

THE PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS...

LORD, GIVE ME WISDOM!

What would you ask for if you were given one wish? Think about it; if God were to ask you what one thing you wanted, what would it be? I think that most people would ask for selfish things: money, power, things that make them happy. In our first reading today, Solomon is told by God that He would give him whatever he asked for. In effect, Solomon had one wish. The Lord is very pleased by Solomon's answer. Solomon asks for wisdom, not for himself, but for the sake of the people.

This really is the heart of what Jesus taught would make a good minister. Ministers must see their gifts, not for their own glory or advancement, but for the sake of the people they were sent to serve. The way to minister as Jesus ministered is to make choices, not to our own advantage, but for the good of God's people. Solomon was richly blessed by God, not because he sought riches and power, but because he sought gifts that would help him to serve the people.

It is so sad in human history how often those in leadership use their positions to profit themselves. Page after page in our history books give a tragic testimony of our desire for our own pleasure, often at the expense of others. Most wars are caused by greed and covetousness. Most conflicts are struggles for who has the power. Very few leaders have chosen the good of the people over their own desires. This is why Solomon is such an exceptional leader.

We see this amazing attitude also in some of our Saints. There are Saints that were kings and queens, or popes or religious superiors, or people of some authority. What really made these Saints so noteworthy is that they sought

the good of the people, and God's Kingdom, more than their own positions. It really catches our attention when a holy person makes a sacrifice, that they don't have to make, for the sake of someone else. I am struck in this election year by how little of that attitude we see in those that seek office. It is truly a great blessing on the people to have a leader with the unselfishness of Solomon.

God was very pleased with Solomon's request. In fact, God gave Solomon those gifts that he could have asked for, riches, prosperity, long life, as an added bonus because of his unselfishness. Solomon received wisdom and understanding to be a great and just leader for the people. He made some mistakes as king, but through it all the Lord made him the most powerful and wise king Israel had ever seen. No one would be as great a king as Solomon, until Jesus.

In Jesus, a descendant of Solomon, the Father sent us the King of Kings. Not only was Jesus filled with wisdom and justice, but He gave His very life for the salvation of the people. Jesus took the attitude of Solomon to its perfect limit. He truly came to serve and give His life. Though He could have demanded that we serve Him, He established a Kingdom that would be marked by love, mercy and humility. In Solomon we see the example; in Jesus we see the perfection. Solomon was a sign of the True King that was to come. We should praise and bless the Lord today that we serve such a King.

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



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

Mass Schedule...

SATURDAY MASS:
5:00 p.m.

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. & F.) 5:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: 7:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Thursdays: 9:00 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...



SUNDAY:
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 3:5,7-12 Ps 119:57,72,76-77,127-130 Rom 8:28-30 Mt 13:44-52

MONDAY:
Jer 13:1-11 (Ps) Dt 32:18-21 Mt 13:31-35

TUESDAY:
Jer 14:17-22 Ps 79:8-9,11,13 Jn 11:19-27

WEDNESDAY:
Jer 15:10,16-21 Ps 59:2-4,10-11,17-18 Mt 13:44-46

THURSDAY:
Jer 18:1-6 Ps 146:1b-6b Mt 13:47-53

FRIDAY:
Jer 26:1-9 Ps 69:5,8-10,14 Mt 13:54-58

SATURDAY:
Jer 26:11-16,24 Ps 69:15-16,30-31,33-34 Mt 14:1-12

SUNDAY:
Is 55:1-3 Ps 145:8-9,15-18 Rom 8:35,37-39 Mt 14:13-21

SCHEDULE OF LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

PRAYER CORNER

SUNDAY, JULY 27THALTAR SERVERS

8:15: J. Dillehay
A. Wright

11:00: M. Robinson
M. Robinson
V. Williamson
S. Williamson

EUCCHARISTIC MIN.

8:15: M. Darris
M. Dillehay
A. Ellermann
M. Ellermann
M. Fite
L. Greer

Host: A. Conte
Host: J. Crawford

ELDERS

8:15: Ruth Jones
11:00: Georgette Gregory

EUCCHARISTIC MIN.

