

Notes from Fr. Steve

In the realm of Christian faith, stewardship is more than just a concept; it's a way of life. It embodies the responsibility Christians have been entrusted with to care for the gifts and recourses provided by God. From the environment to personal talents, from financial blessings to time, stewardship encompasses all aspects of life. But what does it truly mean to practice good stewardship as a Christian?

Understanding Stewardship

Stewardship, at its core, is the recognition that everything we have is a gift from God. As such, we are called to manage these gifts wisely and responsibly. The Bible, in numerous passages, emphasizes this principle. In 1 Peter 4:10, believers are encouraged to use their gifts to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. Similarly, in Luke 12:48, Jesus teaches that to whom much is given, much will be required.

Practical Steps in Practicing Good Stewardship Financial Stewardship

Money is a significant aspect of stewardship. Christians are encouraged to manage their finances wisely, including budgeting, saving, and giving. Setting aside a portion of income for charitable giving reflects an understanding of God's provision and a willingness to share those blessings with oth-

ers.

Environmental Stewardship

Caring for the environment is another vital aspect of stewardship. Recognizing that the Earth is a gift from God, Christians are called to be responsible caretakers of the planet. This includes practicing sustainability, reducing waste, and supporting initiatives that promote environmental conservation.

Time Management

Time is a precious resource, and how we use it reflects our stewardship mindset. Christians can practice good stewardship of time by prioritizing activities that align with their values and commitments. This may involve setting aside time for prayer, Bible study, and serving others, while also ensuring balance in personal and professional endeavors.

Talent Utilization

Every individual possesses unique talents and abilities, which are gifts from God. Christians are encouraged to identify and develop these talents, using them to glorify God and serve others. Whether through volunteering, mentoring, or creative expression, leveraging one's talents for the greater good exemplifies good stewardship.

Relationship Stewardship

Relationships are among the most valuable aspects of life. Good stewardship in relationships involves nurturing connections with family, friends, and community leaders. This includes practicing forgiveness, empathy, and love, while also being mindful of boundaries and healthy communication.

The Rewards of Good Stewardship

Practicing good stewardship not only honors God but it also brings numerous benefits to individuals and communities. By wisely managing resources, Christians can experience greater peace, fulfillment, and purpose in their lives. Moreover, they contribute to the well-being of others and the world around them, fostering positive change and leaving a lasting legacy of faithfulness.

In essence, stewardship is a fundamental aspect of Christian living. It involves recognizing God's ownership of all things and responsibility managing the resources entrusted to us. By practicing good stewardship in finances, the environment, time, talents, and relationships, Christians can honor God, bless others, and experience the abundant life promised in Scripture. As stewards of God's creation, let us embrace this sacred responsibility with gratitude and diligence, knowing that our faithful efforts make a difference in this world and the kingdom to come.

Please remember to pray for the parish, especially the sock and the suffering, your prayers bring them healing, comfort and peace. Please remember baby Rowe in your prayers, he has been in the hospital since birth (8 mos.) and has heart problems. God bless you and those you love!

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

GOSPEL MEDITATION

5th Sunday of Easter

My friend and fellow pastor, Father Paul, noticed unsightly, overgrown trees near his parish church. He asked the maintenance crew to cut back the growth, which they happily did, telling him the trees would be much healthier and even fuller after a good pruning. A few days later, Father Paul received a letter from an irate man in the neighborhood who wrote, "Jesus would <u>never</u> prune trees like that. He loves trees, unlike you."

I suspect that the neighbor was not familiar with this week's Gospel in which Jesus says of his Father, **"He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit"** (John 15:2) I don't mean to pick too much on that fellow. He was perhaps ignorant of arboriculture. But I'd wager his main confusion was the pruning and removing quality of God's love. That confusion afflicts us all to some degree, doesn't it? It is just so darn easy to react negatively when God cuts something out of our lives and assume it's not his work at all. In the moment, all we see is the loss, and not the loving desire for future flourishing.

The cross is the great pruning of Christ's body. Jesus' rising is the brand-new growth. It is God's promise to us that all the painful pruning in life is leading us somewhere beautiful. What has been cut back or out in your life? A friend, an opportunity, a sense of certainty, a job, health, a relationship? This week, offer those dry branches to the one who lovingly prunes us in order to make our lives burst with verdant growth.

— Father John Muir

ST. RENE GOUPIL HAS ACQUIRED A "CHRIST RISEN Reliquary Stone from the Tomb of Jesus". It will be on display in our library Window until pentecost.



Legion of Mary Spring Luncheon Thursday May 16, 2024



The Gazebo Banquet Center 31104 Mound Rd (north of 13 Mile) Warren MI 48092

REGISTRATION WILL BE ON A PRE-PAY BASIS ONLY. SORRY, NO WALK-INS!

> Cost: \$25 Send check made out to: Mary Peterson 37633 Baylor Drive Sterling Heights MI 48310 586-738-1154

Please include your phone number and address with your check. Your name will be on a list at the registration table on the day of the luncheon.

