

Saint Rene Goupil Catholic Church

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

ASCENSION OF THE

Lord

MAY 24, 2020



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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.

Matthew 28:19



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

Where ya been? Where ya heading?
Where ya goin’?

These are three questions worth asking in light of this weekend’s celebration of the Ascension of our Lord.

Each of us has our own personal history. We have a past. Each of us is currently alive and living in the month of May 2020. Each of us has a future, and Jesus leads the way. We, however, must choose to follow where the Lord Himself has trod.

The tough part is that following Jesus includes bearing a cross as He did. The hope is rising from the dead as He did and grabbing hold of His coattails as we transition into Eternal Life.

Sadly, we live in a society where far too many people do not believe any of this is true. The Christian story is increasingly being rejected or flat out denied. Critics say none of it is true, and go so far as to say “When we die, that’s it. Nothing more.”

Hope in the promise of life beyond death carried generations before us. Those who have gone before us didn’t cling to this world as much as we do today. We trusted in Christ’s promise to take us through death to new life. Good Friday was not the end of the story. Easter triumphs!

What about today? Right now? What do YOU believe about life and death?

We are witnessing very tough times today because of the CoVID-19 pandemic. What’s interesting, however, is to witness so many folks reacting and behaving as if this life is all that there is and shaming those who don’t seem to fear suffering

and death as much as those who put their hope and trust in the Lord.

Please do not read what I am NOT saying. Health and wellness are serious concerns and we need to do the best we can to take care of ourselves and be mindful of others when it comes to our physical safety. However, we need not despair or live in fear in the face of suffering and death. We have a Savior who went through both and promises us there is more; much more.

We’ve built a prosperous and comfortable society. We live in the most affluent culture in the history of humankind, but we’ve begun to live as if the promise of heaven could never compete with the fancy bells and whistles of this world. As a result, we don’t even set our hearts on heaven. And the answer to the question “Where ya going?” becomes, “Um, I don’t really know. I guess Starbucks.”

We do know where we are going. Jesus shows us by His suffering, death, resurrection and ascension. We are going Home; to the Father, as Jesus promised; provided we take His hand and accept Him as our Lord. Love forces no one; so God forces no one. We must receive the Gift and share the Gift.

Open the Doors, Please!

Things will be getting a little fast-paced and safety focused in the next weeks and months as we begin the process of re-opening our church doors and preparing to celebrate the sacraments again as we deliberately inch our way closer toward larger “crowds” inside our church walls and in our pews.

As we engage this re-opening process, please be patient. The Archdiocese of Chicago is laying out careful steps so that we do this in a way that respects those who are rearing to get back to worship and those who are still

concerned about gathering around large numbers of fellow human beings.

Please keep an eye on upcoming announcements. We will post news on the front glass doors of the church, on our parish website and in the bulletin. Do not expect everything to just open up to full capacity all at once. This will be a gradual increase over weeks and months.

Our leaders (church and government) are pretty much in a “damned if you do, and damned if you don’t” situation. We live in a litigious society and there will be those who can’t want to sue if they can prove the church or the government was negligent or moved too fast.

With that being said, we can’t live in fear and become immobilized because of what “might” happen. In this broken, wounded world – even though it has been redeemed – there will still be suffering, sickness and death. We can’t “fear” our way into some perfect Utopia.

In the face of sickness and death, charity is drawn out of the human heart in concern for others just as there were those who attended to Jesus as he walked the Way of Suffering to Calvary and died so that we not fear our bodily death. If we should fear anything, it is the death of the soul; something very apparent in our society when “church” is deemed non-essential but a brand new Planned Parenthood is open for business in Waukegan. Hmmm!

Where ya going? Follow Him who ascended into glory.

Favorite Quote of the Week:
“At His Ascension our Lord entered Heaven, and He keeps the door open for humanity to enter.” – Oswald Chambers.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office of the Archbishop
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2030
312.534.8230
archchicago.org

May 13, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

These fifty days of Easter, leading to Pentecost, are marked by unprecedented suffering, as humanity has fallen victim to a perilous contagion. In addition to the threats to our physical wellbeing, we are suffering spiritually as the Covid-19 pandemic has required restrictions of our worship and active participation in the sacramental life of the Church. Surely, there have been moments in history when governments and rulers have persecuted Christians and banned their public worship. This is not one of them. Rather, the present restrictions come in response to an extreme medical emergency as local, state and federal authorities – specifically public health officials – legitimately fulfil their responsibilities to safeguard human life and the common good. They have based their reasonable guidance on careful consideration of empirical data and the best available disease-mitigation practices as they seek to contain the pandemic’s rampage through our communities.

While everyone must exercise good citizenship in observing these restrictions, I call on the Catholic faithful, as advocates for justice and charity, to comply with these regulations. From the first pages of Scripture we learn that we indeed are “our brother’s keeper,” a truth that must inspire us as we are called to sacrifice. We should also be motivated to cooperate with public safety norms, given our reverence for life and human dignity. This is, at its heart, a moment to proclaim the breadth and depth of what it means to be pro-life, particularly as this virus preys on the most vulnerable in our midst.

The good news is that a plan for a gradual reopening of our churches has now taken shape, as I note below. However, since our movements will be restricted as that plan unfolds in different phases, your pastors and bishops will continue for the present time to offer Mass in private each day and to livestream and broadcast Masses from our parishes and the archdiocese. I am particularly grateful to ABC-TV, Univision and Polvision in Chicago for giving us airtime every Sunday. These celebrations surely are not the same as gathering in our churches for Mass, but I know from hearing from many parishioners that they provide a great deal of solace and support in this time of uncertainty.

