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## Fr. Bob's Weekly Blog



"Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love." Ephesians 15: 15-16

Thomas Merton entered my spiritual sphere when his book *No Man is an Island* caught my eye at a used bookstore.

His writing resonated with me, and there was this sense he was someone who had been down a dark alley or two in life, and he learned that the joy of life was not going to be found by looking away from God. He is likely never going to become a canonized saint of the church, but it is often those humble honest sinners who have unique insight into saintliness.

Merton's famous reflection continues to be shared.

He wrote, "My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.

"And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust you always though I may seem lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

What a good reflection by someone who desired to do God's will but was honest to know how in need he was of God's mercy and God's grace.

We all are in need of God's mercy and God's grace. We often don't know what's around the next corner, but we need not live in fear. Jesus says, "Be not afraid!" We cannot allow ourselves to get lulled into a sense of complacency. The Evil One is at work fomenting division, discouragement, diversion and deceit. Yes, even within the walls of the institutional Church. Same old tricks; new generation.

Instead, we do our best to stay centered on Christ. That's why daily prayer is so important, as is Sunday Mass, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We want to stay spiritually fit in a world that is growing flabby in the sacred things of God.

We don't just think about our faith — as if it were a mere intellectual exercise. We also LIVE our faith. Faith looks like something. Fr. Bob can read a book about the mechanics of the golf swing, but at some point you have to actually go swing a club so as to hit the golf ball.

So to our Christian discipleship. What we say and do flows from our proximity to Jesus; our closeness to the Lord. The closer we live to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the deeper will be our internal peace. That's a faith that trusts God in ALL things; a

faith that is not afraid even in the face of great adversity and persecution.

For the disciples, it looked like all hell was breaking loose on Good Friday, and in a way, all hell was breaking loose. Ahhh! But God's ways are not our ways. Jesus really did give his Body and Blood for us on Mt. Calvary. "This is my Body, given for you!" He means YOU.

And He gives His Body and Blood to us at each and every Mass so that we need not fear the terror of the night. "The Body of Christ." To which we say, "Amen!" So be it.

Good Friday was the necessary precursor of Easter. The cross precedes the crown. Earthly suffering transforms into eternal glory. That's our faith, and the reason we need not be afraid; even when it seems the sky is falling.

Jesus, we trust in YOU!

Quote of the Week:
"The whole science of the saints consists in knowing and following the will of God." – St. Isidore of Seville.



Holy Day of Obligation
Thursday, August 15, 2019
Solemnity of the Assumption
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8 a.m. Mass & 7 p.m. Mass

St. Rene Goupil - Main Church

#### PRAYER PRIMER !!!

"Lord, Teach Us To Pray"

4 Tuesday Evenings - 1 hour each

September 3, 10, 17, 24 7:00 pm — St. Rene Daily Chapel

Led by Fr. Bob Regan Pastor, St. Rene Goupil Parish

We will discus the purpose of prayer and explore various forms of prayer. Beginners and experienced disciples welcome.

Please register in the church narthex or by calling the parish office.

Course is free. Just bring your Holy Bible, a journal, and a hungry heart.





# Need A Laugh???

Then Save the Date

**Comedy, Comedy** 

Sunday, September 22, 2019 2:00 pm—4:30 pm St. Rene Church's Flannery Hall

Come join St. Rene Church for an afternoon of delight with comedian VITO ZATTO

**Expect a fun-filled afternoon** 

More information coming soon

Osco Pharmacy Flu Clinic at St. Rene Church (narthex)



Saturday, Sept. 7 - 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm Sunday, Oct. 6 - 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Please bring your pharmacy and medical insurance cards.

### A Prayer for "Renew My Church"

Lord Jesus, you speak to us today, as you spoke to holy men and women who have gone before us. In every age and in our own time, you call to us and say: Renew My Church. Pour out the gift of your Holy Spirit upon us, and so enable us

to hear you clearly

to listen to each other attentively

to imagine our future boldly

to discern your direction wisely

to persevere in your holy will courageously

to stay together in charity

to surrender our own plans readily to embrace the greater good to hand on your gifts to future generations.

May we remain in the holy company of

the Blessed Virgin Mary, the apostles and all the saints. May their example and presence

inspire us with patient confidence in the work of your grace.

