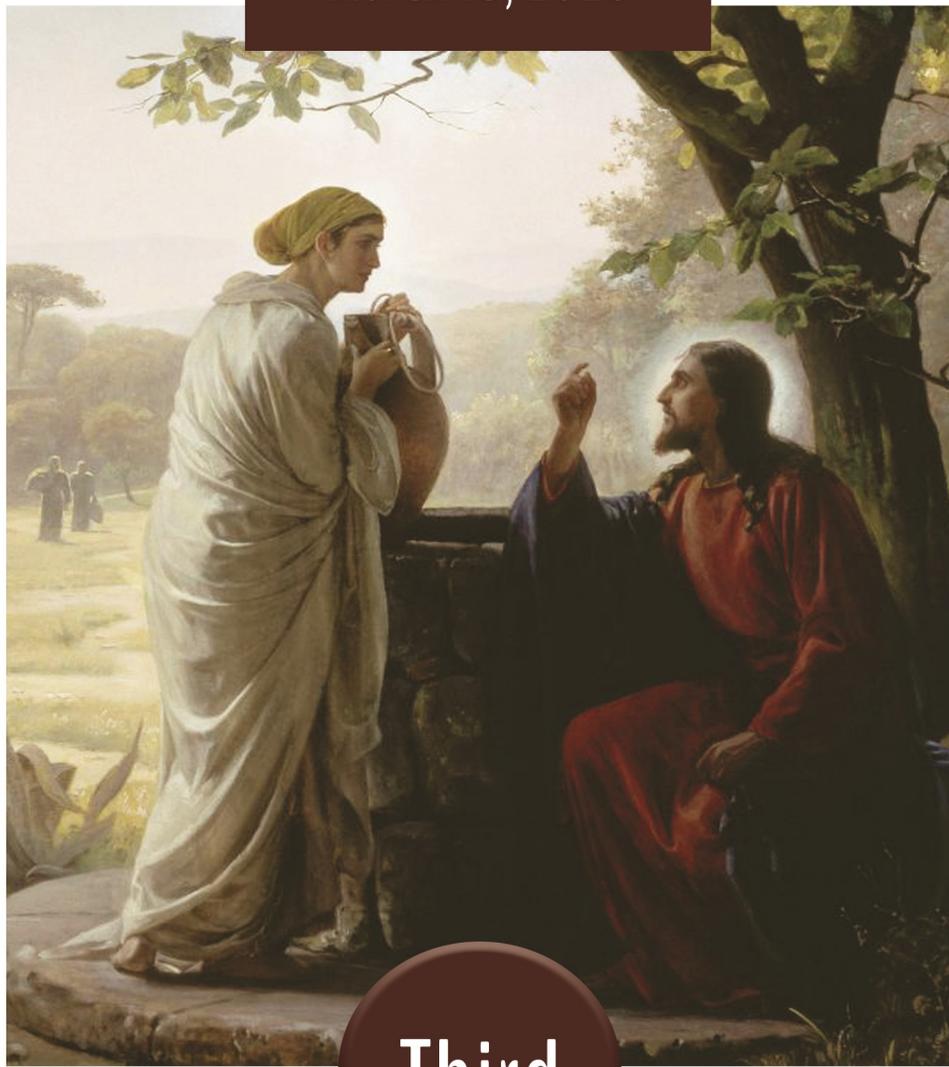


Saint Rene Goupil Catholic Church

64th Street & New England Avenue - Chicago, Illinois 60638—773-229-8523

March 15, 2020



Third

Sunday of Lent

A woman of Samaria came to draw water.
Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

John 4:7



Fr. Bob's Weekly Blog



One of the highlights of my journalism days was being able to personally witness the turnaround of the Northern Illinois University football program.

The school hired Joe Novak to come in and blow the whole thing up and then build something that combined good competition on the field and a commitment to academics off the field. One of the first things he did as head coach was create a winning vision followed by changing the climate around Huskie Stadium that had gotten accustomed to losing.

Well, he quickly met opposition as some players did not like the changes taking place. He gave them the choice to “get on board” or leave the program. Some chose to leave; others got run out. Novak and his staff implemented their system, but had to suffer through growing pains.

