wright
Anastasia Wright

PASTORAL AIDES

8:15

EUCCHARISTIC MIN.

8:15 Sharon Lyons
Brenda Moore
Pat Quain
Melba Smith
Johnnie Taylor
Doris Terry
Janet Thompson
Norman Williams

Host: Jean Nashville

Host: Angela Mullen

ELDERS

8:15 Nina Hughes
11:00 Edna Whitfield

INCENSE BEARERS

8:15 Audrey Ellermann
11:00 Joy Camp

ALTAR SERVERS

11:00 Temani Combs
Jessica Pou
Emma Pou

PASTORAL AIDES

11:00: Alexis Hicks

EUCCHARISTIC MIN

11:00 Jean Anthony
Anita Banks
Dorothy Brack
Nikki Britts
Henrene Brown
Cynthia Clayton
Sharon Cooney-Smith
Pamela Leong

Host: Joy Camp

Host: Deborah Grant

LECTORS /COMMENTATOR

8:15 Elizabeth Boykin-Moore
Jacquie Crawford
11:00 Bobbie Cox
Richard Buckley

USHERS - Group 1

8:15 Linda Kamp
11:00 Lisa Bowie-Perry

ALTER SERVERS

11:00 Daedra Wallace
Desiree Wallace

PASTORAL AIDES

11:00 Sandra Branch

EUCCHARISTIC MIN.

11:00 Richard Lane
Mary Middleton
Patricia Nwaokokorom
Pat Pou
Barbara Richter
Angela Thames
Edna Whitfield
Jean Anthony

Host: Pamela Leong

Host: Blondell Lucas

LECTORS /COMMENTATOR

10:00 Michael Ellermann
Carol Henderson-Powell
11:00 Patricia Bowens
Bonita Cornute

USHERS - Group 2

8:15 Pat Quain
11:00 Lillian Cooney

PRAYER CORNER



**“FOR THOSE STANDING IN THE
NEED OF PRAYER”**

“O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of our souls and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” To include someone in our Prayer Corner, please call the office Monday through Tuesday 9:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.

(We are saying Special Prayers for persons and families living with HIV/AIDS.)

NOTE: Names will remain listed for 2 weeks unless the office is notified.

INTENTIONS 12/23/09

Hatten, Alice
Rodgers, Pearl

INTENTIONS 12/30/09

Rodgers, Reggie & Family

SICKNESS 12/23/09

Rodgers, Yvarra

INTENTIONS

Alexandre, Rosemary S.*
Bell, Gilbert*
Brown, Eric*
Cloyd Jr., Harvey Carroll*
Collins, Amy*
Davis, Denise*
George, Roberta & Family*
Glenn, Lesley*
Glenn, Rae*
Grant, Bernice*
Hatchett, Ann*
Howard, Yvonne*
Hughes, Goyia*
Hughes, Irene*
Jones, Harriett*
Latham, Darrian*
Martin, Linda*
Mosby, Marvin*
Parran, Lauren*
Raiford, Cheryl*
Smith, Amos W.*
Williams, Ethel*
Zacher, Clarence*

SICKNESS

Anderson, Daryl*
Coleman, Ken*
Crowley, Tammy*
George, Betty*
Jones, Harriett*
Luster, Juanita*
McCoy, Steven*
Perkins, Belinda*
Perkins, Charles Sr.*
Pleasant, Lionel*
Rankins, Gloria*
Reedy, Judith*
Reedy, Sidney*
Smith, Sharon*
Worth, Shirley*

SHUT-IN

Anderson, Hortense
Brown, Lannie
Camp, Cynthia
Carson, Donetta
Chopin, Dave & Ann
Clay, Irvin & Evelyn
Collins, Lizell
DuMaine, William
Fowler, Queen
Goodlow, Elizabeth
Jackson, Margaret
Johnson, Deacon Les
Joiner, Ruby
Jones, Mother Julia
Kulhman, Ann
McCoy, Carolyn
Riley, Jerry
Rinderer, Barbara
Ringo, Maggie
Roberts, Juanita



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. Louis Review

Please remember to pay for your *St. Louis Review* donation. An envelope is included in this quarter's package. If you do not wish to receive the *St. Louis Review*, please write **DO NOT SEND** on the envelope and drop it in the locked box located on the usher's table.

Thank You

Please note:

All fundraising activities must be approved by the Fundraising Committee. Request forms can be obtained from the church office, or the brochure rack located in the Grand entrance vestibule.

ATTENTION STUDENTS

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest is open to all middle school students, 6th, 7th and 8th grades of the Public and Catholic schools in the city of St. Louis Missouri.

The theme for the January 24th, 2010 Essay contest is:

“If Dr. Martin Luther King Were Alive Today, What would he say to President Barack Obama?”

