

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH

ST. SYMPHOROSA + ST. RENE GOUPIL



"I am the gate. Those who come in by me will be saved..." John 10:9

WELCOME TO TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Robert Regan
PASTOR

Rev. Matthew Compton
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Norman Trela
RETIRED PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

PASTORS EMERITUS

Rev. Ted Bojczuk
PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Marcel Pasciak
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

Cynthia Estrada
BULLETIN & GENERAL
OFFICE ADMIN EXT. 210

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

SCHOOL STAFF

Kathy Berry
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Chris Garza
ASSISTANT SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

CHURCH SCHEDULES

ST. SYMPHOROSA

6135 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, IL 60638

SUNDAY MASS

9 AM | 12 PM

MONDAY — SATURDAY MASS

8 AM During:

February | April | June
August | October | December

SATURDAY VIGIL

5:30 PM

RECONCILIATION

TUESDAY | 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 During:

January | March | May
July | September | November

SATURDAY VIGIL

4 PM

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS | 3 PM—3:45 PM

*Join us after 8 AM mass Monday through Saturday in praying the Rosary.
Everyone is welcome. Come meditate on Christ with us!*

PARISH OFFICE

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

ST. SYMPHOROSA SCHOOL

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 helps us in today's Gospel. He says, "A thief comes only to steal, slaughter, and destroy. I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

If we listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd and obey His call, then the fruits of life come forth from us; a.k.a. good fruit. If we listen to the voice of the thief (the Enemy and his demonic minions), then we witness coming forth theft, slaughter, and destruction (bad fruit).

Take a moment this weekend and have an honest look inside your heart. What fruits do you see coming forth lately? Have we been listening to the voice of the Good Shepherd, or have we inclined our ear to someone or something that chips away at our humanity?

Jesus is the gate. There will be many pretenders along the way, but Christ is the Real Deal. We can trust Him. He leads us to authentic love in contrast to the voice of the seducing thief who dangles cheap life-draining substitutes before our eyes.

Confirmation Affirmation

Last Sunday afternoon our Two Holy Martyrs community gathered in our St. Rene Goupil church for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Roughly 60 young disciples presented themselves to Bishop Jeff Grob (auxiliary bishop of Chicago) to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit. These young disciples are now fully initiated Christians, and they are spiritually equipped to be witnesses to Christ in our world.

The Mass was beautiful. We are grateful to all the parents and Confirmation sponsors for helping our children recognize the importance of faith. Our children are coming of age during a confusing time. Helping them grow in relationship with the Lord is crucial.

We are also thankful to all the teachers/catechists who work year-round to form our young disciples in Christ. We also appreciate the parish school parents who helped serve at our hospitality table after the Mass as the Confirmands had their pictures taken with Bishop Grob.

Thank you, Holy Spirit!



This weekend we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He leads us to green pasture. We hear his voice and follow Him. He knows each one of us better than we know our own self. We can trust the Lord.

There are, however, in this world, many other voices vying for our attention. On any given day, we might listen to a slew of voices: at work, at home, at the gym, at the tavern. We also hear plenty of voices on the radio, on the television, and on our "smart" phones.

Bottom line? There's a lot of buzz in our culture. This is why prayer is so important. The most conducive environment for prayer is one of quiet and stillness. Certainly, you can pray anywhere at any time, but to hear the whisper of the divine, we need to get away from the hubbub of our noisy culture.

What can help us discern whose voice is who? Look at the fruits produced.



FIRST COMMUNION MASS

On Saturday, May 6, 2023, we will celebrate First Communion for 78 young disciples (a mix of our parish school children and our Faith Formation children).

This year's First Communion Mass will be held in our St. Symphorosa church.

Please keep these children and their respective families in your prayers. They have been preparing their minds and hearts for two years to receive the Eucharist. This will be a joyous occasion.

The celebration of First Communion is a PARISH liturgy. It is not just the school on its own, or the faith formation program on its own. This is a parish celebration. The Eucharist is a sacrament of unity. Proper disposition toward reception of the Eucharist brings us into COMMUNION with God and with one another.

Because of the size of this year's First Communion class, each child is limited to having six family members present at the Mass. This decision has upset some people, and as pastor, I understand. There are some families that would like to bring 10-15 loved ones. Unfortunately, that is not possible this year. Anyone's Frustration should be directed at me, the

pastor, and not the school principal or the coordinator of religious education.

