

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6 O

Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." - Jn 6:67-69

Notes from Fr. Steve

I am certain that all of you know that the first part of Mass is called the Liturgy of the Word. I thought for some it might be helpful for me to explain it in great detail. So that everyone might better appreciate it. The Liturgy of the Word is a central part of the Catholic Mass, where we engage deeply with the Holy Scriptures. This segment of the Mass invites us to listen, reflect, and respond to God's Word, fostering a spiritual dialogue that shapes our faith and guides our lives.

Structure of the Liturgy of the Word

- **1. First Reading:** Typically drawn from the Old Testament, the First Reading highlights the roots of our faith and God's ongoing relationship with His people. During certain liturgical seasons, this reading might come from the Acts of the Apostles or Revelation.
- **2. Responsorial Psalm:** Following the First Reading, the Responsorial Psalm allows the congregation to respond to God's Word in a prayerful manner. The Psalms express a wide range of human emotions, helping us to internalize the message we have just heard.
- **3. Second Reading:** The Second Reading is usually taken from the New Testament letters, offering wisdom and guidance from the early Church. This reading connects us to the teachings of the apostles and the life of the early Christian community.
- **4. Gospel Acclamation:** The Alleluia or another appropriate chant introduces the Gospel, preparing our hearts to hear the words and action of Christ.
- **5. Gospel Reading:** The climax of the Liturgy of the Word, the Gospel Reading recounts the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. It is proclaimed with great reverence, recognizing Christ's presence among us through His Word.
- **6. Homily:** After the Gospel, the priest or deacon delivers the Homily, breaking open the scriptures and applying them to our daily lives. The Homily is meant to inspire and challenge us to live out the Gospel message.
- **7. Creed:** In response to the Word of God, the congregation stands to profess their faith through the Creed, reaffirming the core beliefs of the Catholic Church.
- **8. Prayers of the Faithful:** Finally, the Prayers of the Faithful allow the congregation to present their petitions to God, praying for the Church, the world, and all those in need.

The Liturgy of the Word is more than a series of readings; it is a profound encounter with God. Through it, we are reminded of our place in salvation history, challenged to grow in faith, and encouraged to carry the Word of God into our daily lives.

As we listen to the scriptures, let us open our hearts to the transformative power of God's Word, allowing it to guide our actions and deepen our relationship with Christ.

Please remember to pray for the parish especially the sick and the suffering. Your prayers, bring them healing, comfort and peace. I would like you to especially remember a classmate of mine. Fr. Bob Williams. He has been diagnosed with large cell lymphoma. Fr Bob was here many years ago, St. Rene was his first assignment! He currently is pastor of St. Justin in Hazel Park. God bless you and those you love!

Fr. Steve

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



Thank you to the parishioners who have already pledged their support. The ministries, programs, and services funded by the Catholic Services Appeal help in our parish and throughout southeast Michigan and beyond. If you are still prayerfully considering your sacrificial gift to this year's CSA, you may send your completed pledge card in the pre-addressed envelope you received in the mail. You are also encouraged to make your pledge and gift to out parish's campaign online at GiveCSA.org or you can scan the QR code and donate to CSA, just make sure to put CSA in the note section when you submit your donation online.



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

Mr. Paul Havern Ms. Patricia Goodwin





GOSPEL MEDITATION **21**st **Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The famous Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky said, "Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing." In the Gospel reading this week, Jesus does something harsh and dreadful — he watches his own disciples abandon him. What could possibly be loving about that?

Well, we notice the context is Jesus' teaching about eating and drinking his body and blood. His followers hear this and say, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" (John 6:60). We shouldn't imagine we'd do anything different, because not even the ones who stay, like Peter, seem to understand what Jesus is saying. Then we hear this devastating line, "Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him" (John 6:66). Besides the night of the Last Supper, only now do Jesus' disciples abandon him. And, painfully, Jesus just lets them go.

The best way to make sense out of this is love. Jesus is God's love in action. He wants to become one with those whom He loves. He wants to love them as His own body. Yes, the oneness manifested in the Eucharist sounds harsh and dreadful because it is rooted in love which is willing to risk abandonment and separation to attain its goal: to be one body with the beloved. It is both terrifying and wonderful that Jesus will risk losing us in order to be one with us. Our response? Lord, we cannot grasp a love so great, but please help us never to abandon it, either.

— Father John Muir



If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity at St. Rene look no further. We are looking for volunteers for becoming a Lector, Sacristan, (Lectors & Sacristans for the 5:30 p.m. Mass)

(Lectors & Sacristans for the 5:30 p.m. Mass) Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers (both Youth and Adults for the Saturday at 4:00 p.m., Sunday at 10:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. Mass), Volunteers to join the watering committee (watering the outdoor plants). If you're interested in any of the volunteer areas that are listed, please contact the parish office and we will gladly pass your information on to the person in charge of the assignments and have them contact you.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Submission as Stewardship.

