

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Amen I say to you,
until heaven and
earth pass away,
not the smallest
letter or the
smallest part of
a letter will pass
from the law.

Matthew 5:18

February 16, 2020

St. Rene Goupil Catholic Church

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



Fr. Bob's Weekly Blog



Driving back into our area one evening, I pulled up to a red light at the intersection of Oak Park Ave and 63rd Street. Another car approached to the side in the left lane to turn left. The car paused briefly at the red light, and then proceeded to blow through the red light and go left.

Welcome to the world of “Stop lights don’t apply to me.”

This is something more and more of us are noticing as we navigate traffic in the early 21st century, and when we really think about, it’s a visible symptom of a much deeper societal ill – lawlessness and selfishness.

Our scripture readings this weekend invite us to ponder God’s law and God’s love.

Think about it this way. Would you want to drive the streets of Chicago if there were ZERO rules of the road? We’d be taking our life into our own hands by venturing out and discovering there are no stop signs, no one way streets, no speed limits, no street signs, no warning signs. Bottom line? This would be vehicular chaos.

And yet, we as human beings seem to believe we can openly discard the revealed law of God -- and love of God – and still have order. Look around today and see how many folks are openly blowing through moral stop lights.

God says, “Thou shall not ... We say, “Well, just go ahead and watch me.” Just like a rebellious teen that

can’t wait to get out of the parents’ house so he or she can “do whatever I want.”

We tear down the Ten Commandments and shun the Beatitudes all the while we seek to erect our own man-made laws that suit our individual tastes. We expect citizens to obey man-made laws while more and more openly shun Divine Law.

Listen to the Responsorial Psalm this weekend. “Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord.” God didn’t give us the law because he’s a grouchy judge or a temperamental traffic cop. He gives us the law based on love because He knows what’s best for us as human beings – both individually and communally; just as a loving parent tells a child to stay away from the hot stove. As we know, some of us need to learn such lessons by personal experience.

The invitation is to see God’s law as coming from a place of love. Challenging? At times, it certainly is a challenge, but we need God’s law to keep this orderly world from descending into utter chaos. Amen!

Forward, Together Forward

In the wake of our Renew My Church decision, there are a slew of questions, no doubt. My encouragement in these initial weeks is to simply take a deep breath and let things settle. Questions will be answered as we move forward. In some cases, there are not yet answers to questions.

What we do know for a fact is that St. Rene and St. Symphorosa parishes will UNITE to form a NEW parish, effective July 1, 2020. This is NOT St. Rene

joining St. Sym’s nor is it St. Sym’s joining St. Rene. We are uniting into one newly-formed parish that honors our respective past but recognizes the present needs as we prepare for the future.

Here is a question we can each ask ourselves as we move forward. Am I going to be a bridge builder through all this, or am I going to be a wall builder?

The bridge builders will recognize the mission of Christ to bring us into ONE and reinvigorate the faith in the Clearing area of Chicago. Bridge builders will use the next three years to unite as a people of faith.

The wall builders will continue to protect territory, spread rumors, point toward “them,” cite difference over oneness in Christ. The wall builders will use the next three years plotting for the other parish to close.

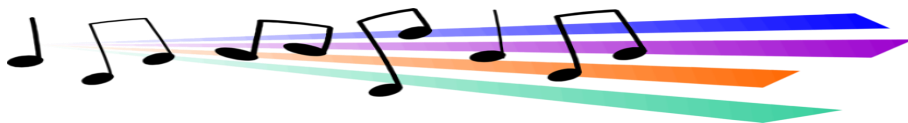
Please join me in being a bridge builder, and recognize that we share in using the wood of the Cross to unite in Christ and build a bridge toward each other.

Favorite Quote of the Week:

“Your accord and harmonious love is a hymn to Jesus Christ. Yes, you should form all together one choir, so that, in perfect harmony and taking your pitch from God, you may sing with one voice to the Father through Jesus Christ, that He may listen to you and know you from your chant as the canticle of His only Son.” – St. Ignatius of Antioch.



Meet the Choir Bake Sale



Join us **next 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 **Holy Week Choir**.

Join the Holy Week Choir

In order to make Holy Week the most beautiful celebration of the year, I would like to invite interested singers and instrumentalists to combine their talents in a single choir to sing on

Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday. Are you someone who likes to sing, but

has never asked to join our choir? This is the perfect opportunity for you! If you would like to sing in the choir for Holy

Week, I want to extend for this upcoming Lenten season the invitation to participate in this special choir. In order to make Holy

Week the most beautiful celebration of the year, you may want to take advantage of this opportunity.

Rehearsals for the Holy Week choir will be held each Tuesday at 7pm in the Church.



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St. Rene Goupil
Church

Sunday, February 23, 2020
10:00am—12:30pm

Please bring your pharmacy
and medical insurance.

Catholic Vocabulary What Does it Mean?

Narthex

The vestibule or porch at the entrance of the church separated from the nave by a wall, railing or screen, acting as a buffer separating the secular life from contact with God. This area was used for two purposes at various times, for the catechumens and penitents, or as the gathering place for those in the procession to bring up the gifts in preparation for the Eucharist.



We invite everyone to join us for
our next "Super Bingo/Raffle"
on Sunday, February 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.



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

When we arrive for Mass on Sunday, do we enter our pew as a consumer or as a worshipper?

Before you proceed with this essay, give this some brief thought -- consumer or worshipper?

My prayer is that you answered with the latter; that you come to Mass to worship the Lord, you allow yourself to be sanctified by God's grace, and you leave fully aware that you are on mission for the greater glory of God.

