



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

February 25, 2024



TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH

ST. SYMPHOROSA + ST. RENE GOUPIL



WELCOME TO TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH

MASS SCHEDULES

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Robert Regan
PASTOR

Rev. Kevin Gregus
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Norman Trela
RETIRED PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

PASTORS EMERITUS

Rev. Ted Bojczuk
PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Peter Paurazas
PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Idzi Stacherczak
PASTOR EMERITUS

PARISH STAFF

Ken Hilliard
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
EXT. 222

Magdalan Koziar
OFFICE & TUITION COORDINATOR
EXT. 248

Irene Perconti
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT EXT. 241

Peg Siebenaler
FAITH FORMATION
COORDINATOR EXT. 226

David Boyle
MUSIC DIRECTOR EXT. 225

Dcn. Raul Duque
PARISH ORGANIST

Mark Schusteric
MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Jacqueline Guerrero
BULLETIN & GENERAL
OFFICE ADMIN EXT. 221

SCHOOL STAFF

Kathy Berry
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Chris Garza
ASSISTANT SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Chicago
Building a Better Tomorrow for
Those in Need

Contact the Two Holy Martyrs
St. Vincent de Paul at (312) 316.3725

ST. SYMPHOROSA

6135 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, IL 60638

SUNDAY MASS

9 AM | 12 PM

MONDAY — SATURDAY MASS

8 AM mass is held during:

February | April | June
August | October | December

RECONCILIATION

TUESDAYS | 6 PM—7 PM

ST. RENE GOUPIL

6949 W. 63rd Place
Chicago, IL 60638

SUNDAY MASS

7:30 AM | 10:30 AM

MONDAY — SATURDAY MASS

8 AM mass is held during:

January | March | May
July | September | November

SATURDAY VIGIL

4 PM

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS | 3 PM—3:45 PM

All are welcome to join in praying the Rosary after 8 AM mass Monday through Saturday! Come meditate on Christ with us!

PARISH OFFICE

6135 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, IL 60638

*Located on Austin between
the school and church buildings*

☎ 773.767.1523

🌐 www.twoholymartyrs.org

✉ info@twoholymartyrs.org

MONDAY—FRIDAY

9 AM—4 PM

SATURDAY

9 AM — 12 PM

PARKING AND SAFETY REMINDER

The safety of our parish community is important and must be taken into consideration at each gathering. Should serious medical or facility issues arise unexpectedly we must be prepared. We ask that you observe parking regulations on both campus locations, churches, loading zones, etc.

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM PARKING IN THE FIRE LANES

SCHOOL OFFICE

6125 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, IL 60638

☎ 773.585.6888

🌐 www.stsymsschool.org

✉ office@stsymphorosaschool.org

MONDAY—FRIDAY

9 AM—3 PM

FR. BOB'S WEEKLY BLOG



One of the gems of the Archdiocese of Chicago is the Joseph & Mary Retreat House located on the grounds of Mundelein Seminary in the far northwest suburbs of Chicago.

Originally called the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House, it has served as a get-away since the 1950s for those needing a simple place to pray and be with the Lord. In the spiritual life, there are times we must remove ourselves from the hustle and bustle to regain perspective and reshape priorities. Whether we realize it or not, the soul craves quiet and stillness.

In the basement of the retreat house is a large painting that features the stars of the universe, a map of the earth, and a crucifix in the middle (please see the picture). The message is powerful, and the included picture doesn't do the artwork justice.

What took place on Mt. Calvary has eternal ramifications. Christ, by his suffering and death has conquered sin, evil and death. He saves us FROM sin, and FOR love. God takes a great evil (the nailing of the Messiah to a cross) and uses it for a greater good – our redemption.

The crucifix reminds us of what self-sacrificing love looks like. The Son of God and Son of Man dies so that we

might have life IN HIM. The blood of the innocent lamb is shed for us; all of humanity. Jesus isn't a white people thing, or a black people thing, a rich people thing, or some political thing. **HE IS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.**

He now calls everyone to Himself. The offer of love has been made. It's up to us to choose how we will respond. The Lord calls ALL people to Himself: black, white; rich, poor; those of every race and tongue. Christ is King of the Universe and He is the way to the Father.

"Come to me all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves, for my yoke is easy and my burden light." (MT 11: 28-30).

There's a sad part to this blog today. The City of Mundelein is mandating that the Joseph & Mary Retreat House have a fire sprinkler system installed. The building is made from concrete, brick, and marble. The building already has fire alarm systems in place, but now the city says it needs a sprinkler system.

