

Saint Rene Goupil Catholic Church

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



Palm Sunday

Blessed is he
who comes
in the name
of the Lord!

Matthew 21:9

OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

April 5, 2020



Fr. Bob's Weekly Blog



Certain hymns stay with you over the years for a reason.

Perhaps it's the beauty of the musical piece, or the words move your heart. We all have our favorite hymns.

There was a hymn we sang back during my childhood on Palm Sunday called "Up To Jerusalem." In all honesty, I haven't heard the hymn used during Mass since that time. And yet, the tune and some of the lyrics resonate to this day.

"Up to Jerusalem my Lord goes to die.
Up to Jerusalem I hear the prophets cry.
There my Lord will die, for the love of me
He'll die. But he will rise again. He will
rise again. On the third day rejoice, be
glad."

God sent His only-begotten Son into the world not to live, but to die. And so three years after coming up out of the waters of the Jordan River on mission, Jesus enters the holy city of Jerusalem to die so that we might have life. He takes to Himself all our sins and pays the price.

Imagine yourself amassing a financial debt that becomes so great you could never in a lifetime pay off the debt you owe. But along comes someone who says, "I will take care of all that debt for you. And then literally pays off your debt." What would your reaction be to such an act of generosity? I know I'd say, "Thank you, and I will never be able to repay you." I would never forget what this person did for me.

What is our reaction to what Jesus has done for us atop Calvary?

On Palm Sunday we hear the amazing story of the Lord's Passion. We need to hear this each year to be reminded that this is a love story. Yes, a love story -- God's love for YOU! Within this Passion Proclamation, there are all kinds of characters that help reveal the inner workings of the human heart.

This is the story where Jesus and Barabbas are offered as choices. The latter is a rebel and murderer, while Jesus is an innocent man. Pontius Pilate at one point makes the offer of setting one of these men free, and asks the angry crowd which man he should grant release. We'd love to think the masses yelled to let Jesus go, but history records the opposite. They ask that Barabbas be freed and Jesus be crucified.

We see this same scenario played out in our own day when people are mocked, fined, imprisoned or killed simply for daring to be a Christian. Far too many people would still rather cheer the bad guy and prefer the good man be done away with once and for all.

Another key encounter is when Pilate and Jesus are face to face, and Jesus mentions the word truth. Pilate, like some of our modern day politicians, asks "What is truth?" Standing right in front of him is Truth in human flesh; the One who says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." We are reminded that there is truth, and woe to us if we turn away from such truth.

So Jesus goes to Jerusalem to die. We see along His way of suffering, human behavior at its worst: deceit, mockery, torture, cowardice, murder. But we also see those who helped along the way: Veronica, the women, Simon from Cyrene. Today we are challenged to be among the ones who help carry the cross, all the while trusting that through the pain and suffering of the cross is the promise of new life, of resurrection.

If we share in His cross, we shall share in His resurrection. On the third day rejoice, be glad.

Although we will not be together in community this Holy Week, we can and should unite our hearts and keep each other in prayer. These are challenging times, no doubt. The shadow of the cross extends through time. Truth is difficult to discern among so many who engage in deceit and distraction. Sadly politics is way more important for many folks today rather than surrendering our lives to God. Too many seek to make God conform to the world

instead of seeing that it is we who are called to conform to Christ.

Who can we trust in confusing times? Too much of our media has been corrupted for profit and agenda sake. We cannot be certain we are being told the truth in our newspapers, televisions, computers or phones. One person says "ABC" while another voice claims, "XYZ." Who is telling the truth? Or have those who have been entrusted with the truth shaken off that great responsibility and now echo those famous words of Pontius Pilate? "What is truth?"

Jesus gave St. Faustina a wonderful image to turn to in troubled times; the image of Jesus as Divine Mercy, and those soothing words written below Jesus. Jesus, I trust in you.

Kings, presidents, governors, mayors, aldermen, etc., will all at some point fail us, and not a single one of them can do a thing for you the moment of our death. But we all gotta guy we can call. We can call Him right now. We can call Him every moment of the day, til the day be no more. We can echo the words written below Divine Mercy. Jesus, I trust in you.