However, there is a chance we, at times, succumb to the consumer mindset. “What am I getting out of this?” We risk approaching the liturgy of Christ's Church as if we were entering a restaurant or amusement park. We soon find ourselves rating the performance of the priest, or the cantor, or the lector, or the altar servers.

If the hymns aren't familiar, we complain we don't know the hymn (by the way, the only way we learn new hymns is to use them those first few times). If the homily doesn't make me laugh or entertain me, then it's boring. Lost in all of this is the sacrificial aspect of the Mass.

At Holy Mass, the sacrifice of Calvary is continued through time and space. As we kneel for the Eucharistic Prayer, imagine yourself kneeling at the foot of the cross – the exact place Jesus died so that you might have life. We bow in humble adoration for so great a gift.

Holy Mass is also the sharing of a communal meal – the Eucharist. At the Last Supper, the Lord gave His apostles a new Passover meal. When we receive Communion, we are NOT receiving bread and wine, as if we were dining at our favorite Italian restaurant. We are receiving Christ. Yes, that has been our faith for over 2,000 years. The

Eucharist is the Real Presence – Jesus' Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity.

All of the aforementioned “Wow-ness” should be preceded by what we are bringing with us to Mass. Ask yourself, “How did I prepare for Mass?” Did you just show up, maybe out of breathe because you came in at the last minute? Or did you bring with you a receptive humble heart, an open ear and a generous spirit?

Something that might be helpful is to allow either your joy or struggles to join the Offertory Procession. When the gifts of bread and wine are brought forth, imagine your joy or your current struggle is offered too. Let it go to the altar with the bread and wine, and allow the Lord to transform it all. Be mindful of all this as the ordinary bread and wine becomes the extraordinary gift of the Eucharist.

Far too much of the Christian Church today in our country is becoming consumer driven. Hip tech-savvy pastors cater to the fireworks-seeking consumer in hopes of more money and more “likes” on the church's Facebook page. Jesus becomes more about competition and entertainment than about authentic worship.

We come to Holy Mass to leave the ordinariness of the distracted world behind so that we can more humbly enter into an extraordinary hour of heart-to-heart adoration of the One who died on the cross and rose from the dead.

Saying “I didn't get anything out of Mass,” is either an ignorance of the Paschal Mystery, or an insult to the Word of God and the Eucharist.

Lord, our prayer today is that we may be humble worshippers of your Divine Mercy.





Faith Formation Office
(773) 229-8523

Coordinator:
Peg Siebenaler

Email: strenfaithformation@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 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.
- 3/04: Classes for All Levels.
- 3/08: Family Mass 9:30am.
- 3/11: Classes for All Levels.
Level 7 presents Jesus Projects.



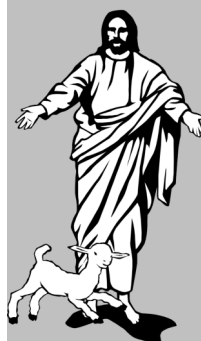
St. Rene Faith Formation Program Emergency Closing Information

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.)



Tips for Getting in the Spirit of Lent

- Turn the radio off in the car today and simply pay attention.
- Write a letter, especially to the sick or elderly.
- Learn something new today.
- Turn off the TV and listen to music or read.
- Count your blessings. (You'll need a good deal of time for this one).
- Recall a favorite prayer and pray it slowly.
- Perform a random act of kindness.
- Imagine God saying to you, "May I have your attention, please?" How will you answer?
- Fast from something for a day.
- Read and reflect on a scripture passage.



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.



Our St. Rene Faith Formation Bake Sale held on the first weekend of February was a huge success due to the generous support of our parishioners and the dedicated bakers which included catechists, students, moms, and grandmas. A warm, heartfelt "thank you" to ALL for supporting this sale. The proceeds will be put to good use to enhance our Growing Faith!

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Saturday, February 15, 2020

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)

Monday, February 17, 2020

8:00am—Al Tuszynski (Tuszynski Family)

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

8:00am—Steven Krupowicz (Murphy Family)

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

8:00am—Doris Mezyk (Tuszynski Family)

Thursday, February 20, 2020

8:00am—Pray for all Forgotten People throughout the World (Pelegrino Family)

Friday, February 21, 2020

8:00am—Lydia Mendez (Family)
 8:00am—Stanley Tloczek (Marie Zilka)

Saturday, February 22, 2020

8:00am—Jerome Brace (Marie Zilka)
 4:00pm—Casimir C. Wilczynski (Family)
 4:00pm—Evelyn Dober (Marie Zilka)

Sunday, February 23, 2020

7:30am—Geraldine Kostka (Family)
 9:30am—Durack-Gubista Families (Family)
 9:30am—Donald & Barbara Suda (Marie Zilka)
 9:30am—Raymond Sutkowski (Sutkowski Family)
 11:30am—Louise Gomez (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

‘Building Bridges’



February 15/16, 2020 Offering

Total envelopes	\$3,756.00
Total loose cash	<u>\$ 506.00</u>
Total Sunday Giving	\$4,262.00
St. Rene Maintenance Fund	\$ 883.00

Thank you for your generosity!



Altar & Rosary Society Cleaning Schedule

Feb. 21/22, 2020

Irene Korosa & Toni Ptak

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 22, 2020	7:30AM February 23, 2020	9:30AM February 23, 2020	11:30AM February 23, 2020
	Nancy Gunnell Pat Gunnell Frank Zalewski Dan Bartusiak Russ Dober	Mary Sarlitto Arlene Capparelli Jack Kenney Amy Shanahan	Teena Smith Barb Grzenia John Garcia Norine Abramovic Marie Zilka	Joanne Tishka Mark Dill Kathy Przekwas Charlie Murphy John Strompolis
	Nancy Gunnell	Leo Crotty	Jerry Hughes	Ben Shafer

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