Essays should consist of 500 words or less including date, name, address, school and grade of the student. The deadline for Essays is January 8, 2010.

The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will receive U.S. Saving Bonds, and will read their winning essays at the 3:00 p.m. Church Celebration hosted at:

St. Alphonsus Liguori “Rock” Catholic Church, located at
1118 North Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63106

Light refreshments will be served immediately following the celebration in the church parish hall. For more information please call Anita Banks, Commissioner for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. State Celebration Commission, at 314-382-9545.

LITURGY NOTES

EPIPHANY

“STAR SEARCH”

“They were overjoyed at seeing the star.” - Matthew 2:10

The magi were likely not religious people; they were secular astrologers (Mt 2:1). In the course of their work, they saw a wondrous sign: a new star rising in the west. To them, the star revealed the birth of the future king of the Jews (Mt 2:2). They were not necessarily searching for the Lord God; they were following the star which had drawn them to greet the new King.

No one can come to Jesus unless drawn by the Father (Jn 6:44). God uses many means to draw people to Jesus. Some men are initially drawn to Jesus by a God-fearing young woman. Some people are only drawn to Jesus by their own children or grandchildren. Some are drawn by a Christian athlete or entertainer; others are drawn to Jesus by a Christian they respect. “What of it? All that matters is that in any and every way” people are drawn to Jesus (Phil 1:18).

You are the light of the world (Mt 5:14), and thus you are a star which draws people to Jesus. God has planned to draw some people to Jesus by your light. He will draw some people who don't know about Jesus to you, much like the magi were drawn to the star. They may not be searching for Jesus, but they will be searching you out. May you “shine like the stars in the sky” (Phil 2:15) and reflect the glory of God so that these searchers who seek you will soon seek and find Jesus (Mt 7:7).

Prayer: Father, on this Epiphany day, may “the sun of justice” rise “with its healing rays”, to lead many to Jesus.

Promise: “Upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears His glory.” - Is 60:2

Praise: Praise You, risen Jesus, “manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit; seen by the angels; preached among the Gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up into glory” (1Tm 3:16).

(2009) *One Bread, One Body Advent/Christmas*. Volume 26, No. 1. Presentation Ministries, Inc. Cincinnati, OH

SAINT OF THE WEEK...

St. Genevieve
 Feastday: January 3
 Patron of Paris

St. Genevieve was born about the year 422, at Nanterre near Paris. She was seven years old when St. Germain of Auxerre came to her native village on his way to great Britain to combat the heresy of Pelagius. The child stood in the midst of a crowd gathered around the man of God, who singled her out and foretold her future sanctity. At her desire the holy Bishop led her to a church, accompanied by all the faithful, and consecrated her to God as a virgin. When Attila was reported to be marching on Paris, the inhabitants of the city prepared to evacuate, but St. Genevieve persuaded them to avert the scourge by fasting and prayer, assuring them of the protection of Heaven. The event verified the prediction, for the barbarian suddenly changed the course of his march.

The life of St. Genevieve was one of great austerity, constant prayer, and works of charity. She dressed in a long flowing gown with a mantle covering her shoulders, similar to the type of garments the Blessed Mother wore. One of the symbols of this saint is a loaf of bread because she was so generous to those in need. She died in the year 512.



ANNOUNCEMENTS...

Jobs for next summer are coming! Slate Missouri Career Center Check the website for updates: www.stlworks.com

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Is coming to town. Workers begin at 18. Visit their website at www2010.census.gov

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Food Team Inc. is a St. Louis employer with many positions opened.

We are looking for applicants with prior experience in the Food Service Industry, positions include Dishwasher, Cooks (mostly prep cook and light cooking) and Cashiers.

Applicants can call (618) 281-8400 or come to the office at 1007 N. Main St. Columbia, IL 62236 (10 minutes from downtown)

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If you or someone you know is interested in extra income, (working 4-6 hours per week), please call (314) 494-1457 or email Michelle Smith: smithlegalministry@yahoo.com



LWANGA CENTER HAPPENINGS



BIBLE STUDY!!! at the Lwanga Center on Thursday's:
 Jan. 7th
 Jan. 14th
 Jan. 21st
 Jan. 28th
 Feb. 4th.

Fr. Art Cavitt will lead us in
 "Prophets and Prophecy"

surveying major and minor prophets in the Old Testament. Gathering begins at 1:00 p.m. Please bring a Bible (preferably the New American Edition) and paper to take notes. No charge. Free will offerings are always welcome. Call for reservations: (314) 367-7929.



St. Charles Lwanga and Companions

Financial Corner...

