St. Rene Goupil Catholic Community February 25, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Notes from Fr. Steve

As we begin the season of Lent, it's essential to delve into its rich history within the Catholic tradition. Lent, originating from the Anglo-Saxon word len(c)ten, meaning "spring season," holds profound significance in the liturgical calendar, symbolizing a period of spiritual renewal, repentance, and preparation for the celebration of Easter.

The roots of Lent trace back to the early centuries of Christianity. While the duration and practices associated with Lent have evolved over time, its core principles remain grounded in biblical and historical contexts. One of the earliest references to a period of fasting and preparation for Easter dates back to the second century. However, it wasn't until the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD that the 40-day period of Lent, mirroring Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the wilderness, became established in the Church.

Throughout the medieval period, Lent became more structured, with specific fasting regulations and penitential practices enforced by the Church. This period was characterized by intense fasting, abstinence from meat, and heightened emphasis on prayer, almsgiving, and self-examination. Lent was not only a time of individual spiritual discipline but also a communal journey for believers to purify their hearts and deepen their relationship with God.

The season of Lent underwent further development during the Counter-Reformation, as the Church sought to reinvigorate practices in response to the Protestant Reformation. The emphasis on Lenten observances, such as Stations of the Cross, the Three Pillars of Lent (prayer, fasting, and almsgiving), and the sacrament of reconciliation, became more pronounced during this period.

In modern times, while the strict regulations surrounding Lent have relaxed to some extent, the fundamental purpose of the season remains unchanged. Lent continues to serve as a time of spiritual introspection, where Catholics are invited to examine their lives, repent their sins, and turn towards God with renewed fevor and commitment. It is a season of hope, as we anticipate the joy of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Today, the observance of Lent varies among Catholics worldwide, reflecting cultural, regional, and personal differences. Some may choose to abstain from certain foods, while others may incorporate additional acts of charity or attend daily Mass. Regardless of the specific practices observed, Lent offers believers an opportunity to deepen their faith, grow in virtue, and journey together as a community of believers.

As we embark on this Lenten journey, may we embrace the traditions and spiritual disciplines that have sustained the faithful throughout the centuries. Let us open our hearts to God's grace, seeking transformation and renewal as we walk alongside Christ towards the joy of Easter morning.

I hope this Lent is a "spiritual spring" for everyone. Please consider coming to daily mass, and to pray the stations of the cross this Lent. As always, I ask you to remember to pray for the parish, especially the sick and the suffering, your prayers bring them healing, comfort and peace. May God bless you and those you love.

Fr. Steve



Friday's during Lent After the 9:30 a.m. Mass and 7:00 p.m.



Lenten Guidelines

- 1. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday: These are days for fasting and abstinence. Fasting involves limiting oneself to one full meal and two smaller meals that, when combined, do not equal a full meal. Abstinence means refraining from eating meat.
- 2. **Days of Abstinence:** All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence, where Catholics are required to refrain from eating meat.
- 3. Age requirement: Fasting is required for all Catholics who are between the ages of 18 and 59. Abstinence from meat is required for all Catholics age 14 and older.
- 4. Exceptions: Those with health issues or other serious reasons, as well as pregnant or nursing women, are exempt from the fasting and abstinence rules. However, individuals are encouraged to substitute other acts of penance or charity if they cannot observe these rules.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

2nd Sunday of Lent

As a college student, my prized possession was an aftermarket car stereo. It was my pride and joy: glorious audio, eye -catching display screen, and multi-disc CD changer. It drained my hard-earned dollars, but it was totally worth it. It drenched me in music everywhere I drove. On Ash Wednesday of my senior year of college, Father Tom, the Jesuit priest at my university said, "Pray for God to tell you what he wants you to sacrifice for Lent." I did. In my heart, the answer came: "Give up listening to your car stereo for forty days." I winced. Not possible, I thought. Can't do it. I made other plans. The next morning, I was stunned to find that my car had been broken into, and my fancy stereo ripped out and stolen.

God's command to sacrifice what we love is no joke. This week in Genesis 22, God says: "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love — Isaac — and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." Believe me, I know. We like to be in control. It chaffs us that *God sets the terms* of what we must sacrifice, and how. But this is no impersonal, tyrannical process. Remember that God uses their names, Abraham and Isaac. God knows each one of us and the precious gifts He commands us to offer. Finally, our sacrifices are for our own good. Do we trust this enough to do what Father Tom asked me to do?

