4 th OF ADVENT

St. Rene Goupil Catholic Community December 22, 2024

Notes from Fr. Steve

This week we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent and are looking forward to the celebration of Christmas. To help you prepare for Christmas Mass, I thought I would write a Christmas message based on the gospel of Luke which you will hear proclaimed.

In the second chapter of Luke, verses 1-14, we find one of the most profound and hope-filled accounts in the Bible: the birth of Jesus Christ. It's a story of humble beginnings, divine intervention, and a promise that transcends time—a reminder that hope is not bound by circumstances but is rooted in God's eternal love for humanity.

The narrative begins with a decree from Caesar Augustus, mandating a census that required Joseph and Mary to travel to Bethlehem. Mary, heavily pregnant, undertakes this arduous journey, a testament to resilience amidst hardship. Their arrival at Bethlehem finds no room in the inn, relegating them to a stable where the Savior of the world is born.

This setting—so humble, so far removed from the grandeur one might expect for a king—reveals an extraordinary truth: God works in the ordinary. The birth of Jesus in a manger is a vivid demonstration that hope often emerges in the most unexpected places. It reminds us that God meets us where we are, even in our lowest and most vulnerable moments.

As shepherds watched over their flocks that night, an angel appeared proclaiming:

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11, NIV)

This announcement was not made to rulers or the religious elite but to shepherds—simple, ordinary people. It underscores a profound truth: the hope of Christ is for everyone. No one is too significant to receive God's love, and no one is excluded from His plan of redemption.

The angle's message was accompanied by a heavenly host praising God, saying:

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

This proclamation introduces a central theme of Christ's mission—peace. Not merely the absence of conflict, but a profound peace that reconciles humanity with God. It is the peace of knowing we are loved, forgiven, and offered eternal life.

There is a message of all of us in this gospel. The birth of Christ as told in Luke 2:1-14 is more than a historical event; it is a beacon of hope that continues to shine in the darkness of our world. It reminds us that:

- 1. **God is with us.** In sending His Son, God bridged the gap between heaven and earth. Jesus' birth assures us that we are not alone, no matter how bleak our circumstances may seem.
- 2. **Hope is for everyone.** Just as the angel's announcement reached shepherds in the fields, the hope of Christ extends to all people, regardless of status, background, or situation.
- 3. **Peace is possible.** In a world often marked by chaos and division, the message of the angel reminds us that true peace begins with God. Through Christ, we find reconciliation, not only with God but with one another.

As we reflect on this passage this Christmas, let it inspire us to carry the light of Christ into our own lives and communities. Let the humility of the manger challenge us to approach others with compassion and love. Let the angelic proclamation stir us to share the good news of hope and peace with a world that desperately needs it.

This Christmas season and beyond, may the story of Luke 2:1-14 remind us that God's promises are steadfast, His love unending, and His hope unfailing. No matter the challenges we face, the birth of Christ assures us that the greatest gift has already been given—a Savior, born for us all.

On behalf of the entire staff, I wish all of you a blessed, and a very Merry Christmas!

Fr. Steve



Christmas Holiday the Adoration Chapel will be closed on Wednesday, December 25th and Thursday, December 26th In Celebration of the Christmas Holiday the office will be closed December 25th through January 1st St. Rene Goupil Catholic Church, Sterling Heights



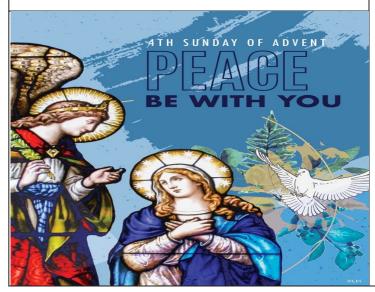


Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dear Lord, Visit our homes! Visit our families! Bring your goodness and light to every broken heart we've met on this journey of life. Your presence brings healing and rebirth. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

In today's Scripture readings from the Book of the Prophet Micah and the Letter to the Hebrews, the sacred writers proclaim the coming of the Lord in to the world. In the Gospel-the Goof News-St. Luke describes Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth, who lives in the Judean hill country. Both women are with child. John, who as a man preaches a baptism of repentance, "leaps" in Elizabeth's womb at Mary's greeting. Even before his birth, John has a special relationship with his cousin, Jesus. In turn, Elizabeth recognizes Mary as the Mother of our Lord. During Advent, in a spirit of evangelization, Christian stewards strive for a closer bond with Christ. Use this time wisely, deepening your relationship with the Lord. Pray, read, and reflect on Scripture, and attend Mass regularly in order to partake in Holy Communion.





