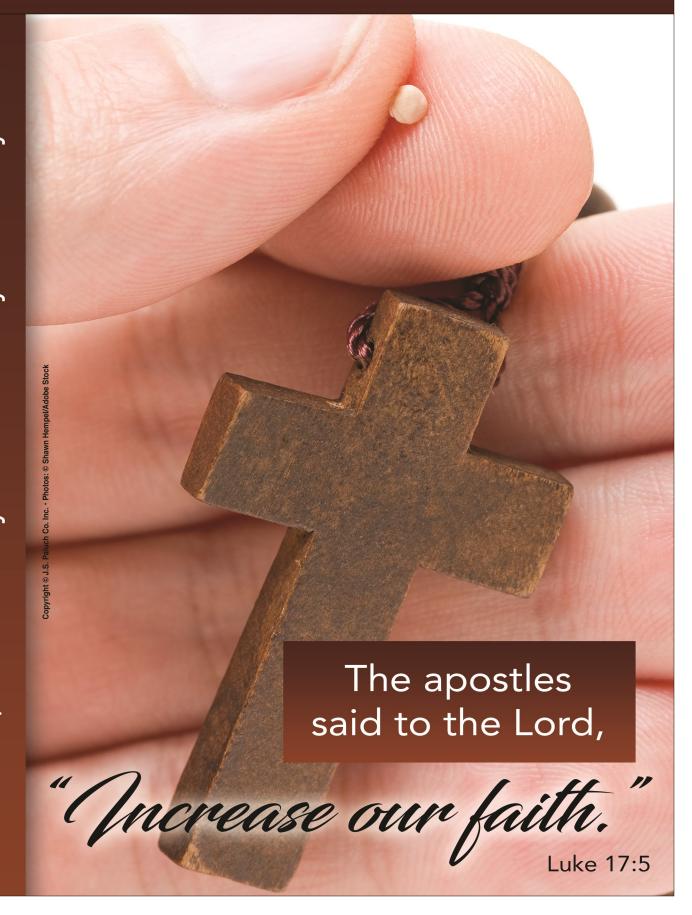
Saint Rene Goupil Catholic Church

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



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Fr. Bob's Weekly Blog



This week St. Paul gets the first word in this space – "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8: 38-39).

In light of these verses, ask yourself, "What could separate you from God's love?"

Sadly, there are things that could put us in the precarious situation of walking away from the many gifts the Lord has given us though His Church: child sex abuse crisis and the ensuing fallout over the past decades, poor leadership within the institutional church, poor preaching or political preaching, hypocritical Catholics, irreverent liturgy, hot button Church teachings we don't personally agree with, a parish closing, a school closing, etc. etc. You get the idea.

And yet, each and every day through the world, the Lord's work is being done by holy men and women of every race and tongue. People who stay focused exclusively on the Lord despite the sinfulness and human weakness of human beings, especially un-Christ-like nonsense within the Church.

We here at St. Rene and St. Symphorosa will face some challenges in the near future. Some tough decisions have to be made so that we can more effectively be about the MISSION of the Church instead of merely maintenance. To do nothing is not an option. We might be tempted to look back in time and point fingers, or to look at the present and say "We're fine as we are."

We can also take intentional time to look at current realities, assess them honestly, and then begin to prepare for the future. That's what the Renew My Church process is all about – taking an honest assessment of both the spiritual life of the community and the physical infrastructure. Both St. Rene and St. Symphorosa are currently involved in this process.

On Monday evening we are invited to meet as a parish to look at some initial scenarios for the immediate future. You are welcome to attend the 2nd Information Meeting (October 7th). The session will begin at 6:30 p.m. and we will gather in the main church here at St. Rene. This meeting is for St. Rene parishioners only.

Please note: a final decision has NOT been made regarding our future. The two discernment teams along with the respective pastors continue to look at the data and help evaluate the pros and cons of different scenarios. The input of these discernment teams will be presented to the Renew My Church leaders, and the ultimate decision will be made by Cardinal Cupich in January.