Offerings and Tithes

DECEMBER 2009	
Date	Amount
6	\$ 10,660.03
13	\$ 11,188.51
20	\$ 7,890.46
25	\$ 3,442.28
27	\$ 5,294.00
Total	\$ 38,475.30
Wkly Avg.	\$ 7,695.06

BRICKS SOLD	
GOAL	1000
SOLD	168
REMAINING	832

We have to sell 400 bricks before we can start the MOPH Garden

Amount needed each week to meet budget: \$12,000

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

That we may learn to value and live more fully the faith that Jesus brought for all people.

"...the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel."

Today we celebrate the fact that Christ came to all of us, not just the Hebrews. He made us all one body with Him. Because God has given us different gifts we all have different yet equally valuable roles to play in the Body of Christ? If one of us does not play his or her role the whole body suffers. How will you play your role this year?

E-Scrip card YTD	\$394.65
November, 2009	\$ 69.57

electronic **f** offertory

Is Now Available!
www.stalphonsusrock.org



Memorial Brick Garden Update



Thanks to all of you who placed brick orders for the ROCK'S "Our Lady of Perpetual Help Garden", in memory of our beloved former pastor, Fr. Bob Wirth.

The first phase of the garden will be installed in spring 2010. You can still place and pay for your brick order and get it in the first phase. Order forms are on the usher's table. Place the order form and payment in the locked multipurpose box located on the usher's table by the north-side door entrance, or send your payment and form to the church office.



st. louis tax assistance program

2010 St. Louis Tax Assistance Program

The St. Louis Tax Assistance Program offers **FREE ELECTRONIC INCOME TAX RETURN PREPARATION** and tax information for a family with income under \$50,000. The program is targeted at those working families who are eligible for the earned income credit and child care credit.

Dates are Saturdays, Jan 30th, Feb. 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th. Time is 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. For more information please visit website <http://www.stlouistap.org/>

PARISH INFORMATION

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Matthew S. Bonk, C.Ss.R., Pastor
 Rev. Thé Joseph Phạm, C.Ss.R., Assoc. Pastor
 Joyce Jones, Business Manager
 Donna L. Lane
 (Dir. of Religious Education/Youth Ministry)
 Wilhelmina Hardin, Dir. of M.A.T.
 Social Min.

PASTORAL STAFF

Roberta George, Secretary

SUPPORT STAFF

Bro. Terry Burke, C.Ss.R., Manager
 Terrance Gipson, Maintenance

PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Angela Mullen
 Vice Chair: Michael Page
 Secretary: Rosalind Hood
 Assist. Secretary: Alice Cummings
 Member-at-Large I: Eugene Wallace
 Finance Liaison: Jeffrey McDonald
 Lois Scott
 Brenda Moore-Jones
 Christine Bluett
 Garnetta Thames
 Jerilyn M. Bell



COMMUNITY HELP

M.A.T. Social Ministry Center
 (Emergency Aid) (314) 531-1040

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

Birthright (Crisis pregnancy) 314-962-5300 and
 Abortion Recovery Help: 877-HOPE-4-ME.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Religious Ed.: 314- 533-0304 Ext. 1311

Children's Bible Class
 every Sunday: 10:30 - 11:45 am.

Central Catholic/St. Nicholas
 School - (314) 231-6254

Baptismal Preparation (314) 533-0304
 (ask for Donna Lane)

St. Charles Lwanga Center
 (314) 367-7929

COMMISSIONS & CHAIRS

Christian Formation—TBD
 Christian Service - TBD
 Family Life Comm. - TBD
 Finance & Adm. - John Wright
 Liturgy - Richard Buckley
 Social Life - Hilliard Phillips

REDEMPTORISTS IN

RESIDENCE

Rev. Kyle Fisher, C.Ss.R.
 Rev. Dave Polek, C.Ss.R.
 Deacon Rick Fischer, C.Ss.R.

MUSIC MINISTRY

8: 15—Malcolm Speed
 11:00—Danny Dumaine

Athletic Office: 314 533-0304
 Ext. 1002

Teen Ministry: 314 533-0304
 Ext. 1002

Church Etiquette

Before entering Church:

- Please turn all cell phones , electronic toys and pagers off
- Please, no eating or chewing gum in church
- Please do not stand in the aisles around the walls
- Please refrain from moving during the consecration
- Please do not litter the church, church yard, parking lot or the street

ATTENTION

If your telephone number or address has changed since January 2008, please contact the office at 533-0304. 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 Tuesday's. Please fax items to 314 599-4260 or e-mail to parish130@archstl.org

STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER????

St. Alphonsus Rock has prayer ministry after each Mass every Sunday.

Go to the choir area after Mass, and there will be members there to pray with you and for you. Feel a heavy burden? Need a healing? Have a thankful heart? Worried?

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? Inform one of the priests, and they can anoint you after Mass. Call and leave your hospital information at the office; a priest will visit you.