"In Me, you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Christ's words from John 16:33 bring comfort in our weary, injustice-laden, COVID exhausted world. As we light the candle of Peace, we are promised blessings by Christ who has silenced the waves, stilled the wind, and made calm for us in a noisy world.

When our Congregation became the Dominican Sisters of Peace, we accepted the name "Peace" that God gave us, not just as an identifier, but as a goal and a promise.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, the Prince of Peace, may each of us recommit to our goal of peace. Let us build peace by respecting life in all its forms and by seeking justice: justice for the poor, the refugee and the immigrant, for our sisters and brothers who experience exclusion. Let us preach peace by sharing the love of God and the Good News of the Gospel with those around us. Let us be peace to those who may disagree with us by not engaging in words that are hurtful or disruptive.

We are praying for you and for your family. May Christ's peace, hope and joy be born into our hearts this Christmas season.

We wish you the most blessed Christmas, and a New Year full of Peace.

Readings for Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reading I *Micah 5:1-4a*

Thus says the LORD: You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.

Reading II

Hebrews 10:5-10

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel Luke 1:39-45

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Sunday, December 22, 2024:Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45 Monday, December 23, 2024: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66 Tuesday, December 24, 2024: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79 Wednesday, December 25, 2024: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 **Thursday, December 26, 2024:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22 Friday, December 27, 2024: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8 Saturday, December 28, 2024: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18 Sunday, December 29, 2024:1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see 5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

St. Rene Goupil Catholic Community December 25, 2024

The Nativity of the

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

Readings for The Nativity of the Lord

Reading I

Isaiah 9:1-6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for flames. For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

Reading II

Titus 2:11-14

Beloved: the grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and peace to those on whom his favor rests."





Christmas Eve Tuesday, December 24, 2024 4:00 p.m. +Terry Koehler +Robert Labinski David Boni +Walter Broski +Diane Broski +Adrian Gonska +Beverly Romeo +Julia Rzeppa Pazik +Maybelle Koehler +Robert Newberry +Barbara Borowski +Theresa & Charles MacDonald +Ralph A. Basile +Bob & Camille Keyes +Richard & Nadine Koehler +Gail Ebert +Edward Koehler +James Koehler +Fr. Francis Weingartz +Patricia Leonard +Eugene & Priscilla Zielinski +Leo & Helen Wilinski +Mary & Jack Zielinski Deceased Members of the Zielinski Family Deceased Members of the Wilinski Family +Sharon Murawski +Donald Wyniemko +Ken Collins +Walt Kalcevic +Rose Zappa +Sam Zappa +Stanley & Bernice Barc +Rosalie Barrett +Robert Serocki +Marlene Breaz +Marian Kobus +Ron Tash Deceased Members of the Kudla Family +Don Szymanski +Ken Szymanski +Michael Pastue +Theodoros Vergos +Sandy Kratt

Christmas Eve cont. Tuesday, December 24, 2024 4:00 p.m. +Joseph Pastue +Alice Pastue +Anthony & Genevieve Szeliga +Regina Czerwicz-Szeliga +Mitchell Roszko +Fred & Kathy Southers +Edward & Lottie Roman +Jerome Sr. & Genevieve Sobecki

Christmas Day Wednesday, December 25, 2024 8:30 a.m. +Joseph & Mary Schultz +John Wyrwicz Deceased Members of the Martineau Family +Roberto Bastianelli +Edmund Lopinski Fr. Chris Alar & Family Fr. Paul Pantiru The Cabrera & Hernandez Family +Candida Hernandez +Fernando Hernandez +Cezar Carera Sr. Deceased Members of the Cabrera, Hernandez & **Beredo Families**

ray for ...





Thursday, December 26, 2024 9:30 a.m. Amy Austria Chapman (Birthday) +Benito & Simplicia Capajo +John Biel

Friday, December 27, 2024 9:30 a.m. Helen Strbenec +John Skrocki

Saturday, December 28, 2024 4:00 p.m.