Up to Jerusalem my Lord goes to die. Up to Jerusalem I hear the prophets cry. There my Lord will die, for the love of me He'll die. But He will rise again. He will rise again. On the third day rejoice, be glad.

May your Holy Week be life-changing. May Jesus be your truth, and may your trust be in the One who says, "Behold, I make all things new."

Favorite Quote of the Week: "Let us say plainly: the unredeemed state of the world consists precisely in the failure to understand the meaning of creation, in the failure to recognize truth; as a result, the rule of pragmatism is imposed, by which the strong arm of the powerful becomes the god of this world." -- Benedict XVI.

Palm Sunday - My Will Be Done

One of the most comforting parts of the Passion story for me is the agony in the garden. That might sound odd, considering how the disciples fall asleep while Jesus is in distress. I suppose I could identify with them as they show weakness when Jesus needed strength. But I am really comforted by Jesus' words. If the Son of God had to tell himself and his Father, "not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39), I should be able to say the same. There are times when I would much rather have things always go my way, but that is not going to happen. So it's comforting to know that Jesus did not take the easy way out, but accepted the Father's will that he should suffer and die.

Whenever we say the Lord's Prayer we pray, "Thy will be done." But how often do we still take the easy way out? Ever hear someone tell a lie or spreading gossip that hurts a person's reputation? We can choose to do nothing (the easy way) or gently reproach the other with a simple question, "What would Jesus do?" When I have a chance to help someone in need, do I tell myself it's none of my business, or do I ask if there is anything I can do? When I am hurt by the death of a loved one, or am injured in an accident, do I get angry at God for letting this happen, or do I say with Jesus, "Not my will, but yours be done"?

Luke's Gospel ends the temptation of Jesus in the desert with the phrase, "When the devil had finished every test, he left him until an opportune time" (Luke 4:13). That time came in the garden, and again Jesus had the last word, choosing to do his Father's will. Our temptations continue every day as we face frustrations, desire for things we can't have, unanswered prayers, or our own weaknesses. Even though we know God always does what is best for us when we would rather have what we think is best, at least remember to say, "Not my will, but yours be done."

Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

All together now

People in Italy are singing and playing music from balconies in an effort to provide hope and human contact to their neighbors who are under quarantine as part of the response to COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

A friend picked up my daughter's books and other school materials as she will be home doing "distance learning" until further notice.

All three of my kids — from the fourth grader to the college senior — will be doing school from home, as their respective institutions shut down face-to-face classes in an effort to slow the spread of the virus, and my husband and I will be working from home as well.

While the closures and advice for people to keep to themselves as much as possible will likely lead to social isolation for many people, for us it will be an occasion for togetherness the likes of which I don't think we've ever had.

At least, my husband pointed out, we have a lot of board games.

That togetherness won't come easy, or without cost. Tony had to travel to Boston to help Caroline pack and move all of her things; as a senior, she won't be moving back to her apartment. And neither she nor her brother is old enough to rent a car, even just to get the boxes to a shipping facility.

All three of them then had to travel back from Boston. Meanwhile, Teresa and I stayed home. But this also means Caroline will likely not get a college graduation ceremony after four years of hard work, and we won't get a much-anticipated family trip to see it.

As the COVID-19 news snowballed over the days from March 10 to 13, we made plans — work plans, travel plans, family plans — and scrapped them and started over time and time again. We kept in touch with friends around the country, all of whom are going through similar things. We'll be okay.

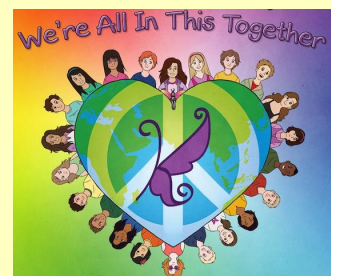
But as word of school closures, canceled sporting events and empty store shelves kept rolling in, one thing became clear: we really all are in this together. Everyone from nursing home residents who suddenly cannot have visitors to kindergartners who won't see their friends or beloved teachers or us, with three students using the wifi to write papers, take tests and generally complete their courses of study.