We aren't comfortable with the idea of submission. Our society champions equality, and rightly so — but it's a mistake to think that submission is at odds with equality. To submit ourselves fully, we must first be free. We must first be our own masters. God has granted us that freedom with the salvation He offers. We are no longer the slaves of sin. Now He asks us to be subordinate to one another, in the name of Christ.

What a completely uncomfortable task! What He's asking is for us to be subordinate to the person who irritates us the most. The person we really can't stand. The person who doesn't respect us or appreciate what we have to offer. The person we think we're smarter than, more talented than. The person we envy.

That's the real challenge of stewardship, isn't it? Subordination. Inconveniencing myself by giving of time, of money, of relationship. Putting the needs or wants of another above my own when they haven't done anything special to earn it.

I invite you to consider the cross — the most radical expression of submission, and of stewardship, that ever existed. If there was ever someone who deserved superiority, isn't it the God who let Himself be nailed to a tree, who gave so freely of His life, His body, His blood, His everything?

To look at him in his agony is to truly understand the beauty of submission — of laying down what you have for the good of the other.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's First Reading, Joshua gives the ancient Israelites a choice either to serve their God, the God of Israel, or the pagan gods beyond the River. Joshua then boldly professes, As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. In St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, he describes marriage as a sacrament and likens the marital bond in love between husband and wife to Christ's love of His Church. In St. John's Gospel, many of the disciples find Christ's truth on the everlasting gift of His Body and Blood hard to accept and leave His company. Jesus questions His Apostles to see if they, too, will leave Him and go back to their former way of life. Discipleship in the Lord is challenging, but Simon-Peter proclaims to Jesus, Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Being Christ's disciple has a definite cost, but He assures us He will give us strength to accept that cost. Jesus' strength, peace, and joy can be attained through Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction in your parish.



Register Now for 2024 -2025

JWJ Catholic Academy

Catechism Program

SCAN CODE TO REGISTER



Readings for The Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading I *Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b*

Joshua gathered together all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, summoning their elders, their leaders, their judges, and their officers. When they stood in ranks before God, Joshua addressed all the people: "If it does not please you to serve the LORD, decide today whom you will serve, the gods your fathers served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are now dwelling. As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." But the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD for the service of other gods. For it was the LORD, our God, who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, out of a state of slavery. He performed those great miracles before our very eyes and protected us along our entire journey and among the peoples through whom we passed. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

Reading II *Ephesians 5:21-32*

Brothers and sisters: Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, he himself the savior of the body. As the church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church as handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church.

Gospel John 6:60-69

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father." As a result of this, many of the disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

Readings for the Meek

Sunday, August 25, 2024:Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 (9a)/Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69

Monday, August 26, 2024:2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday, August 27, 2024:2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday, August 28, 2024:2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 23:27-32

Thursday, August 29, 2024:1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 6:17-29

Friday, August 30, 2024:1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/Mt 25:1-13

Saturday, August 31, 2024:1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 25:14-30

Sunday, September 1, 2024:Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 1a/Jas 2:1-5/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



Tuesday, August 27, 2024 9:30 a.m.

- +Celi Esmana
- +Jim Pawlik (Birthday)

Thursday, August 29, 2024 9:30 a.m.

- +Giuseppe & Concetta DiStefano
- +Michael Peterson

Friday, August 30, 2024 9:30 a.m.

+Frances Rozolosky

Saturday, August 31, 2024 4:00 p.m.

- +Joan Herbert
- +Rosemarie Calmi

Parishioners of St. Rene

- +Edwin Wagner
- +Maybelle Koehler
- +Casey & Frances Rusin
- +Franklin Langenstein

Sunday, September 1, 2024 8:30 a.m.

+Sharon Murawski

10:30 a.m.

+Christine Laubach

5:30 p.m.

Marua Hornung, Healing





Prayer of Declaration

Lord,

In the season when faith is hard, help me to be as bold as Peter who picked you above all others saying, "To whom shall I go? You have the words of eternal life."

You're my God.

I'm yours.

There is nowhere else I would rather be.

Amen.

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

To Whom Shall We Go?

A friend of mine, who is a far better Christian than I can ever hope to be, once shared with me that her family sneers at her belief system and lifestyle.

She believes in fairy tales they tell her. She's looking for simple solutions from a kind-faced man in the sky because she doesn't want to grapple with complicated answers to complicated problems.

Religion, they argue, is the easy way out.

As she spoke about this, her voice became unsteady. Not with anger, but with emotion. "I would never call this life easy," she said. "If I was looking for something that was easy, I wouldn't choose Catholicism."

