

THE PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS...

The Gospel is Jesus

Praise the Name of the Living God, "Rock" Church family!

I want to welcome any visitors that are worshipping with us today. We have just a few Sundays left until we enter

into the Season of Lent. (It starts early this year.) The Word speaks to us this Sunday

about our calling, our response to God, and the Gospel that we have received. It is such a profound mystery that God has loved us so much and called us to be a part of His work and Kingdom in our world.

In our second reading, from I Corinthians (chapter 15), Saint Paul writes about the Gospel that he has preached. Notice the focus of Saint Paul's preaching. He always directs people toward Jesus. "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, He was buried, and He rose again in three days according to the Scriptures" and then He showed Himself to the Apostles and disciples. The key to the Gospel that Saint Paul preached was the life and resurrection of Jesus. Without Jesus there is no Good News. Without Jesus we are lost. Our ministry is to share Jesus with others.

This is a message that is resisted in our own time. To some, it sounds too "exclusive" to insist that Jesus is necessary for our salvation. We think about the billions of people that turn to other religions, other gods, and we cannot imagine that they are lost. We begin to believe that it is okay to just try hard to be good. We assume most people are sincere in their other beliefs, and therefore will be saved in some other way. Can it really all be based on their relationship to some obscure carpenter from 2,000 years ago?

First of all, I believe that much of this waffling is based on our reluctance to evangelize. Because we don't want to



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

suffer for our message, we start to believe that our message is not needed. We cannot live with the guilt that others may be lost because we did not share the love of Jesus with them. We start to make the door to heaven wider and wider so that we can soothe our own consciences. If we refuse to share the Good News, not only will others miss the Way, but we will probably miss the Way ourselves.

Secondly, the theological objections to the necessity of Jesus are far outweighed by the theological problems with an "optional Savior". Why did the Father send His Son to die, if we really didn't need Him to? If we can save ourselves then we don't need grace or mercy. Why did Jesus call Himself THE Way, THE Truth, and THE Life if that really wasn't true? The biblical and theological problems abound if Jesus is not needed for salvation. Saint Paul's whole life and message would have been a waste of time.

In the end, we are called to bring the message of Jesus to everyone. While I don't know what happens to an Aborigine that dies without hearing the Gospel, I do know that he will be saved if he hears the Gospel and follows Jesus. We, like Isaiah, Peter, and Paul are called to "speak the truth in love" to the world. Our world needs Jesus. How are the people going to find salvation if we do not go? How will the world rejoice in a Savior they have never met? We need to cast the nets into the deep waters and bring the Light of Jesus to our world. The Lord is asking again, "Whom shall I send?"

*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...



February 7 - February 14, 2010

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

Monday:

1 Kgs 8:1-7,9-13 Ps 132:6-7,8-10
Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday:

1 Kgs 8:22-23,27-30 Ps 84:3-5,10-11
Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday:

1 Kgs 10:1-10 Ps 37:5-6,30-31,39-40
Mk 7:14-23

Thursday:

1 Kgs 11:4-13 Ps 106:3-4,35-37,40
Mk 7:24-30

Friday:

1 Kgs 11:29-32;12:19
Ps 81:10-11b,12-15 Mk 7:31-37

Saturday:

1 Kgs 12:26-32;13:33-34
Ps 106:6-7b,19-22 Mk 8:1-10

Sunday:

Jer 17:5-8 Ps 1:1-4,6
1 Cor 15:12,16-20 Lk 6:17,20-26

SCHEDULE OF LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14th

ALTAR SERVERS

8:15 Robert Caldwell

PASTORAL AIDES

8:15 Tony Conte

EUCCHARISTIC MIN.

8:15 Andrew Atherton
Ann Conte
Jacquie Crawford
Martha Darris
Michael Ellermann
Maudelle Fite

Host: Johnny Taylor
Host: Norman Williams

ELDERS

8:15: Nina Hughes
11:00: Dorothy Bennett

INCENSE BEARERS

8:15: Angela Mullen
11:00: Cathy Burt

USHERS - Group 2

8:15 Pat Quain
11:00 Lillian Cooney

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

ALTAR SERVERS

11:00 Caleb Camp
David Camp

PASTORAL AIDES

11:00: Alexis Hicks

EUCCHARISTIC MIN

11:00 Jean Anthony
Anita Banks
Dorothy Brack
Henrene Brown
Joy Camp
Cynthia Clayton
Deborah Grant
Pearlina Harris

Host: Nikki Taylor
Host: Angela Thames
Host: Edna Whitfield
Host: Richard Buckley

LECTORS /COMMENTATOR

8:15 Shira Truitt
Carol Henderson-Powell
11:00 Patricia Bowens
Bonita Cornute

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 02/03/10

Foster, Ossie
Mark & Stephanie
McCullough, Lori
Scott, Devon

SICKNESS 02/2/10

Anderson, Duane
Marco, Joan

INTENTIONS 01/27/10

Gawer-Jackson, Renee
Jamison & Smith Family

HOSPITAL 01/27/10

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*
Norfleet (Rhodes), Marsha & Family*
Parran, Lauren*
Raiford, Cheryl TSgt*
Smith, Amos W.*
Washington, Yvette*
Williams, Ethel*
Zacher, Clarence*

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*
Collins, Lizell*

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
Kullhman, 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

THE EASY WAY

"Upon doing this they caught such a great number of fish that their nets were at the breaking point." — Luke 5:6

Jesus called Simon Peter out of his commercial fishing business by giving him the most successful day in its history (Lk 5:10). This is an unusual way to get someone to change jobs. Most people leave things when they're falling apart, not when they're going great. However, Jesus does things differently. He will sometimes make your business prosper if He's calling you out of it.