Lenten challenge: This week, I dare you to ask God: "What do you want me to give up?" He may ask for that which you love most. It will be something precious to you: time, money, a relationship, a dream, an opportunity. What matters is we trust Him and act sacrificially in line with His command. Whatever we sacrifice will of course come back to us as surely as the Risen Jesus — but that doesn't make it easy.

– Father John Muir

Second Sunday of Lent

The topic of sacrifice links today's First and Second Readings. In Genesis, Sarah and Abraham are blessed in their older years with their only son, Isaac. God tests Abraham by directing him to sacrifice Isaac. As Abraham is about to follow through, a messenger from heaven proclaims: Abraham, Abraham!...Do not lay your hand on the boy...Abraham offers a ram in place of his son. To encourage the Christian community in Rome, St. Paul reminds them that God sacrificed His only Son...who intercedes for us. In St. Mark's Gospel, the evangelist tells of Christ's Transfiguration, where God the Father clearly reveals Jesus in His glorified state. Jesus then alludes to Peter, James and John of His death and Resurrection. Our own giving of the "First fruits" of our prayer, service, and generosity back to God, our parish, and our neighbor, are solid acts of Christian love. Sacrifice brings great joy, peace, and grace to those who embrace stewardship in their lives. This Lent, in a spirit of evangelization, pause and reflect on how you can use your God-given gifts to spread the Good News of the Gospel.

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.



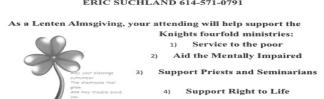
CAN CODE TO DONATE TO ST. RENE GOUPIL



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST. NICHOLAS COUNCIL PRESENTS

ST PATRICK'S DAY MEAL TRADITIONAL CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE

DINNER SERVED FAMILY STYLE SATURDAY, MARCH 16TH 2024 DOORS OPEN AT 6:00pm DINNER AT 6:30pm AT Ss. CYRIL & METHODIUS FR. MIKUS HALL \$20 PER PERSON / REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED PURCHASE TICKETS IN PARISH OFFICE OR CONTACT JOSEPH WHITE 586-556-2122 ERIC SUCHLAND 614-571-0791



2nd Sunday of Lent

Today we are following Jesus up on a high mountain with Peter, James, and John. There they see Jesus "transfigured," his face like the sun and his clothes as white as light. Jesus is there conversing with Moses and Elijah.

What are we to make of this image of Jesus, the earthly teacher of this small band of disciples? They were merely followers of a teacher, a rabbi. When they see this and hear a voice proclaiming, "This is my beloved Son..." they begin to realize this man is more than just a rabbi. However, Jesus tells them to keep this a secret until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.

Well, they have no idea what this means. Therefore, they continue to follow him as if he was just a human, a teacher. However, we live in the time after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead. Now it is we who must proclaim the good news of Jesus, the Son of God the Father.

Take this week and think about how, in your own way, can proclaim through your words and deeds the Jesus is your savior, your teacher, and rabbi.

Everyday Stewardship

When Sacrifice Becomes Mundane

It seems to happen every year, like clockwork: we drag a bit, as we enter into the second week of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we feel a bit like soldiers banging our shields, rushing into battle. "We're ready, God!" our hearts cry out. "Transform us through sacrifice! Your will be done!"

But by now, these Lenten resolutions are no longer novelties they've joined the ranks of everyday inconveniences, which somehow are the hardest to bear. Because transformation, in real life, happens in inches, just as a battle is won slowly in the crash of one sword against another. It's not always a dramatic thing, to the naked eye. It's the perseverance in prayer despite weariness, or the continual denial of some pleasure even though there's that nagging voice in our minds saying: *go ahead, God doesn't really mind*.

It's a week when we all need a shock to the system — and wouldn't you know it, this Sunday God gives us a doublewhammy of dramatic sacrificial scenes. We picture Abraham, who also cried "Ready!" when God called, never imagining what He would ask: the surrender of his long-awaited son. We see Christ himself transfigured, as God shows us what He is ready to give up for love of us.