This government mandate -- using safety as the reason -- will cost the retreat house roughly three-million dollars. If the retreat house cannot secure funding, it will no longer be able to operate as a retreat house where people can stay in rooms overnight.

The building has stood for over 70 years. No fires. But now it needs a sprinkler system ... or else.

Yes, you can hear my frustration through these words. These are our times. There is a lesson in all this as we face the future of church-state relations. My prayer and hope are that the building receives a "grandfather" clause and be allowed to continue functioning as a retreat house for another 70 years, or until the Lord comes again in glory.

A wise Chicago priest -- who knows a thing or two about buildings and mechanicals -- said that "fire alarms save lives; fire sprinkler systems save buildings."

For now, the future of the retreat house is on ice. So be it. The painting in the basement of the retreat house reminds all of us of the primacy of Christ. He is the CENTER of all things. He died not for our buildings and property. He died to save our souls; to save YOU.

The good news is that Love is stronger than death. He proved it that first Easter, and we who share in his cross shall share in his resurrection. That's his promise.

Quote -- "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." -- **St. Catherine of Siena**





FR. KEVIN'S GREGORIAN RANTS

to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.”

He then invokes some aspect of God's work of salvation depending on the Mass being celebrated. For example, on this Second Sunday of Lent, we hear about the Transfiguration in the Gospel. So, the Preface will highlight this great deed of God in a particular way: “For after he had told the disciples of his coming Death, on the holy mountain he manifested to them his glory, to show, even by the testimony of the law and the prophets, that the Passion leads to the glory of the Resurrection.”

We see themes of both the Transfiguration and Lent in this prayer, along with what the Lord hopes to continue working in our lives.

The Preface ends with a reminder that we offer the Mass in union with the choirs of angels and the communion of saints in heaven as with join in with the unending hymn of praise offered in heaven, the “Holy, Holy, Holy” (more about this next week).

Each Preface, along with the other proper prayers of the Mass (such as the Collect and the prayer over the offerings), is a good way to help us focus on what the Church is asking us to celebrate in a given Mass. There are set Prefaces for the Sundays of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time, as well as for specific days such as the Ascension, Pentecost, or the

Immaculate Conception. There are also prefaces for certain sacraments, such as marriage or confirmation, for certain types of saints, such as pastors, virgins, or martyrs, or Masses for the dead and funerals.

Think of each Preface as an “overture” for the Eucharistic Prayer. It provides a sampling of the themes that will come up later, tuning our ears and hearts to what will come as a part of the most sacred prayer of each Mass. In expressing thanksgiving and praise, we are setting our attitudes to listen and pray for the Lord to continue his great work of salvation.

What happens at Mass should spill over into our daily lives. Each day provides many opportunities to lift up our hearts to express to him our true thoughts and desires. There is no moment in which it is not right and just to give the Lord praise and gratitude. The Preface can every time prompt us to remember that the works of God are given to us freely by him who is our almighty creator.

Following the prayer over the offerings, the priest starts into the Eucharistic Prayer, which is the high point of the Mass as the prayer of thanksgiving, sanctification, and consecration.

At every Mass, this begins with the Preface. You'll recognize that many of the Prefaces sound the same except for the part in the middle that varies depending on what or who the Mass is for. At solemn or special Masses, the priest might chant the Preface.

The start of the Preface, a short dialogue between the priest and the congregation, should be familiar to all of us. The priest says, “The Lord be with you,” and the people respond, “And with your spirit.” The priest continues, “Lift up your hearts,” and the people reply, “We lift them up to the Lord.” Then, “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,” follow by, “It is right and just.”

The remainder of the preface, prayed by the presiding priest alone, is prayer of thanksgiving to God the Father. The priest uses these or similar words: “It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere



For the week of:

February 24th — March 3rd



Saturday February 24th

04:00 PM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠Kathleen Gutierrez (Barb Grzenia)
- ✠Carol Stachowski (Susan Gasior)
- ✠Anna Griffin (Markham Family)

Sunday February 25th

7:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)
- ✠Joseph Loduca (Nancy & Rebecca)
- ✠Rosie Donato (Patricia Taylor)

9:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- ✠Heavenly Birthday Blessings for Lynda Sullivan (Family)
- ✠Jean Sirjay (Nancy & George Groszek)
- ✠Elizabeth Bojarski (Barbara Rendak)
- ✠Virginia Pieczynski (Altar & Rosary Society)
- ✠Guadalupe Villarreal (daughter & grandson)

10:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠Matias Almendarez & Filomena Luna (Almendarez Family)
- ✠Dawn Bodoki (Mom & Dad)
- ✠Jack Orsi (Family)
- ✠Sara Bragiel (St Rene Family)

12PM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin

PRO POPULO

Monday February 26th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠Heavenly Anniversary Blessings for Donald Grisko (Family)
- ✠Michael Genovese (Barbara Rendak)
- ✠Pray for the Forgiveness of Sins (Mary Kolimas)

Tuesday February 27th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- ✠Nick Alderfer (Pat Soltis)
- ✠Aurora Isabel Rangel (Aunt Gloria)
- ✠Richard Jovanovich (Family)
- Health & God's blessings for Arlene Scaletta (Mary Kolimas)

Wednesday February 28th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- ✠Carmela Santiago (Friend)
- Frank Zalewski (Katie Sigafoose)
- ✠Michael Trendle (Gospel Reflection Group)
- Health & God's blessings for Sr. Gira (Mary Kolimas)

Thursday February 29th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)
- ✠Heavenly Birthday Wishes for Ann Miller (Lorraine DeLauriea)
- ✠Evangelina Lopez (Friend)
- ✠Victor & Zeneida Narea (Vincent Narea)

Friday March 1st

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- ✠Richard Jovanovich (Family)
- ✠John & Mary Kolimas & Family (Mary Kolimas)
- Birthday blessings for Corazon Santiago (Rosario Battung)
- ✠John & Kathy Ryan (Cathy & Pat Carone)

Saturday March 2nd

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- ✠William Bulster (Marie Zilka)

04:00 PM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠Robert Compton (Wife Mary Ellen)
- ✠Joseph & Mary Ptak (Family)
- ✠Joseph Loduca (Nancy & Rebecca)
- ✠Josephine Nych (Family)

Sunday March 3rd

7:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- ✠Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)
- ✠Al Beyer (Love You)
- Health and Birthday Blessings for Frances Osty (Judi Porcelli)
- ✠Al Beyer (Toni P)

9:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob

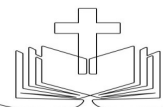
- ✠Mary Szlembariski (Barbara Rendak)
- ✠Virginia Pieczynski (Super Senior Club)
- ✠Rose Marie Polites (Altar & Rosary Society)
- ✠Ethel Stiggers (St. Symphorosa School Board)

10:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- ✠Thomas Murray (Family)
- ✠Christian Furczon (Family)
- ✠Lucille Salamendo (Terri & Dan Domarski)
- ✠Sara Bragiel (Barb Grzenia)

12PM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob

- Health & God's Blessings for Vanessa Gutierrez (Frank Vaickus)
- Prayers & God's Blessings for Soto Family (St. Vincent de Paul Friends)
- ✠Rose Gurgone (Camryn & Ryan Graal)



Presiders are subject to change without notice.

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH | February 25, 2024



OUR SANCTUARY CANDLES

BURNING BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT ARE OFFERED FOR THE FOLLOWING INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF

FEBRUARY

VINCE PORCELLI & MARIA PORCELLI
For the repose of their souls, given by Family.

LYNDA SULLIVAN
For the repose of her soul, given by Family.

MICHAEL NOWAKOWSKI
For the repose of his soul, given by Joe & Josie Pulido (Parents).

ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOLTIS, KRZAN & PICHLER FAMILIES
given by Pat Soltis.

In the lighting of candles, we remember and truly live the words of Our Lord: "I am the Light of the World." In the lighting of the sanctuary candles we honor a loved one, living or deceased.

Please Join Us in Praying for the Sick

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Arnold Adaska | Debbie Lipien | Manuel Soto |
| Guadalupe Almendarez | Rosemary Litwin | Shirley Tloczek |
| Maxine Carey | Joelee MacMaster | Fr. Norm Trela |
| Margaret Dalton | Cathy Mazeika | Judith Webber |
| Joanne Gallas | Clarence Oleszkiewicz | Beverly Zimmerling |
| Mitch Gallas | Ramon Perez | |
| Karen Holmes | Ann Robertson | |
| Ron Kelly | Fr. John Rudnik | |
| Sharon Labiak | Adan Sanchez | |
| Maryann Larson | Katrina Sigafoose | |
| Natalie Lecompte | Karen Singer | |



Due to privacy laws, names may only be added by immediate family members. Please call the parish office to add or remove a name.



