

St. Rene Goupil Catholic Community  
January 7, 2024

MAGI FROM THE EAST



“

**WHERE IS  
THE NEWBORN  
KING OF  
THE JEWS?**

”



- THREE WISE MEN

## Notes from Fr. Steve

The Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated on January 6th, marks the revelation of Jesus Christ and the Gentiles, symbolized by the arrival of the Wise Men or Magi from the East. Their pilgrimage, guided by a star, led them to the humble manger in Bethlehem, where they recognized the divine presence in the infant Jesus. This moment of revelation is not merely a historical event but a timeless narrative that resonates in our lives today.

In a world often shrouded in uncertainty and ambiguity, the Epiphany beckons us to seek moments of illumination. It encourages us to embark on our own spiritual journeys, navigating the complexities of life with the hope of discovering deeper meaning and purpose. Much like the Magi following the guiding star, we are called to discern our own guiding lights—values, principles, and aspirations that lead us towards a more profound understanding of ourselves and the world around us.

The Epiphany also serves as a reminder of the universality of divine revelation. The Magi were not of the same culture or tradition as the Holy Family, yet they recognized and honored the sacredness that transcended boundaries. In our daily interactions, the feast challenges us to embrace the diversity that enriches our communities, fostering unity and understanding. It encourages us to recognize the divine spark in every individual, regardless of their background or beliefs.

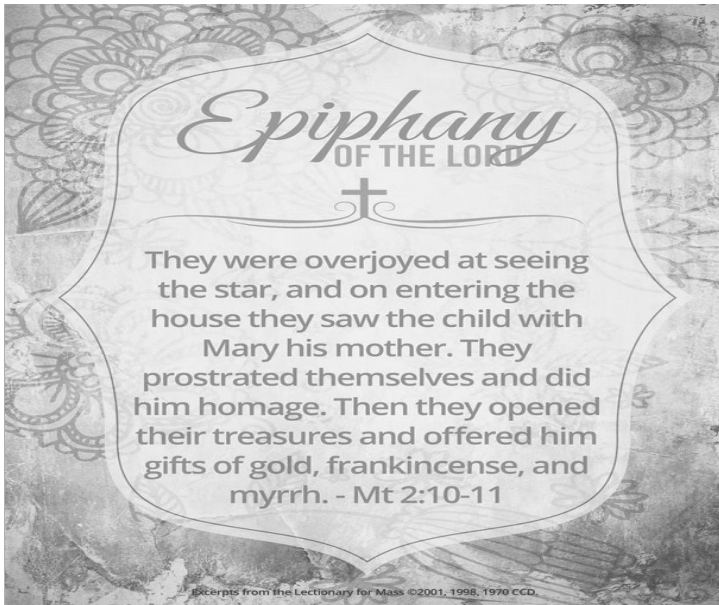
Furthermore, the act of gift-giving by the Magi holds a symbolic lesson for our daily lives. The precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh represent an offering of wealth, worship, and sacrifice. As we navigate our own journeys, the Epiphany invites us to consider the gifts we bring to the world—acts of kindness, generosity, and selflessness. By contributing our unique talents and resources, we play a role in illuminating the lives of those around us.

In embracing the lessons of the Epiphany, we find inspiration to live with intention and purpose. The feast challenges us to embark on a continual quest for self-discovery, to recognize the sacred in the midst of the ordinary, and to foster unity in our diverse world. As we move forward into the new year, may the light of the Epiphany guide our paths, leading us towards greater understanding, compassion, and joy in our daily lives.

Several weeks ago, I made you aware that the IRS had suspended our tax exempt number, resulting from a clerical error the archdiocese made in the “new incorporation” of the parish. Anyway, the good news is that one of our parishioners, took the matter to the IRS and remedied the situation.

As always please pray for the parish especially the sick and the suffering, your prayers bring them healing, comfort and peace. Happy Epiphany!

Fr. Steve



### The Epiphany of the Lord

Today, in St. Matthew’s Gospel, the evangelist retells the story of the Magi visiting the Christ-child, the newborn King. In this initial meeting, they were overwhelmed, and in response, venerate our Lord prostrating themselves, face down. The Magi open their treasures and offer Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These gifts foreshadow Christ’s royalty, divinity, and suffering. The Scripture passages from Isaiah and St. Paul further convey that the Good News of salvation is to be proclaimed to all people. Do we, as faithful stewards strive to follow the Magi’s example of offering adoration, praise, and glory to God? Do we, in thanksgiving, embrace the Good News, deepening our personal relationship in Christ? Then, in turn, spread His joy, peace, and message of hope and salvation to all those we meet? To encounter Christ, plan to attend Alpha or a similar evangelization event offered at your parish.

