

Notes from Fr. Steve

The days are getting shorter, and so is our time to prepare for the Advent Season. Advent is not a countdown to Christmas! It is a time of grace and spiritual renewal for all Christians. I thought it would be helpful to offer 5 simple steps you might do to make your Advent more meaningful.

- 1. **Ask God to Help You Draw Near**: Advent is a time of preparation, and it's essential to approach it with intention. Begin by asking God to help you draw closer to Him during this season. Pray for a heart open to transformation and a genuine celebration of Christmas. Remember that Christmas isn't just about the external preparations; it's about preparing our hearts for Christ's coming. This might be a time to pray and read scripture.
- 2. **Practice Silence**: In our noisy world filled with constant distractions, silence is a precious gift. Cultivate moments of silence each day, even if it's just for a few minutes. Silence allows us to listen to God's voice and draw close to Him. Start now, and by the time Advent arrives, you'll be attuned to the quiet moments that lead to deeper prayer. Silence is the essence of meditation. Recall, that Jesus himself went off to pray by himself.
- 3. **Create an Advent Wreath**: The Advent wreath is a beautiful tradition. Gather your family and create an Advent wreath with four candles-one for each week leading up to Christmas. Light a candle each Sunday, reflecting on the themes of hope, peace, joy and love. Use this time to pray together and prepare your hearts. Praying before dinner can also be a way to bolster your Advent.
- 4. **Participate in the Mass**: Attend weekday Mass during Advent whenever possible. The liturgy during this season focuses on anticipation and longing for Christ's coming. Immerse yourself in the Scripture readings, hymns, and prayers. Let the Mass guide your reflections and deepen your spiritual journey. Mass is celebrated here on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9:30 a.m. in the Church.
- 5. **Reflect on the Reason**: Amidst the busyness of the season, pause and reflect on why you're preparing. Advent directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming and the anniversary of His birth. Consider reading Scripture passages related to Advent, such as Isaiah 9:6-7 or Luke 1:26-38. Meditate on the hope and promise of the Messiah.

Remember, Advent is not just a countdown to Christmas; it's an opportunity for spiritual growth, prayer, and drawing near to Christ. May this season be filled with grace, anticipation, and a renewed sense of wonder.

In your Advent Prayers, please remember to pray for the parish, especially the sick and the suffering. Your prayers bring them healing, comfort and peace. God bless you and those you love!

Fr. Steve



TOY COLLECTION

Would you love to put a smile on a little child's face? You can make this happen by donating NEW, unwrapped toys during the weekend of Dec. 2nd & Dec. 3rd and Dec. 10 & 11th. The toys will be distributed to needy children in the inner city. Please do not bring violence related toys. A table will be set up by the parish office for the toys.



The Giving Tree is set up in the gathering area this weekend. The tags represent the various groups in need of our help. All gifts MUST be returned by Sunday, December 10th.

Please only take a tag if you are able to purchase the gift and return it by December 10th. This is necessary as the charities will be picking up the gifts on December 11th, so they can deliver them to the needy by Christmas.

NOTE: Due to the continued COVID concerns and the decline in attendance at all the masses, we will be having fewer tags on the tree this year again. If you do not attend mass, but still wish to help with the tree and do not want to shop, please feel free to purchase gift certificates to Walmart and drop them off in the parish office or you can send/drop off cash/checks (made out to St. Rene) in the office marked "Giving Tree Gifts". I will gladly do the shopping for you.

Thank you so much for your generosity, especially during this most trying year. May God bless you all.

Theresa Wilson, OFS Coordinator of Giving Tree Project

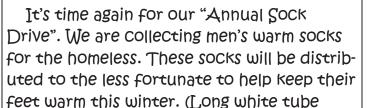


Common Email and Text Message Scams

As the holiday season approaches, we may see an increase in email and text message scams targeting parishes and parishioners.

By far, the most common scam targeting parishioners is an email or text message, purporting to be from the pastor, asking recipients to send gift cards that the pastor will make available to the less fortunate. The new iteration of these fraudulent messages claims that the gift cards are to "help someone who has cancer." This is a reminder that neither the parish nor the priests will ever solicit donations in this manner. Don't ever give out any banking information, passwords, or other confidential details. If you receive such a message and are unsure about its legitimacy, contact the (alleged) sender via telephone to confirm that the request is legitimate.

SOCK DRIVE



socks are especially needed).

There will be a container in the gathering area for the collections. The sock drive will run through the end of November.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

God Bless!

What's the story behind the Advent wreath?

Answer

Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreather adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent

have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn't falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God's love.



Please Remember St. Rene Goupil Parish In Your Will



Michigan Active and Auxiliary Legionaries

Welcome to the

Legion of Mary - Annual Reunion 2023

Saturday, December 16th, 2023

St. Bonaventure Capuchin Monastery 1780 Mount Elliott Street, Detroit, MI 48207

- 10:00 am Holy Mass, celebrant Fr. Igor DeBliqy, OFM Cap.
- * 11:00 am Regia Meeting (shorter form)

or mail it back to St. Rene.

