

Saint Rene Goupil Catholic Church

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

June 30, 2019

**Thirteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

A photograph of a weathered wooden cross standing on a grassy hill. A dirt path leads from the bottom right towards the cross. The sky is blue with some clouds. The text "FOLLOW ME" is overlaid in large, yellow, 3D letters.

**FOLLOW
ME**



Fr. Bob's Weekly Blog



Freedom is on our minds this week.

Certainly, it's on the minds of United States citizens as we celebrate Independence Day (July 4th), but it is also on our minds as Christian disciples as we hear our second reading from Galatians.

St. Paul wrote, "For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery."

The word freedom gets tossed about loosely these days. Far too many folks interpret freedom to mean we are free to do whatever we want. We will not be told "No!" by anyone. In reality, that is NOT freedom. Doing whatever one wants to do is called license.

Freedom means we use the gift of freewill (the ability to make choices) to do what we OUGHT to do, and SHOULD do. Freedom comes with responsibility.

Our current American culture is rife with people who interpret freedom as license. "It's my life. I can do whatever I want to do." That's the individualist motto. Initially, it might seem like freedom to live this way, but eventually we realize we are enslaved to the things of the world.

Jesus invites us into authentic freedom. Our freedom as followers of Christ means we ought to do this, and should do that. Yes, we still have freewill, but the Lord is inviting us to use our freewill to choose his way, his truth, and his life. Love never involves coercion. God always leaves the door open for us to reject his love and his truth.

John Paul II wrote, "Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought."

Every single day – from the moment we wake up until we rest our head again upon the pillow – we make a whole series of choices. Every choice leads us either closer to God and closer to our fellow man, or it leads us away from God and away from our fellow man. Having a structured prayer life helps us in our decision making. The Holy Spirit is a major player when it comes to choosing THIS or to choosing THAT. Invite the Holy Spirit into your decision making.

Surrendering our lives to the Lord does not lead to enslavement. In reality, it leads us more and more to authentic freedom. Talk to someone who has struggled with addiction and is now in recovery. Ask them how "free" they became in their addiction. They will honestly admit they had lost their freedom. License had led to slavery.

Just as we honor those who give their lives in the quest for freedom, so too we as Christians honor Christ who took our sins to the cross on Calvary and shed His blood to set us free; why would we want to go back into enslavement when we have the Truth who sets us free?

Adam's Farewell Reception

In the not too distant future, we will be saying "So long, and best wishes" to Adam Chlebek, our organist for the past two years. This is certainly bitter-sweet. Adam has become such a mainstay here at St. Rene, and we will be sad to see him off.

But, he is going off to college, which is a good thing. Adam has amazing musical talent. The Lord has blessed him with amazing aptitude, but Adam has also worked very hard to put that innate talent to good use.

We are going to have to adjust in his absence. Our ears have become very accustomed to his style of play.

As we send him off, however, we do want to celebrate. We will have a "Thank you, Adam" reception in mid-August in the narthex. The specific date and time is to be determined, but we are looking for volunteers to bring in food items, baked goods, drinks, etc., for this reception. This will likely be after the 11:30am. Mass.

Please consider helping out for this occasion. It's a way to say "thank you," for all Adam has done for us these past couple years.

Quote of the Week

"I recommend that the Statue of Liberty on the East Coast be supplemented by a Statue of Responsibility on the West Coast." – Viktor Frankl



**Mass on
Thurs., July 4th,
will be celebrated
at 9:00am.
The Parish Office
will be closed!**



Baseball, hot dogs, and dare we say, apple pie! Just some of the American traditions we love about Independence Day, celebrated in grand style across America on July 4.

Yes, we all know the date. But what actually took place on that iconic day back in 1776? Well, historians will remind you that the actual “legal” separation from Great Britain occurred 48 hours earlier. (Second of July, anyone?)

If you must know — The Fourth is the day Congress finalized a fine little piece of writing we like to call the Declaration of Independence. (Does “all men are created equal” ring a bell?)

Thus, it’s the date on the actual document and the reason we wait two extra days for picnics, barbecues, and fireworks. Happy Fourth!

What’s it Mean? Catholic Vocabulary

Transubstantiation

The teaching of the Church which signifies the conversion or complete change of the substance of bread and wine into the substance of Christ’s Body and Blood, which occurs through the actions of a validly ordained priest during the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass, with the result that only the accidents or appearances of bread and wine remain. These accidents do not inhere in any substance whatever, but are sustained in a miraculous way.