Deadline: May 7

 11:30 a.m.
 Doors open (please, no arrivals earlier than 11:30)

 12:00 noon
 LUNCHEON

 12:45 p.m.
 LEGION PRAYERS and ROSARY

 1:30 p.m.
 PRESENTATION: TBD

TALK WILL BE FOLLOWED BY DOOR PRIZES AND FELLOWSHIP

Note: There will not be a "free table" for religious items as we've had in the past.



ST. RENE GOUPIL WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY!

LUTGARDA MACASIAS KATHERINE JEROSO & FAMILY DAVID & ANNETTE ROSS & FAMILY MARY TUTTLE ROSEMARIE GATTARI

Everyday Stewardship

Branching Out Isn't Always What It's Cracked Up to Be

"That's a really beautiful tree branch. Man, would you look at the bark on that thing? The others are real duds, but that low-hanging branch has really got it all together."

I've never heard anyone say this. Maybe I just need to hang out with more arborists, but I can't recall ever hearing someone admire the particular beauty of a single branch. When someone comments on a tree, it's usually the whole tree — perhaps a visual element of it, like the color of the leaves or its height. But people don't usually zero in on one branch.

Maybe that's because usually, if one branch is looking a little weak, chances are every other branch is, too.

The Bible tells us that when we bear fruit as good everyday stewards, it is for the Father's glory. We are the branch on His magnificent tree. What we have is from Him, and what we do likewise points back to Him. We also tend to reflect how well the other branches around us are incorporating the nutrients coming their way. That's all fine and good in theory. In practice, it can be an arduous exercise in humility.

When I do something virtuous or charitable or kind, there is a part of me that wants to stand out for it. I think that's true for all of us. We've given of ourselves in some way or overcome some human temptation to accomplish a little bit of good in this world, and even though we know God sees us, we'd really love for everyone else to see it, too.

It's a struggle, for sure. But we need to remember that our fruit belongs to the whole tree.

– Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Love in Deed

It's a Wonderful Life is one of my favorite Christmas movies. It only occurred to me recently, though, that this film, for all its yuletide aesthetic, is actually more of an Easter story.

I love this movie because it's a very Catholic film — not overtly, although we do see the main character, George Bailey, going to Mass. No, it's the themes that are Catholic, not the set dressing. It's a story about the choices we make — to love, or not to love? To sacrifice, or not to sacrifice? To put oneself first, or to put oneself last? It's a story about what the consequences of those choices look like here in the world, and what they look like in heaven.

In the film, we meet a young George Bailey who dreams of growing up to do amazing, impressive things. Over the years, he makes a choice here and he makes a choice there ... and when all is said and done, the adult George Bailey is a tired, overworked husband and father with no worldly attributes that anyone would envy.

But he's a man who has loved in deed, not just in word, and who has reaped the spiritual rewards of those choices.

The season of Easter is about rejoicing in true redemption, not in worldly triumph. The Word of God is not a bedtime story. It's a pruning shear. To hear it is to be changed, to be shaped. To live it is to lose some things, so that you might bloom in unexpected ways. To welcome the Word is to be willing to look different, to feel different.

Anyone can say, "I love you, I accept you, I want to help you." But what does it actually look like, to love in deed and not just in word? It looks like giving something up: free time, wealth, comfort, worldly approval. It looks, to the casual observer, like pain.

To someone who has no concept of how plants grow and thrive, a gardener's pruning shears look like an executioner's sword. To someone who has no concept of how souls grow and thrive, a tomb barred by a stone looks like the end of a story, when in fact it's just the beginning.

"Children, let us love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth." — 1 John 3:18



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Readings for Fifth Sunday of Easter

Reading I

Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. Then Barnabas took charge and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. He moved freely with them in Jerusalem, and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord. He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. And when the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him on his way to Tarsus. The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

Reading II

1 John 3:18-24

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

Gospel

John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."



Sunday, April 28, 2024: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 (26a)/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8 Monday, April 29, 2024: Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26 Tuesday, April 30, 2024: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/Jn 14:27-31a Wednesday, May 1, 2024: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122: 1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Jn 15:1-8 Thursday, May 2, 2024: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11 Friday, May 3, 2024:1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14 Saturday, May 4, 2024: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21 Sunday, May 5, 2024: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 (see 2b)/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17



Tuesday, April 30, 2024 9:30 a.m. +Annette Bachiu +Stella Sabo

Thursday, May 2, 2024 9:30 a.m. +Ann McCloy

Friday, May 3, 2024 9:30 a.m. +Joseph Testa +Robert Garcia

Saturday, May 4, 2024 4:00 p.m.

+Steven Herbert +Fred Schulte +Rosemarie Calmi +Felix & Rita Gatt +Margaret Annette Wichlacz +Virgencita Andrion (4th R.A.) +Franklin Langenstein +Jerry Caudal +Ron Tash +Marian Kobus +Sister Mary Joanette (10th R.A.)