### GOSPEL MEDITATION

#### The Epiphany of the Lord

A stranger in a foreign land, I was exhausted and homesick as my summer Spanish immersion ended in Guatemala. The rusty minivan arriving outside my small residence filled me with joyful hope. I was flying home to the U.S. and would be, at long last, completely happy. Or so I thought. After about half an hour of being home, I thought to myself, “This place is boring. I want to go somewhere.” So, I hopped in my car and left to see my friends. As I drove, I wistfully wondered, “Where am I *truly* at home?”

The feast of Epiphany has a lot to do with our notion of home. Where is our origin? Where are we going? When is our wandering done? Saint Matthew tells us of the Magi, “**They were overjoyed at seeing the star.**” This star will bring them *home*, to a place where their questing will end, and they will be satisfied. Their real home is neither in the East nor in the earthly Jerusalem. Somehow, their home is wherever this boy and his parents are.

If you’re a teenager or older, you probably know by now that every physical home we have is temporary. So, we look up at the countless stars in our proverbial skies: things which bedazzle and beckon us to follow toward peace. The Gospel invites us to behold that — at long last — God has sent us a star to follow home, one that whispers, “Follow me! I will take you home!” Perhaps that star is your spouse. A friend. An opportunity. A cause. An intuition about a new direction. A prayer group. What is it for you? How will you know? It will lead you to Mary and Joseph and their son, and you will be home.

— *Father John Muir*



# Readings for the Week

©LPI

**Sunday, January 7, 2024:**Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

**Monday, January 8, 2024:**Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

**Tuesday, January 9, 2024:**1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

**Wednesday, January 10, 2024:**1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

**Thursday, January 11, 2024:**1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

**Friday, January 12, 2024:**1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

**Saturday, January 13, 2024:**1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

**Sunday, January 14, 2024:**1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10 (8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/  
Jn 1:35-42

## HOMAGE



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage.

MATTHEW 2:10-11A

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass. ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPI



Wishing you  
a *blessed*  
New Year

You now can donate to St. Rene Goupil using your cell phone! Just take a picture of the QR code in the gathering space or in the bulletin; it will automatically link you to the St. Rene donation site. Enter the amount you wish to donate, card information and press the "Pay" button. It's that simple! We thank you for your generosity.



SCAN CODE TO DONATE TO ST. RENE GOUPIL



©LPI

## Readings for The Epiphany of the Lord

### Reading I

*Isaiah 60:1-6*

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds covers the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

### Reading II

*Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6*

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

### Gospel

*Matthew 2:1-12*

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was gently troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judaea, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

# MASS INTENTIONS

**Tuesday, January 9, 2024**

**9:30 a.m.**

+Rudy Pomper Jr.  
+Giuseppe & Concetta DiStefano  
Ricardo Martinez, Jr.

**Thursday, January 11, 2024**

**9:30 a.m.**

Ricardo Martinez, Jr.  
Br. Steve Badalament  
Sr. Kimberley Smith

**Friday, January 12, 2024**

**9:30 a.m.**

+Brandon Telly  
Special Intention of Bibiane Gagnon  
Ricardo Martinez, Jr.

**Saturday, January 13, 2024**

**4:00 p.m.**

+Felix & Rita Gatt  
+Mary Jean Calmi  
+Franklin Langenstein  
+Steven Herbert  
+Marlene Breaz  
+Don Szymanski (1st R.A.)  
Ricardo Martinez, Jr.  
+Fred Schulte

**Sunday, January 14, 2024**

**8:30 a.m.**

+Sharon Murawski  
+Mary Schultz (20th R.A.)  
Ricardo Martinez, Jr.