Saint Thomas

We feel great kinship for the apostle Thomas because, like him, most of us curiously combine faith and doubt. We sometimes share the enthusiasm St. Thomas expressed when upon Lazarus’s death Jesus decided to go to Bethany. “Let’s go too,” Thomas said to the other disciples, “that we may die with him” (see John 11:16). But also like him we sometimes wonder where Jesus is headed and where he is taking us (see John 14:5).



However, we are most like Thomas because doubts occasionally rattle our brains and cloud our souls. So we all relate to the story of doubting Thomas (see John 20:25–29). Thomas was absent the first time Jesus appeared after his resurrection. The apostle swore he would not believe, “Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails and place my hand in his side” (v. 25RSV). Eight days later Jesus appeared again and told Thomas to touch his wounds. “My Lord, and my God,” Thomas exclaimed, recovering his faith (v. 28).

Some early Christian writers criticized Thomas’s faithless behavior. But others praised him for helping us cure our doubts, as Gregory the Great does in this homily:

... For the faithlessness of Thomas aids us in our belief more than does the faith of the disciples who believed. When he is brought to believe by feeling with his own hand, every doubt having been removed, our own mind is confirmed in faith. ... The divinity cannot be seen by any mortal man. So Thomas saw man and confessed him to be God, saying, “My Lord, and my God.” On seeing, then, he believed, and proclaimed him to be God whom he could not see.

Then Jesus spoke these words that give us much joy: “Blessed are they who have not seen and yet have believed” (see John 20:29). This sentence undoubtedly signifies to us who hold in our minds him whom we have not seen in the flesh. But we are signified only if we follow up our faith by works. For he really believes who carries out in deed what he believes.

We do not know for sure where Thomas conducted his missionary activity after Pentecost. Some claim he evangelized among the Parthians. But a stronger tradition says he carried the gospel to India. He is supposed to have recruited the Christians of Malabar and died a martyr by the spear at Mylapore, near Madras. An ancient stone cross there marks the place where his remains lay buried until they were removed to Edessa in 394.

Feast Day—July 3.



Our Catholic Faith

By Fr. Bob Regan

In the wake of the horror of 9/11, many of us were shaken up a bit.

We sat numb watching our TV screens. We called relatives and friends and reminded them we loved them. Tragedy on the scale of Sept. 11, 2001 has a way of bringing things back into perspective; the things that really matter in the end.

One of the ways in which some people dealt with all this was by availing themselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession lines grew long in the weeks and months following 9/11. Mass attendance went up. God became important in the face of our human mortality.

How easy it is to lose sight of God in comfortable times. When we study the God's chosen people – the Israelites – we see a common thread. When the people directed their minds and hearts toward God, they flourished. Times were prosperous.

However, in their comfort, they would begin to turn toward false idols. They would lose sight of the true God, and begin to bow down toward man-made gods. Then things would go south. They would suffer as a people; often being taken into captivity by invaders.

We are meant to learn from history. And as Christian disciples we are meant to learn from the history of the people of Israel; a people from whom Jesus himself emerged.

What has to happen to many people to awake from their spiritual slumber? We hope it need not be a national or international tragedy. Our hope is that people recognize within themselves a desire for the transcendent – that which is beyond humanity and the natural world.

Sadly this desire for the transcendent gets obscured when we live within too much comfort. Pretty soon we say things like, "I don't need anyone." Or, "I've got everything I need right here and right now."

Then along comes failing health. Or a job loss. Or stock market crash. Or world wars. Or the death of a loved one. And we are left reeling in despair. Our entertainment culture and our technological gadgets can't fill the emptiness. It is then that some folks finally find themselves humbled and on their knees ... "Please, God." Maybe you've been there. I certainly have.

Interesting how God can take what appears to be evil acts and transforms them. That's exactly what God did over 2,000 years ago when human beings rejected God in human flesh, and had him hanged from a cross. We killed God, and God redeemed the humanity that crucified him.

That's how far authentic love goes in search of the beloved; in search of YOU.

God doesn't need us. That's a fact. God desires us.
We, however, need God. We always have.

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: strenfaithformation@gmail.com

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!!

Who, Me?



Yes, You!

“WHO, ME?”

As we prepare for another year of faith formation, we again invite more of our parishioners to the Ministry of Catechist. We are **NOT** looking for scripture scholars or dogmatic, experts – just ordinary Catholics who love God, Jesus, and the Church so much that they want to share their faith with others.

