

*St. Rene Goupil Catholic Church*  
64th Street & New England Avenue—Chicago, IL 60638—773-229-8523

April 19  
2020

# SECOND SUNDAY OF *Easter*

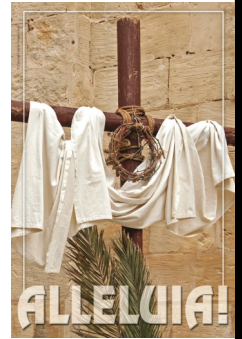
(OR SUNDAY OF  
DIVINE MERCY)

JESUS CAME AND STOOD  
IN THEIR MIDST  
AND SAID TO THEM,  
"PEACE BE WITH YOU."

John 20:19



## Fr. Bob's Weekly Blog



Allow me to say thank you to all those who have called the rectory or sent a note just wanting to say hello and see how I am doing during this difficult and challenging time. Although I cannot begin to return all the calls or letters, let this be my sincere thank you for caring about me as your pastor, your shepherd. Please know you are all in prayers.

One of the things I miss most is seeing all of your faces at Holy Mass. I know, I know, you say "Fr. Bob, but you close your eyes a lot when you sit in your chair. How do you see me?" Believe me, I see you. And the Lord sees you. We are human beings and we are not wired to shelter in place forever, or to perpetually live socially distant from one another.

There are important health and safety reasons why we are engaging the physical distancing from one another, but how can we not see the way the diabolic uses something like this current pandemic to try and distance us from God and from one another. Remember, the word diabolic means "to tear apart." Hmmm!

Please do your best to stay spiritually focused during these trying times. Pray! Pray! Pray!

Don't just say your prayers, actually sit down in silence and stillness and spend time with the Lord. Share what's on your mind and heart, then make sure you stop talking and listen. Listen! The Lord wants to share something special -- that He loves you so much; more than you may know.

That's tough for some people to believe. For many years I struggled to believe God could love me so much. And on some dark days, that old liar and murderer tries to get me to doubt God's love once again. But God's love isn't fickle like our human love. Our love often has strings attached, which means it's not actually love, but selfishness disguised as love.

God loves us even when we turn away in sin. Notice, God doesn't turn away. We do. We decide we want something else more than God. Sharon Hersh wonderfully expresses this so well in her book "The Last Addiction" when she writes "We all love something too much."

What she is saying is that we all have something in our life that is NOT GOD that we love as if it were God. This used to be called a false idol. This idol is different for everyone, but it is an idol nonetheless. We need to know our idol; to be honest about it. Whatever your idol (or idols) may be, it is NOT GOD. Thankfully, we have a God of mercy

who forgives a humble contrite heart.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, be open to God's grace; to God's mercy. Embrace the grace! Reject the lies that emerge from the Liar and Murderer and from those who cooperate with deceit, discouragement, division and diversion. Trust in Jesus. Grab hold of his nailed-marked hand and walk the walk He has shown us by His suffering, death, resurrection and ascension.

The Cross is not the end of the story. Easter is our hope. New life. God's love ... forever!

### **Favorite Quote of the Week:**

**"God never deserts a man, unless first He is deserted by that man. For even if a man shall have committed grievous sins once, and twice, and a third time, God still looks for him, just as He says through the prophet, 'so that he may be converted and live.'"**

**– St. Caesarius of Arles.**



## What if???

If they cancel the rest of the school year, students would miss 2.5 months of education. Many people are concerned about students falling behind because of this. Yes, they may fall behind when it comes to classroom education...

But what if...

What if instead of falling "behind", this group of kids are **ADVANCED** because of this? Hear me out...

What if they have more empathy, they enjoy family connection, they can be more creative and entertain themselves?

What if they love to read, they love to express themselves in writing?

What if they enjoy the simple things, like their own backyard and sitting near a window in the quiet?

What if they notice the birds and the dates the different flowers emerge, and the calming renewal of a gentle rain shower?

What if this generation are the ones to learn to cook, organize their space, do their laundry, and keep a well run home?

What if they learn to stretch a dollar and to live with less?