We ask this of you who live and reign

with the Father

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,

forever and ever. Amen

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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

One of the most powerful scenes in the gospels takes place in John, chapter six.

This part of John is commonly referred to as the Bread of Life discourse. Jesus is teaching some things that are difficult for his listeners to digest. If you haven't read this chapter in a long time – or ever read it – then make it a point TODAY to go get your Bible and read chapter six of John's gospel.

At some point, many of the disciples who were listening to Jesus had had enough. "This saying is too hard; who can accept it."

Jesus offers some more challenging words, to which Sacred Scripture says, "As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him."

Jesus then looked to the Twelve (His Apostles) and says, "Do you also want to leave?"

In all honesty, there are days I am the recipient of this question from the Lord. Perhaps you are too. How easy it is to just start fixating on everything that is WRONG with the Church, or teachings we don't fully understand. This usually plays itself out by hearing about the sins of fellow Catholics, including some bishops and priests. Some days it's enough to make you want to spit – or worse.

Our news media are only too eager to share the bad news. The sins of Christians (especially leaders) make for good headlines, and those headlines often serve as fodder to our fallen away brothers and sisters at home who point and say, "See, that's why I left that corrupt church." (Just a clarifying remark – the Church in Her origin is Divine. However, it is sinful human beings within her institutional walls that give Love a bad name).

Ahh! And then those concentrated words of Simon Peter, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life."

My invitation to you – and to myself – is to lean in now more than ever to do our part to purify Mother Church. We are reminded that it is we who are to conform to Christ. Sadly, there are those – even in the Church – who think we should be conforming to the world. And that's where we lose sight of our destination. Nothing good comes from looking away from Jesus and fixating on the high winds and tumultuous waves of our broken, wounded world.

We pray in the Our Father "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done. On earth as it is in heaven." Notice that we do NOT pray, "In heaven as it is on earth."

Just as heroes emerge during a time of war, so do saints arise from within the Church when times get tough. It's easy to be a Christian in comfortable times (or when everything is going our way), but as the Cross comes on the scene, how tempting it is to run away, just as the apostles did on Good Friday.

Jesus gave us the Church. The Holy Spirit inspired Sacred Scripture. Our Lord intimately comes to us in the Eucharist. He calls us to service for our neighbor in need. We have everything we need in the Church to be authentic disciples. We simply have to know it, receive it, live it and share it.

Renewing the Church has to be more than lip service and overly-optimistic happy talk. It begins with the renewal of each and every heart toward the One who has the words of everlasting life.

#### What's it Mean? Catholic Vocabulary

#### **Corporal**

A sacred cloth of white linen around twenty inches square upon which the chalice, paten, and ciboria are placed during the Mass. When not in use, it is folded three times each way so as to form nine equal squares and placed in the burse. All vessels that actually contain the Blessed Sacrament must be placed on the corporal.



Faith Formation Office (773) 229-8523

Coordinator: Peg Siebenaler

Email: strenefaithformation@gmail.com



## REGISTER TODAY FOR OUR FAITH FORMATION CLASSES!!

We will be accepting registrations from 8:30am until 11:30am in the Narthex.



### A SPECIAL CALL

When the waters of Baptism are poured over our heads, we receive the gift of grace. We become members of the Church and part of the Church's mission is to share the Good News of Jesus. And so WE HAVE BEEN CALLED to do just that.

Beyond the basic call we received in Baptism, the call to be a catechist is a special vocation, one affirmed by the Church. It's the voice of the Holy Spirit, an interior call to form others in faith.

This fall, the young people of St. Rene will begin to gather to journey in faith with other children their age. New and "seasoned" catechists are needed to accompany them on this journey.

I invite you to spend some time in prayer and reflection on whether you may be called to share your faith.



#### **CLASSES BEGIN SOON!**

There's still time to register for the 2019-2020
Faith Formation Classes.

We are now in the process of organizing classes and recruiting Catechists, so it is important for you to send in your registration as soon as possible.

Registration materials are available in the Narthex. You may also stop into the Parish Office to register. Both new and returning families need to register for next year.

For 2019-20, we will continue to offer Faith Formation Classes for grades I-8 on Wednesday evenings, from 6:00pm-7:30pm.

Please call Peggy, in the Parish Office with any questions.