If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. - Romans 14:8

Eternal Rest

- Rose Gurgone
- Raymond Espinosa
- Michael Trendle
- Raymond Madej



Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH OFFERTORY 2/18: \$9,379.00

Split the Pot Winning Envelope #: 63747: \$345.00

To our registered parishioners, please remember a minimum of \$5 is required to participate.



Get Ready...The Two Holy Martyrs 2024 Grand Raffle is coming....with some exciting changes!

Also, please contact the Parish Office if you would like to play a leadership role on the Parish Fundraising Committee!



ONLINE/ELECTRONIC DONATIONS

\$8,334.00

January 1, 2024 to January 31, 2024

Total number of transactions:
252



Altar and Rosary would like to invite you to join them for an Ice Cream Social. It will be on Tuesday March 5th at St. Rene narthex at 12pm

See you there!!

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

AT OUR ST. SYMPHOROSA CHURCH

Please join us all Fridays in Lent | 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY 23 | MARCH 1 | MARCH 8

MARCH 15 | MARCH 22 | MARCH 29

773-767-1523 | info@twoholymartyrs.org



TWO HOLY MARTYRS | 6135 S. AUSTIN AVE. | CHICAGO, IL

©LPi



CASINO Fundraising Night

SATURDAY - APRIL 20, 2024

6:30PM - 11:00PM

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH SHARP CENTER
LOCATED ON THE ST. SYMPHOROSA SCHOOL CAMPUS
5940 W 62ND STREET | CHICAGO, IL 60638

ENJOY A NIGHT OF GAMING, MUSIC, LIVE DJ, 50/50 RAFFLES, FOOD & DRINKS!
GAMES AVAILABLE WILL BE BLACKJACK, CRAPS & ROULETTE.
ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT ST. SYMPHOROSA SCHOOL STUDENTS AND NEEDS.
ALL GAMING IS TO WIN PRIZES.
NO CASH PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED AT THIS EVENT.

TICKET COST: \$40

TICKET INCLUDES: \$100 CASINO PLAYING CHIPS, FIVE RAFFLE TICKETS AND ONE COMPLIMENTARY BEVERAGE (BEER, WINE OR SODA) ADDITIONAL DRINKS & FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

TICKETS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT THE RECTORY

OR

SCAN THE QR* CODE BELOW

*CONVENIENCE FEE APPLIES - \$1.25 PER TICKET



ST. SYMPHOROSA
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
OF TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Fish Fry Menu

FEBRUARY 16, MARCH 1,
MARCH 15
5PM-7PM
THE SHARP CENTER SOCIAL HALL
ON THE ST. SYMPHOROSA CAMPUS

Fish Specials

Fish Plate \$12.00
(2 pieces of fish, fries, Cole slaw,
bread)
Additional piece of fish \$3.00
Plate of fries \$2.00

Pierogi (4 per order)

Cheese \$4.00
Potato \$4.00
Kraut \$4.00
Fruit \$4.00

Additional Items

Potato Pancakes \$5.00
Cheese Quesadilla \$3.00
Soup \$5.00
Kids Meal (quesadilla, chips, juice
box & cookies on a frisbee) \$5.00
Pound Cake Slice \$2.00

Thirst Quenchers

Water \$2.00
Coke \$2.00
Diet Coke \$2.00
Sprite \$2.00
Juice Box \$1.00



Two Holy Martyrs Lenten
FISH FRY
at our St. Symphorosa Sharp Center Social Hall
5940 W. 62nd St.

March 1 & March 15
5PM-7PM
Dine in & carryout available
twoholymartyrs.org (773) 767-1523

FISH DINNERS & MORE!

Our Lenten Friday Night Fish Fry Dinners are back! Join us in the St. Symphorosa Social Hall for a fish dinner and lots of socializing! Don't like fish? We have several other dishes as well as a special plate for the kiddos! Come hungry and spend an evening with your parish family! Carry out is also available. After dinner, walk over to church for our weekly Stations of the Cross, starting at 7PM.



BETHLEHEM ARTS

THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 2ND & 3RD

Our worship sites will be hosting representatives of the Catholic Christian Community from Jerusalem and Bethlehem in the Holy Land this weekend, March 2nd and 3rd after all Masses. They will be displaying handcrafted olive wood religious figurines and articles.

Due to political conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic, tourism has been reduced in the Holy Land and the Catholic Community has come to depend more on the sale of these articles abroad to survive. The woodcarvings are beautiful and reflect faith and love for the Lord.

Please consider purchasing a gift that will be remembered and cherished for yourself or someone dear to you.