There are many factors that go into setting dates and times of parish liturgies. The pastoral staff does its best to take all things into consideration before making final decisions. And if I have learned anything now in eight years as a priest, it's that you can't please everyone. You do your best for the sake of the entire parish.

Blessed Carlo Acutis, pray for us!



WILL JESUS BE MENTIONED?

Upfront I will admit I have a major bias toward Jesus, and what the Lord did for us. His Paschal Mystery (suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension) opens for us the way to eternal life and the Beatific Vision. His Blood shed for us matters. What took place at Calvary matters. The empty tomb of Easter morning matters. Faith matters.

I say all this because far too many of today's obituaries leave out any mention of the loved one's faith. Families opt to have services called "Celebration of Life," as the funeral Mass is by-passed. "He wasn't much of a churchgoer," a family member will say. Or the deceased loved one's children want no part of church stuff. "Just have a priest come say some prayers. Oh, and make sure he's funny. Keep it light-hearted."

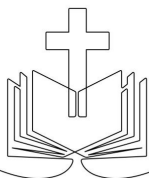
Friends, Jesus died and rose for every single human being who has ever lived. The funeral Mass is never a reward for living a perfect life. Far from it. The funeral Mass is our joining in with the prayer of Christ toward God the Father for the imperfect person in the casket or in the urn.

As a parish priest, I am responsible for helping folks remember the sacrifice of Christ and helping protect the dignity of the sacred liturgy so that we don't turn a funeral Mass into "I Did It My Way."

Don't be afraid to list Jesus as someone you knew in this life, because he is the One who takes us through the cross to the promise of resurrection. That's the celebration!



"The closer we are to the Shepherd, the safer we are from wolves." UNKNOWN



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 30TH — MAY 6TH



Monday, May 1st

8:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠Christine Staszal (Barbara Rendak)
- ✠Joan Turek (Janina)
- ✠Jan Szkodon (Ilona Szkodon)
- ✠Eugeniusz & Karolina Szkodon (Ilona Szkodon)

Tuesday, May 2nd

8:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠Kathy Arvetis (Husband)
- ✠Jan Szkodon

Wednesday, May 3rd

8:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Norm

- Jose R. Battung (Birthday blessings! Rosario Battung, wife)
- ✠Vince Porcelli (Judy, wife)
- ✠Samuel Sarlitto (Mary Sarlitto)

Thursday, May 4th

8:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Norm

- ✠Charles Delauriea (Lorraine, wife)

Friday, May 5th

8:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob

5:30 PM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob

Saturday, May 6th

4:00 PM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Marc

Sunday, May 7th

7:30 AM | | Presider: Fr. Norm

- ✠Vince Porcelli (Judy, wife)
- ✠Stanley Pasinski (Bernadine Gnat)

✠Stanislawa Moneta

9:00 AM | | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠Altar & Rosary Members (A&R Society)
- ✠Tom Markham (Family)
- ✠Virginia Blazeniak
- ✠Kathy Calgagno (Marge Shmidt & Maria Likosit)

10:30 AM | | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠Christian Furczon
- ✠Alice & Rita Tomczak (Rich Janik)
- ✠Carrie Page (Health & God's Blessing Mary Wassink)
- ✠Don & Joann Page (Health & God's Blessing Mary Wassink)

