



St. Rene Goupil Catholic Community  
December 31, 2023

# THE HOLY FAMILY

“For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.”

- Lk 2:30-31



## Notes from Fr. Steve

As we gather in joy and gratitude to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, we turn our hearts to the beautiful narrative found in Luke 2:22-40. This passage invites us into the intimate moments of Jesus' early life, revealing the profound love and obedience that characterized the Holy Family.

In this Gospel account, we witness Mary and Joseph faithfully observing the Jewish law by presenting their firstborn son, Jesus, at the temple in Jerusalem. This act of obedience not only highlights their commitment to God's commandments but also sets the stage for the encounter with two remarkable figures. Simeon and Anna.

Simeon, a devout and righteous man, was promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had seen the Messiah. As Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple, Simeon, guided by the Spirit, took the infant in his arms and proclaimed a beautiful prayer known as the Nunc Dimittis. In his words, Simeon recognized Jesus as the long-awaited salvation for both Jews and Gentiles, a light to enlighten the nations.

Anna, an elderly prophetess known for her devotion to God, also played a significant role in this divine encounter. Having spent years in the temple, fasting and praying, Anna recognized the infant Jesus as the redemption of Jerusalem. Her heartfelt gratitude overflowed as she shared the good news with all who were eagerly awaiting the Messiah.

The Holy Family's journey to the temple offers profound lessons for our own lives. Mary and Joseph exemplify obedience to God's laws, showing us the importance of faithfulness and trust in His plan. Simeon and Anna, in turn, demonstrate the power of patient waiting and steadfast devotion to God's promises.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, let us reflect on the virtues of love, obedience, patience, and trust that characterized their lives. In a world often filled with challenges and uncertainties, the Holy Family serves as a timeless model for families today—a beacon of hope, love, and unwavering faith.

May we, like the Holy Family, find strength in our faith, comfort in our unity, and guidance in God's eternal love. Let us imitate their example as we strive to create homes filled with love, understanding, and a deep commitment to God's will. Wishing you and your family, a blessed feast day!