No one is unaffected.

Those of us who rely on prayer even have to find a way to do that without going to Mass, although several parishes are livestreaming liturgies.

We can use prayer time to connect with God, of course, but also to ask God to remember all of us, and help us all to be better neighbors to one another.

Michelle Martin, March 18, 2020





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

While preaching on the topic of temperance in light of his community's overindulgence as of late, a minister claimed that someone could bring to him numerous cases of beer, and he would immediately take them and throw them in the nearby river. Another person could bring him case after case of fine wine, and he could take them and also toss them in the river. Even if a person approached with wheel barrows full of the best scotch, he would gather them and discard it all in the river.

The minister fiercely and eloquently made his point about the virtue of temperance before going to sit in his chair for a moment of silence and reflection.

That's when the music director stood up and announced, "Please join now in singing, 'Shall We Gather at the River.'"

Humor truly is good medicine.

We as human beings need to laugh on occasion, if not every day. And most certainly we need to maintain a sense of humor even in the midst of life's difficulties. God as Creator blessed us with the ability to laugh, and with the reality that there are things that make us laugh. None of this should ever be taken for granted, or simply assumed. God willed our laughter.

One caution in the use of humor is that we always laugh with one another, not at one another. There is a difference. Also, we want to watch out for disguising hatred and anger as humor. There are those whose biting jokes are not healthy humor but hidden resentment or inferiority. This can be seen in some of our modern-day "comics" who are far from being funny. They make crude, vile jokes at the expense of others and call it comedy. Um, no. Those are actually insults. Or they use their platform as a "comedian" to subtly spew political jargon to nervous laughter in the audience.

One has to wonder why Sacred Scripture never actually referred to Jesus and his disciples as having laughed. We know Jesus cried. We know Jesus displayed righteous anger in the temple. We know he suffered in the Garden of Gethsemane. We might never know the answer to this, but we can surmise that their laughter must be assumed; not laughter that failed to take things seriously, but a laughter that made sure to recognize the humor of things in this life.

We as human beings run the risk, at times, of being too serious. We lose our sense of humor.

Maya Angelou wisely observed, "I don't trust anyone who doesn't laugh."

A person filled with pride is unable to playfully laugh at himself, and yet, a humble person can chuckle in the wake of an honest mistake or clumsy gesture. "Oh, there I go again. Tripping over a line."

Who among us hasn't felt better after a really good hearty laugh?

G.K. Chesterton went so far as to say, "It is the test of good religion whether you can joke about it." Ahh! Yes, Mr. Chesterton, how easily religion becomes too serious and we humans draw swords and fight over a God of love. But remember, religion isn't the issue. It's what we as human beings do with religion. The word religion comes from the Latin which means "To bind; or to connect." What God has revealed to us is meant to be an avenue of grace binding the human and the divine; of connecting heaven and earth. Sadly, we of wounded, broken heart turn an avenue of grace into a highway to hell because of our pride and arrogance. May we never forget Satan's mantra of "I will not serve."

Now if there was anyone who didn't have a sense of humor, it's the Enemy of God and its fellow demons. Party poopers!

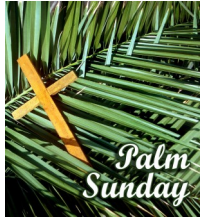
During this most holy time of year, please make time to laugh. Look for the humor even amidst the everyday-ness of life all the while being serious about our Christian discipleship and our role in living out the mission Jesus gave us. The message is GOOD NEWS! It really is, and we have to live it and share it. We have way too much bad news being pumped into our homes every day and we risk getting out of balance when the bad news of human sin and dysfunction drowns out the Good News of Salvation.

Here is the basic proclamation of our faith: God took on human flesh in the person of Jesus. Jesus gave us the way and the truth and the life. Jesus suffered. Jesus died. Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus ascended into heaven, and he extends an invitation to follow him through suffering, through death, into eternal life in the presence of Love. That's the Good News. The Kingdom of God is at hand.