+Rosemarie Calmi +Edwin Wagner +Maybelle Koehler +Marilyn Cavataio +Franklin Langenstein

Sunday, December 29, 2024 8:30 a.m.

+Josephine Martineau +Sharon Murawski +Antonio Andrion (2nd R.A.)

10:30 a.m.

+James Reaume Sr. +James Reaume Jr. +Charles Reaume +Stephanie Reaume +Wilhemia Reaume +Helen Karash +Leo Karash +Leon Karash +Phillip Karash +Claude Fedders

5:30 p.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners of St. Rene



The Nativity of the Lord

On tis Solemnity of Christmas, the Scripture readings inspire all faith-filled stewards to stop and ponder in great awe God's ultimate gift: the gift of His only begotten Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Heaven's gates are open to anyone who strives for eternal salvation through Christ's birth, life, death on the cross, and Resurrection. Out of heartfelt gratitude, let us give honor, glory, and praise to God for this greatest of gifts: His Son! As a reminder to our children, and to ourselves, today we *celebrate Jesus' birthday*. What of our prayer, service, and generosity can we present to Him?

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." -Luke 2:10

Christmas

Today marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. We have lighted four candles these past four weeks and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends. Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world.

Let us pray...

God,

you became human through the obedience of a simple young woman named Mary. Mary is our model of faith. May we be faithful to your word as Mary was. Give us the courage to face each day with the yes that Mary gave to you. We ask this through the incarnate God, who comes to us again during this Christmas season. Amen.



Weekend Liturgy Schedule for December 28 & 29				
	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	Barbara Kiernan	Ricky Yulo	Flor Sitchon	Virginia Jennings
Altar Servers	Lance Tolentino	Karin Nieto	Paul Havern	
Eucharistic Ministers	L Youkhana G Labinski	Open Open	F Sitchon A Sitchon	Open Open
Ushers	Tom PlutaDave HintzTodd MessineoKaren MessineoNick RieserJim MoravekOmar OszustGary NovelliDon Sundstrom	Tom Dutkiewicz Luis Nieto Al Gyenese Mike Kazyak Ed Stivers Sharon Olszewski Frank Iannotti	<u>Terry Shaughnessy</u> Tom Fooy Ralph Fackler Wilmar Suan Joe Meli Chrisie Fish Chris Norris Elmor Monteiro	<u>Paul Hornung</u> Mike Galuszka Ofelia Fermil Fred Rossi
Sacristan	L Youkhana	K Nieto	M Buffmyer	V Jennings
Altar Care Team: Friday, December 27th	Altar Lir	nen:	Wi	th the cost of postage the rise, if you have

Team 2

Bibiane Gagnon Joyce Fackler December:

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 <u>do not need</u> to be parish members. All information is kept strictly confidential.

Items needed for food pantry:

Vegetable oil, salad dressing, spaghetti, fruit in a can, jam, canned potatoes, dehydrated mashed potatoes, dish soap, bar soap, shampoo and hand soap.



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.



eucharisticrevival.org



Page 11 St. Rene Goupil Catholic Church, Sterling Heights **STAY CONNECTED Prayer for Christmas** Dear Lord, I encourage you to sign up for this resource and make use of the Bible studies, faith formation opportunities, You came to us in humility and silence, and Catholic movies available. Signing up only takes setting aside your majesty so that we might a few easy steps: approach with wonder. Allow us to grow ever closer to you Visit www.formed.org and click "Sign up." 1. this Christmas, and always. Click "I belong to a Parish or Organization." 2. Amen. 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 Salmon Steak **IN YOUR WILL** 1/3 c. oil 3 Tbsp. lemon juice You now can donate to St. Rene Goupil using your 3 Tbsp. soy sauce 3/4 tsp. dry mustard cell phone! Just take a picture of the QR code in the 1 tsp. garlic powder gathering space or in the bulletin; it will automati-3/4 tsp. ground ginger cally link you to the St. Rene donation site. Enter the amount you Mix all ingredients together and marinate at least 1 wish to donate, card information hour at room temperature. Broil or barbeque until and press the "Pay" button. It's done. that simple! We thank you for your generosity. New! Check out the **Our Sunday Offering** December 14 & 15 Thank you for your generous response. God Bless you! BLESSED

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.



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:

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 Wednesday 2pm & Friday 9am 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.

Remember in Your Prayers

