

Page 2 August 18, 2019



## 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

C.S. Lewis gives one of the best descriptions of humility.

He wrote, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less."

Why does this matter for us? Because humility and Christian discipleship go hand-in-hand. We're tempted to think humility means becoming a doormat for those who wish to stomp all over us and have their way. That is NOT humility. Instead, humility is having an honest assessment of one's self in relation to God and to others. Without humility, we cannot attain holiness.

Let's face it. We live in the Age of the Selfie. Whereas we used to use a camera to take a picture of others, we now turn the camera on our self. When we really think about this, it's a bit odd, and perhaps highlights for us a mere symptom of the much deeper dis-ease of individualism and/or selfishness.

St. Augustine wrote, "If you should ask me what are the ways to God, I would tell you that the first is humility, the second is humility, and the third is humility. Not that there are no other precepts to give, but if humility does not precede all that we do, our efforts are fruitless."

As an avid sports fan, especially football, I've always appreciated when someone scores a touchdown, they simply get up and respectfully hand the football back the referee. Number one, it shows class. Secondly, it shows humility, because it

recognizes that other people were involved (the coaches who coach, the other players who blocked, etc).

Pride gets up and says, "Look at me!" Humility says, "They helped me and I helped them. Thanks be to God!"

#### New Music Person

We have hired Steve Kittler as the new music director here at St. Rene Goupil. His first day with us will be Sunday, September 15, 2019. Steve is a veteran musician, and has been playing in parishes of the Archdiocese of Chicago for the past twenty years.

In the interim – between Adam and Steve – we will have a few substitute musicians.

Steve Kittler's passion for quality music is apparent. He will blend our beautiful traditional hymns with quality contemporary hymns at our various liturgies, especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Singing hymns is a significant part of our prayer at Mass. We lift our hearts to the Lord in song. Steve will help us engage this aspect of liturgy. Certainly he will play hymns we already know, but when we do decide to introduce a new piece into the liturgy, he will help us to learn. Our musical repertoire increases.

Although his arrival is two weeks away, we can prepare to welcome him to our spiritual home, and make him feel at home. We are one family with One Lord, our savior, Jesus Christ.

#### Statue on the Move

In case you haven't already noticed, we decided to move from the middle of the church narthex the Holy Family statue. It now rests against the north wall of the narthex. From casual conversation with long-time parishioners, it seems the statue has moved a few times already. Its original location was at the front of the church, just off the sanctuary.

There are two main reasons we've decided to make this move: 1. Funerals – the arrival and departure of funerals here at St. Rene, especially when we host a large funeral. In the past year, as the presider at funerals, I've noticed the awkwardness when family and friends of the deceased come through the church doors. Also, because of the large statue, some folks can't even see the start of the funeral. With the switch, the casket makes a straight path to the church and large numbers of people can follow directly behind. 2. We often use the narthex of the church for a variety of reasons. Moving the statue opens up more space to social events, meetings, etc.

The statue of the Holy Family remains in a place of prominence. We are mindful of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as we gather as a spiritual family. They are with us in our prayer, and in our social gatherings. Jesus, Mary & Joseph, pray for us.

Quote of the Week: "The devil fears hearts on fire with love of God." – St. Catherine of Siena.



# 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** 

Tickets \$15/Each
on sale in the Church narthex
and in the Parish Office

### **Tootsie Rolls**



Members of the St. Rene SPRED Group and the Knights of Columbus will be in the narthex the weekend of September 7 & 8 collecting donations for their Tootsie Roll Drive. Tootsie Roll Banks will be available for \$3.00 each or two for \$5.00.

Monies raised through the Tootsie Roll Drive help to support the SPRED Ministry here at St. Rene. Your support is greatly appreciated.

### REMINDERS

Tues., Sept. 3—Altar & Rosary at 1:00pm, Narthex Wed., Sept. 4—Seniors Meeting begins at 12:00pm (Doors open at 11:30pm)
Sun., Sept. 15—Super Bingo/Raffle at 1:30pm (Doors open at 12:30pm)

Newcomers are ALWAYS welcome!

### 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.



St. Symphorosa Parish is seeking Vendors/Crafters for our

6<sup>th</sup> Annual

### Holiday Extravaganza

Luncheon, Craft and Vendor Fair Sunday, November 24, 2019 10:30am – 2:30pm Sharp Center 5940 West 62<sup>nd</sup> Street Chicago, IL 60638

For more information, contact our
Parish Office at 773.767.1523
or via email at
holidayext2019@gmail.com.

www.stsymphorosa.org



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

Can you knit or crochet? Would you like to make someone feel a warm hug who is sick or in need of kindness?