- 🜟 12:00 pm Lunch in Solanus Center Dining Hall by On the Rise Bakery
- 12:30 pm Talk by Fr. Dan Crosby OFM Cap. on Blessed Solanus Casev. OFM Cap.
- 1:15 pm Surprise for Detroit Regia, Special Visitors, Acknowledgements
- 🔅 2:00 pm Final Remarks by Br. Stephen F. Badalament, Regia Pres.
- Please make your LUNCH RESERVATION with your Praesidium President, or call Margaret Voland (586) 295-1749 by DECEMBER 2nd. The food service fee is \$13 / lunch.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

In May 2023, for the first time in almost three quarters of a century, a monarch was crowned in England. A few days later a friend of mine scoffed, "What a waste of time and energy! What is the point of a king?"

I'm a proud American who wants neither theocracy nor monarchical restoration. I like our democratic republic. But the coronation of King Charles reminded me of something needed in every person and community: confidence in the future. The king's most basic role is to symbolize the unity of the nation. In England, the parliament members handle many of the practical duties of governance. But the king or queen can do what they cannot: embody in a single person the reality and future of a whole nation. To say, "this is our king" is to say, "we exist as a community, and we have a future." Kingship isn't primarily about the power of one person or family. It's about the enduring identity and unity of the whole.

To say Christ is our King is to say we exist as a people. We are *one in him*. We are, and we will be as long as he is. And since he will be our risen king forever, together we have a future filled with hope. Even the best countries will finally fall. But Christ and his Church will endure forever. What good news! It's not a waste of time to crown a king. We do it all the time. Let's be sure to crown the right one — the one whose kingdom never ends.

— Father John Muir

In order to keep our records current as possible, please notify the parish office of any address, phone number or email address changes.
Family name:
Address:
Phone number:
Email address:
Please fill out this form, you can drop it in the collection basket, bring it to the parish office

Uavo vou rogently moved or shanged your phone number?

Readings for Christ the King

Reading I *Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17*

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will look after and tend my sheep. As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark. I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy, shepherding them rightly. As for you, my sheep, says the Lord GOD, I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats.

Reading II
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes to the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

Gospel *Matthew 25:31-46*

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food., I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill and in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Readings for the Week

Sunday, November 26, 2023:Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6 (1)/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46

Monday, November 27, 2023:Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday, November 28, 2023: Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday, November 29, 2023:Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19

Thursday, November 30, 2023:Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 4:18-22

Friday, December 1, 2023:Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/Lk 21:29-33

Saturday, December 2, 2023:Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/Lk 21:34-36

Sunday, December 3, 2023:Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37



Tuesday, November 28, 2023 9:30 a.m.

- +Rolando Bonrostro
- +Dolores Mullanev
- +Richard Calverly
- +Chris Vertrees

Thursday, November 30, 2023 9:30 a.m.

+Hayde Bonrostro

Friday, December 1, 2023 9:30 a.m.

- +William Cassabon
- +Celi Esmana

Saturday, December 2, 2023 4:00 p.m.

- +Steven Herbert
- +Felix & Rita Gatt
- +Mary Jean Calmi

David Boni

- +Ronald Schornack
- +Virginia Baily
- +Franklin Langenstein
- +Rose Horak

Sunday, December 3, 2023 8:30 a.m.

- +Dolores Volchoff
- +Mary Carnaghi
- +Sharon Murawski
- +Geno Vera Paunan

10:30 a.m.

- +Clarence Samelko
- +Anita Arniego

5:30 p.m.

Healing of Dylan Vemtimiglia Special Intention of Brittany Hicks

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



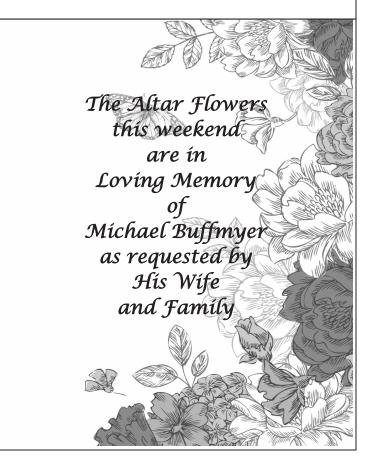
EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

One day when I was walking the city streets where I was giving a series of talks, I saw what appeared to be an older woman hunched over with a sign asking for help. At first I passed her, on my way to visit the local drugstore. But then I came back around when I realized that I had not been very mindful upon first seeing her. I didn't have much cash to give her, but as I always tell everyone else in my talks, oftentimes what people need more than cash is someone to at least acknowledge them. I reached into my pocket to give her what little I had and I simply said, "Hello. I hope you are okay and I hope you can use this."