In the first two seasons, NIU went 1-10 and 0-11, which led many fans to wonder if Novak was the right guy for the job. The staff kept recruiting quality young guys who bought into the vision and the work ethic needed to “turn the corner.”

All the blood, sweat and tears paid off concretely during the 2003 season. The Huskies went 10-2 overall with wins over Maryland, Alabama and Iowa State. In the wake of the Novak era, NIU has gone to 12 bowl

games, including the trip to the Orange Bowl to face Florida State.

In a twist of sweet fate, the current NIU head coach is one of Novak’s former running backs – Thomas Hammock.

Your point, Fr. Bob? The next few years around the Catholic Clearing area of Chicago will be a period of change and transformation. We’re being invited into a time of renewal. This renewal is two-fold – structural and spiritual. There will be some reorganizing and shuffling alongside the renewal of our hearts.

The mantra we’re invited to remember is “Honor the past. Live in the present. Prepare for the future.” The three stages go together. St. Rene and St. Symphorosa have amazing histories and so many folks who have given blood, sweat and tears to build up the Body of Christ. We must never forget the time, treasure and talent of the men and women who sacrificed for their respective parish.

At time same time, we must live in the reality of TODAY, and this means we have to find a way to continue the spiritual mission of Christ while being good stewards of our resources and money. We’re challenged by economic realities while we engage the daily spiritual necessities of prayer, Mass, scripture, and works of mercy.

We also have to prepare for the future. What will Catholics and this community write about us 60 years from now (assuming Christ has not brought all things to fulfillment by then)? Just as

we remember the men and women who “built” these two parishes (Rene and Syms), we want our spiritual descendants to look back and honor us for having embraced a challenging time with faith, hope and charity. We want to “build” something that survives our time on earth. The Church has always thought, not in terms of years, but in terms of centuries because we live for Someone (God) greater than our own self.

Expect these next few years to be a time of transition and renewal. Keep your eyes on Christ and remember that, in the end, God has it all in His hands; that He has YOU in His loving, merciful hands.

The victory belongs to Christ, and what we will be engaging in these next few years is more important than any football game. Allow me to steal a key line from the NIU Huskie Fight Song.

“Forward, together forward!
There’s victory in view.”

Amen to that!

Favorite Quote of the Week:

“To be a Christian is a great thing, not merely to seem one. And somehow or other those please the world most who please Christ least.”

– St. Jerome.

Lenten Taizé Prayer

In this reflective season of Lent, as we face the work and hectic activities of our busy lives, come and spend some quiet time, and enter into the contemplative rhythm of this hour of prayer. Hear God's word proclaimed, and join in prayer, quiet reflection, and singing the simple and beautiful chants and responses. This prayer centers our spirits opens our hearts.

Why Should I Attend a Taizé Prayer Service?



If you long to quiet your mind, to find stillness, and to reestablish the connection with God, Taizé Prayer fosters an intimate and encompassing relationship with God offering tranquility, appreciation, connection, gratitude, hope and bliss. Contemplative and meditative prayer are long-established traditions in the Catholic faith.

Our Lenten Taizé Prayer Service will be held at St. Rene Parish on Thursday, April 2, at 7pm.



St. Patrick - Feast Day March 17

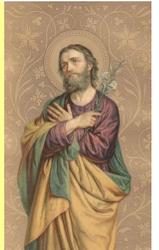
St. Patrick wasn't Irish! The biggest misconception about St. Patrick was that he was Irish. Born in England circa 385, St. Patrick didn't make his way to Ireland until Irish pirates kidnapped him at age 16. From there, he started his journey to converting the Irish to Christianity and becoming an Irish patron saint.

The original color for St. Patrick's Day wasn't green. After the Order of St. Patrick was established in 1783, the organization's color had to stand out from those that preceded it. And since dark green was already taken, the Order of St. Patrick went with blue.

There were no snakes for St. Patrick to banish in Ireland. Ireland didn't have snakes at the time. Surrounded by icy water, Ireland was the last place that these cold-blooded reptiles would want to go. It's much more reasonable to think that the "snakes" that St. Patrick banished were representative of the Druids and Pagans in Ireland since they were considered evil.