If you are interested, please call the Parish Office (773-229-8523) and leave your name and phone number. You will be contacted by a fellow parishioner who will get you involved in our St. Rene Prayer Shawl Ministry.

This can be an amazing ministry and certainly falls under the heading of a work of mercy—caring for the sick. Page 4 August 18, 2019



# 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

Two recent surveys should have us spiritually concerned.

One survey in Great Britain revealed that 89 percent of those ages 16-29 year-old believe that life has no purpose or meaning. The other survey, in the United States, suggested that 75 percent of Catholics do NOT believe in the Real Presence – that the Eucharist we receive at Holy Mass is NOT the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus.

My reaction to both surveys? Wow!

In all fairness, these are surveys. We're never quite sure of the sample size surveyed and how the questions were asked, but regardless, these are both troubling results, and are clear proof we have a spiritual crisis on our hands – a crisis we intuit but don't always discuss publically. We keep looking for political solutions to human problems, when we might want to consider our issues run much deeper than man-made laws.

The survey out of Great Britain shows us that our youth are being fed a steady diet of secular humanism and atheism. God, for the most part, is not allowed in public schools. Do we think this won't have an effect on the souls of our children? Sure, read more and more Harry Potter but stay away from the Bible. The natural consequences of godless philosophies will lead to despair and angst. We die into nothingness. Then why should anything we do or don't do in this life matter?

As Christian disciples, we know that we are made in the image and likeness of God, we have a divine spark, and we are made for more. We are made to know, to love, and to serve God in this life so that we may be happy with Him forever in

the next. Life has purpose. Life has meaning. Our story is a love story; sadly a love story too often not being passed on to our children. The godless will give them some other story (e.g. your life is meaningless. You have no purpose).

There are a multitude of reasons some of our brothers and sisters in the faith don't believe in the Real Presence. Poor catechesis is certainly one of the tops, as is a lack of faith. But for 2,000 years, the Church's teaching has been clear – the bread and wine used at Holy Mass become, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the actual Body and Blood of Jesus. This is NOT a mere symbol but the great mystery of faith. We do not bow or genuflect toward bread. That would be insanity.

We bow and genuflect toward the One who said, "This is my Body!"

We cannot stick our heads in the sand. Souls are being neglected and, in turn, souls are being disturbed. We can fixate on symptoms (as many of our politicians do), or we can begin to get serious about root causes; and the root cause of so much that ails us today as a society has its origin in the human heart turned away from God's love and God's law. If the human heart is being fed junk food, then we can expect junk behavior to emerge. But if we nourish the heart with soul-enriching food, then we can expect soul-nourishing behavior to emerge.

Garbage in, garbage out. Love in, love out.

Jesus gave us everything we need for our soul. Everything we need to have hope.

We turn away at our own peril.

### 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



Faith Formation Office (773) 229-8523

Coordinator: Peg Siebenaler

Email: strenefaithformation@gmail.com

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

9/11: Faith Formation Registrations

in the School 6:00pm until 8:00pm (Faith Formation Orientation)

9/15: Catechetical Sunday

9/18: First Class / Mass at 6:00pm

(Mandatory)

9/25: Classes for all levels

10/9: Classes for all levels

10/16: Classes for all levels

10/19: HOLY FIRE

10/23: Classes for all levels

10/30: Classes for all levels

## MPORTAN

We will be accepting registrations on Wednesday, Sept. I Ith...IN THE SCHOOL...6pm until 8pm...Enter at door number 1. Check out our school and ask questions.

### CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

The weekend of September 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> we commemorate Catechetical Sunday. We recognize and celebrate all parishioners who are involved in any of our Catechetical ministries her



any of our Catechetical ministries here at St. Rene. This year's theme is: "Stay With Us."

At whatever Mass you attend, you will receive a special blessing for the year.



Welcome to the 2019 – 2020 St. Rene Faith Formation School Year!

**OUR FIRST CLASS IS A 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.



### 2019 - 2020 CLASSES BEGIN SOON!

We are now in the process of organizing classes and recruiting Catechists, so it is important for you to register.....classes begin on SEPTEMBER 18th. Registration materials are available in the Narthex, or you may stop in to the parish office to register. Both new and returning families need to register. For 2019 -2020, we will continue to offer Faith Formation sessions, for grades 1-8, on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30pm. Classes begin September 18th and end in May.