Notice that Jesus did not call Peter to stop fishing for fish after a whole night of catching nothing. First, Jesus filled two boats full of fish (Lk 5:7) and then called Peter into fishing for men and women. Jesus wants us to obey Him and not just be victims of circumstance. Jesus loves to work through circumstances, but prefers to bless us into doing His will rather than force us. He prefers to move us from good to best rather than from bad to best, although most of us seem to respond more to problems than to God's loving call.

How will you let God work with you? Does something bad have to happen to you before you repent? Do you insist on failing and suffering before learning the hard way? Change your job, life, and lifestyle because the Lord says so and not because you have had enough of the wages of sin (Rm 6:23).

Prayer: Father, may I move from grace to grace (see Jn 1:16) and not only from sin to grace.

Promise: "I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and in which you stand firm. You are being saved by it at this very moment." —1 Cor 15:1-2

Praise: Praise the risen Jesus, Who has come to give us life in abundance (Jn 10:10).

(2010) *One Bread, One Body Winter into Lent*. Volume 26, No. 2. Presentation Ministries, Inc. Cincinnati, OH Retrieved from website: <http://www.presentationministries.com/obob/obob.asp?d=2/7/2010>

SAINT OF THE WEEK...

St. Josephine Bakhita-Feast Day: Feb. 8th

St. Josephine Bakhita was born in Sudan in 1869. This African flower, who knew the anguish of kidnapping and slavery, bloomed marvelously in Italy, in response to God's grace, with the Daughters of Charity, where everyone still calls her "Mother Moretta" (our Black Mother")

Sold in the markets of El Obeid and Khartoum, she experienced the physical and moral humiliations and sufferings of slavery. In the Sudanese capital, Bakhita was bought by an Italian Consul, Callisto Legnani. In the consul's residence Bakhita experienced peace, warmth and moments of joy.

The political situation forced the consul to leave for Italy and go to Genoa. Bakhita eventually went to Zianigo to become a babysitter for a family. When the parents moved to Suakin due to business, Bakhita and the child were entrusted to the Canossian Sisters of the Institute of Catechumens in Venice. It was there that Bakhita came to know about God, whom "she had experienced in her heart without knowing who he was" since she was a child. "Seeing the sun, the moon and the stars, I said to myself: who could be the Master of these beautiful things? And I felt a great desire to see him, to know him and to pay him homage..."

After several months in the catechumenate, Bakhita received the sacraments of Christian initiation and was given a new name, Josephine. It was January 9, 1890. She did not know how to express her joy that day. Her big and expressive eyes sparkled, revealing deep emotions. From then on, she was often seen kissing the baptismal font and saying: "Here, I became a daughter of God!"

Bakhita experienced the call to be a religious and to give herself to the Lord in the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa. On December 8, 1896 Josephine Bakhita was consecrated forever to God. For the next 50 years this humble Daughter of Charity, a true witness to the love of God, lived in the Schio community, involved in various services.

Mother Bakhita breathed her last on February 8, 1947 at the Canossian convent in Schio, surrounded by the sisters. A crowd quickly gathered at the convent to have a last look at their "Mother Moretta" and ask for her protection from heaven. The fame of her sanctity has spread to all the continents and many receive graces through her intercession. Josephine Bakhita was beatified on May 17, 1992, and Canonized on October 1, 2000.

ANNOUNCEMENTS...

Any **Catholic** family wishing to apply for tuition assistance through the Archdiocese for the 2010-2011 school year must obtain a "FACTS" application from the church office. Students must attend a Parochial Elementary School or an Archdiocesan, Regional or Parochial High School to be eligible. The due date for the application is **April 1, 2010** and **must** include a copy of your **2009** Income Tax Return.

Grants for the 2010-2011 school year are made possible through the generosity of the Annual Catholic Appeal. The Catholic Education Office appreciates the support of the ACA and all of its donors.



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Ladies! We are invited to show our support of the first Annual

Women of Faith Conference

on Saturday, February 20, 2010. It will be held at the America's Center downtown St. Louis. The doors will open at 7 a.m. and the conference will begin at 7:30 a.m. and end after Mass at 5:30 p.m. Registration fee: \$40 per attendee until February 10th. After February 10th it will be \$45. More specific details can be obtained at: www.catholicwomenforchrist.org

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE

EDUCATION



MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE

Mary McLeod Bethune was born into a large family of field workers. Her courage, faith and perseverance helped her become a distinguished leader in education and one of the greatest women of America. Almost single-handedly, she started the Bethune College which later merged with Cookman Institute. Impressed by her wisdom and insight, Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed her division director of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration. A strong advocate of education, she dedicated her life toward others.

FEBRUARY 2

Langston Hughes, Author 1902-1967

FEBRUARY 10

Frederick Douglas, Statesman, Publisher, Abolitionist 1817-1895

FEBRUARY 18

Quakers were first to formally protest slavery -1688

FEBRUARY 23

William E. B. DuBois, Scholar-Founder of NAACP 1868-1963

FEBRUARY 25

Hiram Revels, representing Miss., was elected first African American in the U.S. Senate-1870

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	\$ 9,967.15
Total	\$ 54,373.67
Wkly Avg.	\$ 10,874.73

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 eagerly respond, "Here I am, Lord." whenever we hear God call upon us to be His hands and feet here on

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?' 'Here I am,' I said, 'send me!'" - Isaiah 6:8

Every day - in little ways and in big ways - God asks, "Whom shall I send?" Whether it is someone to take on a new ministry or just someone to open a door for an overburdened stranger, God constantly looks to see if we are willing to respond with the eagerness that Isaiah showed when he answered, "Here I am, send me!"

E-Scrip card YTD	\$ 457.13
January, 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
 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

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?