As your pastor, my biggest concern in all this is your spiritual well-being. I'm not naïve. There are people who will use any hint of change in parish life to say, "I'm done." Or those who like to feast on this kind of opportunity to stir up trouble in the community. Let me be the first to say, "I get it," but in the next breathe say, "I don't get it."

Could some current ways of doing things change? Yes! Could some physical structures change? Yes! But here is what will NOT change: The Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, the wisdom and guidance of Sacred Scripture, the other six sacraments of our faith, the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, the education of our young children in faith and academics, our

prayer life, reverent liturgy, devotions, the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, etc.. How those essentials are delivered to us is what is up for discussion and change, NOT the doctrinal core of our faith.

We have the opportunity in all this to truly RENEW OUR HEARTS and to renew the Catholic faith life in the Clearing community. But if our hearts are filled with anger and resentment; filled with fear, scape-goating and neighborhood gossip, then it's difficult to embrace mission over maintenance.

We're reminded to 1. Honor our past. 2. Live in the present. 3. Prepare for the future.

Fr. Bob, what guides you in all this? I have to trust in God/the Holy Spirit. I have to trust the goodness in people's hearts. And finally, I ask myself what will the Catholics and the people of this Clearing community say about us in 10 years? 20 years? 30 years? 40 years? Did we protect buildings or did we transform hearts? The buildings, one day, will crumble. What about our hearts? My prayer is that our hearts, not crumble, but actually soar to new spiritual heights for the love of the Lord who carries us Home.

Only time will tell.

Quote of the Week:
"Well and good if all things change, Lord God, provided we are rooted in You." – St.
John of the Cross.



Renew My Church Parish Meeting #2

Monday, October 7, 2019 6:30pm—8:00pm Location: Main Church Open to St. Rene Parishioners

Learn more about the discernment process and possible scenarios for our parishes' future.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you to all who came to the Vito Zatto show on Sunday, Sept. 22. Your support and participation made for a great afternoon of fun and laughter. Also, a big thank you to all who sold tickets, set up Flannery Hall, as well as those who helped to clean up and work the kitchen. Thank you!



Help a Student with Generosity





All clothing donations will go to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. If you cannot make the October weekend drop at St. Rene, Joseph will have a container at his family's home (6012 S. Natoma Ave.)

If you cannot make the drop-off, he is willing to come to your home and pick up any donations. However, he can only do a pick-up in the Clearing or Garfield Ridge area. If you need to contact Joseph about this donation drive, please call 773-655-3236.

Joseph and his family thank you in advance for your generosity.



The Knights of Columbus would like to thank the parishioners of St. Rene Parish for their generosity during their Tootsie Roll Drive.

Because of your support, the event was very successful and will greatly benefit the SPRED ministry here at St. Rene.

Baby Bottle Project

St. Rene parish will once again participate in the Baby Bottle Project. So keep an eye out in the coming weeks for the baby bottles. Save your change.

The donations raised from this project go directly to The Women's Center of Chicago. This organization has helped over 40,000 babies in 34 years.

Please put your spare change in the baby bottle when you take one home. The money collected will help mothers who are facing a crisis pregnancy and who have little or no support.

The Women's Center provides financial, material and spiritual assistance to the women free of charge. The Women's Center also offers post abortive counseling to women seeking healing after their abortion and this is also offered free of charge.

When you bring the baby bottle back to church, you can give the bottle to the ushers or place them in the provided boxes in the church narthex.