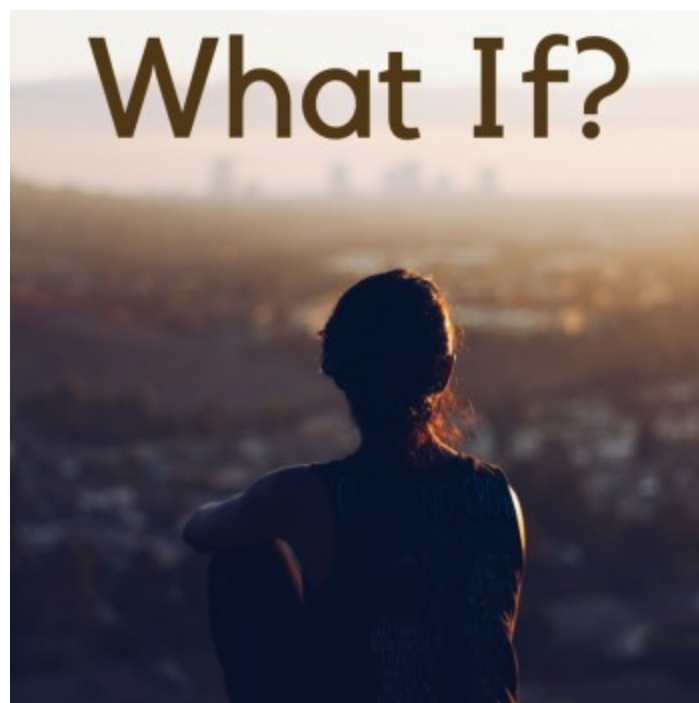
What if they learn to plan shopping trips and meals at home?

What if they learn the value of eating together as a family and finding the good to share in the small delights of the everyday?

What if they are the ones to place great value on our teachers and educational professionals, librarians, public servants and the previously invisible essential support workers like truck drivers, grocers, cashiers, custodians, logistics, and health care workers and their supporting staff, just to name a few of the millions taking care of us right now while we are sheltered in place?

What if among these children, a great leader emerges who had the benefit of a slower pace and a simpler life to truly learn what really matters in this life?

What if they are **AHEAD**?







## ***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

On occasion a person walks into my confessional and begins by saying, “Father, it’s been such a long time since I’ve gone to confession.”

Instead of waving a finger and chastising the person for such a prolonged absence, I smile and explain to the person that we should stop for a moment and recognize that the Holy Spirit has moved their heart and that they have cooperated with God’s grace and come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

“How long has it been?” I ask.

“Um, I’d say, 30 maybe 40 years,” he says.

Secretly, in my own mind, I shout “YES!” because here is a prodigal son or daughter coming to their senses, turning around, and heading home to receive the Father’s mercy. The prerequisite to receive the Father’s mercy is having a humble heart that is truly sorry for one’s sins, and a firm intention to not sin.

Are we likely to sin again? You betcha, but as we engage the sacrament of reconciliation and prepare to receive absolution, we must be sorry and intend to leave the confessional with a firm purpose of amendment.

Go get your Bible today and turn to Luke’s Gospel (15: 11-32) and read the entire story of the parable of

the prodigal son and his brother. Notice how the father receives the “run-away” son once the son wakes up and realizes his life had gone astray. The father knew the son was sorry and wanted to change the direction of his life, so the father celebrates the son’s return home by extending abundant mercy “for this son of mine was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.”

Jesus gave us a very concrete avenue to receive forgiveness for having turned away from God and chosen a life of sin over life in Christ. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the Sacrament of Mercy. We wake up and realize how silly it was to walk away from the Father to indulge our wayward passions. Things aren’t so bad living in the embrace of the Father’s love.

Once this whole CoVID-19 pandemic subsides and life returns to some sense of normalcy, please find time sit down, exam your conscience, see where you have turned away from God and chosen sin, and prepare to engage the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Mercy awaits your humble contrite heart.

And if you are behind the screen when you arrive to confess your sins, please know I am smiling because you showed up and I got to be the instrument Jesus extends His healing mercy.

### **Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present  
in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire  
to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive  
You sacramentally, come at least spiritually  
into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already  
there, and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

-St. Alphonsus Liguori





**Faith Formation Office**  
(773) 229-8523

**Coordinator:**  
**Peg Siebenaler**

**Email:** strenfaithfor-

## LENTEN OUTREACH APPRECIATION



A very sincere and heartfelt "Thank You" goes out to ALL the grade levels in our Faith Formation Program, their families and ALL St. Rene Parishioners for their participation in our Lenten Outreach Project. Many children benefited from your generous response. We received items for Easter Baskets and pre-assembled Easter Baskets. A total of 60 baskets were given to Sr. Ann Marie at St. Blasé Soup Kitchen. Her eyes welled up with tears as she said, "Thank you, St. Rene". This Lenten Outreach Project loudly speaks of the True Generosity of Spirit that exists here at St. Rene Parish!! May God Bless you and your dear families for your great example of concern and compassion for those in need....Especially during these trying times.



