



GLORY
TO GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST
AND ON
EARTH
PEACE TO
THOSE
ON WHOM
HIS FAVOR
RESTS.

LUKE 2:14

St. Rene Goupil Catholic Community
December 24, 2023

Notes from Fr. Steve

As the wintery winds embrace the land and the stars twinkle in the night sky, our hearts turn to a timeless story, one that echoes through the ages—the story of Christmas. In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, verses 1-14, we find the beautiful story of the birth of Jesus Christ, a story that encapsulates the essence of hope, joy, and divine love for all people.

The passage begins with the setting—a decree from Caesar Augustus, summoning a census of the entire Roman world. Mary and Joseph, following the call, embarked on a journey to Bethlehem. It was in this humble town, amidst a crowded and bustling space, that the miracle of Christmas unfolded.

Guided by the hand of God, Mary gave birth to the Son of God, laying Him in a manger because there was no room in the inn. In this simple, unassuming place, the Savior of the world came into existence—a beacon of hope for all humanity.

The birth of Jesus was not announced amidst grandeur and splendor. Instead, it was heralded by celestial beings, as a multitude of angels appeared to shepherds keeping watch over their flock by night. The angels delivered a message of unparalleled significance: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” This proclamation signified the dawn of a new era—a message of peace and goodwill that reverberates through time, touching the depths of our souls this very Christmas.

The essence of Christmas lies not merely in the exchanging of gifts or the merriment that fills the air but in the profound truth it embodies—the gift of divine love, the promise of redemption, and the hope for peace on earth, which Jesus Christ alone can give us.

As we gather with family and friends this Christmas, let us reflect on the true meaning of this sacred season and the birth of Christ our Savior. Let our hearts be filled with the same joy and wonder that the shepherds experienced upon hearing the angels’ proclamation, that a “Savior has been born”. Let us embrace the spirit of love and compassion, extending kindness to all, just as God’s love extends to each of us. Then let us take this “good news” out into the world and share it as God the Father intended.

In the midst of the hustle and bustle, may we find moments of quiet reflection, remembering the miraculous birth that changed the course of history. Let us open our hearts to welcome the light of Christ, allowing it to illuminate our lives and guide our paths throughout the coming year.

This Christmas, amidst the carols and the twinkling lights, let us rejoice in the timeless message of hope, love, and peace that emanates from the humble manger in Bethlehem. For in the birth of Jesus Christ, we find the ultimate gift—the gift of God’s unfailing love for humanity.

May your Christmas be filled with the warmth of love, the joy of family, and the blessings of peace. Merry Christmas to you and yours! If you are visiting St. Rene today, we thank you for coming and we welcome you to return and celebrate with the faith community. The celebration of Christmas, is not just a day in Church, it is the reason every time we gather to celebrate the Eucharist!

On behalf of myself and the entire staff of St. Rene, we wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Fr. Steve