11:00: P. Harris
D. Lane
R. Lane
P. Leong
B. Lucas
K. Madison

Host: D. Grant
Host: Y. Kilgore

INCENSE BEARERS

8:15: A. Mullen
11:00: O. Foster

LECTORS /COMMENTATOR

8:15: G. Hood -L
Y. Ward-C

11:00: C. Webb-L
G. Mitchell-Robinson-C

PASTORAL AIDES

8:15: M. Davis
11:00: T. Butler

USHERS—Group 4

8:15: Carol Henderson-Powell -
Leader

11:00: Lisa McClendon- Leader

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RDALTAR SERVERS

8:15: T. Conte
C. Moore

11:00: A. Dyle
A. Hicks
J. Pou
M. Robinson

EUCCHARISTIC MIN.

8:15: L. Kamp
H. LaBerta
S. LaBerta
J. Latham
S. Lyons
B. Moore

Host: J. Nashville
Host: A. Oransky

ELDERS

8:15: E. Nashville
11:00: W. Goss

EUCCHARISTIC MIN.

11:00: O. Moore-Weekly
P. Nwaokokorom
K. Parran
P. Pou
M. Shannon
A. Thames

Host: B. Mahr-Douglas
Host: E. Whitfield

INCENSE BEARERS

8:15: D. Terry
11:00: P. Garnett

LECTORS /COMMENTATOR

8:15: R. Jones -L
J. Crawford-C

11:00: J. Whitfield-L
R. Buckley-C

PASTORAL AIDES

8:15: J. Wright
11:00: J. Key

USHERS-Group 1

8:15: Linda Kamp-Leader
11:00: Jackie Day-Leader

**“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.

SICKNESS

Barnes, John
Barnett, Carla
Beard, Delbert
Beard, Judith
Beasley, Loretta
Bell, Gilbert
Benson, Valerie
Bernard, Patrick
Brame, Reginald
Bragg, Nellie
Brent, Cinda
Burns, Charles
Burns, Luther
Cheaney, Laura
Clayton, Rhianna
Cohn, Brenda L.
Collins, Amy
Collins, John
Davey, Martha
Dougherty, Herbert
Dumaine, William
Fieree, Patricia
Foster, Ossie
Givens, Keith
George, Betty
Henderson, Kim
Henderson, Maurice
Hollie, Cameron
Irving, Delphine
Johnson, Ida
Johnson, Les (Deacon)
Keene, JoAnn
Keller, Helene
Laberta, Steve
Lebaube, Mike
Lemelle, Cecelia
Latchinson, Ruth
Luster, Juanita
Martin, Sharon
McCoy, Bernice
McGraugh, Judy
McKenzie, Carolyn
Moses, Edith
Burt-Mosley, Anthony
Reedy, Judith
Ringo, Maggie
Robinson, Angel
Scott, Mauri

Shaw, Vanorican
Smith, Jessie
Smith, Steve
Sodon, Wanda
Strong, Nancee
Talbert, Savannah
Taylor, Gloria
Watkins, Nellie
Weekly, Ollie
Weekly, Rashawn
Weekly, Willie
Wheelington, Wade
Williams, Cynthia
Willis, Harriett
Wright, William

HOSPITAL

Buckley, June
Farr, Cynthia
Frazier, Dorothy
Gibson, Clarence
Harris, Maxime
Jackson, James
Johnson, Dorothy
Johnson, Dorothea
Johnson, Michael
Jones, Orzo
Jones, Ruth
Mitchell, Gail
Valle, Robert
Williams, Norman

INTENTIONS

Alexandre, Rosemary
Ambus, Ruby
Anderson, Meredith
Ballard-LaMell, Tonya
Barrett, Albertine
Beavers, Lillie & Family
Bennett, Dorothy
Blackwell, Joann & Traci
Brack, Dorothy
Brown, Janae
Collins, Amy
Collins, Gene
Cooney, Geoffrey
Cunningham, Willie
Davis, Denise
Edwards, Gabrielle
Ellis, Willie Bishop