**Pictured Below - *The Walking on the Water***  
**By Allie K**

Just one example of a Beautifully Created Jesus Project



**Matthew 14:22-33**

Jesus commanded His disciples to get into a boat to sail across to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus did not go with the disciples in the boat. Instead, He stayed back and went to a mountain to pray.

The disciples obeyed Jesus and started to sail across the Sea of Galilee. Suddenly, a storm started on the Sea of Galilee. The disciples were having a difficult time in the storm. They thought they would sink.

Jesus came to the disciples by walking on the water. Peter saw Jesus walking on the water. Peter asked Jesus, "Lord if that is you, tell me to come to you on the water." Jesus said "Come".

Peter stepped out of the boat and was able to walk on the water towards Jesus.

Then the Bible says Peter "saw the wind, he was afraid, and began to sink".

Jesus reached out and grabbed Peter's hand. He walked Peter back to the boat.

### ***Why I selected the story:***

I selected this story because I would have liked to see Jesus walking on the water.

### ***What is Jesus' message in the story?***

Peter was able to walk on water while he was focusing on Jesus. Peter only began to sink once he took his focus off of Jesus when he looked and "saw the wind". The message of this story is to keep your focus on Jesus when we go through storms in our lives. As long as we keep our focus on Jesus during the storms, we can do the impossible. However, if we take our focus off of Jesus during the storms, we will begin to sink.

### ***Message for today's world:***

The disciples were full of fear while in the storm. Jesus is the answer to man's fear.

# Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



## Saturday, April 18, 2020

4:00pm—Anthony Mraz, Sr. (Mraz Family)  
 4:00pm—Geraldine Finlay (McAllister & Neligan Families)  
 4:00pm—Mary Klish (Claudia Pascual)

## Sunday, April 19, 2020

7:30am—Dante DiMenna (Family)  
 9:30am—Raymond Sutkowski (Edna Bazik)  
 9:30am—James Koffend (Judy Carranza)  
 9:30am—Lorenzo & Ana Maria Duran (Daughters)  
 11:30am—Thomas Murray (Family)

## Monday, April 20, 2020

8:00am—Josephine Pelegrino (Family)

## Tuesday, April 21, 2020

8:00am—Eddie Walsh (Murphy Family)

## Wednesday, April 22, 2020

8:00am—Chester Goluch (Family)

## Thursday, April 23, 2020

8:00am—Gratitude to God for Life and all Blessings  
 (Pelegrino Family)

## Friday, April 24, 2020

8:00am—Edward Cechura (Family)

## Saturday, April 25, 2020

8:00am—Robert Traynor (Family)  
 4:00pm—Irene, Ceferino & Fidel Parra (Almendarez Family)

## Sunday, April 26, 2020

7:30am—Michael Sarlitto (Mary Sarlitto)  
 9:30am—Raymond Sutkowski (Family)  
 9:30am—Good Health for Judy Carranza (Family)  
 9:30am—Ramon Perez (Socorro Perez)  
 11:30am—Beatrice Lucio (Family)  
 11:30am—Martin Sangpeal (Linda Dobias)



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

THERE IS  
 CAUSE  
 FOR  
 REJOICING  
 HERE  
 ALTHOUGH you  
 have NEVER  
 seen HIM  
 you love HIM.  
 Peter.

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**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.

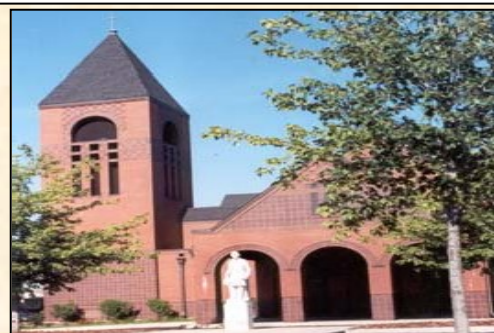
**Faith Formation Classes**

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.**



saint snippets

I desire that the  
Feast of Mercy be  
a refuge and shelter  
for all souls.

**Divine Mercy Sunday**

A Feast celebrated on the 2nd Sunday of Easter.  
Jesus promised an abundance of grace and mercy  
on this day.

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April 19

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