Your St. Rene/St. Sym's Knights of Columbus #3024

are hosting their 4th Annual "A Knight at the Races" Fundraiser Saturday, October 12 - 5:00pm at Salerno's OTB & Pizza 9301 W. 63rd St. (Off LaGrange Rd and Joliet Rd) \$25 Donation includes Dinner & 1 Drink Ticket Enjoy an evening of dinner, cocktails, "bet the horses" and slots! Info / tix: Charlie Murphy (773) 586-3829 Tall Tom (773) 814-1099 Mike West (630) 697-1947 Jerry Hughes (773) 485-0146



What Does it Mean? Catholic Vocabulary

<u>Imprimatur</u>

The Latin word means "Let it be printed": by it approval of the bishop is given to publish writings of any nature and to use material relating to religion and morality through the instruments of social communication. It merely states that there is nothing in this material contrary to Faith and morals. It indicates that appointed competent censors have passed favorable judgment on the material, so that the bishop may grant permission to publish or use.



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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

G. K. Chesterton was once asked to write an essay that answered the question, "What's wrong with the world?"

In typical Chesterton style, he replied in his letter, "Dear sir, I am. Yours, G.K. Chesterton."

Sadly, Chesterton's witty response is not in fashion today. We'd rather point the finger OVER THERE and say, "They are."

The famed Catholic apologist realized there is something off in each and every one of us. We're wounded; broken, and in need of being put back together by something outside ourselves. We traditionally have called this brokenness Original Sin (a consequence of The Fall).

This, of course, is scoffed at in many circles today. We've dumped the idea of personal responsibility in favor of corporate sin (it's never the person anymore; it's always the group, or society, or THEM). As a result, these folks are beating their heads against the wall trying to figure out what's wrong with the world. They've dismissed God. To them, there is no such thing as sin. And yet, if you look closely, today's Puritans are the godless; obsessed with publically pointing out everyone's wrong doings and shouting that they pay the price for their "sin".

This is not the way of the Christian. We know there is something wrong with us. We desire the good, the true and the beautiful, but far too often we choose the opposite. We have a solution – not in the form of man-made

legislation, but in a Person - Jesus, the Christ. Grace comes to us through the Paschal Mystery (the suffering, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus). The Lord stretched out his arms and said, "Come to me all you who labor and are weary, and I will give you rest." Our sins are confessed privately, not made into tomorrow's headlines.

Here's the key, however. We must respond. We must cooperate. We didn't get ourselves out of quick sand. We've have been saved. For this, we are eternally grateful. It's always interesting to listen to someone complain about everything that is wrong with the world, and yet they never stop to consider where this notion of a "perfect world" originates. In order to point to something and say "wrong" we must recognize in our heart a "right." Hmmm!

So, what can we do to help make the world a better place? We can take on the mind of Christ; surrender our heart to His Sacred Heart. We can wake up in the morning and commit ourselves to not murdering anyone, not demeaning anyone, not lying to anyone, etc.. We wake up mindful we are part of what is wrong with the world, but thanks be to God – and to Jesus' death and resurrection – we can be part of what is right with the world. It's a choice!

Dear Lord, by your grace, help us today be what is right with the world.

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:

10/6: Family Mass 9:30am

10/9: Classes for all levels

10/13: Family Mass 9:30am

10/16: Classes for all levels

10/19: HOLY FIRE

10/20: Family Mass 9:30am

10/23: Classes for all levels

10/27: Family Mass 9:30am

10/30: Classes for all levels

10/31: HAPPY HALLOWEEN

11/1: ALL SAINTS DAY

11/2: ALL SOULS DAY

11/3: Family Mass 9:30am

11/6: Classes for all Levels



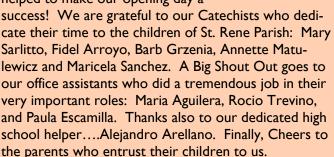
Confirmation Parent/Student/Sponsor Meeting

We will welcome our Confirmandi, their parents and sponsors to a Confirmation Preparation meeting. (Date TBA) Our own Pastor, Fr. Robert Regan will be the Presenter. We happily anticipate his time with us because we know he will encourage our Confirmation candidates to share the good news of Jesus by their witness to Gospel values and their care for those in need.

