

THE PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS...

The Greatest Gift of All

Greetings and blessings in the Holy Spirit to you, beloved Rock Church family! I also want to greet all our visitors. It may be cold outside, but we warm ourselves with the love and fellowship that we share as we gather in prayer.

I hope that we all leave with the graces and encouragement that we need, after worshipping the Lord together on this glorious Sunday. May His peace be with you, and His Spirit guide you this week!

Our second reading this Sunday is one of the most familiar passages in the New Testament. If you have been to just a few weddings, you have probably heard this passage at most of them. It is Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 13. It is also known as the "Love Chapter". It is a beautiful reflection on the love that we receive from God, but also on the love that we can share with each other. It can be a picture of romantic love, but it is so much more to the disciples of Jesus.

If you recall, this chapter is set in the middle of a discussion on Spiritual Gifts (chapters 12 & 14). In the middle of this discussion, Saint Paul gives this strong emphasis on the power and dignity of love. Clearly spiritual gifts can only be understood as we place them in the context of love. As Saint Paul teaches, the gifts are given for the service of the Church. We are not to grow proud or vain in the use of our gifts. Too often the attention that spiritual gifts receive is focused on the person with the gifts. It is a wonderful thing to see God work miracles in our ministries. It is a terrible thing for the praise to go to us instead of God!

If we work miracles, speak in tongues, heal the sick, predict the future, call down fire or any other manifestation of His power without love, we are wasting our time. The gifts can only bear the proper



**From The Desk Of
Fr. Matthew S. Bonk**

fruit if love is present. Saint Paul tells us that love is the key to the Church's power. There is power in the Church. There is power in the Holy Spirit. God is willing to manifest that power, but only if it brings glory to Him and is a result of His love. Where there is love, there will be many miracles.

The other message of this passage is that biblical love is not always the same as what we call love. If we see people "in love" in movies or on TV, we notice that it is not usually "patient, kind, forgiving, enduring, hopeful". What is often called love in our society is NOT what God calls love. When someone tells us that they love us, we need to discern if they are speaking about worldly love, emotional love, lust, or true love that comes from the Holy Spirit. As often as the word "love" is used, most of the time it is not true.

If we look around in the stores, we see that many have displays for (Saint) Valentine's Day. There will be much talk about love, many loving cards and romantic gifts. For Christians, we must remember that love is not simply a feeling or emotion. Saint Paul shares with us that love is a powerful gift from God. The Holy Spirit tells us that love is even greater than faith or hope. We are called to use our gifts and share our lives in love. The greatest gift of love is that God "so loved the world, that He gave His only Son". We love you Lord! Help us to love one another.

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: (JAN 18-22)

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 31, 2010 - February 6, 2010

Sunday:

Jer 1:4-5,17-19 Ps 71:1-6,15,17 1
Cor 12:31-13:13

Monday:

2 Sm 15:13-14,30;16:5-13 Ps 3:2-7
Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday:

Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24:7-10 Heb 2:14-18
Lk 2:22-40

Wednesday:

2 Sm 24:2,9-17 Ps 32:1-2,5-7
Mk 6:1-6

Thursday:

1 Kgs 2:1-4,10-12
(Ps) 1 Chr 29:10-12 Mk 6:7-13

Friday:

Sir 47:2-11 Ps 18:31,47,50-51
Mk 6:14-29

Saturday:

1 Kgs 3:4-13 Ps 119:9-14
Mk 6:30-34

Sunday:

Is 6:1-2a,3-8 Ps 138:1-5,7-8
1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8,11 Lk 5:1-11

SCHEDULE OF LITURGICAL MINISTRIES**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31st****ALTAR SERVERS**

8:15 Tony Conte
Robert Caldwell

PASTORAL AIDES

8:15 Mark Kamp

EUCCHARISTIC MIN.

8:15 Janet Thompson
Norman Williams
Jacquie Crawford
Martha Darris
Michael Ellermann
Maudelle Fite

Host: Andrew Atherton

Host: Ann Conte

ELDERS

8:15 Ernest Nashville
11:00 Edna Whitfield

INCENSE BEARERS

8:15 Linda Crimes
11:00 Janis McSpadden

USHERS -

8:15 Youth
11:00 Youth

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7th**ALTAR SERVERS**

8:15 Anastasia Wright

PASTORAL AIDES

8:15 John Wright

EUCCHARISTIC MIN.

8:15 Linda Kamp
Helene Laberta
Jean Latham
Brenda Moore
Pat Quain
Melba Smith

Host: Jean Nashville

Host: Angela Mullen

ELDERS

8:15 Andrew Atherton
11:00 Anita Banks

INCENSE BEARERS

8:15 Audrey Ellermann
11:00 Kristin Parran

USHERS - Group 1

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

ALTAR SERVERS

11:00 Sidne Williams
Von Williams

PASTORAL AIDES

11:00 Sandra Branch

EUCCHARISTIC MIN

11:00 Pamela Leong
Karen Madison
Mary Middleton
Pat Pou
Jean Anthony
Anita Banks
Dorothy Brack
Henrene Brown

Host: Blondell Lucas

Host: Nikki Taylor

Host: Angela Thames

Host: Edna Whitfield

LECTORS /COMMENTATOR

8:15 Anastasia Wright
John Wright
11:00 Sheonna Cooney
Dorothy Butler

ALTER SERVERS

11:00 Jacqueline Bryant
Emma Pou
Jessica Pou

PASTORAL AIDES

11:00 David Wallace

EUCCHARISTIC MIN.