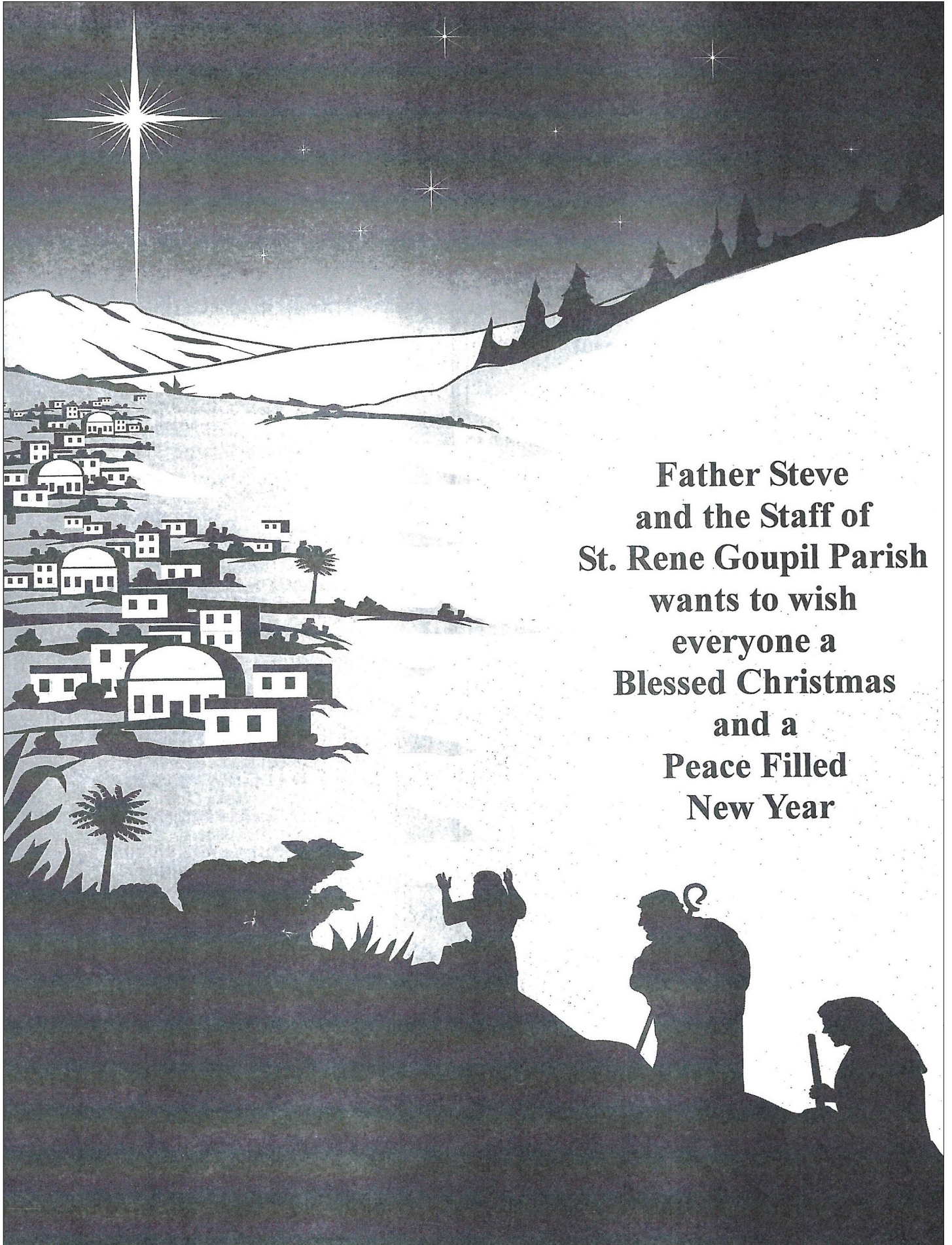
Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament



In Celebration of the
Christmas Holiday
the Adoration Chapel
will be closed on
Monday, December 25th
and
Tuesday, December 26th

HOLIDAY
OFFICE HOURS

In Celebration of the
Christmas Holiday
the office will be closed
December 25th
through
January 1st



**Father Steve
and the Staff of
St. Rene Goupil Parish
wants to wish
everyone a
Blessed Christmas
and a
Peace Filled
New Year**

Readings for the Week

Sunday, December 24, 2023: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Monday, December 25, 2023: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25
Tuesday, December 26, 2023: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
Wednesday, December 27, 2023: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Thursday, December 28, 2023: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18
Friday, December 29, 2023: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
Saturday, December 30, 2023: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
Sunday, December 31, 2023: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

