

Saint Rene Goupil Catholic Church

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

March 8, 2020



Second

Sunday of Lent

From the cloud came a voice that said,
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him."

Matthew 17:5



Fr. Bob's Weekly Blog



Walking into a funeral home presents a priest with an assortment of interesting looks from the folks attending a wake.

There is the “Hey, Father” guy who wants to welcome you and let you know about the deceased and their respective relationship. Then there are those who intentionally refuse to make eye contact with you, for whatever reason. Yes, there will occasionally be someone who gives the priest a dirty look. Most people are cordial and offer a nod, a smile, or a “Thank you!”

When it comes time for the actual wake service prayer, it is always entertaining to see the handful of guys (it’s usually men, but more women are joining) who intentionally leave the room when a family member lets them know the prayer service is about to begin. From inside them arises a strong thirst for the mediocre coffee in the kitchen area, and a visible wish NOT TO PRAY.

We really never know what’s stirring inside someone, especially when it involves the topic of death. Intellectually we all know the reality of death, but at the heart level, far too many of us do a good job of fooling ourselves by thinking our day will never come. And so we don’t prepare.

Death is always a tomorrow; never today. Until that day comes.

Our second reading this weekend reminds us that Christ “destroyed death and brought life and

immortality to light through the Gospel.” Remember, Gospel means GOOD NEWS! And this good news is that Jesus came to die so that death is not the victor. Love is stronger than death, and God is Love.

Yes, each of our earthly bodies has an expiration date. This is a fact, but we are not just a body. We are body and soul, and the soul is immortal. Through the portal of the Cross, we enter into a new mode of existence, and our Christian hope is that when all things are brought to fulfillment at the end of time, our soul is joined to a new glorified body.

Lent is a time to cleanse the soul – to make sure we are in a good place with the Lord, with others, and with our own self. Lent might also be a good time for some of us to sit down (or kneel) down and honestly ask, “What do I believe?” What we believe, especially about death, has a way of determining my thoughts and actions today.

Jesus so lovingly told his disciples, “Do not be afraid!” Was Jesus just offering us a warm fuzzy in the face of cold hard reality? Or does Jesus know first-hand what awaits those who Love God and love their neighbor?

The Lord gives Peter, James and John a glimpse of what awaits us when Jesus is transfigured atop the high mountain in today’s Gospel passage. His Divinity is revealed as His face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. Peter’s reaction tells us he didn’t want to leave this glorious moment. These three apostles saw the glory of eternity, and would need to remember this spectacular vision in the wake of the darkness of Good Friday.

Although death appears to be the end, we know by faith that the best is yet to come for those who surrender their heart to God and take hold of the nail-marked hand of the One who died on the cross, but rose from the dead; the One who is preparing a place for YOU!.

Allow Lent to be a time for you to prepare your heart, knowing the reality that God has prepared a place for you. As one of the Beatitudes teaches us, “Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.”

Pastor Update

The scheduled announcement for the pastor of the new united parish of St. Rene/St. Symphorosa will take place in late March 2020.

Fr. Bob has “put his name in the hat.” The process of appointing a pastor is important and should not be rushed for expediency sake. There needs to be proper discernment on the part of the archdiocese team that leads this process, and proper discernment on the part of the priest considering the post.

A couple weeks ago, over 100 people from both St. Rene and St. Sym’s gave feedback to members of the priest placement board and our vicariate bishop. The priests and bishop then presented the feedback to the larger priest placement board. The final decision, ultimately, belongs to Cardinal Cupich, who will be advised along the way.

(continue next page)

For clarification purposes, at that meeting, one of the priests mistakenly said that Fr. Bob had applied for two other positions. That is not true. However, I was approached on two separate occasions, to consider two other pastor spots. Neither of those two progressed any further.

There will never be a pastor that pleases all the people. That's a reality. Everyone has their own personal "wants" when it comes to the type of priest assigned. The guys on the priest placement board have heard it all. They might sarcastically suggest, "Jesus himself could be appointed pastor and it wouldn't be good enough for some people."

Although pastors have different strengths and weaknesses, their number one responsibility is to be a good shepherd. The word pastor means shepherd. Care of souls matters. If it doesn't, then we've lost sight of the big picture.

Favorite Quote of the Week

**"Life is to live in such a way that we are not afraid to die."
– Teresa of Avila.**



STATIONS of the CROSS

Every Friday at 7:00pm

Help Needed!!!

Due to aging and poor health, the Altar & Rosary Society is in need of a few parishioners to help fill in the teams where the number has dropped to one person. The requirement would be a few hours on Friday or Saturday morning after Mass every seven weeks. It is mostly dusting and some vacuuming.



