

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

BEHOLD, THE LAMB OF GOD.

— JOHN 1:36 —



January 14, 2024

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH
ST. SYMPHOROSA + ST. RENE GOUPEL



WELCOME TO TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH CHURCH 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



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

SATURDAY VIGIL

5:30 PM

RECONCILIATION


TUESDAY | 6 PM—7 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

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

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



Jesus asks a penetrating question in this Sunday's Gospel.

"What are you looking for?" The Lord asks the question to two aspiring disciples who have left the side of John the Baptist, but this is a question Jesus asks all of us today. Put yourself in the shoes (or sandals) of the person hearing this question in the Gospel. What would you say? What are you looking for?

This question invites us to go much deeper than more money, more pleasure, more power or more honor/fame. The Lord wants us to delve deeper into our hearts so that we can recognize the longings we have that nothing material can satisfy.

If we're being honest, we'll admit we have a thirst – a hunger – that nothing in this world can completely fulfill. We possess a God-shaped hole in our hearts that only God can sufficiently fill. This is why the spiritual life is so important for us as human beings. We cannot neglect the care of our souls.

So many of our society's ills are directly related to sick souls. There is a dis-ease in so many souls because the spiritual life is either neglected or outright denied. Imagine a person eating only candy and junk food every single day.

We know what happens. The same thing happens in the spiritual life

when we make choices that are not good for us spiritually.

On occasion, I intentionally scroll through all the cable TV channels and notice how many of the shows are about murders, evil, and violence. Most episodes of 20/20, Dateline NBC, etc., are about human beings killing other human beings. There always seems to be some documentary about Hitler. We see shows like Very Scary People. The balance is way off.

What we take into our ears and eyes matters as much to our overall health as what we eat and drink. Please note, Fr. Bob isn't a total prude, but it's important for each of us to watch our intake balance. The bad news must be balanced by the good news.

Jesus' question is meant to prod us and to make us think. What are we truly looking for? And what or who can fill the God-shaped hole in our respective hearts. We need light in our lives.

Ponder this: Jesus, the one who asks the question, is the ultimate Answer.

He is the way, and the truth, and the life. When we finally realize He is our everything, then we'll have arrived at 4 P.M., which is the time of day it was when the two disciples in our Gospel made the decision to stay with Christ. What are YOU looking for? Bring this to prayer today.

Christmas Thank You

Thank you to everyone for a wonderful Christmas season.

First, thank you to everyone who helped decorate our two beautiful churches, and who helped keep our poinsettias watered. These things

don't just happen. We have parishioners who volunteer to make these things happen. Our parish maintenance staff also lends a hand with the heavy lifting and the outdoor lights.

Next, thank you to everyone who participated in Holy Mass throughout Advent, on Christmas, and during the Christmas season. The Lord left us the Mass as a gift for us. We should never see Mass as a burden.

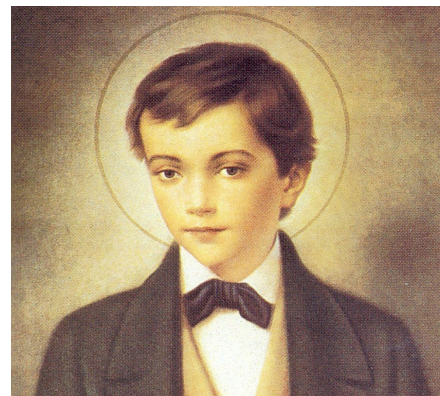
And thank you to everyone who reached deeper into their pocketbook to support the parish financially during the holiday season. Fiscal generosity goes a long way in parish operations.

Finally, thank you to everyone who offered a personal gift to Fr. Kevin, Fr. Norm and me. We are humbled by your thoughtfulness for your priests.

May the good Lord bless you and your loved ones throughout the year.

Quote -- "I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything, even the smallest things, for the greater glory of God." --

St. Dominic Savio





FR. KEVIN'S GREGORIAN RANTS

As the congregation sits down following the General Intercessions, the Mass pivots from the Liturgy of the Word to the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Practically, the gifts of bread and wine are brought to the priest, ideally by the people, and a collection is taken up.

The priest receives these gifts, and along with the deacon and altar servers, prepares the altar for the consecration of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ.

Meanwhile, the choir sings a hymn to accompany the preparation.