Fr. Steve

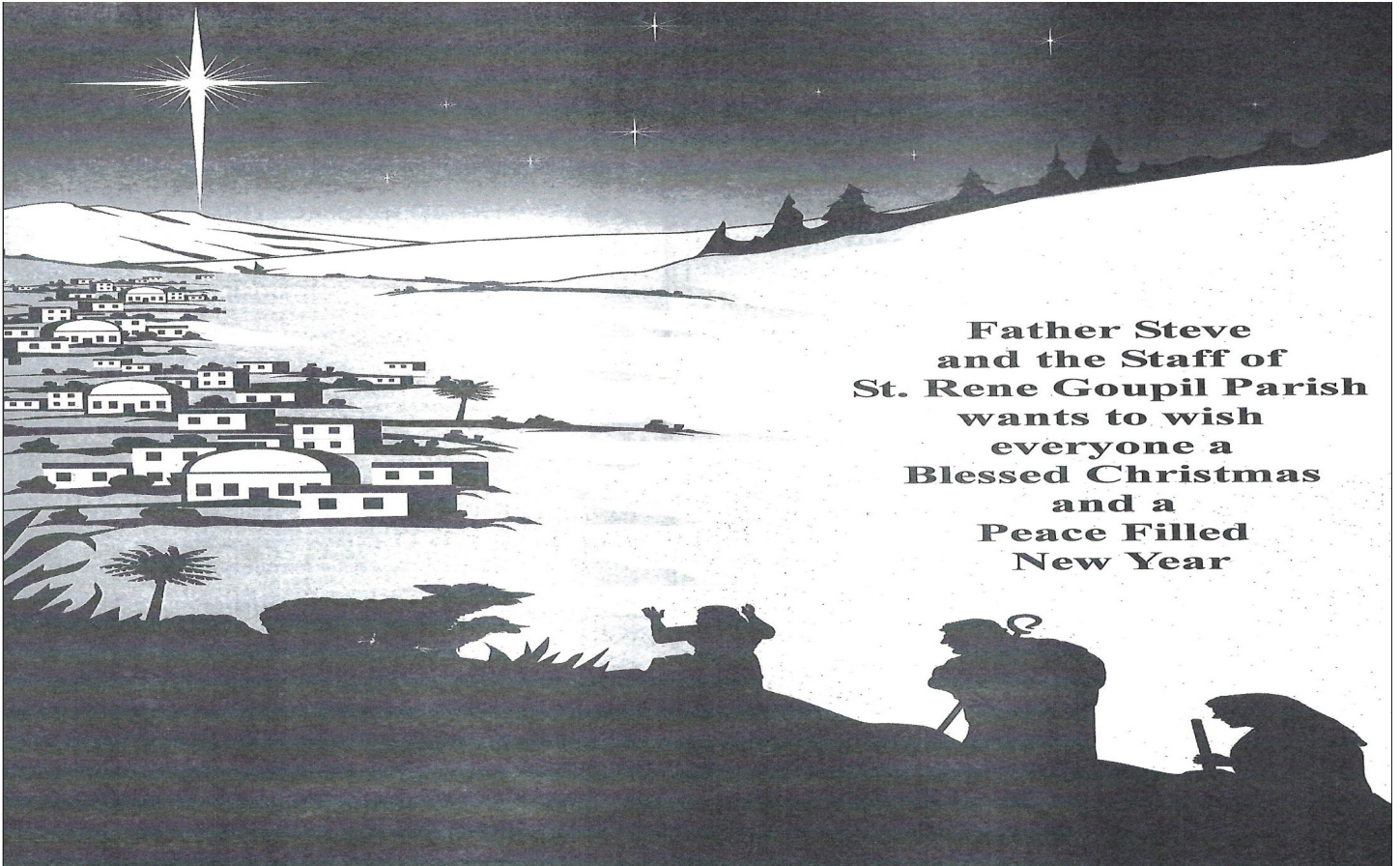
MARY, HOLY MOTHER  
*of God*

The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year in the USA.

Therefore, there will not be Mass on, January 1, 2024 at St. Rene .

 HOLIDAY   
**OFFICE HOURS**

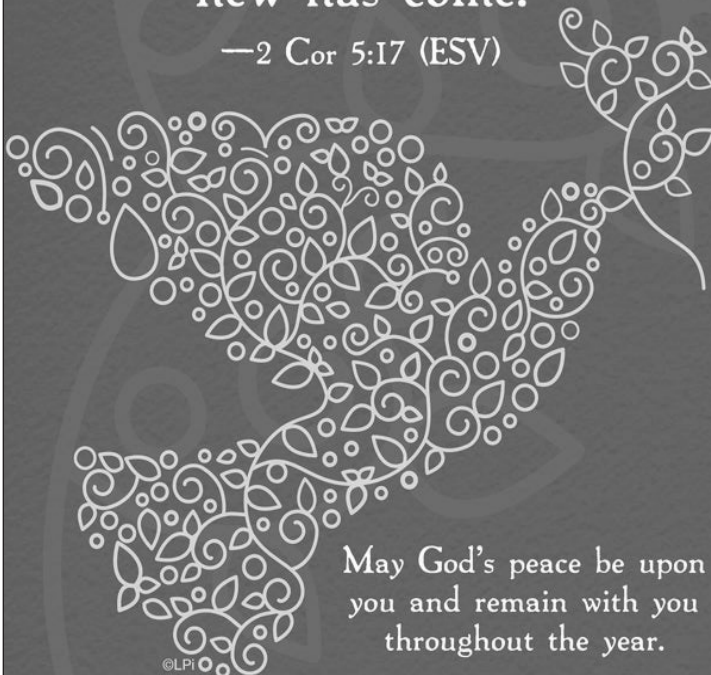
**In Celebration of the  
Christmas Holiday  
the office will be closed  
December 25th  
through  
January 1st**



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

Therefore, if anyone is in  
Christ, he is a new  
creation. The old has  
passed away; behold, the  
new has come.

—2 Cor 5:17 (ESV)



May God's peace be upon  
you and remain with you  
throughout the year.

