

Notes from Fr. Steve

This Advent season invites us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, not just as a baby in Bethlehem, but also as the King who will come again in glory. In today's Gospel, Luke introduces us to John the Baptist, the voice crying out in the wilderness, calling for repentance and preparing the way of the Lord. His message echoes across time, urging us to examine our lives and make room for Christ in our lives.

John the Baptist's ministry begins in a context of political and religious complexity. Luke lists the rulers of the time—-Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, and others—reminding us that God's word comes not through earthly power but through a solitary prophet in the wilderness.

The wilderness is a place of transformation in Scripture. For Israel, it was a place of wandering and learning dependence on God. For John, it becomes a platform for calling people back to God. This reminds us that God often speaks to us in the quiet, desolate places of our lives, where distractions are stripped away, and we are open to hearing the voice of God. John's message is clear: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." The imagery of leveling mountains, filling valleys, and straightening crooked roads reflects a call to inner conversion. Advent is a time to ask: What are the mountains of pride or self-sufficiency in my life that need to be brought low: What are the valleys of despair or neglect that need to be filled with hope and love?

Preparation involves repentance—a change of heart and direction. Repentance is not about dwelling on guilt but embracing God's mercy. It is an invitation to let go of whatever keeps us from fully welcoming Christ into our lives.

Luke emphasizes that "all flesh shall see the salvation of God." This universal scope is a hallmark of the Gospel. The coming of Christ is not just for a chosen few but for all humanity. As we prepare during Advent, we are reminded that our mission as disciples is to share the hope and joy of Christ with others, especially those on the margins.

Who in our lives needs to see the light of Christ through us? Perhaps a family member, a coworker, or a stranger longing for kindness. We prepare the way for Christ not only in our hearts but also in the world around us by acts of love, justice, and reconciliation.

John's voice calls out to us today, urging us to prepare for the Lord's coming. As we journey through Advent, let us take time to reflect, repent, and renew. May we level the mountains, fill the valleys, and straighten the paths in our lives so that the light of Christ may shine brightly in us and through us.

And when Christmas dawns, may we be ready not only to celebrate the birth of Christ but also to live as faithful witnesses of His salvation, entrusting that "all flesh" may come to know the love of God. God Bless you!

Please remember the parish in your prayers, especially the sick and the suffering. Your prayers bring them, healing, comfort and hope. Happy Advent!



Fr. Steve



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) 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). We are also looking for Lectors, Sacristans for our weekday Masses. 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

I remember growing up in Catholic school and having to make construction paper Advent wreaths every single year! The little yellow flames would be cut out and held until each new candle was lit. Great idea, except for the fact that the chance you could find the flames greatly diminished as each week passed. I will bet over 50% of the wreaths never received a 4th flame! Of course by then, most kids in elementary school had moved on to Christmas. Christmas was not a day. It was an entire experience of vacation from school.

You may or may not have an Advent wreath in your home or office, but those flames are rather insignificant to the flame that should be burning in our hearts during this season. How are you finding ways to light your fire? How are you preparing the way for Christ to come into your life and the lives of those around you in a more profound way?

The ritual of an Advent wreath is a good idea for anyone. But don't think that your preparations are done simply because you have one. You are called to be a flame to others during this season, reminding them of why we celebrate this time at all. Each person is a candle to be lit, and you have the gifts, given to you by God, to light them. At Christmas, you want God to look at you and see all the light generated by those He lit through you. Now is the time. Don't wait until Advent is almost over. You might not be able to find your own flames if you wait too long.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



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 DONATI



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you interested in exploring the Catholic Faith, becoming Catholic, or receiving Sacraments in the Catholic Church?

Do you know someone who might be interested in becoming Catholic?

Classes begin soon at St. Rene Goupil. Call (586)939-7500, extension 109 for more information or talk to RCIA coordinator Michael V. Novak.

Everyday Stewardship

God's Personal Assistants

If you have ever planned a large-scale event, whether it's a musical performance or a religious conference, you may have dealt with someone's personal assistant. Possibly this person would be a representative of the keynote speaker or the master of ceremonies for the local bishop; perhaps it's even the staffer of a local politician or the lackey of a well-known musical act.