You do not need to be an A&R member; just someone with a few hours to volunteer your time and who appreciates a clean environment to worship in. Please call the parish rectory to submit your name and telephone number.

The Altar & Rosary Society wants to acknowledge and thank Stanley, who is St. Rene's maintenance engineer, for pitching in and doing most of the vacuuming and floral care.

'Building Bridges'



saint snippets



Let us receive everything from God's hands and do everything out of pure love.

Bl. Giacomo Cusmano
19th-century Italian priest who founded a religious order focused on evangelizing and caring for the poor.

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March 14



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 weekend we will continue the Q & A format to help better understand the emerging unification between St. Rene and St. Symphorosa.

Question – In the official wording of the Renew My Church decision, the document states, “St. Symphorosa will be designated the parish church, where the business office and records are kept.” What does that mean?

Answer – Because we are uniting to form ONE new parish, the official parish records need to be safely and securely housed in one designated location. Because the parish school will be on the St. Sym’s campus, the wise choice is to have the parish office in close proximity to the school.

Wherever the designated parish office is located, that is where the sacramental records must be kept. There are four (4) main categories of sacramental records: Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, and Matrimony. We also maintain a record of funerals. These hard-cover bound books MUST be kept in a locked fire-proof safe.

If we were to keep the sacramental records separated, this would canonically (legally) communicate that there are two separate distinct parishes. As of July 1, 2020, that will NOT be the case. We will be ONE parish with two worship sites. Hence, the necessity for the sacramental records to be stored in one designated location.

The decision to have the main office at St. Sym’s with the sacramental records should not be interpreted by anyone to suggest that the St. Rene church is closing, or that one location is “better” than the other one.

Question – Fr. Bob, how has this whole Renew My Church process been for you personally as one of the pastors involved?

Answer – Overall, this has been a learning experience, and it gives me hope. Our discernment team (made up of parishioners) looked at a LOT of information about both St. Rene and St. Symphorosa. We looked at finances, facilities, ministries, spiritual life, Mass attendance numbers, etc. Doing all of this helped the chosen parishioners get a more realistic view where we are at, and what needs to happen.

Personally, the stress of it all came AFTER the decision, as misinformation and rumors seemed to dominate our local area rather than the actual decision from the archbishop and the RMC advisers. It seemed every day a person told me they heard “St. Rene is closing.” And then to hear some folks say, “Why should I give anything to the parish anymore if we’re just going to close?”

In all honesty, it saddens me. I have been open and honest through the process, and will continue to be open and honest. My caution right now is that we NOT create a self-fulfilling prophecy by adopting a gloom-and-doom attitude. And just because some media outlet reports something does not mean it’s true, or that they reported the information accurately. Also, Mr. So-n-So at the bakery is not necessarily a reliable source of information either. I totally understand there is a lack of trust these days in the Church (and society as a whole) but we will proceed much better when we get truthful, accurate, honest information.

Our culture grows increasingly secular (does not believe in God) and more and more hostile to Christianity (especially Catholicism). We need to be alert to this reality. Our unity is essential in the coming years and decades, and we cannot afford to get bogged down and divided amongst ourselves because two Catholic parishes in the Clearing area of Chicago look at the other and see only “Them!”

The Lord doesn’t see “Them.” He sees US drawn into communion by His Body and Blood and called to mission for the sake of the Gospel. Remember, we can either build a bridge or build a wall. One of the two moves us closer to communion. The other does not.

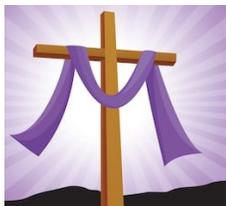
Question – What will be one of the key factors as we move forward?

Answer – Dynamic lay leadership arising from our pews and homes. We will need a core group of folks who 1. Love Jesus, 2. Love His Church, 3. Love the parish. All three criteria are a must. We can’t just love our parish, otherwise it risks becoming a private club of our own making.

The universal Church exists because the Lord gave her to us, and a parish exists as a missionary outpost of the universal Church. We exist as a parish because the Church exists, and the Church exists because she is the visible Sacrament of Salvation given to us by Jesus in this world.

We do not exist in isolation from the rest of the Body of Christ. We are members of this Body, the Church (yes, even during tough times).

The lay leadership that arises must refrain from personal agendas, passive-aggressive behavior, rumors, and old resentments. The primary mission of evangelization will take center stage as we also strive to be better stewards of our material and fiscal resources.



