Saint Rene Goupil Catholic Church

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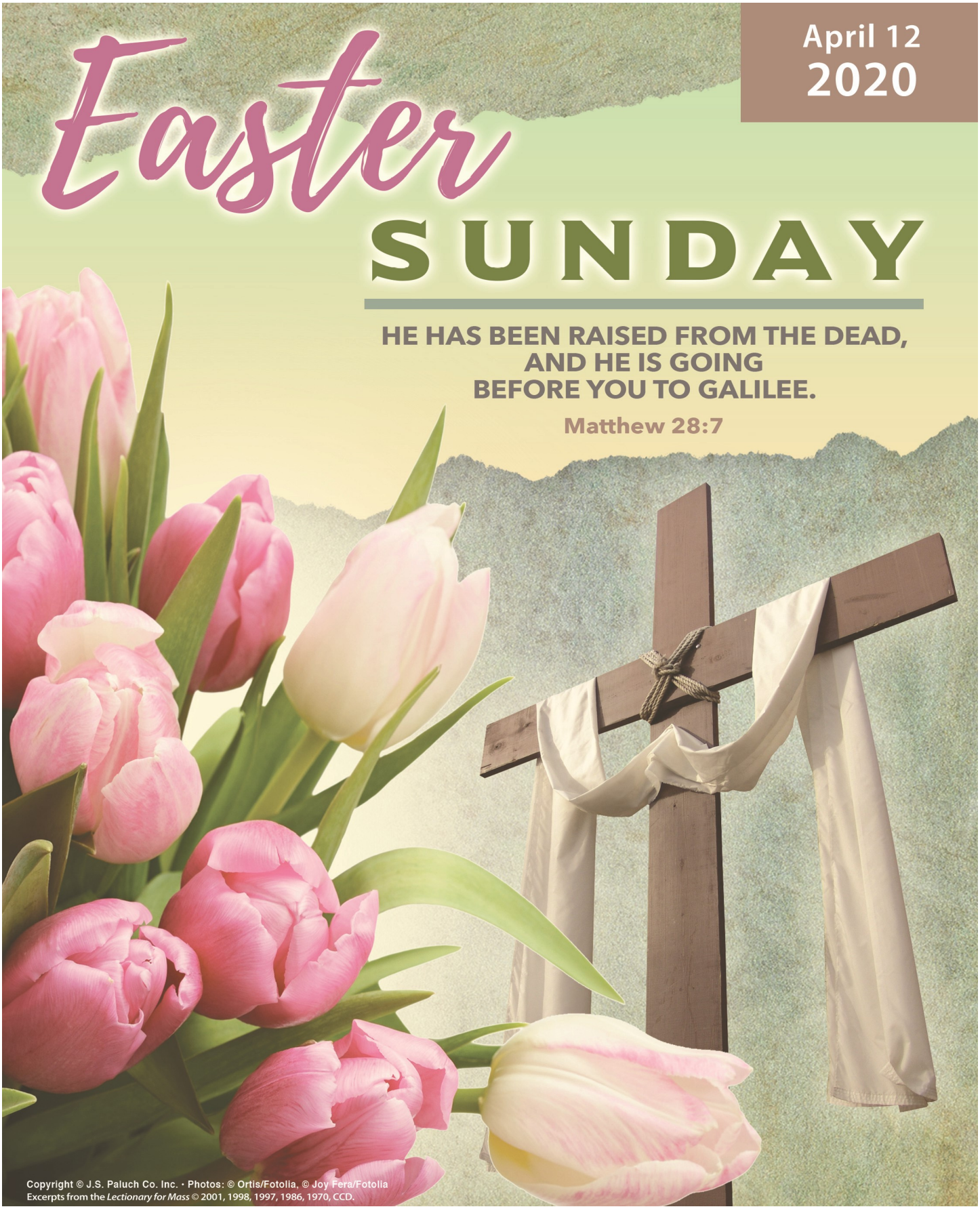


Fr. Bob's Weekly Blog

Human beings are both body and soul; material and spirit. Angels are pure spirit. Animals are body with instinct but not soul. We are in-between.

