

Saint Rene Goupil Catholic Church

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

THE PRESENTATION OF

THE LORD

FEBRUARY 2, 2020



**Behold, this child is destined for
the fall and rise of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be contradicted.**

LUKE 2:34



Fr. Bob's Weekly Blog



This weekend's Responsorial Psalm reminds us WHO it is we worship. "Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!"

We worship God. We do NOT worship earthly kings, princes or presidents. Ultimate authority rests in God. "The Lord of hosts; he is the king of glory."

Those who have governing authority on earth must never lose sight that they are answerable to a much higher Authority. Just because a human being is elected to office or takes a ruler's post by force does not mean they become the final arbiter of truth.

Jesus clearly said, "I am the way, and the truth and the life."

Let's use this example: King Brutus uses military might to assume power in the tiny country of Bog. One of his first edicts is to declare that $2 + 2$ no longer equals 4. He decides, by law, to make $2 + 2$ equal 5 (or whatever he decides it is on any given day).

Are the citizens under his tyranny obligated to go along with his mathematical gymnastics?

Sadly, there are those among us who would answer yes to the aforementioned question. However, most folks would recognize the impossibility of such a change. Mathematical truth supersedes corrupt human cleverness.

Another exaggerated example would be if King Brutus decided to eliminate the Law of Gravity. Um, sorry king, that is not your domain.

God's love and God's law are not subject to human twisting, but we are living in a day and age where those entrusted with a governing office begin to

think they are Divine; that they are gods. This is what human pride and arrogance produces. For a while, in matters mundane, we subjects frustratingly nod our heads and go along with the game, but soon, however, the illogic leads to inhumane behavior.

There is a famous passage from the "Grand Inquisitor" section of Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* in which Ivan Karamazov claims that if God does not exist, then everything is permitted."

And that is exactly what some of our fellow human beings want; they want God out of the way so that they can indulge every whim of our insatiable desire (just make a sin legal, and tax it). God, in their view, becomes an inconvenience; an obstacle; a freedom-stifling parent who always says "No!"

When you really look at it, how quickly those who want God out of the way quickly place themselves in a position to play God. They replace God's Divine Authority with their own flawed authority, and more often than not they become more punishing in their quest for justice and a perfect world than our Merciful God.

Our model of true kingship is Christ. He is the gold standard; He is the God standard. The Father gave us the Son as pure gift. We look to Him to guide our lives; to elevate our humanity. Every human being entrusted with earthly authority owes it as a matter of justice to surrender to Christ.

We as Christian disciples must stand up for Christ. Our faith risks becoming a scapegoat in today's society as the angry and frustrated of the world continue to look for someone to blame for the world being so messed up. They must not have gotten the memo about what happened in the Garden of Eden, and what happened on Calvary. They're connected. The God of justice showed us He is also a God of mercy.

Fulton Sheen wrote, "Have you noticed that as men lose faith in God, they become selfish, immoral and cruel? On a cosmic scale, as religion decreases, tyranny increases; as men lose faith in Divinity, they lose faith in humanity. Where God is outlawed, there man is subjugated."

Frank Sinatra is famous for singing, "I Did it My Way," while every saint throughout history sang a different tune. "We did it God's Way."

Looking for a good cause to stand up for today? Stand up for Christ and His mission of proclaiming the Good News of Salvation. Every other good cause flows from this core cause.

Jesus, Mary & Joseph. Pray for us!

Renew My Church Decision

Please take time to read the Our Catholic Faith section in this bulletin. We will be receiving the final Renew My Church decision on Monday, February 3rd at 7 PM within the walls of St. Symphorosa Church. This discernment process began for St. Rene and St. Symphorosa back in the Spring of 2019 and involved chosen parishioners from each parish who eventually gave a recommendation to the members of the archdiocesan Renew My Church committee. The parish-based recommendation is just that – a recommendation. Cardinal Cupich makes the final decision.

Favorite Quote of the Week:
"Where is the foolish person who would think it in his power to commit a sin more than God could forgive?"
– St. Francis de Sales.

Join the Holy Week Choir

Even though we have just entered Ordinary Time, Lent will be here before you know. I would like to extend a new opportunity for this upcoming Lenten season with an invitation to participate in a special 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.