**10:30 a.m.**

+Dave Willick  
+Michael Buffmyer  
For the intentions of the Knights of Columbus, St. Nicholas Council & their families

**5:30 p.m.**

Living & Deceased Members of St. Rene Goupil Parish



Please Remember  
St. Rene Goupil Parish  
In Your Will

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

### Wise Men See God in the Simple Things

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort — rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

### EPIPHANY



SPIDER WEBB! © 2002

**Weekend Liturgy Schedule for January 13 & 14**

|                              | <b>Saturday<br/>4:00PM</b>   | <b>Sunday<br/>8:30 AM</b>   | <b>Sunday<br/>10:30 AM</b>  | <b>Sunday<br/>5:30 PM</b>                                    |
|------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Presider</b>              | Fr. Steve  | Fr. Joy   | Fr. Steve   | Fr. Tim  |
| <b>Lector</b>                | Dorothy Arche  | Jovita Engalan  | Dori Fooy   | Virginia Jennings  |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>         | Isabella Gonzalez<br>Nathan Gonzalez   | Karin Nieto   | Owen Brink  |  |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b> | M Passalacqua<br>L Youkhana<br>Open  | Open<br>Open<br>Open  | A Sitchon<br>F Sitchon<br>Open  | Open<br>Open<br>Open   |
| <b>Ushers</b>                | Tom Pluta<br>Bill Broaddus<br>Dave Hintz<br>Todd Messineo<br>Karen Messineo<br>Nick Rieser<br>Jim Moravek<br>Omar Oszust<br>Gary Novelli | Tom Dutkiewicz<br>Luis Nieto<br>Al Gyenese<br>Mike Kazyak<br>Ed Stivers<br>Sharon Olszewski | Terry Shaughnessy<br>Tom Fooy<br>Ralph Fackler<br>Wilmar Suan<br>Joe Meli<br>Chrisie Fish<br>Chris Norris | Paul Hornung<br>Mike Galuszka<br>Ofelia Fermil<br>Fred Rossi |
| <b>Sacristan</b>             | L Youkhana   | K Nieto   | T McWilliams  | V Jennings   |



St. Rene St. Vincent de Paul helps with utility bills, clothing, household items, food and in certain cases evictions. If you know of anyone who needs help, please have them call (586) 718-4523. They do not need to be parish members. All information is kept strictly confidential.

**The St. Vincent de Paul food pantry is in need of the following items:**

**Tuna, cereal, pasta sauce in Jars, pancake syrup, white rice and spaghetti.**

**Everyday Stewardship**

My mother-in-law was the best gift-giver I ever knew. One could say my parents spoiled me growing up, but there was something about her gifts to me that made me feel overwhelmed. I guess it was that after several years I still was surprised that she would think enough of me to get me something no one else would. She was able to make me feel special every time. Of course, I believe she honored me in this way because I accepted her greatest gift to me, her daughter.

Sadly, my mother-in-law did not live long in this world. She passed away over a decade ago due to an aggressive cancer. Some of her material gifts to me remain, while others are long gone. But the memories and the effect of those gifts remain because it was never all about the gifts themselves. It was about relationship. It was about her and me. It was about love.

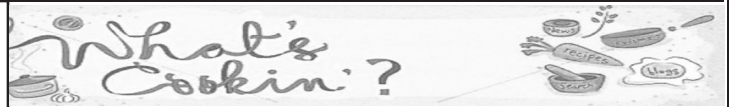
What we offer Jesus is never about the gift itself. It is about the motivation behind the action and the effect that action has on the body of Christ. Many of the gifts we give today to God and his people will fade away like the mist of the early morning, but the effects of those actions will last forever. It is about relationship. It is about God and us. It is about love.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

**STAY CONNECTED**

I encourage you to sign up for this resource and make use of the Bible studies, faith formation opportunities, and Catholic movies available. Signing up only takes a few easy steps:

1. Visit [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) and click "Sign up."
2. Click "I belong to a Parish or Organization."
3. Type "Faith at Home Detroit" in the center box under Create New Account. (You'll see it populate from the drop-down menu.) Click "Next."
4. Enter your first and last name as well as your email.
5. Now you're registered! You can also download the app on you Smartphone. If you need further assistance, contact *Formed* at [www.help.formed.org](http://www.help.formed.org) or toll-free at 844-367-6331.



**Sticky Buns**

- 1 (3 1/2 oz.) pkg. regular (not instant) butterscotch pudding
- 1 cup crushed pecans or walnuts
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 stick butter or margarine (melted)
- 2 loaves frozen bread dough

Mix dry ingredients and set aside. Cut partially thawed dough into 16 slices (8 slices per loaf). Place 8 slices in a 9x13 pan. Pour half of the melted butter and half of the dry ingredients over the dough. Place remaining dough in spaces. Pour the rest of the butter and dry ingredients over it. Cover and refrigerate the day before. Bake a 350 F for 30 minutes. Serve while warm.

**PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH**

TO YOU GOD ENTRUSTED HIS ONLY SON;

IN YOU MARY PLACED HER TRUST;

WITH YOU CHRIST BECAME MAN.

OBTAIN FOR US GRACE, MERCY

AND COURAGE. AMEN.

- POPE FRANCIS



[eucharisticrevival.org](http://eucharisticrevival.org)



**Our Sunday Offering  
December 30 & 31  
Thank you for your  
generous response.**

**God Bless you!**

If you wish to read the bulletin it can be found online at [Parishesonline.com](http://Parishesonline.com) then search by zip code. You can go online to the [aod.org/live masses](http://aod.org/live masses) to find Weekday and Weekend Masses that can be watched.







**We are in need of Sacristans and Eucharistic Ministers. If anyone is interested, please contact Gordon Yeck at (810)343-2954.**

**We are in need of Ushers at the 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Masses. If you are interested in Ushering, please see one of the Ushers.**

**Altar Server training  
Anyone young or adult who would like to serve at the altar is invited to a training session. Please come serve at the altar!  
Date & Time to be announced!**

The names for the prayer list for the sick is now done by personal intercession. Please drop the names of those needing prayers for healing in the petition box in the gathering area. We are asking that you take 2 names from the basket and pray for those people by name every day for four weeks. If an emergency comes up please call the parish office and we will get members of the community to pray and offer intercessions for them at daily mass.

**Please Pray for the Family Members of our Parishioners serving in the Military:**

Josey Blades (Air Force)  
Airman 1st Julie M. Chervon  
Spc. Shaen Connery (Army)  
P.O. 1st Dale A. Foglyano  
Nicholas Foglyano (Army)  
P.O. 2nd Nicolas Fooy (Navy)  
Lt Col David Fries  
Maj. Laura Geldhof  
Joe Gill, Navy  
Staff Sgt. Nicole R. Grenon  
Christopher Grubby (Navy)

Pfc. Kevin Heath  
Lt. Christopher Kerr  
Pfc. Paul Koss (Marines)  
Lt. Joseph Kraft  
Sgt. Joseph Kucharek (Army)  
Sgt. Chris Libeck  
Mark Locricchio (Army)  
Sgt. Sean McDowell (Army)  
LCPL Miguel Menzer  
SPC Matthew Muellenhagen  
Maj. Eric Olson  
Chief Daniel Przybylinski

(Navy)  
Justin Quinn (Marines)  
Anthony Roszko (Army)  
Lt. Greg Siuta  
Maj. Allison Stewart  
Sgt Tomas R. Studholme, Jr.  
ISG Robert Sutton  
Sgt. Matthew Sweetman  
Joel Vasquez, (Navy Seal)

**Prayer for Those Serving in the Military**

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us.  
Bless them and their families for their selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need.  
Amen.

**Adoration Chapel**



In the documents of the Second Vatican Council, the Church Fathers describe the Eucharist as: "The source and summit of the Christian life. The term "Eucharist" originates in the Greek word Eucharistia, meaning thanksgiving.

"Take; this is my body" Mark 14:22

1. The real presence of Christ in the Eucharist is real, true and substantial.
2. "It is called the Eucharist because it is an action of thanksgiving to God." (CCC. No. 1328)
3. "Jesus awaits us in the sacrament of love." (St. John Paul II, Dominicae cene, no. 3)
4. Eucharist makes the one present sacrifice of Christ the Savior." (CCC, no. 1330)

If you would like to take the opportunity to be still and listen to God (without worldly interruptions), we have need for almost every hour to have a second adorer, thereby making less the need for a substitute. It is a sacrifice being Catholic in our world today, you need contemplation and the grace to make you holy. Please call Mary Peterson to sign up at (586)979-1469 or (586)738-1154.