When her face turned toward me I saw she was probably only about sixteen years of age and she was very beautiful. She smiled immediately and said how much this meant to her. She gathered up her few belongings and I watched her walk to a café for a meal. I turned to walk back to my lodging and I thought to myself, "She could have been my daughter." That's when the still, small voice spoke to me saying, "Don't you understand? That was your daughter!"

Who is your daughter or son, your mother or father? Who is your neighbor? Better yet, in whom do you see Jesus? A young homeless girl on the street can take on so many forms: stranger, neighbor, daughter, and Jesus. Unless we are mindful of those in our midst, we miss the chance to see any of them. We must never be fooled by appearance. That day I almost missed seeing my Lord.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Weekend Liturgy Schedule for December 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. Tim	
Lector	Lorraine Doyle	Rob Wilson	Corina Sison	Thess Monterio	
Altar Servers	Nathan Gonzalez Isabella Gonzalez	Karin Nieto	Owen Brink		
Eucharistic Ministers	M Passalacqua 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	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:

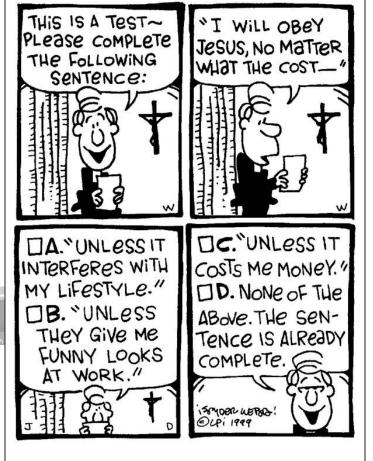
Sugar, vegetable oil, crackers, canned fruit, small ketchup, small mustard and small syrup.

New Members Welcome!

St. Rene Goupil would like to welcome the newest members of our Parish family!

Steven & Rowena Sheeley Nickolaus & Melissa Vranic

CHRIST THE KING



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 www.help.formed.org or toll-free at 844-367-6331.

There Is Much to Be Done

Growing up Catholic means I must have heard a million times the passage in Matthew's Gospel about how doing things for the "least of these" means you have done them for Jesus. Okay, that is an exaggeration to make a point. But it has been a slogan for so many social justice activities, from clothing and canned food drives, to letter writing campaigns and peaceful protests.

Growing up I only knew how to help the least of these through the school and church activities of the time. Today, YouTube and GodTube are filled with videos of creative ways people reach out to one another. Have you seen the one about the pizza party for the homeless? How about the fake lottery ticket or the house bought from online donations for a poor man? There are even videos of people paying for the car behind them at the drive-through! The awesome thing about this is that it serves as a witness to others. It is not boasting but instead sharing the Good News. Giving and good stewardship can be contagious!

Our pastor has several times over the years handed out \$10 bills to confirmation candidates and asked them to "pay it forward." They can keep the money or use it to make a difference in someone else's life. One teen planted a garden for an elderly woman. One bought ingredients for brownies and sold them to give even more than \$10 to charity. The teens not only learned something about good stewardship in the process, but also served as great examples to the parish community.

As always, there is much to be done. The King is coming soon! Let's spread the news and some love at the same time!

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Our Sunday Offering November 18 & 19 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.



Angel Wings

Mix the following ingredients in a bowl:

12 egg yolks

2 Tbs. powder sugar

2 1/2 cups flour

1/2 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. baking powder

1/4 cup water, beer or vodka

Knead on a floured surface until smooth. Roll out to a thin sheet. Using a pastry cutter or sharp knife, cut into 2" strips lengthwise and then across on an angle into 3" strips. Make a slit in center and pull one end of the dough through to make a bow. Deep fry (Crisco butter works great) until just lightly browned. Place on absorbent paper to cool, and then sprinkle with powdered sugar. (makes 4-6 dozen)

Christ the King

"Hail the King of the Jews." The kingship of Christ has always been different than the world expected. Many of Jesus' disciples hoped for an earthly Messiah who would overthrow the Romans. But, as Jesus says in today's Gospel, his kingdom is "not of this world." And yet it is a very real kingdom. Jesus is a very real Lord. And we are called to invite Jesus to be king of our lives. In the early 20th century, disillusionment with authority of all kinds was growing. Revolutions, atheistic thinkers, and World War I contributed to a rejection of faith. In 1925, Pope Pius XI called the Church and the world back to a sense of hope in Christ. He instituted the solemnity of Christ the King on the last Sunday before Advent. How is Jesus king of your life today?

"What kind of bird is most likely to be in church?"



"A cardinal"



In nature, a cardinal is a bird with red feathers and a pointed cap, but the term actually was inspired by Catholic cardinals and their red clothes (inspired by the blood of Jesus).

OLPi



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

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.

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 a 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

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.