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



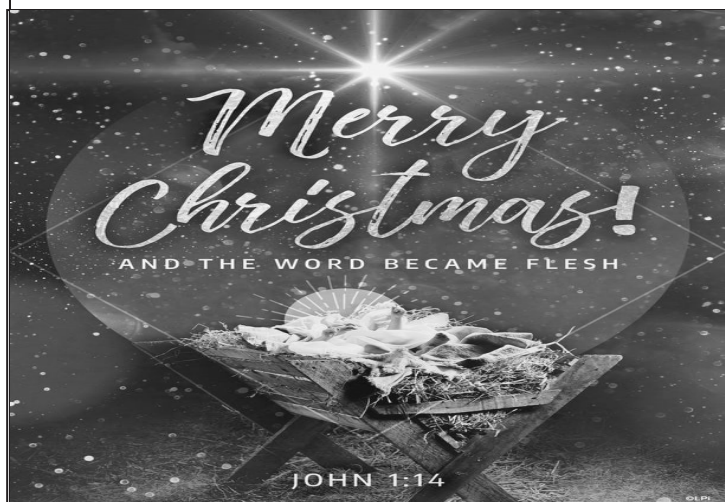
Advent Scripture Reflection Fourth Sunday in Advent

In today's Scripture passages from Second Samuel and the Gospel from the evangelist St. Luke God pledges that the line of David will be everlasting. Nathan's prophecy to David foreshadows our Blessed Virgin's acceptance of God's eternal plan of salvation. In the Gospel, the archangel Gabriel declares to Mary, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. The Messiah would be conceived in her womb and born of the house of David. The Virgin Mary fully embraces God's call and gives all to do His will. Are we, as Advent stewards, prepared to pay the price of faith-filled discipleship by following Mary's example? One way to deepen our personal relationship with Christ is through the daily reciting of the Rosary. Directions on how to pray this beautiful, Scripture based, Marian prayer can be found on the website: <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/rosary/how-to-pray-the-rosary>.

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



Readings for The Nativity of the Lord

Reading I

Isaiah 62:1-5/13

For Zion's sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her victory like a burning torch. Nations shall behold your vindication, and all the kings your glory; you shall be called by a new name pronounced by the mouth of the LORD. You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the LORD, a royal diadem held by your God. No more shall people call you "Forsaken," or your land "Desolate," but you shall be called "My Delight," and your land "Espoused." For the LORD delights in you and makes your land his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you.

Reading II

Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17, 22-25

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia and entered the synagogue, he stood up, motioned with his hand, and said, "fellow Israelites and you others who are God-fearing, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and exalted the people during their sojourn in the land of Egypt. With uplifted arm he led them out of it. Then he removed Saul and raised up David as king; of him he testified, 'I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will carry out my every wish.' From one man's descendants God, according to his promise, has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus. John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel; and as John was completing his course, he would say, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.'"

Gospel

Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham became the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salomon, Salomon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed became the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of David the king. David became the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon became the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asaph. Asaph became the father of Jehoshapat, Jehoshapat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah became the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amos, Amos the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the Babylonian exile. After the Babylonian exile, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abiud. Abiud became the father of Eliakum, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok. Zadok became the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud, Eliud the father of Eleazar. Eleazar became the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ. Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is fourteen generations; from David to the Babylonian exile, fourteen generations; from the Babylonian exile to the Christ, fourteen generations. Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Marry was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will. Save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel*, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

9:30 a.m.

- +Joan Herbert
- +Marie Springer
- +Phyllis Natale
- +Rose Proctor

Thursday, December 28, 2023

9:30 a.m.

- +Dale Hurley

Friday, December 29, 2023

9:30 a.m.

- +Dee Mullaney

Saturday, December 30, 2023

4:00 p.m.

- +Felix & Rita Gatt
- +Diane Broski
- +Mary Jean Calmi
- +Edwin Wagner
- +Franklin Langenstein
- +Antonio Andrion
- +Sandy Korich
- +Steven Herbert

Sunday, December 31, 2023

8:30 a.m.

- +Josephine Martineau
- +Sharon Murawski
- Souls of Benito & SImplicia Capajo
- +John D. Liwo

10:30 a.m.