**Uncommitted Hours  
Tuesday 1pm & 2pm  
Friday 4pm  
TAKE TIME FOR PRAYER!**

## SAINT RENE GOUPIL Catholic Church

35955 Ryan Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48310  
(586) 939-7500  
Fax (586) 939-7839

Office Hours  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Closed 12 Noon—1:00 p.m. Lunch  
Friday 9:00 a.m. - Noon

### Pastoral Staff

Rev. Steven Koehler, Pastor  
Rev. Joy Chakian, Associate  
Rev. Mr. John Ball, Deacon  
Rev. Mr. Kevin Tietz, Deacon  
Michael Novak,  
Director of Evangelization & Education  
Alexander Sunga  
Director of Worship & Music

### ORGANIZATIONS & SERVICES

**Legion of Mary**  
*Mary Peterson (586) 979-1469*  
**Divine Mercy**  
*Diane Broaddus (586) 977-1978*  
**Ushers**  
*Al Gyenese (586) 808-3128*  
**Perpetual Adoration**  
*Mary Peterson (586) 979-1469*  
**Catholic Social Services  
of Macomb**  
*Clinton Twp. (586) 416-2300*  
**St. Vincent de Paul (Poverty Help)**  
*(586) 718-4523*  
**Joseph White, Grand Knight, K of C**  
*(586) 556-2122*

### Weekend Liturgy Schedule

Saturday 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday 8:30 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.  
5:30 p.m.

### Weekday Mass

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:30 a.m.

### Confessions

3:00 p.m. every Saturday

## WELCOME

If you have attended Mass at St. Rene and would like to become a member, please visit our parish office where you can register and discuss all of the wonderful ways to grow in faith through Christian Service, Worship, Youth Ministry, Outreach, Faith Formation, and in our Adoration Chapel. For more information call 586-939-7500.

## St. Rene Mission Statement

St. Rene Goupil Parish is a Catholic Community, dedicated to strengthening the faith and love of its people. Our mission is to proclaim that Jesus is Lord, to celebrate His Presence, and to reach out to others in His name.

### Parish Registration:

Welcome to all new families/individuals. Please register as soon as possible. Membership is a condition for the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation and Marriage. Registration is also required before the parish can issue a sponsorship certificate for those asked to be a sacramental sponsor. Registration forms are available in the Parish Office.

### Baptism:

Baptisms are celebrated the third Sunday of the month at 12:00 p.m. A parent preparation class is mandatory. Classes are held on the fourth Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call the Parish Office during weekday office hours to register for a class.

**Penance:** Saturday 3:00 p.m. Special schedules for Advent and Lent.

### Marriage:

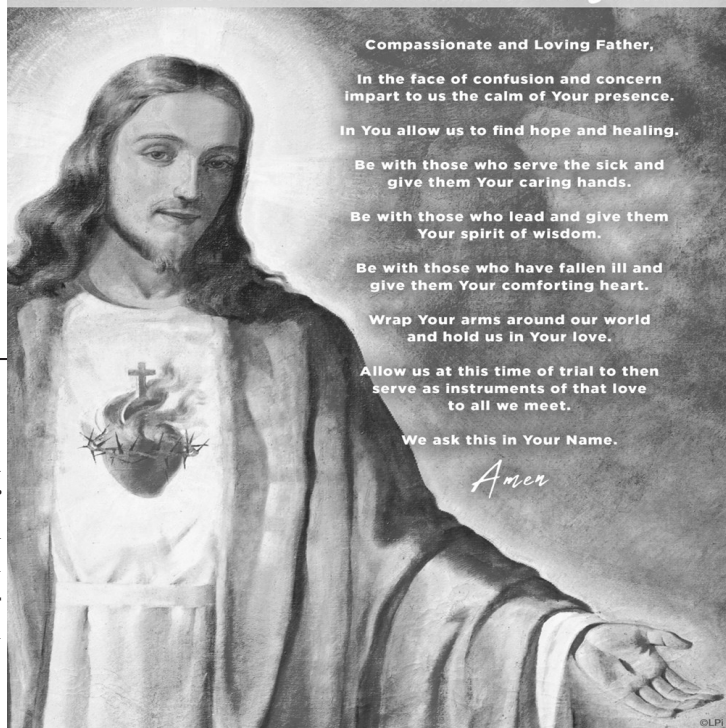
Arrangements must be made through the Parish Office at least six months prior to the desired wedding date. One person of the couple must be an active, registered member of St. Rene Goupil Parish for six months.

### Anointing of the Sick:

On request or by appointment through the Parish Office.

## Remember in Your Prayers

ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



Compassionate and Loving Father,

In the face of confusion and concern  
impart to us the calm of Your presence.

In You allow us to find hope and healing.

Be with those who serve the sick and  
give them Your caring hands.

Be with those who lead and give them  
Your spirit of wisdom.

Be with those who have fallen ill and  
give them Your comforting heart.

Wrap Your arms around our world  
and hold us in Your love.

Allow us at this time of trial to then  
serve as instruments of that love  
to all we meet.

We ask this in Your Name.

*Amen*