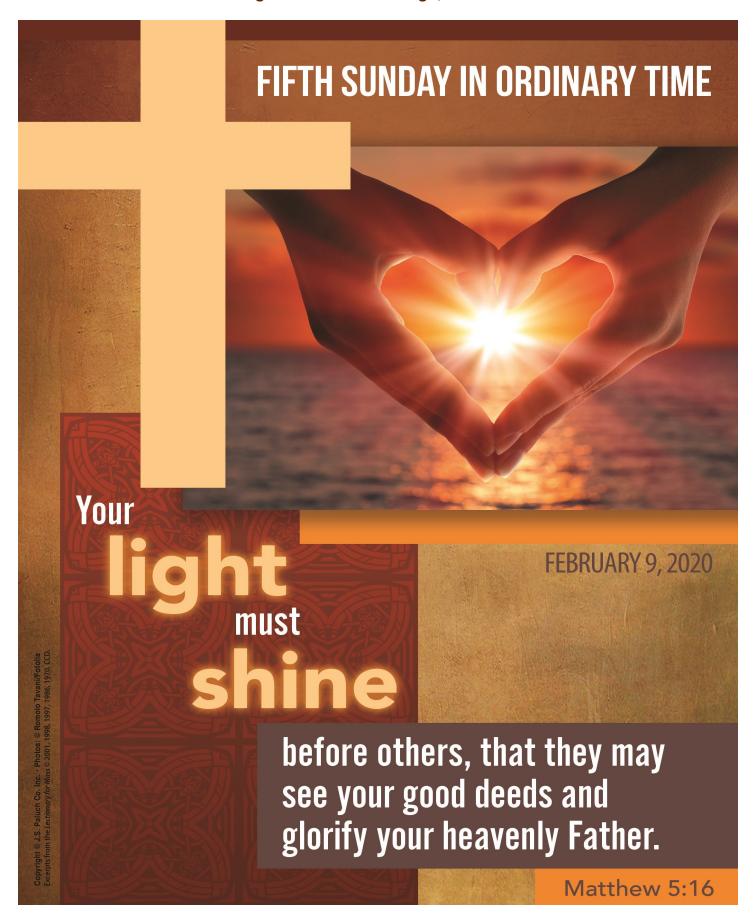
## Saint Rene Goupil Catholic Church

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



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# Fr. Bob's Weekly Blog



Maybe you've been there before. You reach to turn on a lamp and there is no light. You assume the bulb burned out so you switch out the bulb. Still nothing! That's when you look behind the couch and realize the lamp is unplugged. Ahhh!

In order for the lamp to have light, it must be plugged into the outlet – into the power source.

In order for us to have light, we, too, must be plugged into the outlet – into the Power Source that is Jesus, the Christ.

One of the popular hymns back when I was in grade school was "We Are the Light of the World." The temptation was to think we are the light of the world on our own. It's all about us. In reality, Jesus is the Light of the world, and whoever follows Him will have the light of life.

When we are intentionally plugged into the Source of Grace, we carry with us the light of Christ. You can notice these people. They seem to have brightness in their eyes – a peace beyond all understanding. They live in the same messed up world as you and I, but they don't fixate on the wind and waves because they have their eyes on Christ.

In contrast, you also see folks who have deadness in their eyes. They begin to look like zombies – alive but dead. Their soul is dark and far from God. The fruit emerging from them is despair, darkness, death. Somewhere along the way, they got

unplugged – detached from a life-giving power source.

Everything Jesus gives us in and through His Church is meant to give us life – natural life and supernatural life. And the greatest life-giving gift He gives us through His Church is the Eucharist. Each and every time we receive Communion with a proper disposition, we receive LIFE. This amazing grace gives us the grace we need to be salt and light for the world.

Friends, the world needs us NOW. We need to be the salt and the light amidst so much despair, anger and darkness. We cannot hide the light of Christ under a basket. We must let it shine. This is our Gospel challenge this weekend. Recognize that Jesus is your power source and that you must be plugged into Him in order to let your light shine for others.

#### **Spiritual Direction Program**

This coming week I will be away at Mundelein Seminary for the completion of a Spiritual Direction Certification Program offered by the Institute for Priestly Formation based out of Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

This has been a three-year journey, but when I leave Mundelein on Friday, I will be certified to serve as a spiritual director to seminarians, my brother priests, and lay folk who need assistance seeing how God is working in their lives.

Although I will be sad to say good-bye to the 70 other priests who have walked alongside me these past three years, I will be content to move on.