SUPER SENIOR CLUB NEWS

Welcome back, meeting will be on Wednesday March 13th. **Doors open at 11:30am**, meeting convenes at 12pm (noon) in the St. Rene Narthex.

SEE YOU THERE!!

FAITH FORMATION

Important!



Upcoming Events:

- 2/24:** Faith Formation Classes
St. Syms Campus. (Sat.)
- 2/25:** Eighth Grade Family Mass
and
Confirmation Retreat.
- 2/27:** Faith Formation Classes
St. Syms Campus. (Tues.)
- 3/02:** Faith Formation Classes
St. Syms Campus. (Sat.)
- 3/12:** Faith Formation Classes
St. Syms Campus. (Tues.)

Faith Formation Program Emergency Closing Information

IMPORTANT REMINDER...in the event of a heavy snowfall, or inclement weather you can access Emergency Closing information for our program by going to the: **Two Holy Martyrs Website** at twoholymartyrs.org (St. Symphorosa & St. Rene)
In the event of an emergency closing, this announcement would be the First Message to appear on the Website at the top of your screen.



Tips for Getting in the Spirit of Lent

- * Turn the radio off in the car today and simply pay attention.
- * Write a letter, especially to the sick or elderly.
- * Learn something new today.
- * Turn off the TV and listen to music or read.
- * Count your blessings. (You'll need a good deal of time for this one).
- * Recall a favorite prayer and pray it slowly.
- * Perform a random act of kindness.
- * Imagine God saying to you, "May I have your attention, please?" How will you answer?
- * Fast from something for a day.
- * Read and reflect on a scripture passage.



The Eighth-Grade Family Mass will be held on Sunday, February 25th at 9:00am at St. Symphorosa Church. All students who will be making their Confirmation this Spring, their sponsors and their families are invited to attend this Mass. We will feature the Eighth-Grade Saint Projects in the narthex. The Saint Project is a requirement for the reception of the Sacrament. We look forward to welcoming all our Confirmation families on February 25th at 9:00am at St. Symphorosa Church. (The Confirmation Retreat follows this Mass.)



LENTEN OUTREACH

Our Faith Formation students invite all of our parishioners to participate in our Lenten Outreach project. All levels will be donating Children's Easter Basket items for the local shelters and agencies we service. Donations can be brought to our Faith Formation classes, to the Main Parish Office on Austin Ave. or dropped off in the narthex when attending Mass. Please note, we can always use empty Easter Baskets and the cellophane bags to wrap the baskets, after we fill them. For more information, feel free to call the Faith Formation Office. *God be with you and your dear families as we journey through this holy season of Lent.* Our 2024 Confirmandi are invited to take part in assembling the Easter Baskets and earn service hours for their upcoming Confirmation.



SPIRIT DAY RETREAT

On February 25th, our Confirmation Candidates from our Faith Formation Program and the Eighth Grade students from St. Symphorosa Catholic School will gather for their Pre-Confirmation Spirit Day Retreat. This special day will begin at the 9:00am Mass and then continue into the I-Building. This spiritual day will be filled with activities that are prayerful, reflective, and, at the same time, fun. We invite all our parishioners to pray for our Confirmation Candidates as they continue their journey toward the Sacrament of Confirmation.

PARISH SCHOOL NEWS

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

(GRADES PK-2ND)



Mrs. Pettenon teaching Mrs. Horne's preschoolers about musical instruments!



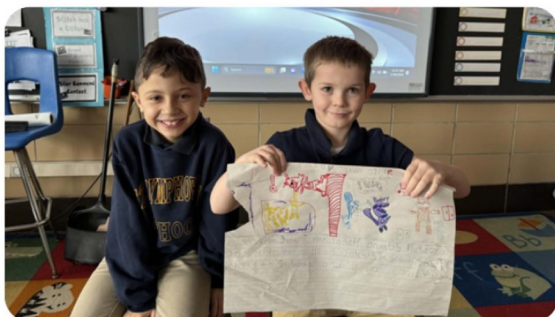
Mrs. Baisa's class talking about transportation



Kindergarten celebrated 2024 with a "Happy Noon Year's" celebration at 12 noon.



First grade projects sharing all about what traditions and celebrations they love



Second grade room 204 had wonderful story presentations using their spelling of the week! It is beautiful to see them so confident and joyous.



Second grade room 206 at indoor recess

CALL 773.585.6888 OR EMAIL RBANDEN@STSYMPHOROSASCHOOL.ORG TO SCHEDULE A TOUR!