

Saint Rene Goupil Catholic Church

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

January 05
2020



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Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass (c) 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD.

Behold, the star that they had
seen at its rising preceded them,
until it came and stopped over
the place where the child was.

Matthew 2:9

The Epiphany of the Lord



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

Charles Dickens wrote in *A Christmas Carol*, "I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

The heart, in biblical meaning, is the core of who we are as a human person. It is in the heart that the Lord Jesus must be allowed residence; not only during the Christmas season, but 365 days a year. Being a Christian disciple is NOT a part-time job.

Notice the word disciple, this means student, is just like the word discipline. No coincidence there because discipline is part of being a disciple of Christ. We must learn to say no to the things that pull us away from God and one another and say yes to those things that bring us closer to God and closer to one another.

This is not an easy task, but it is a task we must engage. The Lord gives us the grace we need to become authentic disciples, but we need to ask for the grace and co-operate with the grace we receive.

Believe it or not, discipline leads to freedom; being a disciple of Jesus leads to freedom.

This weekend we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, and in our Gospel the magi from the east follow a star and eventually arrive to greet a baby king. These were

well-educated gentlemen for that time in history, but these "wise men" would soon humble themselves in the presence of Wisdom in human flesh.

Take note of the very last line of the Gospel. "They departed for their country by another way."

Once people have an authentic encounter with Jesus, it's impossible to return to the same old way of living. We either surrender to His Love, or we consciously reject His Love. We can no longer live in indifference.

Life IN Christ changes the direction of our life.

The Herod's of this world will always seek, in some fashion, to put God to death. Notice how atheist regimes always move to suppress the practice of religion. King Herod used deception and trickery to ascertain the location of the baby king; not so that he could worship him, but so he could have him murdered.

The late Jean Vanier gives us food for thought. He wrote, "A Christian community should do as Jesus did: propose and not impose. Its attraction must lie in the radiance cast by the love of brothers and sisters."

May the light of Christ be in you ALL THE YEAR ROUND.

Blue Box Generosity

In case you haven't already noticed, the blue box in the parking lot behind

the church/school is fairly new. This blue box is a donation receptacle for St. Vincent de Paul Society. We ask that your donations be placed in this blue box, and not dropped off at the church. Of course, there are exceptions, but please make use of the blue box.

Christmas Thank You

Allow me so say a VERY hearty THANK YOU to all those who generously gave of themselves during our celebration of Christmas. Certainly we want to thank those who gave money through our collections. We also want to recognize those who participated in our annual Giving Tree.

Thanks to those who helped clean and decorate the church so that beauty could touch our souls.

Nothing just happens. People make things happen, and so many of you make good things happen here at St. Rene. No pastor can do it alone, nor should he. Good teams work together to advance the ball toward the goal line.

Thank you for such a wonderful Christmas!

Quote of the Week:

"The petty man wants to use God for himself; the ambitious man wants God to use him for God." – Criss Jami.



St. Rene Altar & Rosary Society

There will be a meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 1:00pm in the church narthex. After the meeting, the members will participate in a Crazy Auction. The items that the members bring to be auctioned should be wrapped with a value of at least \$3.



Catholic Vocabulary - What Does it Mean?

Hyperdulia

The special form of homage given to Mary in her role as Mother of God, Coredemptrix with Christ, and Mediatrix of all graces. Different from the adoration given to God, it stresses her unique sanctity, beyond that of all other creatures, angels and Saints.

New Year's Prayer



God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.



The Epiphany of the Lord The Star of Bethlehem

Almost every year at Christmastime, you can find a newspaper article or TV documentary about the star of Bethlehem. Astronomers give various theories about whether the magi saw a new star, perhaps a supernova, or a comet, or a conjunction of two or more planets. Since the magi are generally believed to be astrologers, the conjunction seems most likely.

More important is the meaning of the star. In Matthew's Gospel, light is used as a symbol of the good news of Jesus coming into the world. Jesus is the light of the world, so the magi follow that light to get to Jesus. That's why verse 9 of the Gospel has the image of the star preceding the wise men and stopping over the house where Jesus was. By following the star, they become followers of Christ. So what do the magi show us about following Jesus?

First, they take the initiative. They saw the star, figured out what it meant, and made their journey. As followers of Jesus, we can look for what needs to be done (in our family, parish, or community) and do it. We don't have to wait for the pastor to call us and beg for help—there are probably articles in this bulletin asking for help.

Second, they expressed their faith in Jesus by the gifts they brought: gold—a gift for a king, who is worthy to be followed; frankincense—Jesus is worthy to be worshiped as Son of God; and myrrh—Jesus becomes king by dying for us all. We can express our faith in many ways. We can volunteer to help the poor, the elderly, or the disabled. We can teach our children how to pray and tell them about all that God has done for us.

Third, they were not afraid to take risks for Jesus. When they went back home without telling Herod where they found the child, Herod was furious (Matthew 2:16). For all they knew, he could have come after them. How often do we take risks for the Lord, by openly speaking about our faith or giving God credit for the good that we do? Let the star of Bethlehem remind us that Jesus is the star of our lives.

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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

There are certain times at Mass when I wonder if there is a person in the pews who showed up that day after a very long time away from the faith. Maybe life suddenly got tough for them and they had nowhere else to turn, or by some grace, they woke up one day and realized how blessed they were and decided to direct their gratitude toward God.

Most weeks here at St. Rene it is the steady stream of familiar faces, and we begin to think no one new is showing up. Let's avoid that trap and be alert for any seekers who come through our doors looking for God, relationship and communion.

Perhaps I have a soft spot for the searching soul because not too long ago that person was me.