We must remain committed, persevering daily in acknowledging that everything belongs to God. What we sacrifice, we simply give back to Him.

If God is for us, who can be against us? Can we still reply, "Ready!" when we hear the call of God?

– Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Lenten Daily Prayer

As we embark in this sacred journey of Lent, guide us with Your divine presence. Grant us the strength to embrace self-reflection and repentance, acknowledging our shortcomings with humility.

In these 40 days of Lent, help us grow closer to You through prayer, fasting, and acts of kindness. May we be mindful of the sacrifice Your Son made for our salvation, and may it inspire us to live with greater love and compassion.

Lord grant us the wisdom to discern Your will and the courage to follow it. May this season be a time of spiritual renewal, drawing us nearer to Your grace and mercy.

We entrust our Lenten journey to Your loving care, confident that Your mercy is abundant. May our hearts be transformed, and may we emerge from this season more deeply connected to You and to one another.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, we pray.

Amen.

Page 5

Readings for Second Sunday of Lent

Reading I

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am!" he replied. Then God said: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you." When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD'S messenger called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" "Here I am!" he answered. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son. Again the LORD'S messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing— all this because you obeyed my command." God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am!" he replied. Then God said: "Take your this because you obeyed my command."

Reading II *Romans 8:31b-34*

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died—or, rather, who raised—who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

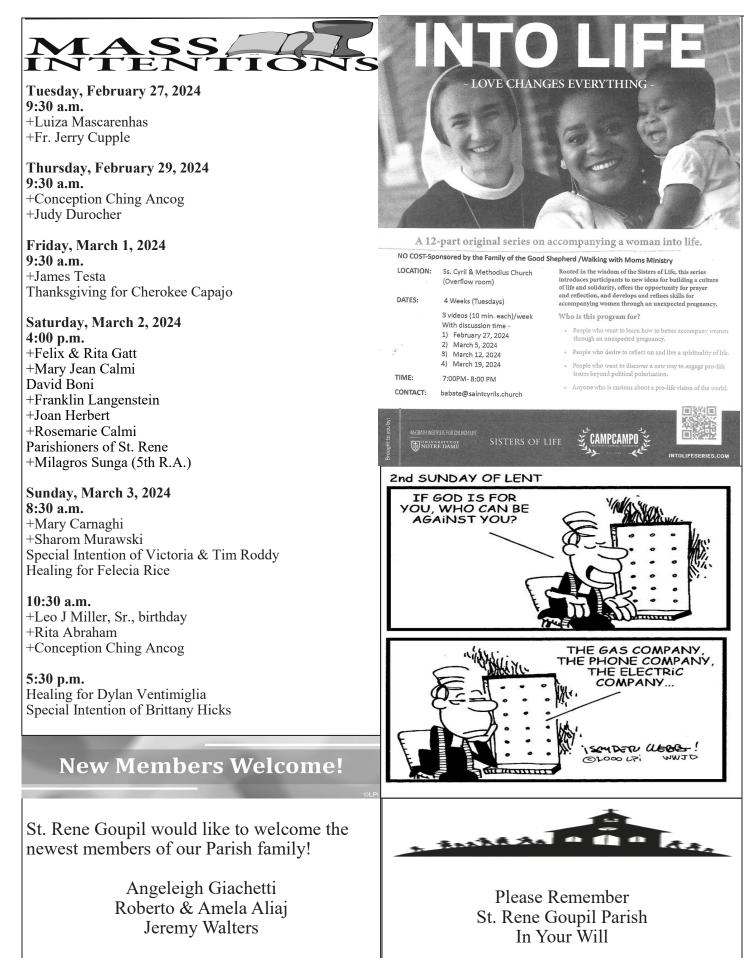
Gospel Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took Peter, James and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to an-yone, except the Son of the Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.