Those who joined our Christmas Choir found this a most rewarding experience. We all had a great deal of fun and warmed St. Rene Parish with some wonderful Christmas carols. Rehearsals for the Holy Week choir will be held each Tuesday at 7pm in the Church. Just show up and be ready to learn some of the most beautiful music of our tradition.



The Altar & Rosary Society will meet on Tuesday, February 4, in the Church narthex at 1:00pm. During the social hour, the members will play **HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR**.

Guests are welcome to attend the meeting.



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.

Come join us for an afternoon of fun.



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

Roughly six years ago, then Archbishop Blasé Cupich initiated Renew My Church. The goal in all of this has been two-fold: to take a comprehensive look at every parish throughout the archdiocese in terms of structures/finances as well as spiritual life.

Last spring, St. Rene and St. Symphorosa began our phase of Renew My Church. The two pastors along with parishioners from both churches took an in-depth look at all the pertinent numbers and did our best to come up with a recommendation to present to the committee members of the archdiocese.

At our December 18th meeting at the Meyer Center, we suggested the following scenario as to the future of Catholic presence in the Clearing area of Chicago: We suggested uniting to form one new parish with two worship sites (Rene church and Sym’s church). The new entity would have a school, which we suggested remain at the current St. Sym’s school location. The new parish would have one pastor as a shepherd.

After months of conversation and discernment, the final decision from Cardinal Cupich will be publically announced Monday, February 3, 2020 at 7 PM inside St. Symphorosa’s main church.

Times like this can create angst and frustration. We often claim to not like change, but this Renew My Church initiative really has given us the chance to take an honest look at where we’ve been, where we’re at, and we’re going.

One of the most amazing statistics that popped out was of the 50,000 residents in the Clearing area of Chicago, 20,000 of whom identify as Catholic. This reality said a few things to me. First, we have far too many of our brothers and sisters who are away, and I am the first to recognize many of the reasons they would likely give for their absence in the faith community (sex abuse crisis, financial mismanagement, school closures, lack of trust in hierarchy, etc). We also have to admit many have simply drifted away because of spiritual laziness (Sloth).

The 20,000 number also says to me we have a wonderful opportunity to make something amazing happen in this

area. We want to have thriving parishes and a quality school. If that isn’t our mission, then what is our mission? None of the “excuses” given above are enough to cancel out what Jesus did for us, and what He wants us to do for Him.

Take a look at a crucifix today and be reminded that our Lord suffered and died so that we might have life. He rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, but remains with us in and through His Church by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This whole thing has to be about Christ all the while living within the reality of sustainable economics. I regularly remind folks that the enormous infrastructure of the archdiocese that came to life in the early 1900s is not sustainable today. The Archbishop of Chicago and his advisers have to take into account the entire diocese as they plan for the future. It’s a huge responsibility, but at some point this had to be addressed, and so that is why Renew My Church became a reality for us in Chicago.

Please know that I share with you all the restlessness and anxiety this creates, but also know that if we continually remind ourselves why we are Catholic and that the mission comes to us from Christ, then we can proceed into the unknown with faith, hope and love.

Fear of the unknown is to be expected, but Jesus walks by our side and reminds us, “Do not be afraid.”

Let’s not be naïve. The Evil One will seek to use this “change” to take a few more of us out of the pews. “That’s it. I’m done!” That’ll be one less person hearing the word of God at Mass and receiving the Eucharist. My challenge is for you to recognize that voice is NOT OF GOD.

It’s the same voice that haunts me some days; the voice that creeps in and says to me, “Get out of the priesthood. Go do something else. You don’t need this.” And some days I listen, but then I look at the crucifix and remember who I work for. And I cry at the honor of lifting the host and saying those powerful words, “This is my Body, given up for you.” Come, Holy Spirit!