St. Patrick was never canonized by a pope. This made his saintly status somewhat questionable. But in all fairness, St. Patrick wasn't the only saint that didn't go through a proper canonization. In the Church's first millennium, there wasn't a formal canonization process at all, so most saints from that period were given the title if they were either martyrs or seen as extraordinarily holy.

St. Joseph - Feast Day March 19



St. Joseph has no recorded words in Scripture and is not even mentioned in the Gospel of Mark - or most of the New Testament. He is mentioned in Matthew, Luke, and once in John when someone calls Jesus "the son of Joseph".

St. Joseph's exit from the story of the Gospels is left unexplained in Scripture. He's an important figure in the Nativity narratives of Matthew and Luke, and he is included in the story of finding the 12-year-old Jesus with the teachers of the Law in the Temple. But that's the last we hear of him. Various traditions explain his disappearance by saying that Joseph died around Jesus' 20th birthday.

St. Joseph has two feast days. The Solemnity of St. Joseph is March 19 and the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker is May 1. He's also included in the Feast of the Holy Family celebrated on or around December 30. And he's certainly a part of the Christmas story.

St. Joseph is the patron of many things. He is the patron of the Universal Church, a happy death, families, fathers, expectant mothers, travelers, immigrants, craftsmen, engineers, and workers. He's also the patron of the Americas, Canada, China, Croatia, Mexico, Korea, Austria, Belgium, Peru, the Philippines and Vietnam.



Our Catholic Faith ***By Fr. Bob Regan***

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

Some parishioners have requested we run Fr. Ed Surges’ last words as he departed St. Rene Goupil as pastor a few decades ago. Here are his insights as he bade farewell. Edward Surges died on May 29, 2019. May he rest in peace.

Like a Sparrow on the Housetop

Hey, a real man-priest doesn’t cry. He might be hurting really bad when he has to say good-bye, but he won’t let on. It’s like Mike Singletary. His hamstring is unstrung. His lungs hurt when he breathes, which he tries to do as little as possible. Only the trainer sees him wince when he takes off his bandages, but Mike says, “It’s nothing.”

Hey, there are things I won’t miss, like being the place where the buck stops, as for example, I’m ready to start Mass and someone tells me there is no toilet paper in the third stall of the women’s wash-room. I won’t miss worrying about the leak in the roof. Or giving money talks. Cleaning up the school after Showtime – who could miss that? Wondering whether there will be enough money to pay the teachers every June, or whether I will have to sell roses at the traffic intersection to make a little extra change. I won’t miss the terrible strain on the police having to come in and crack down on our vicious little grandmothers for flouting the law and playing the carnival jar games.

But there are things I will always remember. Sitting on the steps in front of the altar with our First Communicants, and discussing the theology of the Eucharist. Invariably we wind up talking about their favorite food which always seems to be pizza. Seeing a young couple kneeling before the altar on their wedding day. She seems very happy, he seems nervous because he can’t remember if he gave the best man the wedding rings, and whether he bought just one airplane ticket for the honeymoon, or two.

I’ll miss playing miniature golf with the altar boys and girls in the sacristy before Mass. One of the altar girls beat my record of 5. She has the course record of 3, and now gives lessons to the other servers. I’ll miss the excitement of bingo, especially when O-66 is called and one of the women sounds a siren. Talk about an emotional high!

When the little peoples faith group gathers around me on the steps in front of the altar and we discuss career choices and job prospects, it is exciting for me to think of what careers they might choose. They could easily be President of the United States or Pope, but dare I dream it? Successor to Mike Ditka? Anything is possible. I’ll miss walking to the church at 6 AM on a cold winter morning, grateful that the rectory is at the other end of the block, giving me the opportunity to exercise, not like some wimpy parishes where the rectory adjoins the church and the priest does not even go outside to go to church. I’ll miss when I was alone at St. Rene having two funerals and two weddings on a Saturday, confessions at 4 PM and evening Mass at 5 PM, a wedding reception in the evening and after the reception having someone call and ask whether there are evening confessions. It made me feel needed.

I’ll miss the chocolate cake at the Altar & Rosary meetings, the beer and ham sandwiches at the Holy Name meetings, the coffee and cake at the Senior Meetings, the whipped cream pie at bingo, the fruit cake you drop off at the rectory, the coffee cake at the parish council meetings, the eggs you give me when I bless baskets on Holy Saturday. Only one thing is missing. You never brought me czernina. If you did I could die in peace, and probably would.