©LPI

### **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

The topic of family link's today's Scripture passages. The reading from Sirach instructs us: Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and those who respect their mother store up riches. Those who care for elderly parents are not forgotten, and their kindness is firmly planted as an offering against sin. St. Luke's Gospel, the evangelist retells of Joseph and Mary's presentation of Jesus to the Lord in the Jerusalem Temple. This is done in accordance with Mosaic Law. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph then return to Nazareth, where our Lord grows in strength and wisdom. In St. Paul's Letter to the Colossian community, he emphasizes bearing with one another and forgiving one another...as the Lord has forgiven you. Christ's peace must reign in our families' hearts. As Pope St. John Paul II pointed out, the family is the "Domestic Church." Vocations are born and nurtured in families that embrace the Catholic faith by making Jesus the center of their lives. May we, as Christian stewards, continue to strive, build, and pray for solid Christian families in an increasingly antifamily attitude found today in secular society. To strengthen your family, make time daily to pray and eat at least one meal together. Most important, attend Sunday Mass weekly as a family and partake of Holy Communion.



# Readings for the Week

©LPI

**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

**Monday, January 1, 2024:**Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

**Tuesday, January 2, 2024:**1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

**Wednesday, January 3, 2024:**1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

**Thursday, January 4, 2024:**1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

**Friday, January 5, 2024:** 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

**Saturday, January 6, 2024:**1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

**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

## 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



©LPI

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



# Wishing you a *blessed* New Year



©LPI

## Readings for The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

### Reading I

*Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14*

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother. My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins—a house raised in justice to you.

### Reading II

*Colossians 3:12-21*

Brothers and sisters: Put on as God's chosen one, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

### Gospel

*Luke 2:22-40*

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen you salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and you yourself a sword will pierce—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

# MASS INTENTIONS

**Tuesday, January 2, 2024**

**9:30 a.m.**

+Delores Mullaney

**Thursday, January 4, 2024**

**9:30 a.m.**

+Helen Pomper

Br. Steve Badalament

Sr. Kimberley Smith

**Friday, January 5, 2024**

**9:30 a.m.**

+William Cassabon

**Saturday, January 6, 2024**

**4:00 p.m.**

+Felix & Rita Gatt

+Jane Pomper DeHart

+Mary Jean Calmi

David Boni

+Rodolfo Aquino

+Virginia Bialy

+Franklin Langenstein

+Joan Herbert

+Barbara Borowski (1st R.A.)

Special Intention Bill Broaddus

**Sunday, January 7, 2024**

**8:30 a.m.**

+Mary Carnaghi

+Sharon Murawski

**10:30 a.m.**

+Alex Fragnoli

+David 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 Gift of Family

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

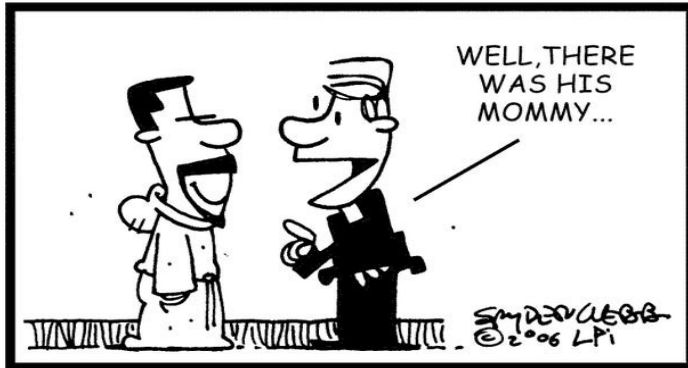
Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## MARY, MOTHER OF GOD





**Weekend Liturgy Schedule for January 6 & 7**

|                                  | <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>                    | Louis Youkhana   | Rob Wilson  | Corina Sison  | Paul Hornung   |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>             | Lance Tolentino  | Karin Nieto   | Phat Le<br>Phong Le   |  |
| <b>Eucharistic<br/>Ministers</b> | G Labinski<br>L Youkhana<br>Open   | Open<br>Open<br>Open  | T Monterio<br>H DeVera<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>                 | K Moravek  | G Wiklanski   | M. Buffmyer   | 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**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

— *Father John Muir*

**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.

**Everyday Stewardship**

I have heard people say, “You don’t get to choose your family!” I believe that to be only partially true. I did not choose my father and mother, but my family is greater than my family tree of ancestors. My family includes those who have been there when both my father and mother passed away. My family includes those who came to see my newborn children in the hospital. My family includes those who celebrated with me my greatest triumphs and consoled me in my greatest times of trial. Each and every one of them I have chosen to be a part of my family.