12:00 PM | | Presider: Fr. Tim

Pro Populo

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THE SICK

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Arnold Adaska | Rick Jutton | Stanley Poliot |
| Guadalupe | Joan Juris | Leticia Reyes |
| Almendarez | John Kappel, Jr. | Graciela Rivas |
| Raeann Arends | Ron Kelly | Ann Robertson |
| Jean Bell | Stella Kostsynowicz | Fr. John Rudnik |
| Mary Bieser | Robert Kroll | Joseph Rudnik |
| Fr. Ted Bojczuk | Claudia Kwilosz | Jack Ruggiero |
| Maxine Carey | Sharon Labiak | Mary Shortall |
| Judy Carranza | Flavia Langan | Pat Soltis |
| Giovanni Carrigan | James Lapsansky | Brian Styka |
| Rita Cernick | Diane Malariak | Sr. Christine Styka |
| Michael Clifford | Cathy Mazieka | Terry Styka |
| Marilyn Crites | Lori McCarthy | Michael Sutkowski |
| Margaret Dalton | Maria Montiel | Joanne Tishka |
| Leon Detlaf | Edward Moriarty | Shirley Tloczek |
| Debbie Flint | Maryann Larson | Adele Vacchiano |
| Maria Flores | Natalie LeCompte | Buddy Valela |
| Ken Fonte | Domencio Lepore | Judith Webber |
| Mia Forbes | Rose Ann Lindsay | Becky Williams |
| Nia Forbes | Maria Lopez | JoAnn Wolniak |
| Sue G. | Bob Pac | Beverly Zimmerling |
| Geri Gestaut | Eleanor Pastorek | |
| Karen Holmes | Jesus Perez | |
| Heather Hradek | Juan B. Perez | |
| Shawn Hughes | Maria P. Perez | |
| Denise M. Jandura | Maria Paz Perez | |

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



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

MAY

**VINCE PORCELLI & MARIA PORCELLI
TOM MARKHAM
BERT RENDAK
LEGION OF MARY SOCIETY of Presentation
of Blessed Virgin Parish**

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.



FR. MATT'S REFLECTION

In the course of the past month, between updates from Fr. Bob and word of mouth, news of my upcoming departure from the parish has been distributed and most if not all of you have heard of these changes, specifically, that I will be leaving Two Holy Martyrs Parish to become an Active Duty Army Chaplain. I have thought about military chaplaincy from as far back as my priestly formation during seminary following the terrorist attacks on the United States, 11 September 2001. When I proposed becoming a military Chaplain to the late Cardinal George in 2010 or 2011, he directed me to remain in parish ministry and complete some studies, noting that at that time approximately ten priests from the Archdiocese already were serving in the different branches of our military on Active Duty. Periodically after that conversation, I received postcards from the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, or from the Chaplain office of one of the military branches encouraging clergy to consider chaplaincy, which temporarily renewed my wonder about this vocation. As years passed, I seemed slated for parish or diocesan assignments, though. However, during the past couple of years, God has provided me with the opportunity to apply for and eventually to be accepted for chaplaincy with the United States Army.

By the time that this column is published in the bulletin for Sunday, 30 April, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, I will be at Ft. McCoy, in Wisconsin, for a two-week Annual Training, a yearly practice within

Army Reserve units. Annual Training will be the last of my assignments with my current Reserve unit, the 327 MP Battalion, with whom I have been serving for the past eighteen months. I will return here, to the parish, for Mothers' Day weekend and then leave on Monday, 15 May, for the Chaplain Basic Officer Leader Course (CHBOLC), taught at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. This course is the Chaplain equivalent of Basic Training or Officer Candidate School and will last most of the summer. Once I complete this course, in mid-August, I will come back to Two Holy Martyrs for about a day or two and then leave for a convocation with other priest Chaplains organized by the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, which is the diocese that endorses and administers all Catholic Chaplains for the different branches of the United States military. Being new to military chaplaincy, I look forward to meeting these brother priest Chaplains and hope to see a few familiar faces. Following this convocation, in late August, I will return to Chicago to visit some friends and come to the parish for a few days to prepare for my final move to Schofield Barracks, on Oahu, Hawaii, where I will begin serving as a Chaplain in the 25th Infantry Division by early September. I will remain at this assignment until the Human Resources staff of the Army directs me to a different unit, probably after several years.

The past three years at Two Holy Martyrs has been a blessed time of my life and priesthood. That first year, from the summer of 2020 to the summer of 2021, was a demanding one for all of us with the twofold impact of merging St. Symphorosa Parish and St. Rene Goupil Parish while simultaneously adapting to the various restrictions and requirements established in response to the pandemic. Despite these extraordinary circumstances, Fr. Bob, all of the office and maintenance staff, the St. Symphorosa School faculty

and staff, and a number of faithful volunteers from among our parishioners persevered to stabilize the newly merged parish and ensure that the fundamentals of our liturgical, educational, and pastoral life were offered.