This is important for us to know as humans when it comes to care for ourselves and for one another. We care for the body but we must also care for the soul. Sadly, the latter is too often neglected in a society that loses sight of our Creator and adheres to a purely materialistic view of reality.

Right now we're all dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 crisis because this is certainly a concern for our physical well-being. People have gotten sick and many have died. Let's be honest, this scares us because our physical self is threatened. We realize we, too, could get sick and possibly die.

However, as a culture, we've increasingly neglected our spiritual health for decades. God has increasingly been driven from public life and laws once formed with God in mind are discarded and replaced with secular (no God) laws. Even folks who would identity as Christian have grown indifferent to the things of God.

Our celebration of Easter reminds us that suffering and death do not have the final say. Love is stronger than death, and Love is Who went to the cross and died so that we might have life. Each of our physical bodies will die one day, but the soul lives on because the soul is immortal.

The promise of Christ is that one day, when all things are brought to fulfillment at the end of time, our soul will join a new glorified body in a new heaven and a new earth. Easter reminds us that there is more to reality than just the physical material universe. When we pray the Creed at Mass, we say, "I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible."

The materialist only believes in the visible. We as Christians believe in the visible AND what we cannot see with our eyes, but intuit with our soul. We long for more than this world can deliver because we were MADE FOR MORE. This is the hope we need to sustain us during life's trials and tribulations.

Every human person at some point has to ponder the question, "What happens when we die?" To avoid spending time with this question is to avoid reality; because what we believe about eternity shapes our behavior in the here and now.

Jesus helps us answer the question. Death is but a passing through the cross, and the cross is but a portal to new life. This is the JOY OF EASTER! Death is not the victor. Life surmounts the grave. The empty tomb is the sign we need to live for more than just this world.

One of my favorite stories of naïve journalism was the day some reporters were invited to visit the site of the tomb Jesus was buried and resurrected. One of the written accounts stated that there were no remains of a human body in the tomb, as if the reporter expected there to be remains. Um, no! He ROSE from the dead – Body and Soul.

Although we are unable to formally publically gather for Holy Mass this Easter, we still celebrate this most joyous event. Our not being able to gather as a community does not lessen the eternal consequences of the Resurrection. Jesus rose from the dead, and He summons us to follow Him through the cross to the glory of eternal life.

Our current body will expire one day, but our soul shall live on. We pray for the day our soul joins a new glorified body (no more pain, no more suffering, no more tears, no more death), and we shall celebrate a Homecoming that is beyond our wildest dreams. Homecoming? Yes, because that's where Jesus is leading. Home, sweet Home!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise be to Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Paying the Bills

Thanks to all of you who have continued to give your weekly envelopes as part of financial contributions. As a parish our monthly bills still come in even though we are not publically gathering for Mass or any other public event.

The best way to give financially during this time is to drop your envelope off in the brown mail box at

the front porch of the parish office at 6949 W. 63rd Place, or simply mail it in through the post office.

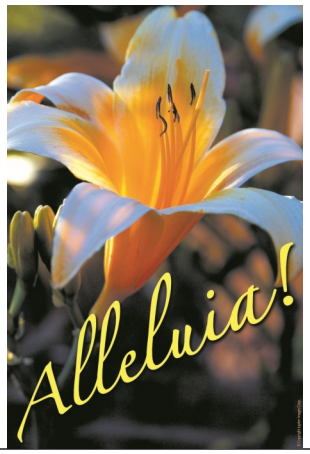
Another great option is to set up your weekly giving online. This eliminates the need for checks or cash.
At St. Rene we use a program that is known as GiveCentral. You can set this up by going to our website (strenegoupil.org) and clicking on the blue advertisement for GiveCentral. It will walk you through the process for setting up online e-giving.

Please know we are all impacted financially during this time of crisis. My heart goes out to all those who have seen their income effected by declining business. We, too, here at St. Rene are feeling the pinch, but we also want to avoid having to tap into our savings account.

Once we get through this tough time, we will publically reveal a simple breakdown of how much money was coming in and how much was going out. This will give us a concrete idea of any deficit we took on.

Please give as generously as you can during this most difficult time.
Thank you!

Favorite Quote of the Week:
"In this world sow seeds of righteousness, and in the Resurrection gather them in."
– St. Ephraem the Syrian.