#### **Faith Formation Family Mass**

Come and Connect with God in a special way at our

Beginning of the Year Family Mass for All our Faith Formation Families
On Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm
Students and their families should gather in the Church.
Please bring a non-perishable food item to place in the baskets for the needy.

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#### Saturday, August 10, 2019

4:00pm—Marion Tulik (Marge Tulik)

4:00pm—Aurora Lopez & Lupe Hernandez (Almendarez Family)

#### Sunday, August 11, 2019

7:30am—Edward Cechura (Family)

9:30am—Anthony, Josephine & Laura Pelegrino (Family)

9:30am—Alice Tomczak (Sharon & Andy Jennings)

11:30am—Joan Stephens (Husband & Children)

#### Monday, August 12, 2019

8:00am—Dolores Michaels (Family)

#### Tuesday, August 13, 2019

8:00am—Maureen Walczak (Family)

#### Wednesday, August 14, 2019

8:00am—Stephanie Adam (Barb Stoyak)

8:00am—Phillip O'Brien (Family)

#### Thursday, August 15, 2019

8:00am—Sophie Mrozek (Ann)

8:00am—10th Wedding Anniversary of Steven & Christina Laskewich (Family)

7:00pm—Durack-Gubista Family (Rosemary Durack)

#### Friday, August 16, 2019

8:00am—Marino Family (Eugene Tomassini)

#### Saturday, August 17, 2019

8:00am—Zeneida Narea (Vince Narea)

4:00pm—Raymond Sarlitto (Mary Sarlitto)

#### Sunday, August 18, 2019

7:30am—Caterina & Gaspare Amaro (Giuseppe Amaro)

9:30am—Alice Tomczak (Joseph Kasper)

9:30am—Catherine Bartuch Morrell (Family)

9:30am—Dawn (Bodoki) Denis (Mom & Dad)

9:30am—Kathleen Murtaugh (Family)

11:30am—Agnes Kozicki (Family)



The next
Super Bingo/Raffle
will be
August 18



Martin Adelsbach
Judy Adelsbach
Larry Adkins
Guadalupe Almendarez
Anthony Barone
Carl Bell
Joanne Bukowiecki
Gina Camp
Dominic Ciampaglia
Margaret Ciampaglia

Mitchell Gallas Geri Gestaut Robert Hilbruner Rose Ann Lindsay Lori McCarthy Kenneth Milewski William Nita Rochelle Piegari Joseph Rice Edward Robertson Judith Siwek Barb Stoyak Mike Tallon Sandra Tallon Scott Tloczek Shirley Tloczek Joan Wilhelmy Richard Zaleski

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands, protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

E-7 Chief Mark Porcelli



In Loving Memory of Ray & Aletha Gilreath
In Memory of John & Eileen Linden



#### **CAPS Beat 812 Meeting**

Please join us at 7:00pm

Clearing Library - 6423 W. 63rd Pl.

Wednesday, August 14, 2019 Facilitator: John Kurtovich

#### August 3/4, 2019 Offering

Total envelopes \$3,678.00
Total loose cash \$775.00
Total Sunday Giving \$4,453.00
Building & Maintenance Fund \$1,233.88

Thank you for your generosity!



Altar & Rosary Society Cleaning Schedule
August 16/17
Gloria Bodoki & Lois Beyer

#### Parish Staff

Rev. Bob Regan Pastor

Rev. Peter Paurazas Pastor Emeritus

Karen Hoogland
Businesss Manager

Peg Siebenaler Faith Formation

Irene Perconti Administrative Assistant

Adam Chlebek Organist

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

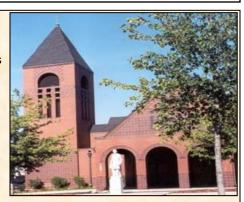
Website www.strenegoupil.org

#### **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 August 17, 2019	7:30AM August 18, 2019	9:30AM August 18, 2019	11:30AM August 18, 2019
A A	<b>Dan Bartusiak</b> Pat Gunnell Frank Zalewski Linda Dobias Russ Dober	Pat O'Brien-Kenney Jack Kenney Alice Schaer Mary Sarlitto	<b>Debbie Rudar</b> Teena Smith Fred Bartuch Mary Bartuch Kay Marks	<b>Mark Dill</b> Carole Dill Ben Shafer Charlie Murphy Julie Wojcik
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