Please remember to include the Confirmation Candidates, their parents, and their sponsors in your prayers.

WELCOME BACK STUDENTS!

We're off to a great start! We love seeing all the back-to-school smiling faces! A Huge Thank-you to all who helped to make our opening day a



May Our Loving God Bless Us All!



First Reconciliation Parent Meeting

Our parents from the Faith Formation program whose children are preparing for First Reconciliation, will gather for a special meet-

ing in preparation for the Sacrament, which takes place in January.

We initially prepare our children for this sacrament as we teach them about right and wrong. And way before they understand what sin is, we teach them to say "I'm sorry" when they have done wrong or have hurt someone. Once again, we emphasize that parents are the first and primary catechists of their children, using "teachable moments" to help their children grow in faith.

The focus of the Parent Gathering will be to honor your role as parents and assist you in that role. The

HOLY FIRE

Holy Fire is a wonderful event designed around bringing young people together to witness their Catholic faith. It is also a great opportunity for teens, particularly those preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation to reflect more deeply on the gifts of the Holy Spirit which they will receive when they are confirmed.

Please keep our level eight students in your prayers as they experience Holy Fire on October 19th.

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Saturday, October 5, 2019

4:00pm—Josephine & Mike Nych (Family)

4:00pm—Robert Coyle (John Gavin)

4:00pm—Malachy Gallagher (Maxine)

Sunday, October 6, 2019

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

7:30am—Virginia Kowal (Family)

7:30am—Adolf Urbaniwicz (Bodoki Family)

9:30am—Joan Vacarro (Family)

11:30am—Ben P. & Estelle Shafer (Ben & Judy Shafer)

Monday, October 7, 2019

8:00am—Janet Block (Children of St. Rene)

8:00am—John LeCompte (Family)

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

8:00am—Phillip O'Brien (Family)

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

8:00am—Bruna Tomassini & Family (Eugene Tomassini)

8:00am—Lauren Vitrano (Connie, Dawn & Amanda)

Thursday, October 10, 2019

8:00am—Elizabeth Sarlitto (Mary Sarlitto)

Friday, October 11, 2019

8:00am—Michael Rizzo (Family)

Saturday, October 12, 2019

8:00am—Agnes Kozicki

4:00pm—Earl Lee (Hoelscher Family)

4:00pm—Anthony Mendez & Louie Valenciano

(Almendarez Family)

4:00pm—Bernie Bartusiak (Jean Piotrowski)

Sunday, October 13, 2019

7:30am—Emanuelle, Rosaria & Angelo Amaro (Giuseppe Amaro)

7:30am—Omar Saucedo (Family)

9:30am—Josephine Pelegrino (Family)

11:30am—Raymond Ulrich (Family)

The offerings for the weekend of Sept. 29/30 are not available at this time. They will be published in a future bulletin.

Thank you for your generosity!



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 Wilhelmv 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



Super Bingo/Raffle October 20 Doors open at 12:30 Games begin at 1:30 \$20/Person

St. Symphorosa Parish is seeking Vendors/Crafters for our 6th Annual

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10:30am – 2:30pm

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

www.stsymphorosa.org

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 Organist

Joanne Tishka
Bulletin Coordinator

Stanley Silacz
Maintenance Supervisor

<u>Daily Masses</u>

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 October 12, 2019	7:30AM October 13, 2019	9:30AM October 13, 2019	11:30AM October 13, 2019
A	Linda Dobias Pat Gunnell Nancy Gunnell Dan Bartusiak Diane Biondo	James Roche Mary Sarlitto Pat O'Brien-Kenney Jack Kenney	Mary Bartuch Fred Bartuch John Garcia Norine Abramovic Marie Zilka	Carole Dill Mark Dill Julie Wojcik Monica Wojcik Ben Shafer
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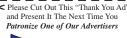
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