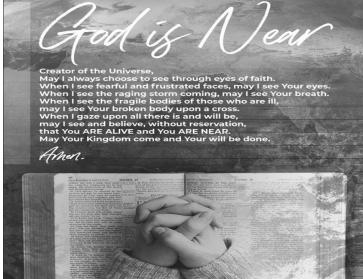
Sunday, May 5, 2024 8:30 a.m. +Sharon Murawski

10:30 a.m.

+David Willick +Michael Mullan (1st R.A.)

5:30 p.m. Healing for Dylan Ventimiglia Special Intention of Brittany Hicks





EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

When I was a teenager, I had an experience that truly changed my life and helped me to give Jesus all of myself. I had been baptized Catholic and always had faith, but it took a specific event to really shake me out of the comfort of my life and set me on a path devoted to God. I didn't get knocked off a horse or find an open tomb, but for me it was powerful enough to make a huge impact.

Testimonies of how people came to live as intentional disciples have great power. Often the stories do not include singular events or people; instead they speak of a gradual unfolding of faith. It is often the culmination of several events and the work of more than one person that brings a person to the point of real decision. Living as good stewards, we can help move people forward in their journey with God. Giving of ourselves freely can move human hearts like few other forces. God working through us can bring others to see that simply saying that Jesus is the Savior of the world does not mean we live our lives differently. It takes more thought and reflection on our part to move past words to intentional acts with intentional results. I don't know if all those involved in that event when I was a teenager knew what an effect their good stewardship would have on me, but I am so thankful they provided a way for God to touch me. I have spent my entire life trying to pay them back by allowing God to touch others through me. Just what person might God touch through you todav?

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



PLEASE REMEMBER ST. RENE GOUPIL PARISH IN YOUR WILL

	St. Re	ne Goupil Catholic Ch	urch, Sterling Heights	Page 7
Weekend Liturgy Schedule for May 4 & 5				
	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	Steve Szeliga	Rob Wilson	Thess Monterio	Virginia Jennings
Altar Servers	Lance Tolentino	Karin Nieto	Phat Le Phong Le	
Eucharistic Ministers	L Nosek M Laubach 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	Terry Shaughnessy Tom Fooy Ralph Fackler Wilmar Suan Joe Meli Chrisie Fish Chris Norris	<u>Paul Hornung</u> Mike Galuszka Ofelia Fermil Fred Rossi
Sacristan	R Kranson	G Wiklanski	T Monterio	V Jennings
offered p on our	us prayers half	THIS IS D Ti EVER Says Same	NDay of Easter Book Verec- Ve Y Page S The S The Thing: Y CLOSE TESUS	

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:

Canned fruit, mustard, ketchup, pancake syrup, detergent, toothpaste, green peas, cooking oil and cake or cookie boxed mixes.

*Please do not donate restaurant condiments.

MILLING & aufillu JN 15:1-8 ١4. NO, THAT'S RIGHT-IT'S CALLED "HOW TO BE A BETTER EVANGELIST" smoar liters! יוווויי ORAT LPI AMOG

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.
- 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.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Today, in the Gospel from St. John the Evangelist, Jesus professes, *I am the vine, you are the branches*. In this beautiful imagery, Jesus represents the vine that produces the gift of life and salvation for His beloved disciples, the branches. In his First Letter, St. John urges us to follow Christ's directives and live in Him by loving one another. In the Acts of the Apostles, St. Paul shows us that faithful disciples are not afraid to witness *in the name of the Lord*. Jesus invites us into a personal relationship with Him through the Eucharist. If we open our hearts to this invitation, our joy cannot be contained. In turn, we will spread this joy by proclaiming Jesus to those we encounter, planting seeds to bear "good fruit" for the Kingdom. Please remember to share your love of the Lord with those you



Our Sunday Offering April 20 &21 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.



Hawaiian Delight

box yellow cake mix
 c. cold milk
 (3.4 oz.) pkgs. Vanilla instant pudding mix
 1/2 tsp. coconut extract
 oz. pkg. softened cream cheese
 (20 oz.) can pineapple, well drained
 c. heavy whipping cream (or Cool Whip)
 c. toasted coconut

Make the yellow cake as directed on the box. Pour the cake mix into 2 (13x9x2 inch) pans. Bake at 350 F for 15 minutes or until cooked. Cool completely.

In a large bowl, mix the pudding, cold milk and coconut extract. Beat for 2 minutes. Add the cream cheese and beat again. Pour over the 2 cakes. Add the pineapple on top. Pour the heavy whipping cream (or Cool Whip) on top of the pineapple. Top with the toasted coconut.

Prayer in Times of Darkness



Dear Jesus.

When I feel troubled, alone, frightened, be with me. Be a flicker of flame in this darkness. Help me to know you in the stark seasons as I do in times of elation. You are the light I seek. Amen.





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 2pm, Wednesday 12pm & 1pm, 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 Emeritus 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 Karin Nieto (586) 447-6927 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