11:00 Sharon Cooney-Smith
Donna Lane
Richard Lane
Pamela Leong
Blondell Lucas
Karen Madison
Mary Middleton
Pat Pou

Host: Joy Camp

Host: Cynthia Clayton

Host: Deborah Grant

Host: Pearlina Harris

LECTORS /COMMENTATOR

8:15 Angela Mullen
Jacquie Crawford
11:00 John Whitfield
Richard Buckley

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 01/27/10

Gawer-Jackson, Renee
Jamison & Smith Family

INTENTIONS 01/20/10

Norlect (Rhodes), Marsha & Family*
Smith, Ronda & Family
Turner, Craig
Washington, Yvette*

SICKNESS 01/27/10

Allen-Smith, Queen
Silinzy, Anita
Stard, Bob

SICKNESS 01/20/10

Barnes, Carolyn
Evans, Jolene

HOSPITAL 01/27/10

Collins, Lizell*
Robinson, Jerry

INTENTIONS

Alexandre, Rosemary S.*
Allen-Smith, Queen*
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 TSgt*
Smith, Amos W.*

SICKNESS

Anderson, Daryl*
Coleman, Ken*
Crowley, Tammy*
George, Betty*
Hatten, Pam*
Hudson, Edward*
Jones, Harriet*
Luster, Juanita*
McCoy, Steven*
McSpadden, Phillip*
Perkins, Belinda*
Perkins, Charles Sr.*
Rankins, Gloria*
Reedy, Judith*
Reedy, Sidney*
Remsberg, Corey Sgt.*
Worth, Shirley*
Zikovic, Katrina*

HOSPITAL

Albright, Winston*
Buckley, Darrell*

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
Robinson, Vernita
Stevenson, Mary
Turner, Thelma



YOUTH CORNER

CALLING ALL PARENTS:



First Reconciliation and First Eucharist classes will begin on January 30, 2010

Children must be 7 years old and in the 2nd grade. They must attend Catholic School or be enrolled in a PSA (Parish Sponsored Religion) program or our Religious Education Program. Please contact—Donna Lane @ 314-533-0304.

HELP GIVE THE GIFT OF SIGHT

Imagine if you could help a child read. An adult succeed in his job. A senior maintain her independence. And provide a community with more opportunities to grow and thrive.

The St. Alphonsus “Rock” Teen Ministry in cooperation with Lions Club International will collect old prescription eyeglasses from family and friends to be given to people in Africa, Asia and South America. You can drop off your old eyewear in the Lions-sponsored collection box located at the Grand entrance.

Just think, for less than .08 cents you can provide a pair of recycled eyeglasses and change someone’s life.



LITURGY NOTES

SURPRISED BY LOVE

"When I became a man I put childish ways aside." —
1 Corinthians 13:11

Saul resembled the indignant Jews from Nazareth in today's Gospel. He surely wanted to throw Jesus over a cliff (see Lk 4:29). Such was Saul's zeal when he opposed Jesus and His followers. He harassed the Church, entered many Christian homes, "dragged men and women out, and threw them into jail" (Acts 8:3). Saul once testified: "I sent many of God's holy people to prison. When they were to be put to death I cast my vote against them...Indeed, so wild was my fury against them that I pursued them even to foreign cities" (Acts 26:10-11). Saul was one of those who would put a Christian to death and "claim to be serving God!" (Jn 16:2)

Saul couldn't accept Jesus in his native place (see Lk 4:24). So Jesus gave him a new nature and a new native place. Jesus appeared to Saul (Acts 9:3ff), gave him a new nature in baptism (Acts 9:18), and a new native place by granting him citizenship in heaven (Phil 3:20). Saul had a heart of stone, and was a man without love. Set free by the love of Jesus, "Saul (also known as Paul)" (Acts 13:9) became a "pillar of iron, a wall of brass" who spread the word of God to many nations (Jer 1:18).

How could such a zealous, furious man change into a person so loving and sensitive that he could write the beautiful, timeless words of love recorded in 1Corinthians 13? Paul's fury melted as the Holy Spirit poured out the love of God into his heart (Rm 5:5).

Who is the hard, angry Saul in your life? Can you love this Saul into the arms of Jesus? "Love never fails" (1 Cor 13:8).

Prayer: Jesus, love many into Your kingdom through my life. May I see those with hardened hearts through Your eyes.

Promise: "Before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you." —Jer 1:5

Praise: "Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph 1:3).

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

SAINT OF THE WEEK...