Born and raised Catholic, educated at a Catholic grade school, I just took faith for granted. No doubt a foundation was established, but at some point in my early teen years, it became very easy to get swayed by the ways of the world; and by my sophomore year in college, I drifted from attending Mass, even at Christmas and Easter.

Once out of college, life became about work and having fun. This was all well and good for a good chunk of time, but eventually poor choices catch up to us. Many of you already know that my oldest brother's death had a profound effect on me. Coupled with his passing at age 42 was the growing darkness in my own life, the result of chasing after cheap substitutes for God.

“Was life even worth living,” I had asked myself.

Something was wrong! What did I do? By some grace, the idea to go to Mass entered my mind. And so I did. The opening hymn was Lift High the Cross. It was Palm Sunday. This began my intentional return to my faith. I rediscovered our Catholic faith

through the eyes of an adult, and I saw something that made sense and was beautiful.

This is why I look out at the pews on Sunday and wonder if someone like me came through the doors that morning, and I hope the reverence and beauty of the Mass touches them in a way the things of this world cannot.

Twenty years ago, I viewed the world through a selfish, me-centered lens. I had a “whatever makes you happy” attitude, but I'd soon learn that many of the things we chase don't lead to happiness; maybe at first, but how soon we discovered we've been deceived. There really is only one satisfaction to our hungry hearts, and that is God.

Viewing the world through the lens of Christ makes a huge difference.

Please join me in remembering to be open and welcoming to any searching soul who comes through the doors of our church. We are not a private club. We are a Church on mission for the spreading of the good news and the salvation of souls.

Jesus said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

That inner voice that spoke to me that dark day long ago was of God. The Enemy would never have suggested Holy Mass. It would have suggested a few more beers and a cigar. Thank God I went to Mass that Palm Sunday.

And if you happen to be returning to Mass for the first time in a long time, please come and say hi to me. I'd love to hear your story. Maybe you'll make my eyes water again.



Faith Formation Office
(773) 229-8523

Coordinator:
Peg Siebenaler

Email: strenfaithformation@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 1/5:** Family Mass 9:30am.
*Special Belonging Mass
for all our First Communion
Students in Level Two.*
- 1/8:** Classes for All Levels.
- 1/12:** Family Mass 9:30am.
- 1/15:** Classes for Level 8 and Level 2 ONLY.
*Level Two Students receive the
Sacrament of Reconciliation.*
- 1/19:** Family Mass 9:30am.
- 1/22:** Classes for ALL Levels.
- 1/26:** Family Mass 9:30am.



Jesus Projects

This year, our students in level 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 the Spring.



Pictured above are some of our Faith Formation Students celebrating Jesus' Birthday by singing and sharing cake. What a wonderful way to show the true meaning of Christmas!



Belonging Service

Today, at the 9:30 a.m. mass, our Faith Formation Students in Level Two will be received as candidates for First Eucharist. The candidates are invited to join in the Entrance Procession in which they will carry a loaf of sandwich bread. The bread symbolizes Jesus, The Bread of Life. All the bread will be donated to our local food pantry. These First Eucharist candidates will receive their First Communion badge at this very special mass.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Level 2 Students in our Faith Formation Program, will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Wednesday, January 15th.



Please remember these young students in your prayers as they journey closer to Jesus in the sacrament of Reconciliation.

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, January 4, 2020

4:00pm—Mary Amarino (Family)

Sunday, January 5, 2020

7:30am—Daniel Rajewski (Charlene Bruss)

9:30am—Ron Mroz (Cello Family)

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

9:30am—Ramon Perez (Wife-Socorro Perez)

11:30am—Raymond Ulrich (Family)

11:30am—Anthony Sanfratello (Mom, Dad & Brother Michael)

Monday, January 6, 2020

8:00am—LaVerne Raher (Family)

Tuesday, January 7, 2020

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

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

8:00am—Walter O'Malley (Family)

Thursday, January 9, 2020

8:00am—Michael Rizzo (Family)

Friday, January 10, 2020

8:00am—Alvina C. Drozd (Family)

Saturday, January 11, 2020

8:00am—Jonathan C. Ramirez (Family)

4:00pm—Lydia Mendez (Family)

Sunday, January 12, 2020

7:30am—Alice Tomczak (Family)

9:30am—Raymond Sutkowski (Marty Shandles)

11:30am—Rita Koziol (Family)



Martin Adelsbach
Judy Adelsbach
Larry Adkins
Guadalupe Almendarez
Anthony Barone
Carl Bell
Joanne Bukowiecki
Gina Camp
Dominic Ciampaglia
Margaret Ciampaglia
Mitchell Gallas

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

Private Special Intention

Our prayers may be awkward.
Our attempts may be feeble.
But since the power of prayer
is in the one who hears it
and not in the one who says it,
our prayers do make a difference.



Altar & Rosary Society

Cleaning Schedule—January 10/11

Gloria Bodoki & Lois Beyer

December 21/22, 2019 Offering

Total envelopes	\$3,169.00
Total loose cash	\$ 956.00
Total Sunday Giving	\$4,125.00
St. Rene Utilities Fund	\$1,274.76

Thank you for your generosity!

The offerings for the weekend of Dec. 28/29
are not available at this time. They will be
published in a future bulletin.

Thank you for your generosity!

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 January 11, 2020	7:30AM January 12, 2020	9:30AM January 12, 2020	11:30AM January 12, 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	Carol Dill Mark Dill Julie Wojcik Monica Wojcik Ben Shafer
	Frank Zalewski	James Roche	Jerry Hughes	Joanne Tishka

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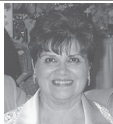
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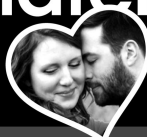
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washes with ADVERTISED soap
puts on ADVERTISED clothes
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of ADVERTISED coffee
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