- +Giuseppe & Concetta DiStefano
- +Clarence Samelko
- +Theodoros Vergos
- +Sandy Kratt
- +Michael Pastue
- +Manuel Yatooma
- +Dave Willick
- +Michael Buffmyer

5:30 p.m.

Healing of Dylan Ventimiglia
Special Intention of Brittany Hicks



Please Remember
St. Rene Goupil Parish
In Your Will

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

The Nativity of the Lord

“She gave birth to her firstborn son.” The pain of child-birth is something that boggles my mind. I’m sure I couldn’t handle it. I can’t even watch scenes in movies in which a woman gives birth. I understand it’s a beautiful part of nature, but there’s still something awful about it and the attendant suffering.

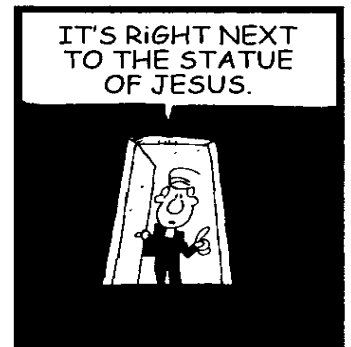
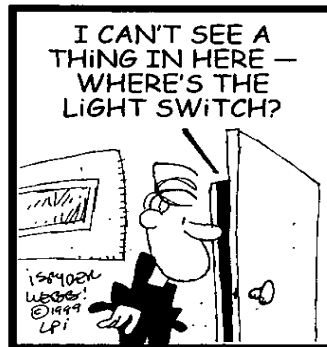
Which is why it’s worth pondering an often neglected and currently unpopular part of the Church’s theology around the birth of Christ, his was miraculous because it caused no pain to his mother. Even her physical virginity remains intact. Of course, we modern scientific people scoff at such an idea.

Without obsessing over the obstetrical details, we discover a glorious illumination in the symbolic meaning of this birth that we moderns find so embarrassing. *God comes into the world in an utterly non-violent way.* He himself will suffer his own bloodshed but will never shed that of others. He is so peaceful and non-violent that he will even rise from the dead without breaking the seal of the tomb. All of humanity, in the Church, will give birth to him in the Church free from the terrible pain due to original sin. How badly we need the truth of this miraculous birth today!

Let’s delight in this great mystery and miracle of Jesus’s birth. He is the Prince of Peace and always nonviolent. We need not fear him, ever.

— *Father John Muir*

CHRISTMAS



Weekend Liturgy Schedule for December 30 & 31

	Saturday 4:00PM	Sunday 8:30 AM	Sunday 10:30 AM	Sunday 5:30 PM
Presider	Fr. Steve	Fr. Joy	Fr. Steve	Fr. Tim
Lector	Lorraine Doyle	Barbara Wyrwicz	Thess Monterio	Virginia Jennings
Altar Servers	Lance Tolentino	Karin Nieto	Eli Wing-Nga	
Eucharistic Ministers	L Nosek L Youkhana Open	Open Open Open	P Yeck E Monterio Open	Open Open Open
Ushers	Tom Pluta Bill Broaddus 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	Terry Shaughnessy Tom Fooy Ralph Fackler Wilmar Suan Joe Meli Chrisie Fish Chris Norris	Paul Hornung Mike Galuszka Ofelia Fermil Fred Rossi
Sacristan	K Moravek	G Wiklanski	H DeVera	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.

**GOSPEL MEDITATION
Full of Joy**

Last year we waited much too long to buy our Christmas trees. We usually have one in the living room and then one by the large window in our room that sits at the front of the house. Essentially, there is one for us to see and then one for all the neighbors walking their dogs in the December cold. If you wait too long to buy a fresh tree you might just not find a tree. But last year I found one tree lot I had not bought from in the past. Luckily, they had some great trees. The price was a little higher than I was used to, but a tree would be mine no matter what.