Sunday, February 25, 2024: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/ Mk 9:2-10

Monday, February 26, 2024: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38 Tuesday, February 27, 2024: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12 Wednesday, February 28, 2024: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/Mt 20:17-28 Thursday, February 29, 2024: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31 Friday, March 1, 2024: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46 Saturday, March 2, 2024: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 Sunday, March 3, 2024: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25 Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/ Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42



Weekend Liturgy Schedule for March 2 & 3				
	Saturday 4:00PM	Sunday 8:30 AM	Sunday 10:30 AM	Sunday 5:30 PM
Presider	Fr. Steve	Fr. Joy	Fr. Steve	Fr. Enno
Lector	Ricky Yulo	Rob Wilson	Corina Sison	Virginia Jennings
Altar Servers	Lance Tolentino	Karin Nieto	Eli Wing-Nga	
Eucharistic Ministers	M Passalacqua L Youkhana Open	Open Open Open	E Monterio H DeVera Open	Open Open Open
Ushers	<u>Tom Pluta</u> Dave Hintz Todd Messineo Karen Messineo Nick Rieser Jim Moravek Omar Oszust Gary Novelli	Tom Dutkiewicz Luis Nieto Al Gyenese Mike Kazyak Ed Stivers Sharon Olszewski	<u>Terry Shaughnessy</u> Tom Fooy Ralph Fackler Wilmar Suan Joe Meli Chrisie Fish Chris Norris	<u>Paul Hornung</u> Mike Galuszka Ofelia Fermil Fred Rossi
Sacristan	L Youkhana	G Wiklanski	C Sison	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 <u>do not need</u> to be parish members. All information is kept strictly confidential.

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

Cooking oil, laundry detergent, salad dressing, tooth brushes, bar soap and shampoo.





Please join in a Eucharistic Revival Mission to be held Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings on February 25-26-27. The first evening a talk will be given by Fr. Jim Lowe, C.C., followed by confessions and adoration, hosted at St. Margaret Parish, St. Clair Shores. Monday evening Fr. David Preuss, OFM Capuchin will give a talk at St. Pio Parish, Roseville bringing with him a relic of Blessed Solanus Casey for our veneration and intercession; and Tuesday evening the mission will conclude with Mass with Bishop Jeffrey Monforton at Our Lady of Hope Parish, St. Clair Shores. All talks take place at 6:30 pm.

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 <u>www.formed.org</u> 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 <u>www.help.formed.org</u> or toll-free at 844-367-6331.



It is that time of year again...time for our annual Lenten Towel Project. We will be collecting brand new bath towels and washcloths during the Lenten season; from Ash Wednesday until Good Friday. These may be placed in the wooden bin near the library. These shelters are so appreciative of the help we provide every year.

The towels and washcloths will once again be distributed to the Salvation Army's MATTS (Macomb's Answer To Temporary Shelter) program and Turning Point (a shelter for abused women and children).

Lent is a wonderful time of prayer and sacrifice. Please pray to see if it is in your heart to give a little help to these people who need so much.

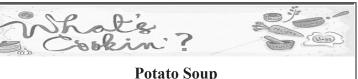
May God bless you this Lent.



Our Sunday Offering February 17 & 18 Thank you for your generous response.

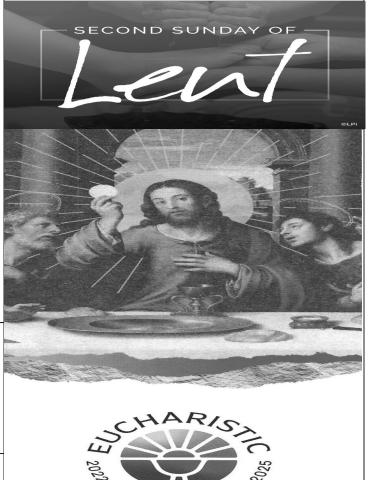
God Bless you!

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



4 med. Potatoes, chopped 2 celery sticks, chopped 1 carrot, chopped 1 sm. Onion, chopped 2 c. water 2 chicken bouillon cubes 2 tbsp. margarine 1 tsp. salt 1/8 tsp. pepper 1/4 tsp. parsley 1 tsp. caraway seeds 1 pt. half and half

Combine all ingredients (except half and half) in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Cook until potatoes and carrots are done (approximately 1/2 hour). Add half and half and simmer 5 minutes. Makes approximately 6 servings.



eucharisticrevival.org



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.



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!

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 Libecki 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.



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 aneed 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. - 3:00 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.

All those affected by the coronavirus throughout the world