But the offertory is much more than just ensuring the bread and wine are placed on the altar and that the missal is open to the right page. As I've written in previous articles, the Mass is a sacrifice not just by the priest.

Rather, we unite our own offerings and sacrifices along with the bread and the wine. Remember what the priest says once the bread and wine are on the altar? "Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice **and yours** may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father."

One of my teachers in seminary

explained to us how he taught his own children to add their offerings to the altar. He had them bring to mind whatever they wanted to give to God that day from their own heart. Maybe it was a family member or friend who was sick. Maybe it was the joy of a new experience. Maybe it was a powerful emotion or desire.

Whatever it was, he had them hold it in their heart and then "throw" it onto the altar next to the bread and wine and see it sitting on the paten or in the chalice.

When we offer these sacrifices, we shouldn't think that it is just giving something up. Instead, it's better to use the language of transformation. We want God to transform these good things into something even better and more in union with God himself. It is about what is behind the offering as it comes forth from the depth of our hearts.

We can think of the chalice as a "stewpot" of the offerings, intentions, and sacrifices of the entire community. That is the beauty of the communal nature of the sacrifice of the Mass. It's joy, suffering, thanksgiving, and pleading all mixed in together so that it can be offered to God with the bread and the wine that becomes the Body and Blood. This is the sacrifice we know is acceptable by the Father.

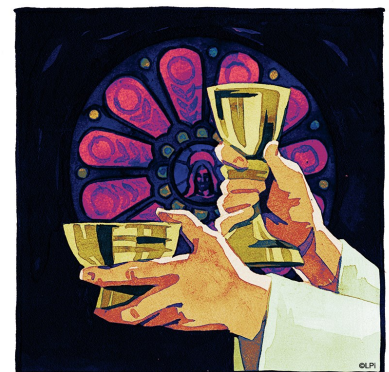
Even the money we give back to the church can be seen in the scope of this offering from the heart. We desire to support the work of the church in her ministry and work with the poor. This desire

speaks of communion with others and the evangelization of the people in our local community. St. Justin Martyr wrote about this in 170 AD: "Those who are well off, and who are also willing, give as each chooses. What is gathered is given to him who presides to assist orphans and widows, those whom illness or any other cause has deprived of resources, prisoners, immigrants and, in a word, all who are in need."

Every offering is giving some part of ourselves over to God in the hopes that someday, we can offer our whole selves to the Lord, holding nothing back from complete and total union.

There is truly only one sacrifice offered at the Mass – Jesus Christ. What we are doing is participating in the sacrifice of Jesus to God the Father.

Our offerings are made all the more powerful because they are united to that of Christ's. Come to Mass each time with what you desire to give or notice what stirs up within you during the Liturgy of the Word. That is the offering the Lord wishes you to join to his.



For the week of:

JANUARY 13TH - JANUARY 21ST



Saturday January 13th

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

- ✠ Robert Compton (wife Mary Ellen)
- ✠ Nydia Buentello (daughter Nydia)
- ✠ Joseph Kasper (Arlene Scaletta)
- ✠ Robert Adair (Terri Domarsky)

05:30PM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠ Gerald Sears (Gregory Jackson & Family)

Sunday January 14th

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

- ✠ Vince Porcelli (wife Judy)
- ✠ Al Beyer (Toni P)
- ✠ Christian Furczon

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

- ✠ Alicia Gaffney (Phillip & Cathy Whitehouse)
- ✠ Claude Wiatrak (wife Clara)
- ✠ Catherine & John Scanlon (Margaret)
- ✠ Joseph Marv Kasper (Theresa Feddor)
- ✠ Rich & Millie Newtoff (Family)

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

- ✠ Heavenly Birthday Blessings for Joanne Bukowiecki (Dan & Patti)
- ✠ Dawn Bodoki (Mom & Dad)
- ✠ Ken Jaros (John & Gloria Bodoki)
- ✠ Joseph Kasper (Linda Dobias)
- ✠ Joanne Bukowiecki (Robert)

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

Pro Populo

Monday January 15th

09:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠ Ramiro Garza & Israel Garcia (Juan Garcia)
- Good health & God's Blessings for Jack Ruby (Mary Kolimas)
- Health & Blessings for Fr. Idzi (Mary Kolimas)