What I found interesting at the lot was a group of about nine young people sitting around a fire, laughing and drinking coffee. I wondered, "All of these people for a tree lot late at night and this late in the season?" What I found out was that these weren't paid workers. These were recovering drug and alcohol addicts. This was their rehab's tree lot, and this was their service and group therapy. I spoke to a couple of them and found they were the nicest people around. They were full of joy for the new life they had found and thankful for the people who helped bring them through the trial of their lives. Suddenly, that tree they sold me seemed more beautiful and majestic than it had when I first drove up.

This Christmas may the Lord that slept in a manger provide for your rest. May the God that gives many gifts to all of us bless you abundantly. And may the Prince of Peace help you to find true gratitude for the gift of life. May you and yours feel the joy of the season, like a group of recovering addicts around a campfire on a cold December night.

— 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 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 or toll-free at 844-367-6331.

**Christmas
(Nativity of the Lord)**

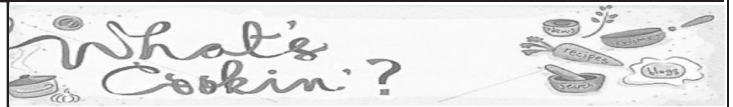
In the ancient prophecy, Isaiah refers to the Christ-child as Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. St. Paul proclaims Christ as God our Savior, while St. John’s Gospel pronounces Jesus, as the Word became flesh. John further refers to Jesus as...the Light...Who pierces the darkness. We know He is our hope and strength. In St. Luke’s Gospel, the angel of the Lord proclaims to the shepherds...A savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. The Gospel of St. Matthew professes...They shall name him Emmanuel which means God is with us. On this Holy Christmas Day, let us, as Christ’s disciples, stand in awe and thanksgiving to God for the tremendous gift of His Son, Jesus. For our Lord is the path to eternal salvation. As Jesus was born in lowly surroundings, let us pray for our needy brothers and sisters among us today.



**Our Sunday Offering
December 16 & 17
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.



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 at 350 F for 30 minutes. Serve while warm.



eucharisticrevival.org

Keep “Christ” in Christmas!





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:

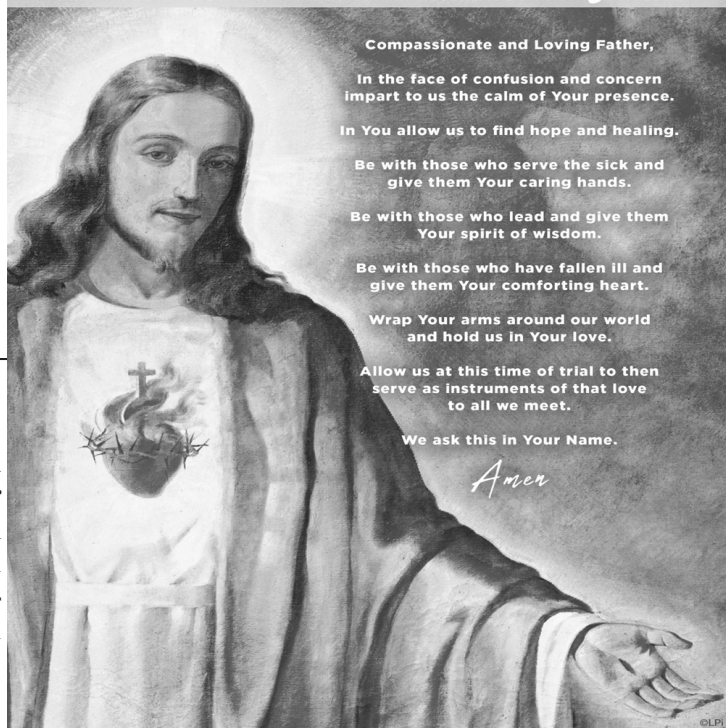
Arrangements must be made through the Parish Office at least six months prior to the desired wedding date. One person of the couple must be an active, registered member of St. Rene Goupil Parish for six months.

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