Prayer in Times of Anxiety and Fear

Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.

St. Teresa of Avila

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

At every funeral when the casket enters the front doors of the church, the priest sprinkles holy water on the casket and says, "In the waters of Baptism, N. died with Christ and rose with Him to new life. May (he/she) now share with Christ eternal glory."

Right at the beginning of the funeral, the deceased's day of baptism is recalled. The white pall draped over the casket represents the white garment placed on the child after having the holy water poured over their head.

Why is this so important?

Let's look at Colossians 2:12; 3-1 … "And you were buried with him in Baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead….If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."

For by virtue of the Holy Spirit, Christian life is already now on earth a participation in the death and Resurrection of Christ (CCC 1002).

At Baptism, entering into the waters is entering into the tomb of Jesus, and our emerging from the waters is our joining in the Resurrection of Christ. We see how these events are connected in the life of grace.

This is why Baptism is so important. It's not just a cute opportunity to dress up and take pictures. Baptism is the beginning of life IN CHRIST. The stain of original sin is washed away. The baptized join the family of God, and the baptized is grafted onto Christ. This isn't some kind of hocus-pocus magic, but it is supernatural mystery.

From paragraph 1004 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church … "In expectation of that day, the believer's body and soul already participate in the dignity of belonging to Christ. This dignity entails the demand that he should treat with respect his own body, but also the body of every other person, especially the suffering."

As we celebrate the Easter season, let us also celebrate our Baptism. We belong to Jesus and our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. We have died with Christ and were raised with him to new life. If you were to ask someone their birthday, you'd get a quick response. But what if you asked them the date of their Baptism? Hmmm!

We should all know the date of our Baptism, because that's the day we died with Christ and rose with him to new life. Thank God for so great a gift.

Faith Formation Office
(773) 229-8523

Coordinator:
Peg Siebenaler

Email: strenefaithformation@gmail.com

All Faith Formation Classes have been cancelled until further notice.

Easter Blessings

May the promise of the Risen Christ be with you this Easter Season and throughout the year.

We pray for all our St. Rene Faith Formation Family Members,
who are Health Care Workers and First Responders,
Give them strength as they care for our sick…..
Give them courage as they work to keep us safe…..
during this Global Health Crisis….

Fidel Arroyo - FBI
Stephanie Arroyo - Police Officer
Joel Bentley - Police Officer
Nancy Ruiz Bernal - Nurse
John L. Chavez, Jr. - Police Officer
Raul Cortez - Police Officer
Amanda Cruz - Police Officer
Maritza Delgado - Nurse
Belinda Flores - Police Officer
Miriam Garza - Nurse
Omar Garza - Medical Delivery
Alejandra Gonzalez - Healthcare Office
Jesus Gonzalez - Police Officer
Cristina Haro - Police Officer
José Haro - Police Officer
Shawn Hughes—Fire Fighter
Karen Raica - ER Nurse
Robert Raica - Police Officer
Celina Ramirez - Healthcare Office
Karen Rittorno - Police Forensics
David Sepulveda - Police Officer
Joseph Louis Siebenaler—U.S. Army, Military Police
Fernando Valenzuela - Police Officer
Jeff Wojcik - Police Officer
Robert Zielinski - Police Officer

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, April 11, 2020
8:00pm—For the Beloved deceased of St. Rene Parish

Sunday, April 12, 2020
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

Monday, April 13, 2020
8:00am—Michael E. Abbott (Family)

Tuesday, April 14, 2020
8:00am—Carbone Family (Family)

Wednesday, April 15, 2020
8:00am—Evelyn Dober (Family)

Thursday, April 16, 2020
8:00am—Bruno G. Shotas (Nancy Shotas)

Friday, April 17, 2020
8:00am—Charmaine A. Zahlmann (Family)