Gales, MaryAnn
Gardner, Tamara
George, Roberta & Family
Grant, Breon
Harris, Jerome
Hardin, Wilhelmina
Hardiway, Norman &
Family
Holt, Christine & Family
Howard, Yvonne & Family
Hughes, Irene
Jackson, Michael
Jackson, Pat
James, Jade
Jenkins, Nicholas
Jones, Chris
Kerr, Raymond
Kilgore, Yetta
Kirtsey, Jasmine
LaMell, Stephen & Helen
Lalsandu, Gianas &
Family
Lee, Marcia
Lucas, Blondell
Mahr-Douglas, Brenda
McCalebb, Barbara
McKenzie, Carolyn
Melvin, Tamara
Mills, Minnie
Mitchell, Elizabeth
Mitchell, Rachel
Moore, LaTasha & Family
Moore, Trisha
Mosby, Paulette
Parran, Herb
Patrick, Antionette
Reed, Delores
Sanders, Sandra
Smith, Christopher
Smith, Rosiland
Smith, Queen Allen
Taylor, Gloria
Taylor, Jeffrey
Thompson, Mary Ann
Ward-LaMell, Tiffany
Watkins, Nellie
Webb, Paulette & Family
Willis, Theresa
Wilson, Barbara

Parish Announcements...

YOUTH CORNER

Dear Church family,

We all know Lorenzo Poindexter. Without him we would have neither the sound in church nor Rock soccer, as we know them. He works without kudos and often without a thought of the sacrifice that he makes for us.

I would like to take this time to acknowledge his sons, thereby his wife and children. We are a village.

Lorenzo and Veronica Poindexter have four sons: Chris, Colby, Cameron, and Carlton.

Recently this athletic family was featured in the North County Journal. Colby has just earned a scholarship to Harris Stowe University for soccer. He just recently started playing soccer. His coach said he has "tons of raw potential."

Reading the article shows how humble, yet realistic he is about his abilities. It also shows how much he appreciates his parents. He says that they are a big reason why he and his brothers are excelling. "They have always supported us in school and sports and anything else we do," he said. "They are always encouraging us to keep bettering ourselves and, if times get tough, to keep going. At the same time, they keep us grounded."

It is proper to use the natural gifts that God has given each of us. It is reflecting His love and maximizing the potential that he has placed in us. He also said to honor thy mother and father.

Congratulations to Colby and his family for a job well done. For more on the story, please see the bulletin board outside of the youth office, or @ northcountyjournal.stltoday.com.

Please continue to send your good news to me at athames@stalphonusrock.org. or drop it by the office.



Angela Thames
Youth Minister Coordinator
St Alphonsus Rock Church
(314) 533-0304 ext. 1002 (phone)
(314) 533-4260 (fax)

CENTRAL CATHOLIC

**WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY BY FAITH
AND HARD WORK**

**CCSN – A SCHOOL AND AN ACADEMY
SECOND TO NONE!**

Do you want to share the blessings of our school improvements? Are you grateful for our school becoming a College Prep Academy? God is blessing us with many more educational legacies, like our enhanced math/science program that continues to be an amazing grace.

Invite families to come and see us. Share with them the great blessing God has given to us

- We offer tuition assistance, as needed, for children of all ages.
- We have a new Early Head Start Program at our Lucas and 18th Street Campus.
- We have new playground equipment and new tile in the classrooms at our Jefferson Campus.
- We are expanding our sports and arts programs.
- We are upgrading our math and science to be announced at Sigma Aldrich on 9/11.
- We are entering our third year with our 3-semester, extended Middle Grade Academy.
- We have Graduate Support through High School.

Our opening day is August 25!

It's coming quickly. We have an enrollment team in place. You can come yourself or send others to take a tour.

You can earn \$50 if you bring someone or if they mention your name. This gift is from ACCESS Academies who will affirm your investment in our school the day the new student begins.

We are open throughout the summer from 9 AM to 3 PM. Call Sr. Gail and set a time to visit.

Fr. John Phelps, C.Ss.R. – President
Sr. Gail Trippett, CSJ – Principal

THE VILLAGE ACADEMY

A life-shaping early education center for children and their families is now hiring teachers and a cook. Visit our website at thevillageacademy.org for additional information and an application.

Parish Announcements...

"Rock" Church Construction Corner

What's Happening!

Temproof2

On Tuesday or Wednesday of the next week the crane arrived to pull the fleche from the roof. The removal of the fleche opened up an enormous hole in the roof, 32 feet by 56 feet. How big is 32 feet by 56 feet? In that space, you could park 4 tractor trailers side by side, give or take a few feet one way or the other. As the fleche, which was now in 2 pieces, was removed and lowered to the ground, an enormous space was opened up. You could now see some of the rafters, support beams that the fleche had fallen into. You could now see more of the damage done to the roof as you saw pieces of burnt rafters, long pieces of electrical conduit just sticking up out of the debris, large hunks of plaster hanging on to their pieces of lathe by old horse hair that plasters used in those days, bare electrical wires just hanging in the air and old electrical fixtures ready to fall. All of this and more you could see because the fleche had been removed. And every now and then you would see some debris just fall from 70 to 80 feet in the air, (the height of a 7 or 8 story building) and fall and hit the ground with a big thud and splash from the water on the floor.