As the summer of 2021 became the fall of 2021 and so forth, I was heartened to see more parishioners return, additional activities resume or be initiated, and to meet the faithful who had moved into Clearing and Garfield Ridge and had begun coming to our parish. The return of Family Fest in the summer of 2022 further revealed the dedication of the parish staff and the Catholics who call Two Holy Martyrs their parish. I am thankful for the consistent witness of those who labor and love so as to breathe life into Two Holy Martyrs. For those who have conversed with me, offered constructive critiques, prayed on my behalf, and supported me as one of the parish priests as well as I have begun preparing for military chaplaincy, "Thank you." You contributed to making this assignment a good one for me. I pray and encourage you to maintain these faithful efforts. The assignment of Deacon, soon to be Father, Kevin Gregus, to Two Holy Martyrs is a testimony to the confidence that Cardinal Cupich and the Priest Placement Board have in Fr. Bob and our parish, that it will be a good match, based on what Fr. Bob and you have demonstrated in these recent years.

What we believe and pray: If you would, please include the members of the Armed Forces, my fellow Chaplains, and me in your prayer that we would serve, *Pro Deo et Patria*, "For God and Country."

What to stop doing, sins to avoid: Whatever leads you away from God; examples, which you do not want other people to imitate from your life.

"And behold, I [Jesus] am with you always, until the end of the age." Matthew 28:20

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

(GRADES 3RD-8TH)



Third graders finding some new ways to have fun with fractions!



Fourth graders proudly displayed their honor awards for the second trimester.



Grade 5 learning about the hydrosphere



Sixth Grade JV Girls Volleyball Seminal Victory



Seventh grade enjoying the book fair.



Seventh and Eighth grade preparing for stations of the cross

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

FAITH FORMATION



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

5/2—TUESDAY

- ◇ Altar & Rosary Meeting 12-2pm
- ◇ Faith Formation 6-7pm St. Rene Goupil

5/6—SATURDAY

- ◇ Faith Formation First Holy Communion (76 Students)
- ◇ St. Rene Goupil

5/7—SUNDAY

- ◇ Faith Formation Students encouraged to wear their Communion attire to Sunday Mass
- ◇ May Crowning at St. Symphorosa at 9:00
- ◇ May Crowning at St. Rene Goupil at 10:30

5/8—MONDAY

- ◇ BSA Troop Meeting at St. Symphorosa at 7 PM

5/9—TUESDAY

- ◇ May Crowning Altar & Rosary at St. Rene
- ◇ St. Symphorosa Open House for New, Current Student and Alumni Event | Math Family Night
- ◇ Faith Formation on Tuesday from 6-7pm at St. Rene Goupil (Last Tuesday class of the session)

5/10—WEDNESDAY

- ◇ Girl Scout's Meeting at St. Symphorosa at 3 PM

5/11—THURSDAY

- ◇ Gospel Reflections at St. Rene Goupil 6:30 PM
- ◇ Cubs Scout Pack Meeting at St. Symphorosa at 6:45 PM
- ◇ Youth Ministry at St. Symphorosa at 7 PM

5/12—FRIDAY

- ◇ School Mass 8th Grade Ribbons 2nd Grad Scapulars at St. Sym's
- ◇ PeeWee Soccer at St. Rene Goupil at 3:45 PM
- ◇ Eagle Scouts Board of Review at St. Rene 7 PM

5/13—SATURDAY

- ◇ Faith Formation on Saturday from 9 AM—10:30 AM at St. Symphorosa

5/14—SUNDAY

- ◇ Faith Formation Students encouraged to wear their Communion attire to Sunday Mass

5/16—TUESDAY

- ◇ CAPS/Neighborhood Watch from 7 PM—8PM at Ward Hall | St. Faustina Kowalska Parish

5/17—WEDNESDAY

- ◇ Super Senior Club from 11:30 AM—12:30 PM

5/18—THURSDAY

- ◇ FEAST OF THE ASCENSION
- ◇ Youth Ministry at St. Symphorosa at 7 PM

- ◇ Gospel Reflections at St. Rene Goupil 6:30 PM
- ◇ Cub Scout Pack 4439 Weekly Meeting

5/20—SATURDAY

- ◇ Make a Blanket Day | Project Linus St. Rene 9 AM—1 PM
- ◇ St. Vincent de Paul Bundle at St. Rene 12 PM—6PM