And it's a good idea to laugh a little along the way; to laugh with each other, not at each other.

God bless you!





Faith Formation Office
(773) 229-8523

Coordinator:
Peg Siebenaler

Email: strenefaithfor-

All Faith Formation Classes have been cancelled until further notice.

In Response to Covid-19

Here at St. Rene, in some of our classrooms we use Pflaum Gospel Weeklies as one of our Resources in our Faith Formation Program. Pflaum understands that we have halted in-person classes due to developments arising from the Coronavirus.

In light of this situation, Pflaum has given us access to digital lessons in English & Spanish. I've sent this Link to All our Faith Formation Families. This gives parents & students access to the website and enables them to work on lessons at home. The online Resource includes: Summaries of the weekly Gospels, discussion questions, puzzles, activities, prayers, videos, and self assessments.

We aim to provide parents and students with some home tools to help them during this period of school closure.



Families are also invited to check out...loyolapress.com (another Catholic platform / Great content.)

Lenten Outreach

Our Faith Formation students invite all of our parishioners to participate in our Lenten Outreach project. All levels will be donating Children's Easter Basket items for the local shelters and agencies we service.

If any parishioners would still like to participate in this project please call the Parish Office (773-229-8523) to receive instructions on where to deliver your donations.

Please note, we can always use empty Easter Baskets and the cellophane bags to wrap the baskets, after we fill them.

God be with you and your dear families as we continue this Holy Season of Lent.



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER TO MARY FOR PROTECTION FROM CORONAVIRUS

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the sick.
At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.
You, salvation of the Roman people, know what we need.
We are certain that you will provide,
so that, as you did at Cana in Galilee,
joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.
Help us Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us;
He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows
to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.
Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection O Holy Mother of God,
do not despise our plea—we who are put to the test -
and deliver us from every danger,
O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Saturday, April 4, 2020

4:00pm—Fred Szponer (Donna Szponer)
 4:00pm—Edward Gerlick (Gerlick Family)
 4:00pm—Florence Rogel (Toni Ptak)

Sunday, April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

7:30am—LaVerne Raher (Family)
 9:30am—Raymond Sutkowski (John Sutkowski Family)
 9:30am—James Koffend (Sue & Casey Rogaz)
 9:30am—Eleanor Holmes (Larry Holmes & Family)
 11:30am—Raymond August (Phyllis August)

Monday, April 6, 2020

8:00am—Cecilia Simikoski (Charmaine)

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

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

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

8:00am—David Sarlitto (Mary Sarlitto)

Thursday, April 9, 2020

Holy Thursday

7:00pm—For the Beloved deceased of St. Rene Parish

Friday, April 10, 2020

Good Friday

3:00pm—Stations of the Cross
 7:00pm—For the Beloved deceased of St. Rene Parish

Saturday, April 11, 2020

Holy Saturday

8:00pm—For the Beloved deceased of St. Rene Parish

Sunday, April 12, 2020

Easter Sunday

7:30am—For the Beloved deceased of St. Rene Parish
 9:30am—For the Beloved deceased of St. Rene Parish
 11:30am—For the Beloved deceased of St. Rene Parish



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



St. Rene Devotional Candle

Valles Tovar - Special Intentions for Heart of Jesus
 and Heart of Mary, Mother

Special Intention Prayers for all our Health Care Providers

Special Intentions for an Accelerated Recovery
 from our Health Catastrophe

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused financial disruptions not only to households and businesses, but also to local parishes, who have suspended public Masses at which they can take up offertory collections.

To help Catholics support their local parishes, the Archdiocese of Chicago has created a website that donors can use to make a one-time or recurring gift to any parish they choose.

The site, along with a donation site for the archdiocese's Coronavirus Emergency Fund, can be accessed at www.archchicago.org/support.

Both funds accept credit card payments or electronic payments directly from a bank account.



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.**



"The souls of the just are
in the hand of God, and no
torment shall touch them."

-Wisdom 3:1

St. Stanislaus the Martyr

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by the Polish king after opposing the unjust
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