Participating in these retreat weeks helps me get re-centered on Christ. I learn more about myself and where I am with the Lord, and this in turn helps me be available to others. Far too often priests fall into the hamster-wheel world of being too busy with the X's and O's of parish life that the spiritual life begins to suffer, and a priest not in a healthy relationship with the Lord is a priest who is struggling.

Please pray for me, and be assured you are in my prayers this week. The closer we grow to God, the closer we grow toward each other.

#### Lent Already?

Yes! Wednesday, February 26, 2020 is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the penitential season of Lent. Mark your calendars and prepare your hearts.

Keep a look out for Mass times and Ash Wednesday services in the coming weeks.

The 2020 Lenten Mission will be held March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at St. Symphorosa Church. This year's Mission Speaker is Fr. Bob Regan.

Future dates: Palm Sunday – April 5<sup>th</sup>. Holy Thursday – April 9<sup>th</sup>. Good Friday – April 10<sup>th</sup>. Easter – April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Favorite Quote of the Week: "The sign that you love God is this: that you love your fellow man. And if you hate your fellow man, your hatred is toward God." – St. Ephraem the Syrian.



## Meet the Choir Bake Sale

Hospitality comes in many forms. Participation in the choir creates a community that, week after week, generates a sense of unity for its members—a diverse group of people from different backgrounds and experiences. Sharing a love of music unifies all of us in a common celebratory way.

Join us on Sunday, February 23, after the 9:30am Mass to meet our Adult Choir and help our choir fund by buying a few treats before Lent begins.

The choir sounds better every week, and will be happy to answer any questions about joining the choir, or participating in our **Caster Choir**.

The **Caster Choir** meets for rehearsal every Tuesday in the Church at 7pm. Join us to sing some of the most beautiful songs in our tradition during this most sacred of seasons.





St. Symphorosa Sharp Center 62<sup>nd</sup> & Mason, Chicago, IL 60638 Sunday, February 9, 2020 Doors open at 12:30pm Games begin at 1:30pm

\$20 at the door includes one set of game cards & jackpot coverall game

For additional information, log onto <u>www.stsymphorosa.org</u> or call 773.767.1523

Must be 18 years old to participate



Catholic Vocabulary What Does it Mean?

<u>Ciborium</u>

This sacred vessel is a covered container in which are reserved the small hosts used for distribution of Communion. Today it may be made from any noble and solid metal or durable material that the local bishops consider suitable for sacred use.



We invite everyone to join us for our next "Super Bingo/ Raffle" on Sun., Feb. 16.

Doors will open at 12:30pm and games will begin at 1:30pm.

The cost is \$20 per person. Tickets will be sold in the narthex and at the door.

Come join us for an afternoon of fun.

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# 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

The good that we do flows from who we are as children of God. Doing follows being. Being precedes doing.

We do good deeds not to earn God's love but the good that we do flows from our love for God and for neighbor. Sadly there are those who think that they have to rack up a certain amount of good deeds in order to "get into heaven." We're invited to recognize that it is our being in relationship with God that gives us our identity and then compels us to mission (the good that we do in helping build the kingdom of God).

This weekend is a good time to remind ourselves of the Works of Mercy that flow from our being adopted sons and daughters of the Father through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Corporeal Works of Mercy are: feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead, give alms to the poor.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are: admonish the sinner, instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, bear wrongs patiently, forgive offenses willingly, comfort the afflicted, pray for the living and the dead.

Why? Why should we do these works of mercy? That is a one-word answer – love!

Perhaps you want to cut out the aforementioned list of the corporeal and spiritual works of mercy and put them in your wallet or purse (or fanny pack). Pull the list out on occasion and ask yourself "where can I help today?"

A non-believer could say, "I don't need to believe in God to do those things." But the non-believer would have difficulty answering the WHY question. Why should we? Simply answering "because it's the right thing to do" is not sufficient. WHY invites us to delve into the mystery of our being and challenges to go deeper than abstract assumptions about "doing the right thing."

You'd be hard-pressed to find anyone on the street who would object to feeding the poor and sheltering the homeless. But invite the person to ponder WHY we should do these things. We as Christian disciples have our answer in the Person of Jesus, the Christ. He is the way, and the truth and the life, and He becomes our reason for living for God and for others.

Selfishness doesn't care about the other. Love is willing the good of the other. This is why societies that grow distant from God's love and God's law become increasingly selfish societies. Being in relationship with the Lord gets us out of ourselves and in concern for the well being of others and the common good.

Make the corporeal and spiritual works of mercy a part of your life, and realize the good that we do flows from WHOSE we are. We belong to God and we are the instruments He uses in this world to extend His mercy to those in need.

Daily prayer, regular reading of Sacred Scripture and regular reception of the Eucharist fuel our good works.