Most of the time we talk about stewardship in terms of time, talent, and treasure. We quantify the size of our gifts, seeing them as things that have a finite value. However, true stewardship has no limits. What we are called to give is everything. When we fully empty ourselves into another and into the reality of God we find ourselves transformed. We truly grow into our own as the creations we became at baptism.

It is in that transformation that we find ourselves connected to others in a profound way. Those who were not connected to us by blood are now connected to us by spirit. Our family, the body of Christ, grows and becomes stronger. In this family, a man can be father to a Son not of his flesh and a woman mother to a Son of a divine origin. In this family, we find our hope and our home. And we must never make the mistake of thinking that is not a choice.

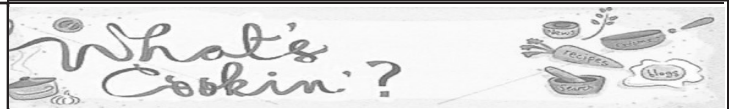
—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



**Our Sunday Offering  
December 23 & 24  
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.



**Beef Brisket**

- 1 env. Onion soup mix
- 1/4 c. ketchup
- 1 tbsp. brown sugar
- 1 clove garlic, chopped (or minced garlic)
- 1 c. beer
- 1 beef brisket or sirloin tip roast

Mix all ingredients except beef. Trim fat from beef. Make pan out of heavy foil and put into roaster pan. Set beef in pan. Pour soup mixture over beef and seal foil tightly. Bake at 350 F for 3 hours. Remove beef and slice. Juice in pan makes great au jus or gravy.



[eucharisticrevival.org](http://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:

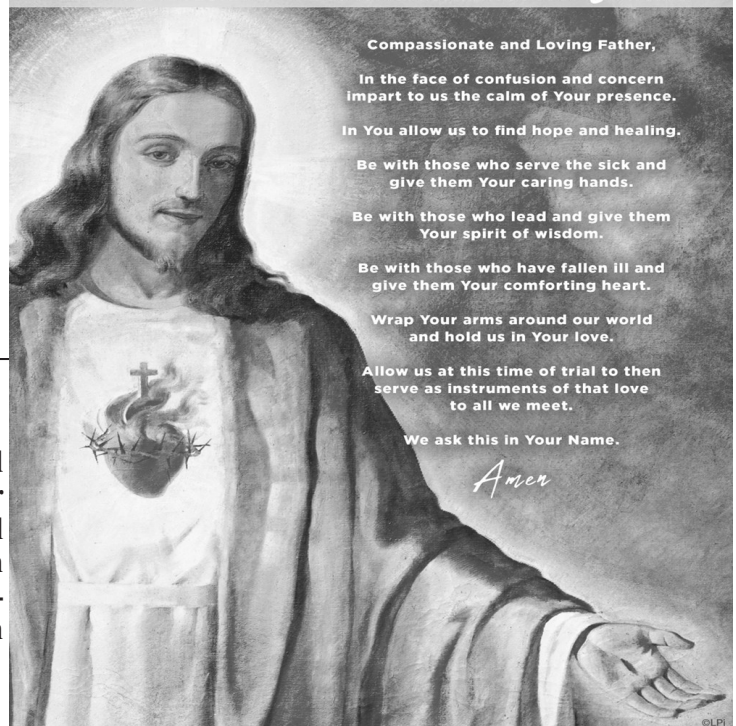
Arrangements must be made through the Parish Office at least six months prior to the desired wedding date. One person of the couple must be an active, registered member of St. Rene Goupil Parish for six months.

### 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*