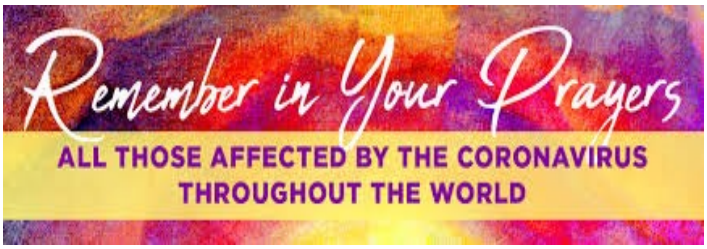
Saturday, April 18, 2020
8:00am—Cynthia L. Unser (Family)

4:00pm—Anthony Mraz, Sr. (Mraz Family)
4:00pm—Geraldine Finlay (McAllister & Neligan Families)
4:00pm—Mary Klish (Claudia Pascual)

Sunday, April 19, 2020
7:30am—Dante DiMenna (Family)

9:30am—Raymond Sutkowski (Edna Bazik)
9:30am—James Koffend (Judy Carranza)
9:30am—Lorenzo & Ana Maria Duran (Daughters)

11:30am—Thomas Murray (Family)



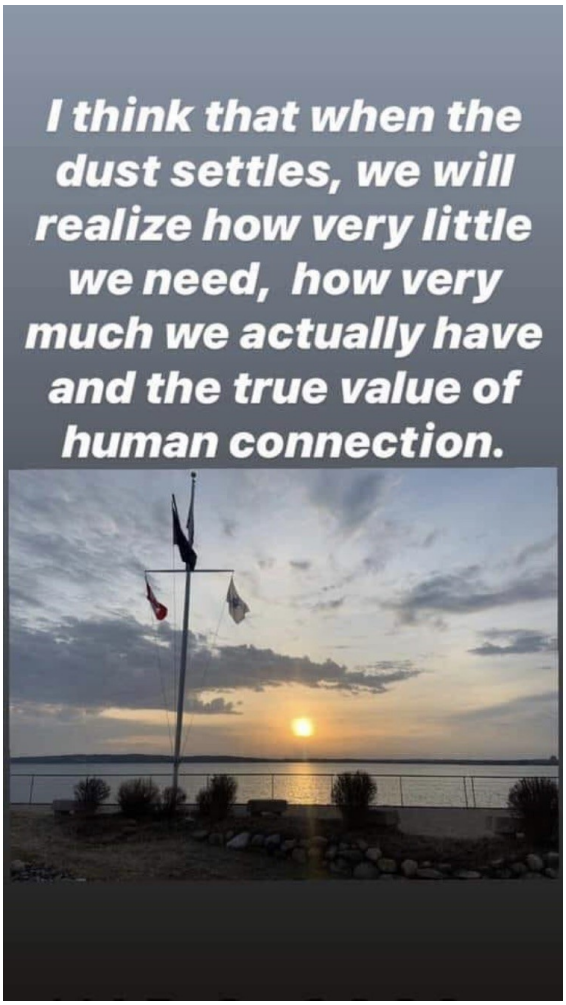
PRAY FOR THE SICK

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

Special Intentions to Help Humanity from the Virus

Special Intentions that the Holy Spirit bless all of Creation



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

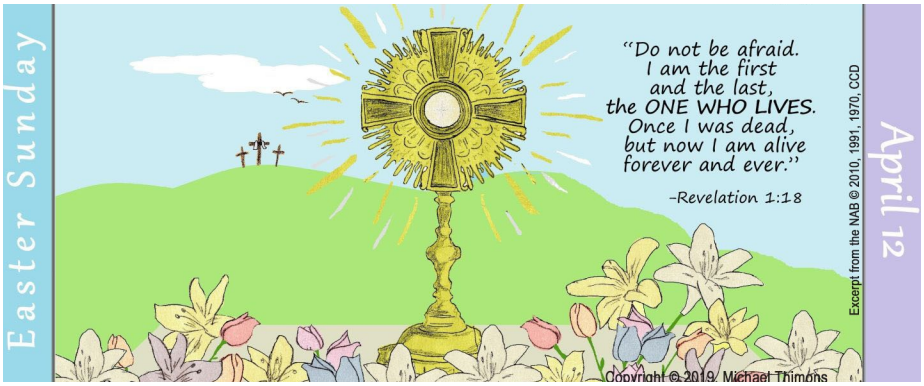
Classes for Grades 1-8 are offered on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30pm.

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.



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