Please call Peggy, in the Parish Office at (773) 229-8523 with any questions. We are grateful for your support.

Page 6 August 18, 2019



### Saturday, August 31, 2019

4:00pm—Patrick Goebig (Leahy Family)

4:00pm—Miguel Narea (John Gavin)

4:00pm—Chester Goluch (Goluch Family)

### Sunday, September 1, 2019

7:30am—George Novotny (Novotny Family)

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

9:30am—MaryAnn Whitehead (Family)

9:30am—Alice Tomczak (Randy, Carol & Olivia Selgrad)

9:30am—Ed Surges (Laskewich Children)

11:30am—Michael Rizzo (Family)

11:30am—Loraine Pon (Jonathan Myslinski)

### Monday, September 2, 2019

8:00am—Mike Nych (Family)

### Tuesday, September 3, 2019

8:00am—Altar & Rosary Members (A&R Society)

### Wednesday, September 4, 2019

8:00am—Phillip O'Brien (Family)

### Thursday, September 5, 2019

8:00am—Anthony, Josephine & Laura Pelegrino (Family)

8:00am—Chester Goluch (Goluch Family)

### Friday, September 6, 2019

8:00am—Happy Anniversary (Special Intentions)

8:00am—Ruth Rudar (George & Debbie Rudar)

8:00am—Herman Bartkowiak, Sr. (George & Debbie

Rudar)

### Saturday, September 7, 2019

8:00am—Happy 55th Wedding Anniversary to Vince & Judy Porcelli (Judy & Vince)

8:00am—Raymond & Michael Sutkowski (Mom & Dad)

4:00pm—Blessings for a Happy Marriage to Kristin Perconti & Matt Gingras

(Mom, Irene Perconti)

4:00pm—Anthony Mascolino (Dina Gnat)

### Sunday, September 8, 2019

7:30am—Janet Block (Laskewich Children)

9:30am—Gregg Salina (Friend)

9:30am—Patricia Kroll (John & Judy Scehovic)

11:30am—Francis "Paco" Calderon (Nancy Calderon)

11:30am—Javier Lepe (Cecilia Guerrero)



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 Allen Szudarski 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

### St. Rene Devotional Candle

TAT—Maxine Carey GOD BLES YOUR 50TH

Jeannie Rafa—Health & Special Intentions
Terisita Bondoc—Health & Special Intentions
Private Intention

In Loving Memory of Lillian Dielle
In Loving Memory of Robert Okrzesik
Special Intentions of Charlotte Paterimos
Private Intention

### August 24/25, 2019 Offering

Total envelopes Total loose cash Total Sunday Giving \$3,125.00 \$ 804.00 \$3,929.00

### Thank you for your generosity!



Altar & Rosary Society
Cleaning Schedule—Sept. 6/7

Arlene Capparelli & Mary Scarletti

### 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

### St. Vincent de Paul Society's Southside Neighbors Coming Together

Sunday, September 22, 2019, 1-5PM at 115 Bourbon Street in Merrionette Park



\$40 per ticket includes food, drinks and entry raffle. Additional raffle tickets can be purchased separately. There will be pick-a-prize raffles, cash raffles, and a silent auction. Please contact Cathy Kordelewski or Charlie Murphy for further information and look for us after Masses to buy tickets.

The Society is hosting a benefit to help the less fortunate in our neighborhoods. The Society is a network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need. We collaborate with other people of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes, making no distinction in those served because, in them, Vincentians see the face of Christ.

### SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH! 12PM-4PM

Ridge Funeral Home's Annual







## First Responders Appreciation COOKOUT

Ed Tylka and the staff of Ridge Funeral Home would like to invite all active and retired first responders and their families to our Appreciation Cookout. Join us for food & refreshments; a bounce house, petting zoo, face painter & balloon artist for the kids; & music by the band Legacy.

> 6620 W. Archer Ave. Chicago, IL 60638 773-586-7900



### 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.

### Visit our website at www.strenegoupil.org

Mass	4:00PM September 7, 2019	7:30AM September 8, 2019	9:30AM September 8, 2019	11:30AM September 8, 2019
The same of the sa	<b>Diane Biondo</b> Pat Gunnell Dan Bartusiak Frank Zalewski Linda Dobias	Alice Schaer Arlene Capparelli Pat O'Brien-Kenney Jack Kenney	<b>Jack Orsi</b> Joan Orsi Debbie Rudar Teena Smith Barb Grzenia	Ben Shafer Bernard Carey Kathy Przekwas John Strompolis Charlie Murphy
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