The good works you do today are the fruit of your love for God and for His creation.





## Faith Formation Office (773) 229-8523

# Coordinator: Peg Siebenaler

Email: strenefaithformation@gmail.com

# B

On February 12<sup>th</sup> our First Communicant's along with their parents are invited to a Special Bread Meeting. Each family is asked to bring a loaf of "homemade" bread to share within the context of this

gathering wherein we thank the Lord for the Eucharist and the joy it brings into our lives. Happy are we who have been called to the Lord's Table!

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

2/09: Family Mass 9:30am.

2/12: Classes for Level 8 and Level 2 only.

Level Two students and their parents participate in the Bread Meeting.

2/16: Family Mass 9:30am.

2/19: Classes for All Levels.

2/23: Family Mass 9:30am.

2/26: Class for ALL Levels...Ash Wednesday.

3/01: Family Mass 9:30am.

First Sunday of Lent.

3/04: Classes for All Levels.

3/08: Family Mass 9:30am.

Second Sunday of Lent.



### **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. Their projects will be on display for viewing by our parish community in March.

## St. Rene Faith Formation Program Emergency Closing Information

IMPORTANT REMINDER.....in the event of a heavy snowfall, or inclement weather you can access Emergency Closing information for our program by going to the St. Rene Website.....Strenegoupil.org (in the event of an emergency closing, this announcement would be the First Message to appear on the Web-site at the top of your screen.)



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#### Saturday, February 8, 2020

4:00pm—Madeline Vitrano (Family)

4:00pm—Living & Deceased Members of the Bukovsky Family (Keith & Maryann Fox)

#### Sunday, February 9, 2020

7:30am—Daniel Rajewski (Tony Ptak)

9:30am—Raymond Sutkowski (Edna Bazik)

9:30am—Ron Mroz (Leahy Family)

9:30am—Carmen Pindozzo, Jr. (Faith Formation Staff)

11:30am—Israel Mendez (Family)

#### Monday, February 10, 2020

8:00am—John & Adele Ridges (Capparelli Family)

#### Tuesday, February 11, 2020

8:00am—Evelyn Dec (Peg Siebenaler)

#### Wednesday, February 12, 2020

8:00am—Steven Shaughnessy (Hederman Family)

8:00am—Katarzyna Silacz (Silacz Family)

#### Thursday, February 13, 2020

8:00am—Joann Kukulka (Momma)

#### Friday, February 14, 2020

8:00am—Raymond Sutkowski (John Sutkowski Family)

#### Saturday, February 15, 2020

8:00am—Remo Zappavigna (Karen Hoogland)

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

4:00pm—Valentina & Felix Almendarez & Filomena Luna (Almendarez Family)

#### Sunday, February 16, 2020

7:30am—Mary Rapacz (Peg Siebenaler)

9:30am—Russell Lyewski (John & Gloria Bodoki)

11:30am—Rose Sanders (Julie Miklos & Family)



Martin Adelsbach
Judy Adelsbach
Larry Adkins
Guadalupe Almendarez
Anthony Barone
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

"Sammy" -RIP
Elizabeth Bedran - Health
Margaret Dolton - Health
Marie Sablich - Health
William A. Kappel, Jr. - Rest in Eternal
Peace



St. Valentine Feast Day - Feb. 14



### Our Lady or Lourdes Feast Day - Feb. 11

## February 1/2, 2020 Offering

Total envelopes\$4,037.00Total loose cash\$ 941.25Total Sunday Giving\$4,978.25

St. Rene Religious Ed Fund \$ 862.00

Altar & Rosary Society Cleaning Schedule

Feb. 14/15, 2020

**Connie Altman & Linda Dobias** 

Thank you for your generosity!

#### 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

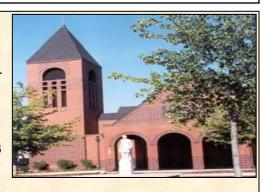
Website www.strenegoupil.org

#### 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 February 15, 2020	7:30AM February 9, 2020	9:30AM February 9, 2020	11:30AM February 9, 2020
# A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	Frank Zalewski Russ Dober Diane Biondo Dan Bartusiak Nancy Gunnell	Arlene Capparelli Amy Shanahan James Roche Alice Schaer	<b>Kay Marks</b> Barb Grzenia Jack Orsi Joan Orsi Debbie Rudar	<b>Ben Shafer</b> Mark Dill Carole Dill Monica Wojcik Julie Wojcik
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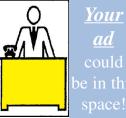
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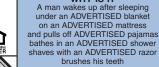
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