Faith Formation Office
(773) 229-8523

Coordinator:
Peg Siebenaler

Email: strenfaithformation@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 3/08: Family Mass 9:30am.
- 3/11: Classes for All Levels.
Students present their Jesus Projects.
- 3/14: 8th Grade Retreat (St. Sym's)
- 3/15: Family Mass 9:30am.
- 3/18: Classes for All Levels,
Students present their Jesus Projects.
- 3/22: Family Mass 9:30am.
Jesus Projects on Display.
- 3/25: Classes for All Levels.
- 3/29: Family Mass 9:30am.
- 4/01: Classes for All Levels.
Reconciliation Service.
- 4/05: Family Mass 9:30am.

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. Donations can be dropped off in the Narthex of the Church when attending mass. Please note, we can always use empty Easter Baskets and the cellophane bags to wrap the baskets, after we fill them. For more information, feel free to call the Faith Formation Office. God be with you and your dear families as we enter into this Holy Season of Lent. Our 2020 St. Rene Confirmationandi will take part in assembling the Easter Baskets and earn service hours for their upcoming Confirmation.



THE SACRAMENTS

As the Eighth Grade Confirmation Candidates prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation they will first participate in the sacrament of Reconciliation with their classmates on Wednesday, April 1st during their regularly scheduled class. These 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.

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. The projects will be on display in the Narthex, for viewing by our parish community the weekend of March 22nd.

Confirmation Retreat

St. Syms welcomes our St. Rene Confirmationandi to a Spirit Day Retreat on Saturday, March 14th at 1pm. The day will conclude with a 5pm Mass. We invite all families to join our Confirmation Candidates for this special mass. (This mass will fulfill your Sunday obligation.)



Be assured of our prayers as you continue the journey toward Confirmation on May 8th.

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, March 7, 2020

4:00pm—Janet Szponer (Donna Szponer)
4:00pm—James Koffend (Judy Carranza)

Sunday, March 8, 2020

7:30am—Thomas Saucedo (Family)
9:30am—Emma Morales (Zamudio Family)
9:30am—Lucille Salamendo (Terri & Dan Domarsky)
11:30am—Francis Calderon—Paco (Family)

Monday, March 9, 2020

8:00am—Saladino Family (Family)

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

8:00am—Chester Goluch (Family)
8:00am—Francis Calderon—Paco (Family)

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

8:00am—Virginia L. Jankowski (Family)

Thursday, March 12, 2020

8:00am—Alice Tomczak (Family)

Friday, March 13, 2020

8:00am—Stanley Tloczek (Family)

Saturday, March 14, 2020

8:00am—Evelyn Dober (Family)
8:00am—Allen Szudarski (Family)
4:00pm—Florence Rogel (Bernice & Toni)

Sunday, March 15, 2020

7:30am—Antoinette Veronica Cozzi (Family)
9:30am—James Koffend (Jean Piotrowski)
9:30am—Good Health for Judy Carranza (Family)
11:30am—Ronald Mroz (St. Rene Staff)
11:30am—Israel Mendez (Ruben & Doris Mendez)



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

Kevin Hastings - Special Intentions
Joey Simon - Special Intentions
Rosemary Kane - Special Prayers & Intentions
for Health, Recovery from Cancer

I have a friend who...

Loves me Without Restriction, Trusts me without Fear, Wants me without Demand and Accepts me for Who I am.

He is God.

Amen 



February 29/March 1, 2020 Offering

Total envelopes	\$4,167.00
Total loose cash	<u>\$ 960.00</u>
Total Sunday Giving	\$5,127.00
St. Rene RE Scholarship Fund	\$ 990.15

Thank you for your generosity!



Altar & Rosary Society Cleaning Schedule

March 13/14, 2020

Marie Zilka

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

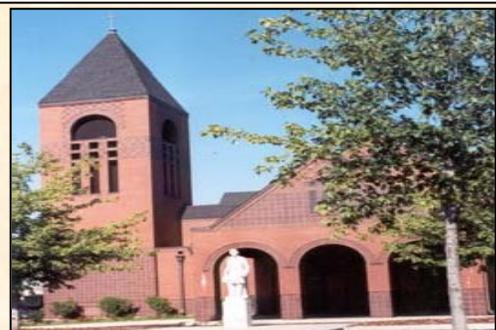
Classes for Grades 1-8 are offered on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30pm.

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 March 14, 2020	7:30AM March 15, 2020	9:30AM March 15, 2020	11:30AM March 15, 2020
	Linda Dobias Pat Gunnell Nancy Gunnell Dan Bartusiak Diane Biondo	James Roche Mary Sarlitto 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 Strompols
	Jim Quintavalle	James Roche	Virginia Cruz	Ben Shafer

Foran Funeral Home

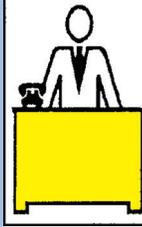
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