

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**



"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

There was a time in history the Roman Empire WAS the world.

The span of land was immense; her military and economic power unparalleled. There were likely those in power at the time who thought, "We will rule forever." Well, history has proven them wrong.

Civilizations - great and small - come and go.

How did so mighty and rich an empire fall? The bath water got too warm.

Huh? What does that mean, Fr. Bob? For the life of me. I cannot remember where I saw that simple, thoughtprovoking answer to the aforementioned question. The bath water got too warm.

Basically what it means is that life got too comfortable; many folks became complacent with the riches and comforts of the day. The fall of the Roman Empire did not happen overnight, but fall, indeed, she did. The same was true of Israel, as we learn in the Old Testament.

God was on their side, but time and time again, God's people were not on God's side, and they would find themselves taken over and the influential people of the land exiled into foreign lands.

The Prophet Amos, in our first reading this weekend, warned Zion about their complacency. And it is a warning we still need to heed in this day and age. Without question, we live in the most affluent. powerful nation humankind has known, but we too risk growing too comfortable, too complacent. Has our bath water gotten too warm?

The temptation in all this - comfort and riches - is to forget Someone - to forget about God, and a direct result of forgetting about God is that we soon forget the inherent dignity of the human person; life becomes expendable; or worse, an inconvenience.

In our Gospel, the rich man has it all, but his excessive riches blind him to the circumstances of Lazarus at his door. It's not like the man in need was halfway across the world. He was literally at his door step, and the rich man steps over him on his way to dinner.

The issue is not wealth. This issue is not a person being rich. The issue IS when the rich person forgets – or ignores – the poor at their very own door. Lazarus had the same human dignity as the rich man, but the rich man did not see it that way; and he paid the price - eternally!

We would be naïve to think that our own country is immune from the same fate as the Roman Empire. Day after day, we see a gradual moral decline; a lessening of civility. God is being forgotten, ignored and/or mocked: all the while we feast and entertain ourselves to the extreme. Need proof (how do people react when their internet or cable is out for a day?)

When a modern-day prophet points this out, they are heckled and shown disdain just as the prophets of old were disdained in their own day. "Leave me alone with all that divine gibberish. I've got a game to attend; a movie to watch."

The good news is ... it's never too late to wake up to the reality that God is God and we are not, and that all human life is sacred - from womb to tomb. The sacredness of life comes not from us, but from the One who created us to know Him. love Him and serve Him in this world so that we may be happy with God forever in the next.

Nothing wrong with a good warm bath, but we still have to get up out of it, put our boots on, and serve the Lord one day at a time without stepping over the Lazarus in our way.

God's 'Lil Creatures

St. Rene Parish will offer a Pet Blessing on Sunday, October 5th at noon (12 pm). Parishioners and local neighbors are welcome to bring your cat, dog, bunny, etc. over to the front parking lot for a concise prayer followed by individual blessing of the pets with holy water.

This is always a small but special event. One of the treasures of this neighborhood is how many people walk the perimeter of the parish with their dog. It's a great way to say hi to each other. Even my lil spunky friend Bella has stopped barking at me when she encounters me on the sidewalk.

So bring your pet, and remember these animals we love are a great gift from God.

Ouote of the Week:

"I define charity as a motion of the soul whose purpose is to enjoy God for His own sake and oneself and one's neighbor for the sake of God." - St. Augustine.

SAINT FRANCIS PET BLESSING

We will be holding our annual pet blessing in honor of the Feast day of Saint Francis at *Noon, Saturday, October 5th* in our Church parking lot.



You are invited and encouraged to bring your pets for this special blessing in honor of Saint Francis.



We invite everyone to join us for our next "Super Bingo/Raffle" on Sunday, October 20.

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.



Communal Anointing & Mass for the Sick

Sunday, September 29, 2019 at 3pm St. Symphorosa Church 6135 S. Austin Ave.

If you know a neighbor or a friend who you think would like to participate, please pass this information along. This Mass will fulfill your Sunday obligation.



The Altar & Rosary Society will meet on Tuesday, October 1st at 1:00pm in the narthex. The members will play HELP THY

NEIGHBOR. Guests are welcome!



Osco Pharmacy Flu Clinic at St. Rene Church (narthex)

Sunday, Oct. 6 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Please bring your pharmacy and medical insurance cards.



CAPS Beat 812 Meeting

Please join us at 7:00pm

Clearing Library 6423 W. 63rd Pl.

Wednesday, October 9, 2019 Facilitator: John Kurtovich

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.

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(773) 586-3829
Tall Tom (773) 814-1099
Mike West (630) 697-1947
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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.



What Does it Mean? Catholic Vocabulary

Chasuble

The sleeveless liturgical outer garment used primarily for the celebration of Mass. Worn over the other vestments,

this tent-like garment covers the entire body with only an opening for the wearers head. Throughout the centuries, it took on a variety of shapes and sizes with the current interest reverting to the Gothic. This garment is the distinctive sign of the priestly office, symbolizing Christ's yoke. Page 4 September 29, 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

This year's St. Rene Children's Faith Formation Program began Wednesday, September 18, with Holy Mass.

What better way to begin a new year than by having the parents and their children gather in our church to celebrate the Eucharist? We had a good turnout, and that's a promising sign for our community.

Allow me to re-emphasize why we are being particular about this program being called Faith Formation.

Occasionally a parent will call the office or show up at the parish office to register their child, and the parent will say, "I want to sign my child up for C.C.D." Or the parent will say, "When does Religious Education begin?"

God bless the fact they are seeking what's best for their child, and we all grew up calling it C.C.D or R.E. However, we do want to move toward embracing a term that is more truly indicative of what we are seeking as disciples of Jesus. We want our children to be FORMED IN OUR FAITH.