5/21—SUNDAY

- ◇ Faith Formations 6th Grade Family Mass at St. Symphorosa 9 AM
- ◇ Super BINGO at St. Rene Goupil \$20 11:30 AM—1 PM
- ◇ St. Vincent de Paul Bundle at St. Rene 7 AM—12 PM

5/22—MONDAY

- ◇ School Advisory Board Meeting at St. Symphorosa 6 PM
- ◇ BSA Troop Meeting at St. Symphorosa at 7 PM

5/24—WEDNESDAY

- ◇ Girl Scouts Meeting at St. Symphorosa at 3 PM

5/25—THURSDAY

- ◇ Gospel Reflections at St. Rene Goupil 6:30 PM
- ◇ Cubs Scout Pack Meeting at St. Symphorosa at 6:45 PM
- ◇ Youth Ministry at St. Symphorosa at 7 PM

5/26

- ◇ School Mass at St. Symphorosa at 11 AM
- ◇ Pee Wee Soccer at St. Rene Goupil 3:45 PM

KINDLY NOTE YOU MUST NOTIFY THE PARISH OFFICE IF DATES HAVE CHANGED.

WEDDING BANNES:

June 3, 2023 Shea Bardeson + David Matuszak (I)

Eternal Rest

Ruth Halisz & Frank Sobie III

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

SPLIT THE POT WINNER

Stewardship Reminder to our participating parishioners, please remember a minimum of \$5.00 in your weekly envelope is required to participate. Last week's winner was:

Envelope #60421

MOTHER'S DAY ROSES

CELEBRATE MOM WITH ROSES AT MASS ON MAY 13 & 14



The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a Mother.

Roses will be available for purchase in the Narthex of each worship site.

\$2 each or 3 for \$5.

St. Symphorosa School is Hiring

STEM Studio Facilitator wanted...

If you believe a community of kindness, love, and support equals success, we need you! We are currently accepting resumes for a Part-Time Facilitator for our STEM Studio beginning in the 23-24 school year. The right candidate will have an interest in STEM, experience working with children, be organized and self-motivated. Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter, highlighting experience and interest in the role, to kberry@stsymsschool.org.

This is a part-time, stipend-based, grant funded position.

New and Registered Parishioners welcome to Two Holy Martyrs Parish!

Please visit our website (www.twoholymartyrs.org) to register. If you have changed your phone number, email address, or have moved, please visit our website to update your information or call the parish office during office hours M-F from 9 AM—4 PM.

Sacrament of the Sick and Communion Calls:

Please contact our parish office to make arrangements. *In emergency situations, if calling after business hours please dial (773) 242-7525.*

Sacrament of Baptism:

Celebrations occur the second and fourth Sunday of the month at 1:30 PM in Church. Attendance in a Parent Preparation Session is mandatory. Godparents are encouraged. Dates are available upon first come first serve basis. Please find the open registration link on our website and contact Maggie (ext. 248) for more information.

Sacramental Record Requests:

If you have received a sacrament at Holy Martyrs Parish (formerly known as St. Symphorosa or St. Rene Goupil respectively) you may request copies of your records by sending a request via our website, sending an email request to sacraments@twoholymartyrs.org, or calling our parish office. Please note we may ask for your date of birth, your parents birthnames, and date of sacrament, along with proof of ID for pickup.

Marriages:

Arrangements must be made at least 6 months prior to the proposed date of the wedding. Please do not schedule a wedding date until you have made contact and have received confirmation from the parish office. Please contact Maggie (ext. 248) for assistance.

Mass Intentions:

A stipend of \$10 is suggested for any mass intention. Advance notice is required to ensure publication in the bulletin. Mass intentions are limited to 4 per mass & are entered on a first come, first served bases. The 2024 Mass Intention Book opens in the fall.

Sanctuary Candle Intentions:

Sanctuary candle intentions are available for \$40. Each sanctuary candle intention is for one month. We limit 4 intentions per month and are entered on a first come, first served bases.

Bulletin Deadlines:

Any parish organization, community group, or ministry that would like to have their group's information published in the bulletin must have it submitted by 10 AM on the Monday before the proceeding weekend liturgy. No exception!