To help us try to understand the fire and water damage to the church building and its contents, we only have to recall what we saw on the evening news these past few months with all of the flooding of homes, buildings, fields, roads, etc. We can only imagine the feelings of emptiness, loss, denial, frustration and disbelief of the families when they reentered their homes partially or completely destroyed by the flood waters. As members of the Rock Church Family, we could identify with those feelings when we either physically or in spirit walked into the church and saw and experienced the damage. They did not know what awaited them until they returned. The same can be said of us. For the families of the flood, and for us the family of the Rock Church, the biggest and most tragic thing that awaited us were the many surprises we discovered and experienced in the demolition to prepare the building for the reconstruction. And as Jeff, the general foreman for Wachter Construction, and Jim the foreman for Dickherber Electrical Company, the surprises were many, awesome and challenging (and expensive).

But, as we often hear Bro. Terry say, "let's back up the truck." Let's back up our story and try to visualize or imagine the enormous hole in the roof. From the ground

looking up, it did not look that big. Remember this hole in the church roof was 32 feet by 56 feet, and that this hole was at the **TRANSEPT** of the church (the transept is where the main ceiling running the length of the church crossed the ceiling coming from the 2 shrines) and that is where the greatest and worst damage to the roof and structure of the church occurred. That is a mighty big hole. But, that hole also affected the rest of the roof and walls of the church... As we visualize that, we can begin to comprehend the work and danger that lay ahead for the workers.

You might say that the whole roof was hanging in the air, free style on a string. So the old roof, destroyed by fire, had to be removed before they could even begin thinking about a temporary or permanent roof. How were the workers going to do that? At that time, they could not build a scaffold in the church because it was condemned, and no one knew if there was any kind of structural damage to the church, and if so, how much. At the beginning, there was only one way that the workers could begin the work of demolition of the roof. They would have to use the JLG, boom buckets and, being lifted from 70 to 80 feet in the air, begin the demolition process piece by piece. They could not get out of the buckets, because again, they did not know the structural damage to the roof. So, with long sticks, they began to poke and prod the debris, the wood, the beams, the plaster, the slate and whatever else was loose that they could push or prod and watch fall 80 and 90 feet to the floor below. This tedious work had to be done to try to clean an area large enough and strong enough that they could stand on to make this part of the demolition easier and faster..

Fr. Kyle Fisher, C.Ss.R.



**The Ladies of the Knights of
Peter Claver
Are Having a**

**JAZZY HAT TEA
PARTY!!!**

Prize for the most Unusual Hat, attendance prizes, food, music, socializing and fun!

See any Lady of Peter Claver for tickets!

Where: Parish Hall

When: 8/9/08

Time: 1:00-5:00

Cost: \$5.00

Parish Announcements...

Religious Education Corner



BECOMING A CATHOLIC

The process for becoming Catholic starts with your wanting to know more about the Catholic faith. This process is called THE RITE of CHRISITAN INITIATION of ADULTS or RCIA – and of children (ages 10-16) RCIC. Classes begin in September and conclude with full acceptance into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

There are four phases to the process:

Phase I: *Pre-Catechumenate or Inquiry*

Those in this phase are called *Inquirers*. This is a time of getting acquainted, feeling comfortable with other seekers and getting answers to questions.

Transition to Phase II: Rite of catechumenate

Unbaptized inquirers in the catechumenate are called Catechumens, and inquirers coming into the Church from another Christian Denomination are called Candidates.

Phase II: *Catechumenate*

Catechumens and Candidates study the Catholic Faith.

Transition to Phase III: Rite of Election

Catechumens entering the purification and enlightenment phase during the Lenten period are called The Elect.

Phase III: *Period of Purification and Enlightenment*

The Elect engage in Lenten practices and celebrate the Scrutinies with the community. It is the time for those already Baptized to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Transition to Phase IV: Initiation at the Easter Vigil

Once initiated into the Church, the Elect are called Neophytes

Phase IV: *Mystagogy – Entering Deeper into the Mysteries*

Neophytes claim a new role of service in the community. It is a final celebration of RCIA, RCIC.