Image a potter sitting at a potter's wheel molding something into shape – forming something unshapely into shape. This is a great image to consider as we relate to Faith Formation. Even we adults are still in the process of formation (unless we consider ourselves perfect and no longer in need of God's shaping of our life).

We've highlighted a couple areas of concern to address this year. A top priority is that the children learn the basics – the essentials – of Holy Mass. Each grade level will learn appropriate content pertaining to the Mass. If we have no idea what's going on at Mass,

it's just like sitting in front of the TV watching a sport we know nothing about. We'll soon change the channel. Bottom line? We need to know more about the life-giving grace of Holy Mass.

Another area we want to highlight is the reception of Holy Communion. As was apparent the other evening, far too many of our children appear to have not been taught reverent reception of the Eucharist. And perhaps if they were taught, they need a re-fresher. We literally receive Jesus Himself in the Eucharist. The reverent way to receive the Lord is either directly on the tongue, or by placing our dominant hand under our other hand – creating a mini throne. We then use our dominant hand to take the host and promptly consume. One-handed grabs, quick snatches of the fingers, and facial looks of boredom seem to miss the point of Christ's giving of His very Self FOR US.

Lastly, all of the volunteer catechists received a copy of *The Real Story: Understanding the Big Picture of the Bible*. This is a short, readable, excellent book about putting together all the little stories of the Bible we have learned over the years into one big picture notion of God's great love for us. This is something I personally never received when I was growing up. Sure, I learned all the stories, and probably took tests about it, but I'm not sure anyone (until seminary) ever helped me see how Adam & Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David and Jesus are all connected. And what it means for us. Curious? Order it!!!

May God bless our children being FORMED in the FAITH. And may we who are responsible for our children, be authentic examples of faith in action.

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:

9/29: Family Mass 9:30am

10/2: Class for all levels

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

Holy Fire 2019

This fall, thousands of young Catholics will gather together at the UIC Pavilion on Friday, October 18th and Saturday, October 19th for Holy Fire Chicago, the Archdiocese of Chicago's signature event for sixth through ninth graders.

This event enables attendees to celebrate the gift of their faith as well as witness God's work in their lives. In a blend of entertainment that includes rock, pop, and worship, Holy Fire Chicago enables attendees to truly connect with God while having a fun, genuine experience with young Catholics like themselves.

The young Catholic church in Chicago is alive, strong, and thriving, and we can't wait to celebrate that at Holy Fire 2019!

MPORTAN

IT'S NOT TOO LATE.....

If you still need to register your children for Faith Formation, please call our Parish Office.....

Tuition assistance is available.



First Reconciliation Parent Meeting

On Wednesday, October 9th, at 6:00 p.m. our parents from the Faith Formation program whose children are preparing for First Reconciliation, will gather for a

special meeting 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 on October 9th will be to honor your role as parents and assist you in that role. Fr. Bob Regan will be the Presenter.



SAINT FRANCIS

PET BLESSING

We will honor St. Francis in our Faith Formation classes.



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Saturday, September 28, 2019

4:00pm—Jay Principe (Family)

4:00pm—Ted, Anne & Tom Kollock (Maxine)

4:00pm—Leonard Sowinski (Family)

Sunday, September 29, 2019

7:30am—ZeneidaNarea (Vince Narea)

7:30am—Virginia Kowal (Ptak Family)

9:30am—Vincent Salamendo (Terri & Dan Domarsky)

9:30am—Margaret (Peggy) Wood (Wood Family)

11:30am—Helen Frank (Family)

Monday, September 30, 2019

8:00am—Richard Zilka (Wife-Marie Zilka)

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

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

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

8:00am—Robert Okrzesik (Family)

Thursday, October 3, 2019

8:00am—Pedro J. Medina (Geri Tomaselli)

Friday, October 4, 2019

8:00am—Emil Kricka (Geri Tomaselli)

Saturday, October 5, 2019

8:00am—Anthony Mascolino (Family)

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)

9:30am—Joan Vacarro (Family)

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

September 21/22, 2019 Offering

Total envelopes\$3,149.00Total loose cash\$ 623.00Total Sunday Giving\$3,772.00

Seminary Collection \$1,211.00

Thank you for your generosity!



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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 Wilhelmy Richard Zaleski

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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 In Memory of Glenn Holmes In Memory of Donald Holmes

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

Holiday Extravaganza

Luncheon, Craft and Vendor Fair Sunday, November 24, 2019 10:30am – 2:30pm Sharp Center 5940 West 62nd Street

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

Chicago, IL 60638

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

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



Help a Student with Generosity

Joseph Dober, a St. Rita High School senior and St. Rene Grammar School alum, will host a clothing drive on October 5-6. He will be at all the Masses on Saturday and Sunday accepting clothing donations for the less fortunate in our neighborhood.

All clothing donations will go to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. If by chance you cannot make the October weekend drop at St. Rene, Joseph will have a container at his family's home (6012 S. Natoma Ave.) The porch container will be available for drop-offs starting Sunday, September 29th.

In addition, if you cannot make any of the drop-offs, he is willing and able 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.





Mass	4:00PM October 5, 2019	7:30AM October 6, 2019	9:30AM October 6, 2019	11:30AM October 6, 2019
A	Diane Biondo Pat Gunnell Dan Bartusiak Frank Zalewski Linda Dobias	Alice Schaer Arlene Capparelli Pat O'Brien-Kenney Jack Kenney	Jack Orsi Joan Orsi Kay Marks Teena Smith Debbie Rudar	Ben Shafer Bernard Carey Kathy Przekwas John Strompolis Charlie Murphy
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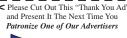
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