What was unspoken was *why* she has chosen Catholicism. I know the answer, but only because I know her. I knew her before she chose it wholeheartedly, and I know her now, and I see the difference. I see that these words are written so clearly across the days of her life: "Master, to whom shall we go?"

Once the truth is known in your soul, you see, it can never be unknown.

Following Christ is not about easy answers and simple teachings. Sure, it all sounds very basic: love one another as I have loved you. What could be more straightforward?

But what does that mean? What does that look like in daily, modern life, in a world full of the fallen, whose flaws have given us rough edges and weakened wills?

I'll tell you what it looks like — it looks like a struggle. It looks like failure and mess and confusion and losing your way and finding it again, all because you remembered that within you there is a compass pointing due north. It's a constant state of wandering in the dark, following a Voice that asks you to go where you're afraid to go. And you follow the Voice not because it's the only voice there is and not because it's the voice that says what you want to hear, but because it's the only one that speaks the truth, and the truth pulls on you in a way you can't quite resist.

When Christ asks, "Do you also want to leave?" he is not gaslighting us. It's a genuine question. We are free to go. We are not prisoners.

But we have heard the words of everlasting life, and now we can only have peace if we follow where they lead.

"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." — Joshua 24:15

Weekend Liturgy Schedule for August 31 & September 1				
	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	Jovita Engalan	Marv Laubach	Paul Hornung
Altar Servers	Lance Tolentino	Karin Nieto	Eli Wing-Nga	
Eucharistic Ministers	K Moravek G Labinski	Open Open	C Sison H DeVera	Open Open
Ushers	Tom Pluta 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 Frank Iannotti	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	C Sison	V Jennings

Altar Care Team: Friday, August 30th Team 3

Altar Linen:

August:

Teresita Bugante Helen DeVera Ofelia Cunanan Lina Saens Denise Link

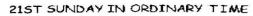
St. Rene St. Vincent de Paul helps with utility bills, clothing, household items, food and in certain cases evictions. If you know of anyone who needs help, please have them call (586)718-4523. They do not need to be parish members. All information is kept strictly confidential.



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

Laundry detergent, jam, canned chicken, pancake mix, white rice, toilet paper and spaghetti.

*Please do not donate restaurant condiments.







WONDERFUL!
THEN LIKE
CHRIST, YOU'LL
PUT YOUR WIFE
FIRST IN
EVERYTHING,
AND SACRIFICE
EVERY PERSONAL
DESIRE TO
SERVE HER,
RIGHT?

BULLETIN UPDATE

With the cost of postage on the rise, if you have returned to Mass and no longer need the Church bulletin mailed to you, please call the parish office and let us know! We would appreciate it.

You can find our bulletin online each week at strene.org our parish website.

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.



PLEASE
REMEMBER
ST. RENE
GOUPIL
PARISH
IN YOUR WILL





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

God Bless you!

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





Country Ribs

Sprinkle a light amount of garlic powder and pepper on each side of country ribs (you decide the amount of ribs you need). Pork chops can be substituted. Lightly oil roaster. Brown ribs in oven in an open roaster at 450 F approximately 20 to 25 minutes on each side, until brown on both sides. May also be browned on top of range.

3/4 c. water

2 cans stewed tomatoes

1 (6 oz.) can tomato sauce

1 c. barbeque sauce

Cover and cook at 325 F for 2 to 3 hours. After 1 1/2 hours, you may add peeled cut potatoes.

Everyday Stewardship

My wife has a hope chest filled with items from her past. Some memories contained in there are joyous, while others are painful and filled with sorrow. However, all those memories helped to make her the person she is today. They have become a part of her very being.

Traditionally, a hope chest contained linens and clothing for a woman's wedding day. It was a chest filled with the hope for the future. As time goes by, many of our hopes are fulfilled. However, life never goes exactly as planned. Some hopes are dashed by unfortunate circumstances or bad choices we have made.

Our hearts are like hope chests that long for the day when we are joined for eternity with our God. Along the way, our chest may accumulate additional items that we collect on our life's journey. If we are gracious and generous along the way, our chest will fill with fruit to abundance. If we live more with a focus on ourselves, we will find our hope chests nearly barren. We will, in fact, lose hope. May the hope chest of your heart be overflowing with love that you have freely given and that has come back to you tenfold. May your generosity provide hope for the hopeless, and may your hope always remain strong.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS





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 the parish office at (586)939-7500.

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

We are in need of Altar servers, young or adult who would like to serve, please contact the parish office at (586)939-7500. Please come to the Altar!

Please Pray for the Family Members of our Parishioners serving in the Military:

MSgt. Jason Bialy, Air Force 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.

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
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

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.