If you are considering “Becoming a Catholic” or wish to know more about your Catholic Faith – please contact Donna L. Lane, DRE to register for classes starting on September 21, 2008 at 314.533.0304.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club will meet August 10th after the 11:00 a.m. Mass at Talayna’s Restaurant located at 310 DeBaliviere Ave. Everyone is welcome.

Schnucks eScrip Cards



Did you know that you can help support your church by using the Schnucks eScrip Community Card?

Together, you, Schnucks and eScrip make a daily difference for your Church community.

1. Stop by St. Alphonsus “Rock” Church Parish Office and pick up a Schnucks eScrip Community Card.

Please see Helen LaMell. Cards will be registered and available to start using immediately upon receipt.

Or Visit Schnucks and request a Schnucks eScrip Community Card.

Activate your card by calling: **800-931-6258** or visit www.escrip.com/schnucks.jsp

2. Present your card to the cashier every time you shop at Schnucks.

You can pay for your groceries any way you choose. Simply swiping your card generates contributions from Schnucks to our Church or group.

3. The more you shop, the higher the contribution to our group.

For every dollar you spend, Schnucks will contribute up to 3% of your purchase amount.

Support your Church with a Schnucks eScrip Community Card.

GARAGE SALE

As many of you know, the Redemptorists had students living at **John Newman House at 3737 Washington Ave.** They have moved to New York to go to school. As you can well imagine, many things were left behind. So we are going to have a **Garage Sale on Saturday, August 2, from 12 noon to 3 p.m., also the following Sunday after the Masses.** No prices, only donation. Come and find your treasure.

PARISH INFORMATION**PASTORAL TEAM**

Rev. Matthew S. Bonk, C.Ss.R., Pastor
 Joyce Jones, Business Mgr./Office Mgr.
 Helen A. LaMell, Administrative Assistant
 (TBD), Dir. of Liturgy
 Donna L. Lane, D.R.E.
 (Dir. of Religious Education)
 Angela Thames, Youth Minister Coord.
 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: Truenessia Combs
 Secretary: Lois Scott
 Assist. Secretary: Rosalind Hood
 Member-at-Large I: April Harris
 Member-at-Large II: Eugene Wallace
 Finance Liaison: Jeffrey McDonald

COMMISSIONS & CHAIRS

Christian Formation - Jean Anthony
 Christian Service - Barbara McCaleb
 Family Life Comm. - Patricia Pou
 Finance & Adm. - John Wright
 Liturgy - Richard Buckley
 Social Life - Hilliard Phillips

REDEMPTORISTS IN RESIDENCE

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

OFFERING AND TITHES

This is what the Lord has commanded "From what you have, take an offering for the Lord..."

Our offering and tithes to God for the support of our Church and ministries for July 20, 2008.

Total: \$ 9,876.25

"DIVINE LOVE THROUGH ME BLESSES AND MULTIPLIES THIS OFFERING. IT BLESSES THE RECEIVER AND RETURNS TO THE GIVER BLESSED AND MULTIPLIED!"

May God richly bless you for your generous stewardship of your church! We are asking each member to please prayerfully consider making a decision to tithe. Pray over Malachi 3:10. We remind you to please use your envelopes.

PLEASE NOTE: \$14,000 is needed weekly for Annual Budget.

Please Remember Your Parish in Your Estate Plan, and Charitable Giving!!!

Make your gift and devises to: Redemptorists of Denver Province

For St. Alphonsus "Rock" Catholic Church In St. Louis, Missouri

*Thank you,
 "Rock" Legal Ministry*

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

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

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

Bible Study/Prayer Group every Tuesday: 6:30 pm.

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

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

St. Charles Lwanga Center (314) 367-7929

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.

HOLY SPIRIT FIRE PRAYER HOUR

Come and join the Friday Night prayer time in the back of church. Pray and sing together using the Bible with other brothers and sisters. Need a lift, have special intentions, need healing? Come and join. Pray together for the Church family. Where two or three are gathered together, Jesus is in the midst of them.

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 some 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.

FRIENDLY REMINDER:

Please remember to contact the Church Office when you change your address or phone number. Thank you.