In the spirit of good stewardship, please consider the ministry of Catechist...faith sharer. Help deepen the relationship our children have with Jesus by sharing your strong faith with them.

If your response to this invitation is “Who, me?”,
Our response is...“Sure, why not?” –

We’re not asking, Jesus is!”



2019-2020
Registration Information

Registration materials for the 2019-2020 Faith Formation classes are now available in the Narthex, or you may stop into the parish office to register.

Both new and returning families need to register for next year. For 2019-2020, we will continue to offer Faith Formation sessions, for grades 1- 8, on Wednesday evenings, from 6:00 – 7:30pm. Classes begin after Labor Day and end in May.

Please call Peggy, in the Faith Formation Office at (773) 229-8523 with any questions. We are grateful for your support.

Slow Dance

Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round?
Or listened to the rain slapping on the ground?
Ever followed a butterfly’s erratic flight?
Or gazed at the sun into the fading night?

You better slow down.
Don’t dance so fast.
Time is short.
The music won’t last.



Do you run through each day on the fly?
When you ask “how are you?” do you hear the reply?
When the day is done, do you lie in your bed,
with the next hundred chores running through your head?

You’d better slow down.
Don’t dance so fast.
Time is short.
The music won’t last.



Ever told your child, we’ll do it tomorrow?
And in your haste, not see his sorrow?
Ever lost touch, let a good friendship die...
cause you never had time to call and say “Hi”?

You’d better slow down,
Don’t dance so fast.
Time is short.
The music won’t last.



When you run so fast to get somewhere,
You miss half the fun of getting there.
When you worry and hurry through your day,
it is like an unopened gift thrown away.

Life is not a race.
Do take it slower.
Hear the music,
before the song is over.

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Saturday, June 29, 2019

4:00pm—Mary Keane (Lock Family)

Sunday, June 30, 2019

7:30am—Albert Mazzone (Family)

9:30am—Edward Surges (Family)

11:30am—Donald Campbell (Rayas Family)

Monday, July 1, 2019

8:00am—Nellie Shaughnessy (Family)

Tuesday, July 2, 2019

8:00am—Joseph Lesker (Diane Biondo)

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

Wednesday, July 3, 2019

8:00am—Anthony, Josephine & Laura Pelegrino (Family)

Thursday, July 4, 2019

9:00am—Rak & Sutkowski Family (Sutkowski Family)

9:00am—Sgt. Omar Saucedo (Mother)

Friday, July 5, 2019

8:00am—Agnes Kozicki (Family)

Saturday, July 6, 2019

8:00am—Louis Rapacz (Peg)

4:00pm—Gloria & Raul Parra (Almendarez Family)

Sunday, July 7, 2019

7:30am—Michael Rizzo (Family)

9:30am—Mary Babich (Marie Zilka)

9:30am—Dennis Berg (Castellano & Niec Families)

11:30am—James G. Uher (Family)



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

Mitchell Gallas
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

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
Michael Glaubke—Special Intention
John Glaubke—Special Intention
Marty Anderson, Jr.—Special Intention
Lorraine Nowak—Special Intention
Pat Sheeran—Special Intention
John LeCompte—Special Intention
Mary Ellen Kaczmar—Special Intention
James Murphy—Health Intention
Cheryl Murphy—Health Intention
In Loving Memory of James & Loretta Haresek
& Daughter Anastasia

On a thundering rainy day, Mom went to pick up her six year old son from school thinking that he will fear the lightning. But she found him smiling at the sky for every lightning strike. She asks, “Why are you smiling?”

Son: “God is taking my pictures & I need to look good.”

Life is simple—we complicate it.

June 22/23, 2019 Offering

Total envelopes	\$3,058.00
Total loose cash	\$ 765.00
Total Sunday Giving	\$3,823.00
Easter 2019 Collection	\$13,981.00

Thank you for your generosity!



Altar & Rosary Society Cleaning Schedule
July 5/6 - 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

Adam Chlebek
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

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 July 6, 2019	7:30AM July 7, 2019	9:30AM July 7, 2019	11:30AM July 7, 2019
	Diane Biondo Frank Zalewski Dan Bartusiak Linda Dobias Nancy Gunnell	Jack Kenney Amy Shanahan Alice Shaer Mary Sarlitto	Teena Smith Kay Marks Jack Orsi Joan Orsi Marie Zilka	Carole Dill Mark Dill John Stropolis Ben Shafer Charlie Murphy
	Jeannine Lascola	Amy Shanahan	Barb Grzenia	Cathy Kordelewski

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