Most of all I will miss you, and even if a real man-priest is not supposed to, I will shed a tear or two. And a real man-priest may not say this, but I will anyways. I love you.



Faith Formation Office
(773) 229-8523

Coordinator:
Peg Siebenaler

Email: strenfaithformation@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 3/18: Classes for All Levels,
Students present their Jesus Projects.
- 3/22: Family Mass 9:30am.
Jesus Projects on Display.
- 3/25: Classes for All Levels.
- 3/29: Family Mass 9:30am.
Special Grade Level Mass
for Level 3 & 4 Students.
Port Lunch Event @ 10:30am.
- 4/01: Classes for All Levels.
Reconciliation Service.
- 4/05: Family Mass 9:30am.
Special Grade Level Mass
for Level One Students.
Palm Sunday.

Jesus Projects



This year, our students in levels Five, Six and Seven are focusing on the person of Jesus in the Gospels. These students will be using some creative art form to depict a Jesus story of their choice. The projects will be on display in the Narthex, for viewing by our parish community the weekend of March 22nd.



St. Rene Faith Formation invites our Level 3 & 4 students to a Special Grade Level Mass and a Port Lunch Event, on Sunday, March 29. Families should attend the 9:30am Mass and then proceed to the school hall to, make lunches for Port Ministries! Making lunches for "The Port" is a wonderful outreach project for families and also a Great way to earn Service Hours.

All are Welcome.

If you are interested in donating to this endeavoryou are asked to bring any of the following items the day of the event: sandwich bread, pre-packaged lunchmeat, fresh fruit (apples or oranges), individual bags of chips, individual packages of crackers, 10-count juice boxes, individual fruit snacks, granola/ breakfast bars, or zip-loc sandwich baggies.

We look forward to welcoming you on March 29, for this special Grade Level Mass and making lunches for "The Port". Thank you for your time and donations.

For more Information about The Port Ministries,
please check out their website:

<http://www.theportministries.org/>

Palm Sunday Procession

We invite our Level One Students to a Special Grade Level Mass on Palm Sunday. The children are being asked to carry palms and participate in the Palm Sunday procession at the 9:30am Mass on April 5. Please have your child/children gather in the Narthex 10 minutes before Mass begins. The children will form a line for the procession and after the procession will sit with their families during the liturgy. (It's important that the children know where you are sitting.) May God bless you as we continue our Lenten Journey.



Lenten Outreach

Our Faith Formation students invite all of our parishioners to participate in our Lenten Outreach project. All levels will be donating Children's Easter Basket items for the local shelters and agencies we service. Donations can be brought to our Faith Formation classes on Wednesdays or dropped off in the Narthex of the Church when attending mass. Please note, we can always use empty Easter Baskets and the cellophane bags to wrap the baskets, after we fill them. For more information, feel free to call the Faith Formation Office. God be with you and your dear families as we enter into this Holy Season of Lent. Our 2020 St. Rene Confirmandi will take part in assembling the Easter Baskets and earn service hours for their upcoming Confirmation.



Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, March 14, 2020

4:00pm—Florence Rogel (Bernice & Toni)

Sunday, March 15, 2020

7:30am—Antoinette Veronica Cozzi (Family)

9:30am—James Koffend (Jean Piotrowski)

9:30am—Good Health for Judy Carranza (Family)

11:30am—Ronald Mroz (St. Rene Staff)

11:30am—Israel Mendez (Ruben & Doris Mendez)

11:30am—John LeCompte (Family)

Monday, March 16, 2020

8:00am—Helen Frank (Family)

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

8:00am—Daniel Sarlitto—Safety (Mary Sarlitto)

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

8:00am—MariGrace Mikulec (Family)

Thursday, March 19, 2020

8:00am—Frances A. Potocki (Family)

Friday, March 20, 2020

8:00am—Robert Okrzesik (Family)

Saturday, March 21, 2020

8:00am—Good Health for Judy Carranza (Family)

4:00pm—Geraldine Finlay (McAllister & Neligan Families)

4:00pm—Sophie Simbick & Joseph Niziolek (Almendarez Family)

Sunday, March 22, 2020

7:30am—Dorothy J. Harvey (Family)