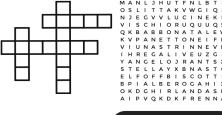
Personal assistants are masters of stewardship — overseeing things in their boss' absence. They prepare the way. This person's job is to get everything ready for the person in charge, so that when he or she shows up whoever he or she is — it's smooth sailing for them to do whatever it is they need to do: sing, speak, pray, mingle, what-have-you. It's usually a big job full of little things, a gig where attention to detail is key.

God is the guest of honor in our life, the keynote speaker, the main event. And what He wants — what He needs — to do is to change our hearts. Constantly, over, and over, and over again.

We are all His personal assistants in this endeavor. We need to prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight His paths. We need to make everything ready so that when He shows up — however He shows up, whether it's in the form of a neighbor in need or a burning bush right in front of us — everything is ready for Him to do His job.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

New! Check out the ONLINE PUZZLE PAGE



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Just a reminder that all gifts must be returned by this weekend, Sunday, December 8th. The gifts will be picked up on December 9th by all the charities.

Thank you for your generosity this season.

Second Sunday of Advent

In today's Scripture readings, both the prophet Baruch and evangelist St. Luke declare that every valley be filled, every mountain and hill leveled, and all paths made straight in the Lord. St. Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles, urges us, through the love of Jesus, to value only those things that truly matter so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ. These inspiring texts remind us that, through our Lord and Savior, we can find true fulfillment; reconciliation and healing can happen in the most trying circumstances; and all can find spiritual wholeness. What a beautiful message for faith-filled stewards during this holy Advent season. As we again prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, partake in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Readings for Second Sunday of Advent

Reading I
Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship. Up, Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God. Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you borne along in glory as on royal thrones. For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age—old depths gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God's command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company.

Reading II *Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11*

Brothers and sisters: I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel *Luke 3:1-6*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annus and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and the flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Readings for the Meek

Sunday, December 8, 2024:Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

Monday, December 9, 2024: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday, December 10, 2024:Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14 **Wednesday, December 11, 2024:**Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, December 12, 2024:Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Friday, December 13, 2024: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 14, 2024:Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday, December 15, 2024: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18



Tuesday, December 10, 2024 9:30 a.m.

+Mark May (Birthday)

Thursday, December 12, 2024 9:30 a.m.

- +Delfin Divina
- +Guadalupe Divina

Friday, December 13, 2024 9:30 a.m.

+Frances Janick

Saturday, December 14, 2024 4:00 p.m.

- +Steven Herbert
- +Rosemarie Calmi
- +Maybelle Koehler
- +Ron Tash (36th R.A.)
- +Marian Kobus (31st R.A.)
- +Franklin Langenstein

Thanksgiving Mass for Aldrin Trompeta

Sunday, December 15, 2024 8:30 a.m.

+Sharon Murawski

10:30 a.m.

- +James Quirk
- +Nhi (Nee) Vu
- +Visitacion Acosta

Africa Vital

Librada Vital

Tess Vital

5:30 p.m.

Living & Deceased Parishioners of St. Rene



GOSPEL MEDITATION

2nd Sunday of Advent

In the year 1995, in the seventeenth year of my life, when Fife Symington was governor of Arizona, Bill Clinton was president of the United States, Chuck Keiffer was pastor of St. Theresa parish in Phoenix, Arizona, and Ron and Mary were my parents, the word of God came to my youth minister Eric and through him I started to see the salvation of God. Soon, Christ came into my life never to leave. I'm thankful beyond words.

Why am I being so specific, you ask? Because in the Gospel this week we hear the specific names of people holding civic and religious authority in first century Palestine when "the word of God came to John the Baptist:" Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, Lysanias, Annas, Caiaphas, and Zechariah. All this is meant to help us see that God breaks into our *history*, into real human events. Jesus is no mere myth. He is the Word-which-breaks-in, in concrete moments, you might say. And now we anticipate his coming once again in our specific situations.

Advent challenge: Name as many civic and religious leaders who are in authority currently in your life. Now, name who the potential John the Baptists may be. A spouse? A friend? A podcaster? A work colleague who brings God's word to you? Spend a moment considering that this comprises the concrete, historical setting into which Christ wishes to come. Then, with these specifics in mind, pray: "Come, Lord Jesus. Come."

— Father John Muir



In a year of racial unrest and civil division, LOVE seems hard to find.

But even as the world seems dark around us, God offers mercy – thanks to the love of God's Son that we await even today.

We see Christ's love in many ways—in the gentle hand of the health care worker; the hands that deliver food to those quarantined by illness; the hands that reach out to our sisters and brothers regardless of race, and as together we seek understanding and justice for all. Loving one another in this way is how we experience the God of Love.