Tuesday January 16th

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

- ✠ Vince Porcelli (wife Judy)
- ✠ Jesse Parra & Fidel Martinez (Almendarez Family)
- ✠ Joseph Staszal (Barbara Rendak)
- Good Health & God's Blessings for Pat Soltis (Mary Kolimas)

Wednesday January 17th

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

- Health & Blessings for Fr. Ted (Mary Kolimas)
- Eleanor Gaca (Ann Robertson)

Thursday January 18th

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

- All Soul's in Purgatory
- Good health and God's Blessings for Lorraine DeLauriea (Mary Kolimas)

Friday January 19th

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

- ✠ Steffini Ann Hommes (4th Grade Students)
- ✠ Joseph Slowinski (Daughters & Family)
- Good Health & God's Blessings for Arlene Scaletta (Mary Kolimas)
- Priest Vocations

Saturday January 20th

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

- Health & Blessings for Fr. Matt Compton (Mary Kolimas)

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

- Pro Populo

05:30PM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠ Art & Lydia Stetson (Mike, Mark & Frank)
- ✠ Donna Martin (Mary Trendle)
- Prayers & God's Blessings for Cynthia Howard (SVdP)

Sunday January 21st

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

- ✠ Vince Porcelli (wife Judy)

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

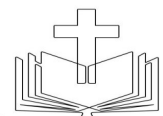
- ✠ Juanita Hill (Arlene Scaletta)
- ✠ Patrick & Eugene Scanlon (Margaret)
- ✠ Marisol Guerrero 16th yr. Anniversary (Guerrero-Arteaga Family)
- ✠ Rosa Rodriguez (Arlene Scaletta)

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

- ✠ Lucille Branda (Teresa & Nick Laskewich)
- ✠ Rita Tomczak (Katie Sigafoose)
- ✠ Rich Janik (Robert Kroll & Family)
- ✠ Michael Patrick Sheerhan (SVdP)
- ✠ Anthony Sanfratello (Family)

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

- ✠ Chester Mateja (Canryn & Ryan Graa)
- ✠ Krystyna Dana (Daughter)
- ✠ Raul Ruis 1yr anniversary (Maria & children)
- ✠ Katherine Barrera (Husband)



Presiders are subject to change without notice.

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH | JANUARY 14, 2024



OUR SANCTUARY CANDLES

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

JANUARY

VINCE PORCELLI & MARIA PORCELLI

For the repose of their souls, given by Family.

REST WITH THE LORD HENRY & HELEN KROLL

given by Judith Scehovic.

EUGENE BERNADETTE & ANGELA URAM

For the repose of their souls, given by Basia Rendak.

FOR THE HEALTH & RECOVERY OF GREGORY JEANNOTTE

given by Parents.

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.



Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH OFFERTORY 1/07: \$9,134.00

Split the Pot Winning Envelope # 63116 \$410.00

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



Two Holy Martyrs Parish is HIRING

Full/Part Time Maintenance Person

We are currently accepting resumes for a Part Time or Full Time Maintenance Position. Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter, highlighting experience and interest to khilliard@archchicago.org

Please Join Us in Praying for the Sick

Arnold Adaska	Natalie Lecompte	Fr. Norm Trela
Guadalupe Almendarez	Debbie Lipien	Beverly Zimmerling
Maxine Carey	Cathy Mazeika	
Margaret Dalton	Clarence Oleszkiewicz	
Joanne Gallas	Rose Paczek	
Mitch Gallas	Ramon Perez	
Karen Holmes	Ann Robertson	
Ron Kelly	Fr. John Rudnik	
Sharon Labiak	Manuel Soto	
Maryann Larson	Shirley Tloczek	



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

Sara Bragiel
Donald Brann
Kathleen Gutierrez
William Rich



Meeting for Parish Organization Leaders

Meeting will be held on
January 16th, 2024
at 10am or 6pm in the Sharp
Center on our St. Symphorosa
Campus

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two Holy Martyrs Parish
St. Rene Goupil Campus
6340 S. New England Ave



Super Bingo

Sunday January 14, 2024

Doors Open 11:30AM - Games Begin 1:00PM

Refreshments & Food are Available for Purchase
FREE COFFEE

Admission \$20 at the Door

For More Information Call 773-767-1523



If you would like a statement of your contributions for 2023, please call the parish office at 773.767.1523 to request one.