Faith Formation Office
(773) 229-8523

Coordinator:
Peg Siebenaler

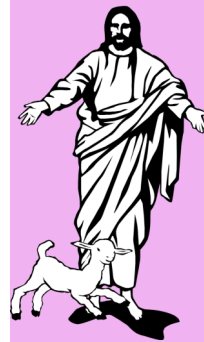
Email: strenfaithformation@gmail.com



On February 12th our First Communicant's along with their parents are invited to a Special Bread Meeting. Each family is asked to bring a loaf of "homemade" bread to share within the context of this gathering wherein we thank the Lord for the Eucharist and the joy it brings into our lives. Happy are we who have been called to the Lord's Table!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2/02: Faith Formation Bake Sale.
Family Mass 9:30am.
- 2/05: Classes for All Levels.
- 2/09: Family Mass 9:30am.
- 2/12: Classes for Level 8 and Level 2 only.
Level Two students and their parents participate in the Bread Meeting.
- 2/16: Family Mass 9:30am.
- 2/19: Classes for All Levels.
- 2/23: Family Mass 9:30am.



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.



Prayer Re- minders

Our level eight students continue to work hard on their journey toward the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation on May 8th. Also, our level two students will receive Jesus in the sacrament of the Eucharist on May 3rd. We invite you to please prayerfully remember all of these young people ... that they will remain faithful disciples of Jesus.



Pictured above on the left is Holly. She has been a St. Rene altar server for 2 years. She is a St. Jane student who is sharing her experience with newcomer Itzel. Itzel is one of our Level 8 Faith Formation students who is earning Confirmation hours by serving at Mass.

We Invite, Encourage and Welcome students in third grade and above to take part in this rewarding ministry.

Please contact Peg Siebenaler or Fr. Bob in the Parish Office at 773-229-8523 if you are interested.



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.)

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Saturday, February 1, 2020

4:00pm—Jeanne D. Schmitz (Karen Walsh)
 4:00pm—Jonathan C. Ramirez (Family)
 4:00pm—Dan Piotrowski (Jeanie)

Sunday, February 2, 2020

7:30am—Daniel Rajewski (Friends)
 9:30am—Stanley Tloczek (Tuszynski Family)
 9:30am—Russell Lyewski (John & Gloria Bodoki)
 11:30am—Raymond Sutkowski (Marty Shandles)

Monday, February 3, 2020

8:00am—Robert Polacek, Sr. (Tuszynski Family)

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

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

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

8:00am—Steven Krupowicz (Audrey Krautter)

Thursday, February 6, 2020

8:00am—Anthony Mascolino (Family)
 8:00am—Laura Majerczyk (Family)

Friday, February 7, 2020

8:00am—Theresa & Hermann Grupenhagen (Marie Zilka)

Saturday, February 8, 2020

8:00am—Robert Okrzesik (Family)
 4:00pm—Living & Deceased Members of the Bukovsky Family (Keith & Maryann Fox)
 4:00pm—Madeline Vitrano (Family)

Sunday, February 9, 2020

7:30am—Daniel Rajewski (Tony Ptak)
 9:30am—Carmen Pindoza, Jr. (Faith Formation Staff)
 9:30am—Raymond Sutkowski (Edna Bazik)
 9:30am—Ron Mroz (Leahy Family)
 11:30am—Israel Mendez (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

Palen K. Zitzka - Successful Surgery & Recovery

John J. Kappel - Better Health

John Kappel, Jr. - Better Health

William A. Kappel, Jr. - Rest in Eternal Peace



CAPS Beat 812 Meeting

Please join us at 7:20pm
 St. Rene Elementary School
 6340 S. New England

Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020

January 26/27, 2020 Offering

Total envelopes	\$3,686.00
Total loose cash	\$ 922.00
Total Sunday Giving	\$4,608.00
St. Rene Utilities Fund	\$1,305.37

Thank you for your generosity!



Altar & Rosary Society

Cleaning Schedule
 Feb. 7/8, 2020

Gina Fitzpatrick

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 8, 2020	7:30AM February 9, 2020	9:30AM February 9, 2020	11:30AM February 9, 2020
	Linda Dobias Pat Gunnell Nancy Gunnell Dan Bartusiak Diane Biondo	James Roche Mary Sarlito Pat O'Brien-Kenney Jack Kenney	Mary Bartuch Fred Bartuch John Garcia Norine Abramovic Marie Zilka	Carole Dill Mark Dill Julie Wojcik Monica Wojcik John Strompolis
	Jeannine Lascola	James Roche	Jerry Hughes	Joanne Tishka

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puts on ADVERTISED clothes
drinks a cup
of ADVERTISED coffee
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in an ADVERTISED car
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