Feastday: February 2nd

Presentation of the Lord

The feast was first observed in the Eastern Church as "The Encounter." In the sixth century, it began to be observed in the West: in Rome with a more penitential character and in Gaul (France) with solemn blessings and processions of candles, popularly known as "Candlemas." The Presentation of the Lord concludes the celebration of the Nativity and with the offerings of the Virgin Mother and the prophecy of Simeon, the events now point toward Easter.

"In obedience to the Old Law, the Lord Jesus, the first-born, was presented in the Temple by his Blessed Mother and his foster father. This is another 'epiphany' celebration insofar as the Christ Child is revealed as the Messiah through the canticle and words of Simeon and the testimony of Anna the prophetess. Christ is the light of the nations, hence the blessing and procession of candles on this day. In the Middle Ages this feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or 'Candlemas,' was of great importance.

"The specific liturgy of this Candlemas feast, the blessing of candles, is not as widely celebrated as it should be, except of course whenever February 2 falls on a Sunday and thus takes precedence. There are two ways of celebrating the ceremony, either the Procession, which begins at a 'gathering place' outside the church, or the Solemn Entrance, celebrated within the church."



ANNOUNCEMENTS...

FACTS Grant and Aid applications are available to families applying for the Archdiocese of St. Louis financial assistance programs for the 2010-11 school year. The application deadline is April 1, 2010.

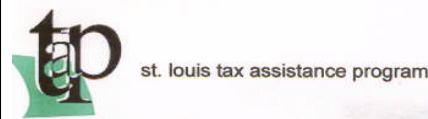
Families must complete the FACTS Grant & Aid applications when applying for the following programs:

Catholic Families Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund (CFTA)

- ✦ **Applicants must be Catholic and must be registered at the parish.**
- ✦ **Students must be Catholic and attend Catholic Parochial Elementary or Archdiocesan, or Parochial High School only.**

Parish Employee Endowment Fund (PEEF)

- ✦ **Applicants must be employed by a Catholic Parish and work 1000 hours or more during a fiscal year.**
- ✦ **Students must attend Catholic Parochial Elementary or Archdiocesan or Parochial High Schools only.**



2010 St. Louis Tax Assistance Program

Flyers are located in the brochure racks at the Grand Ave and North-side vestibule entrances. Please feel free to take one.

MANY MANY THANKS

Thank you to our Pastor, Fr. Matthew Bonk, Assistant Pastor, Fr. Joseph Thé Pham, the Pastoral Team, Office Staff and the "Rock" Church family for all their support and participation with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Essay Contest "Rock" Church celebration.

Thanks to all the special guest who brought greetings: Senator Claire McCaskill, Mattie Moore– Deputy Director, Mr. Lewis Reed– President of the Board of Alderman via Mr. Tom Shepard–Chief of Staff to the President, Mayor Francis Slay via Mrs. Melba Moore– Health Commissioner and to all Program Participants who in many ways made this celebration one of the best.

A very special thanks to Mrs. Yvonne Howard and all her assistants who prepared the wonderful reception which was enjoyed by all.

Each year we seem to exceed the previous year and we owe it all to you, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "Rock" Church Essay Contest Committee: Carol Henderson Powell, Patricia (Pat) Pou and Anita Banks– Commissioner for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. State Celebration Commission. A special thanks to our guest speaker Mr. Michael McMillan– License Collector for the City of St. Louis. Congratulations and thanks to the following "Essay Contest" winners:

1st Place: Adrian Demond Bowman Jr
8th Grade Da La Salle Middle School

2nd Place: Isaiah Williams 8th Grade
Central Catholic Academy

3rd Place: Joshua Williams 8th Grade
Da La Salle Middle School

Thanks to all the students who participated in the Essay Contest. Thanks to Parents, Teachers, Judges and the many community friends and "Rock" Church supporters who gave donations.

Financial Corner...

Offerings and Tithes

JANUARY 2010	
Date	Amount
3	\$17,415.24
10	\$ 7,145.84
17	\$ 12,611.52
24	\$ 7,233.92
31	\$
Total	\$ 44,406.52
Wkly Avg.	\$ 11,101.63

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 put our love for God and for one another into action through our stewardship gifts of time, talent and

"Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous."
- 1 Corinthians 13:4

Are you jealous? Do you focus more on the things that other people have than on the gift that God has given to you? Are you pompous? Do you seek to acquire more possessions to impress others? At times we are all guilty of these human weaknesses. Yet as stewards we are called to love God above all other things—striving always to be less jealous, less pompous and more giving.

E-Scrip card YTD	\$457.13
December, 2009	\$ 62.48

electronic  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.

SEEKING CATERERS

We are seeking caterers for church events and the Lenten Fish Fry. Interested parties can submit a proposal via email to:

parish130@archstl.org
or via FAX: 314-533-4260.

For more information contact the church office:
314-533-0304.



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.

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



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

OFFICE CLOSING

February 15, Presidents Day

During inclement weather, if the St. Louis Public Schools are closed, the office will be closed.

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

Birthingright (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

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?