You may also email us to request one at

info@twoholymartyrs.org

The statement can be picked up in person with a photo ID or email to you. Thank you.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Anyone interested in assisting at our monthly BINGO at our St. Rene Campus? Please contact Ms. Kathy Clepp at 773.858.1497

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH & SCHOOL OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR
**MARTIN LUTHER
KING DAY**



MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024

Valentine's Day
Hosted by the THM Transformation Team

Spilt-the-pot

**Sunday
January 28th**

Bingo!

Chili Bar! \$20 at the door
Doors open @ 12:30pm
Games start @ 1:30pm

Pulltabs!

In the St. Sym's
I Hall
6148 S. Mason

Come on out of the cold and warm up at our Valentine's Bingo on January 28th! Enjoy bingo and a bowl of chili at our Chili bar with all the toppings! Pull tabs and split-the-pots will also be available so get ready to win at Two Holy Martyrs!!

FAITH FORMATION

Important!

Upcoming Events:

1/13: Faith Formation Classes
St. Syms Campus. (Sat.)

1/16: Faith Formation Classes
St. Syms Campus. (Tues.)

1/20: First Communion Bread
Meeting / Retreat.

1/21: Second Grade Family
Mass,
AKA: The First Communion
Belonging Mass. 9:00am
St. Syms Church.

1/27: Faith Formation Classes
St. Syms Campus. (Sat.)
And
First Communion Bread
Meeting / Retreat.

1/30: 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.



BELONGING SERVICE

On Sunday, January 21, at the 9:00am. Mass at St. Symphorosa church our Faith Formation students and second graders from St. Symphorosa School preparing for Holy Communion will be received as candidates for First Eucharist. The candidates are invited to bring a loaf of sandwich bread to Mass. The bread symbolizes Jesus, The Bread of Life. All the bread will be donating to our local food pantry.



PRAYER REMINDER

Our Eighth-Grade students from St. Symphorosa School along with all our level eight students in our Faith Formation Program will celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation on April 28th. Also, our St. Symphorosa Second-Grade students and all our level two Faith Formation Students will receive Jesus in the sacrament of the Eucharist, for the first time on May 4th. We invite you to please prayerfully remember all of these young people ... that they will remain faithful disciples of Jesus.



On January 20th and on January 27th, our First Communion Candidates along with their parents are invited to a special Communion Bread Meeting/Retreat. As part of this celebration, we will pray together, tell stories about our Holy Communion Masses from the past and partake in the sharing of bread with one another. Important information regarding the actual Communion Ceremony will be discussed. Parents are welcome to ask any questions they may have concerning this momentous occasion. In addition, at the very end of our Retreat everyone will have the opportunity to view the film "Grandma's Bread".

(The movie, "Grandma's Bread" deals with the very sensitive issue of the death of a grandparent. Therefore, if you decide you and your child need to skip this movie, you have that option.)

We are looking forward to seeing all our First Communion Families at the Bread Meeting Celebration!

Thank You God for the Eucharist, and the joy it brings into our lives. Happy are we who have been called to the Lord's Table!

PARISH SCHOOL NEWS

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

(GRADES PK-2ND)



HO HO HO! Merry Christmas Ms. Baisa's class!



Merry Christmas from Mrs. Horne's Pre-K.



Kindergarten enjoyed a visit from Mrs. Green and farmers from Agriculture in the Classroom



First grade performs the Nativity Play for the school and families.



Second grade (room 206) making gingerbread house in Art.



Second grade class 204 is ready to welcome the new year with all these beautiful smiles!

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK OPEN HOUSE Sunday, January 28, 2024 10:30am-1:30pm

ST. SYMPHOROSA SCHOOL OF TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH

Proudly Presents...

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK OPEN HOUSE

We are "Setting the Stage for Success" at St. Symphorosa School!

Here we:

- Know and love our students
- Put faith first
- Believe all things are possible with God
- Offer a rigorous curriculum, including our STEM Studio
- Work with families to make the investment affordable
- Provide supportive before and after school care



SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024
10:30AM-1:30PM

6125 S. AUSTIN AVE CHICAGO, IL 60638
773.585.6888 WWW.STSYMSSCHOOL.ORG



ST. SYMPHOROSA
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
OF TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

CELEBRATE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
January 28 - February 3