We must be honest. We expect this situation to continue for some weeks, and any plan for reopening our churches for public worship must include every precaution to ensure public gatherings do not create a second wave of contagion, thus squandering the gains made through our sacrifice in these days.

With those realities in mind, I am heartened to announce that we have reached an agreement with the Office of the Governor on a multi-phase Plan for re-opening our churches for the celebration of the sacraments, private prayer, adoration and Mass. As I share the Plan with you, both by way of an Executive Summary and the full Plan in the following pages, I want to assure you of my prayers for you and your family’s personal, material and spiritual wellbeing. I also express my appreciation to the many people on the archdiocesan staff and in the Office of the Governor for the many hours they have given to designing and fine tuning this agreement. Again, I call on all Catholics to seize this moment to exercise faith-filled citizenship in a way that reflects our deep regard for life, our calling as disciples of Jesus and our love of country.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Chicago

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hans Cardinal Cyprian".

Waiting game

When I look back at this time in our lives, the thing that I think will stand out most is the waiting.

Waiting for the rain to stop so we can take the dog for a walk.

Waiting for my husband to come home with groceries so there's something different to eat.

Waiting for the cloth masks made by a friend in Michigan to come in the mail.

Waiting for Teresa to finish playing Animal Crossing so I can watch the Great British Baking Show on the living room TV.

Waiting for the bread to rise.

Waiting for one of the kids to finish showering so I can clean up.

Waiting for the hot water to come back.

Waiting for flowers to bloom.

When we began sheltering at home in mid-March, there were no flowers in the yard, just the points of the early spring bulbs poking through the dirt. Since then we have had crocuses, daffodils, hyacinths and tulips. The forsythia bush across the street is in full bloom, as is the white dogwood tree down the block. The arctic daisies in the yard have their buds, and it won't be long for the peonies.

We've managed a bumper crop of dandelions as well.

Of course we are waiting for the big things, too: We're waiting for shelter-in-place and social distancing restrictions to be lifted, to be able to go to a baseball game or the beach. Teresa wants to go back to school and play tag and four-square instead of sitting at home playing online games with her friends. Frank wants to know whether he will be able to return to school in the fall, or if his classes will still be online.

We want to go to Mass again, to receive Communion and see and feel the community around us.

But we can't do that yet, and we don't know when we can. Public health experts tell us that the more people go out, and, especially, the more people gather, the more the virus spreads, and people who feel safe being part of a crowd might never feel sick, but could carry the virus, infecting anyone from the person who rings up their groceries to their own family members.

So for now, we wait. We sacrifice the things we want for the safety of everyone — not just for us and our family, but also for the essential workers at the grocery store and the pharmacy, the mail carriers and delivery people, and the medical personnel who put themselves at risk to care for others.

Before this happened, when days were full of appointments and schedules and errands, I often welcomed any time I had to wait. It offered a chance to catch my breath, think a bit, maybe even read a few pages or do a crossword puzzle.

Now we must do the same thing: Think, pray, charge our batteries, so that we can be ready for whatever is to come.

Michelle Martin, Wednesday, May 6, 2020





Faith Formation Office

(773) 229-8523

**Coordinator:
Peg Siebenaler**

Email: strenfaithformation@gmail.com

All Faith Formation Classes have been suspended until further notice. Please keep up with your prayers and know that Fr. Bob and I are here if you need anything.

Peg Siebenaler



On May 2, 1975 Kathleen Siebenaler Crowned Our Blessed Lady right here at St. Rene. Sue Cello was part of the court. This was a special honor for these young girls and they will remember for the rest of their lives. Congratulations!



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.....

Before we know it, Faith Formation classes will be starting up again and we need volunteers to staff the program. Recruiting Catechetical Ministers is a year round challenge.

We have so many wonderfully committed and faith-filled parishioners here at St. Rene! We wonder if any of you could help us out by sharing some of your deep faith with the young people of our parish community. Please call our parish office at (773) 229-8523 if you feel God may be calling you to join this ministry.



Here is the finished family project of Tina S. She and her family repainted their Blessed Mother statue which is displayed in front of their house. She looks beautiful. Great job.



This week we are pleased to share another coloring picture by one of our Faith Formation students. Ray S. did a beautiful job capturing Mary in all her glory.

To all our Faith Formation students:

WE MISS YOU!



Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Saturday, May 23, 2020

4:00pm - Rhonda Cepek (Family)
4:00pm - Robert Traynor (Family)

Sunday, May 24, 2020

7:30am - Mike O'Brien (Family)
9:30am - Charmaine A. Zahlmann (Family)
11:30am - Jack Orsi (Friends)

Monday, May 25, 2020

8:00am - Allen Szudarski (Family)

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

8:00am - Helen Shearier (Family)

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

8:00am - Safety for Daniel Sarlitto (Mary Sarlitto)

Thursday, May 28, 2020

8:00am - Fred Borowski (Geri Tomaselli)
8:00am - Joseph Lascola (Family)

Friday, May 29, 2020

8:00am - Jeanne D. Schmitz (Family)

Saturday, May 30, 2020

8:00am - Ronald Mroz (Family)
4:00pm - Anthony Pelegrino & Family (Pelegrino Family)

Sunday, May 31, 2020

7:30am - Michael E. Abbott (Family)
9:30am - Raymond Sutkowski (Family)
11:30am - Evelyn Dober (Family)
11:30am - Jack Orsi (Altar & Rosary Society)



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
Rosemary Orsi Roberts
Edward Robertson
Judith Siwek
Jeanne Schmitz
Michael Tallon
Sandra Tallon
Scott Tloczek
Shirley Tloczek
Joan Wilhelmy
Richard Zaleski



Memorial Day 2020



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



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.
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