9:30am—Raymond Sutkowski (Sutkowski Family)

9:30am—James Koffend (Judy Khazen)

9:30am—Joseph & Mary Dawe (The Bodoki's)

11:30am—Raymond August (Family)

11:30am—Israel Mendez (Ruben & Doris Mendez)

11:30am—John Gerard Jermyn (Wife, Karen)



Martin Adelsbach
 Judy Adelsbach
 Larry Adkins
 Guadalupe Almendarez
 Elizabeth Bedran
 Carl Bell
 Joanne Bukowiecki
 Gina Camp
 Dominic Ciampaglia
 Margaret Ciampaglia
 Mitchell Gallas
 Geri Gestaut

Robert Hilbruner
 Rose Ann Lindsay
 Marge Masunas
 Lori McCarthy
 Kenneth Milewski
 William Nita
 Rochelle Piegari
 Joseph Rice
 Edward Robertson
 Judith Siwek
 Jeanne Schmitz
 Michael Tallon
 Sandra Tallon
 Scott Tloczek
 Shirley Tloczek
 Joan Wilhelmy
 Richard Zaleski



St. Rene Devotional Candle

Lydia Mendez - In Memory of and Special Intentions
 Frances Osty - Happy 99th Birthday Wishes and Special Intentions
 Ed Robertson - Special Prayers & Intentions for Healthy Recovery from Infection



STATIONS of the CROSS
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March 7/8, 2020 Offering

Total envelopes	\$3,207.51
Total loose cash	\$ 839.25
Total Sunday Giving	\$4,046.76
St. Rene Maintenance Fund	\$ 901.75

Thank you for your generosity!



**Altar & Rosary Society
 Cleaning Schedule**

March 20/21, 2020

Arlene Capparelli & Mary Sarlitto

Parish Staff

Rev. Bob Regan
Pastor

Rev. Peter Paurazas
Pastor Emeritus

Karen Hoogland
Businesss Manager

Peg Siebenaler
Faith Formation

Irene Perconti
Administrative Assistant

Steve Kittler
Director of Music

Joanne Tishka
Bulletin Coordinator

Stanley Silacz
Maintenance Supervisor

Daily Masses

Monday - Saturday at 8:00am

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday at 4:00pm
(Confessions from 3:15 - 3:45pm)

Sunday
7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Saturday
9:00am - 3:00pm

Parish Office

6949 West 63rd Place
Phone (773) 229-8523

Email

office@strenegoupil.org

Website

www.strenegoupil.org

Baptism

First Sunday of the month or during weekend Mass. Parent preparation class required. Contact the Parish Office at (773) 229-8523 to register.

Marriage

Saturday afternoons at 12:30pm or 2:00pm. Please call Fr. Bob at least 6 months in advance to make arrangements.

Reconciliation/Confession

Saturdays from 3:15—3:45pm or in the Parish Office by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Parish Office at (773) 229-8523 for a family member who is seriously ill.

Communion for the Sick and Homebound

Ministers of Care are available to bring Communion to the homebound. Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements.

Due to privacy regulations, hospitals can no longer contact the parish without family consent. Please contact the Parish Office when you or a loved one would like a visit or to be added to the prayer list.

Faith Formation Classes

Classes for Grades 1-8 are offered on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30pm. They will meet during the school year. Please call Peg Siebenaler in the Parish Office with any questions.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

This program is designed for adults who are not baptized, those who were baptized into a Christian tradition other than Roman Catholic and those Catholics who have not yet celebrated the Sacraments of First Eucharist or Confirmation. Classes begin in September with the Sacraments being received at the Easter Vigil. Please contact Fr. Bob for more information.

**New Parishioners are always welcome at St. Rene.
Our doors and hearts are open to you.
Please stop in the office to join our Parish family.**



Mass	4:00PM March 21, 2020	7:30AM March 22, 2020	9:30AM March 22, 2020	11:30AM March 22, 2020
	Frank Zalewski Russ Dober Diane Biondo	Arlene Capparelli Amy Shanahan	Kay Marks Barb Grzenia Debbie Rudar	Ben Shafer Mark Dill Carole Dill
	Nancy Gunnell	Pat O'Brien-Kenney	Jerry Hughes	John Strompolis

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