Today's reading from Psalms 85:8 promises steadfast love and faithfulness to those who turn to God. So, we open our hearts, awaiting with joy and anticipation the love that is to come.

Knowing Joy invites us to be joy for others, knowing Hope invites us to be hopeful. Knowing Love invites us to love others.

We light the candle of Love today and pray that all people learn, in the words of Catherine of Siena, "to love and serve my neighbors gratuitously, by helping them spiritually and materially as much as I can...."

	Saturday 4:00PM	Sunday 8:30 AM	Sunday 10:30 AM	Sunday 5:30 PM	
	4.001 WI	6.50 AM	10.50 AWI	3.30 T W	
Presider	Fr. Steve	Fr. Joy	Fr. Steve	Fr. Tim	
Lector	Alex Sitchon	Louis Youkhana	Thess Monteiro	Paul Hornung	
Altar Servers	Lance Tolentino	Karin Nieto	Phat Le Phong Le		
Eucharistic Ministers	L Youkhana G. Labinski	Open Open	T. Monteiro E. Monteiro	Open Open	
Ushers	Tom Pluta Dave Hintz Todd Messineo Karen Messineo Nick Rieser Jim Moravek Omar Oszust Gary Novelli Don Sundstrom	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 Elmor Monteiro	Paul Hornung Mike Galuszka Ofelia Fermil Fred Rossi	
Sacristan	L Youkhana	K. Nieto	T. Monteiro	V. Jennings	

Altar Care Team:

Friday, December
13th
Team 3
Teresita Bugante
Helen DeVera
Ofelia Cunanan
Divina Divina
Marietta Martinez

Altar Linen:

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 do not need to be parish members. All information is kept strictly confidential.



Pantry items needed:

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



<u>BULLETIN</u> <u>UPDATE</u>

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 web-





eucharisticrevival.org

On behalf of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul here at St. Rene, we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our church pantry and poor boxes. Your generous gifts have helped out many of our neighbors in need. God bless you for your continued support.

We are blessed to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass each Sunday. Thank you to Father Steve, Father Joy, and Father Tim for your dedication and devotion to the people of St. Rene.

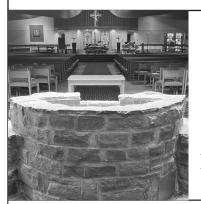
Thanks be to God,

George Downey, President of SVDP

STAY CONNECTED

I encourage you to sign up for this resource and make use of the Bible studies, faith formation opportunities, and Catholic movies available. Signing up only takes a few easy steps:

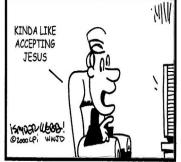
- 1. Visit www.formed.org and click "Sign up."
- 2. Click "I belong to a Parish or Organization."
- 3. Type "Faith at Home Detroit" in the center box under Create New Account. (You'll see it populate from the drop-down menu.) Click "Next."
- 4. Enter your first and last name as well as your email.
- 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

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT







Our Sunday Offering November 30 & December 1 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.





Breakfast Casserole

1 roll Pillsbury crescent rolls

12 eggs

1 1/2 cups ham (chopped)

1 small can sliced mushrooms

1 small onion (chopped)

1/4 cup green or red pepper (chopped)

Salt & pepper

2 cups shredded cheese

Press crescent rolls on bottom of greased 9x13 baking pan. Beat eggs well. Ad remaining ingredients. Pour over crescent rolls. Bake at 350 F for 35-40 minutes.



Prayer for the second week of Advent Prayer of Preparation

With abiding hope as we look forward to Jesus' arrival

Make straight the paths, Lord!
Fill us with holy excitement, in Your name.
Amen.



Immaculate Conception

"Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing!" December 8th is one of our feasts celebrating Mary - the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. From the beginnings of the Church, spiritual writers and theologians have acknowledged the innocence and holiness of Mary. St. Irenaeus called her the "new Eve." Both faced with the pure freedom to accept or reject God, Mary began with work of redemption with her yes to Christ! The Church began to celebrate the feast of Mary's conception in the early Middle Ages. In 1854, Pope Pius IX infallibly declared that Mary was free of original sin from the first moment of her conception. On this feast day, we celebrate the beauty and goodness of Our Lady!



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 Servers

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 serve at 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

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

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.

