TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GO AND TAKE THE LOWEST PLACE

LUKE 14:10

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025

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Rev. Kevin Gregus ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Norman Trela RETIRED PRIEST

PASTORS EMERITUS

Rev. Ted Bojczuk PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Idzi Stacherczak **PASTOR EMERITUS**

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Jacqueline Guerrero **BULLETIN &** GENERAL OFFICE ADMIN

SCHOOL STAFF

Kathy Berry SCHOÓL PRINCIPAL

Chris Garza ASSISTANT SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



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

WELCOME TO TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH

MASS SCHEDULES

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!

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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

SCHOOL OFFICE

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773.585.6888

www.stsymsschool.org

office@stsymphorosaschool.org

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When St. Augustine was asked what the three most important virtues are, he responded by saying, "Humility, humility, humility."

How did Augustine arrive at such wisdom? Personal experience, for sure. In his youth, he was, shall we say, quite full of himself. Over the course of time, however, and by way of conversion, he would learn God is God and he was not God, and that he didn't have all the answers to life's big questions. He learned to allow for mystery.

Humility is the antidote for pride. Pride arrogantly declares, "I am a god. I decide what's right and wrong. I am the center of the universe." Humility helps us put things in proper perspective so that we realize God is God and we are not.

Far too many folks still view humility as weakness. They tend to think humility means becoming a door mat for other people to take advantage of in certain situations, and in a competitive culture the last thing we want to be seen as is weak. Humility is NOT weakness.

In spiritual reality, however, humility is a virtue; a strength. Pride says, "I don't need God. I don't need others." Humility says, "I need God. I need others." Think about it. Would you rather live in a world filled with humble people? Or a world filled with pride and arrogance?

Our first reading this Sunday from

FR. BOB'S WEEKLY BLOG

Sirach says, "My child, conduct your affairs with humility." This is good advice but advice our current culture struggles to see as wise. Humility doesn't fit well in an individualistic, me-first, competitive society; in a dog-eat-dog market where – in order for you to win --someone must lose.

Conversion of mind and heart turns things upside down. We begin to see the world differently through the lens of humility. The pride of ME can become the grace of WE. This happens not on our own power but with the help of grace; both actual grace and sanctifying grace. The problem is far too many people pridefully think they don't need God's grace. News flash. We need grace, and we certainly need grace to continue maturing in discipleship.

Finally, the Blessed Mother, Mary, models for us humility. She teaches us how to say YES to God's will; to forgo what might have been our plans so we can embrace more fully what God desires to do in us and through us for the sake of the kingdom.

Embracing humility is going to be a challenge when we're living in a "What's in it for me," culture," that wants us to hop on the me-first train. Mary helps us stay humble and Godcentered as WE do our part to cooperate with grace and build the kingdom of heaven on earth.

Like a Good Neighbor

As a parish in the Clearing community, we do our best to be good neighbors. We try to be mindful of how what we're doing affects our immediate neighbors. Please join me in always being mindful of this neighborhood relationship. All our parish groups and organization are called to be "good neighbors." People coming to and from Mass are also called to be "good neighbors."

Unfortunately, despite our best attempts, we do on occasion hear complaints/criticisms from some of our neighbors who live by either of our two campuses. Some of the input is reasonable and valid. Some of the input is unreasonable and more along the lines of complaining that the two church properties even exist.

This reminds me of a quick random conversation I had one day with a guy who said it would be better if we sold off our properties and more homes got built in the neighborhood. I couldn't comprehend his message and asked him to explain. He said, "More property tax revenue."

I didn't know what to say on the spot. In hindsight, it makes me sad.

Our mission continues – the salvation of souls and the sanctification of the people. That's why we're here. We proclaim the good news. We celebrate the Eucharist. We educate and form our children, and we serve those in need. This is our spiritual home, and our doors are open.

Quote -- "The most powerful weapon to conquer the devil is humility." -- **St. Vincent de Paul**



Reform and renewal of the Holy Mass was not the only aim of Sacrosanctum Concilium. While Mass is the primary and most important liturgy, renewal of the other sacraments, sacramentals and devotions, sacred art and music, the liturgical calendar, and the Liturgy of the Hours was addressed by Vatican II. This was to show to the faithful and the world the richness of the Church's rites and traditions that open up the

divine world to humanity.

The fathers wanted to remind the faithful that the sacraments are meant to teach and to sanctify: "The purpose of the sacraments is to sanctify men, to build up the body of Christ, and, finally, to give worship to God; because they are signs, they also instruct. They not only presuppose faith, but by words and objects they also nourish, strengthen, and express it; that is why they are called 'sacraments of faith.' They do indeed impart grace, but, in addition, the very act of celebrating them most effectively disposes the faithful to receive this grace in a fruitful manner, to worship God duly, and to practice charity" (SC59).

When the sacraments and other blessings are clear and celebrated well, there is a great fullness to them. So, it's best that the faithful understand the sacraments not only through verbal instruction, but through the rites themselves. The signs, symbols, and actions are never trivial or empty of meaning.

Sacramentals are signs, typically items and actions, given to us by the Church that helps us open our hearts to

FR. KEVIN'S GREGORIAN RANTS

receive God's grace and grow in holiness. They are not the sacramentals themselves, so they don't impart salvific grace, but prepare us to receive it and help it grow in our life. Examples of these are blessings of homes, meals, or religious objects, holy water, crucifixes, rosaries, and palm branches from Holy Week. We employ them in ordinary moments of life to remind us of and usher in God's presence.

Like the Mass, the revisions to the other sacraments proposed by Sacrosanctum Concilium were meant to simplify and clarify the rites in order to foster participation and understanding. Along with a wider use of the vernacular tongue, the rites of initiation were revised to more closely match the steps of the early Church. This meant bringing back the catechumenate for adults who had never been baptized, providing them clear steps and rites for instruction and purification.

The baptismal rite for infants and children was also revised to more deeply engage the parents and godparents, as the children themselves aren't yet able to understand. Options were to be provided for different scenarios, such as large groups of children or the full rites for babies who had been baptized in emergencies. The rites and formulas for confirmation, marriage, and penance were also revised to "more clearly express both the nature and effect of the

sacrament." Greater emphasis was placed on communal celebration wherever possible.

Another major renewal was to the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. An understanding had developed, and still continues in many places today, that the sacrament was called "Last Rites" and could only be administered to a person who was near death. While this aspect of the sacrament remains and is encouraged, one can receive this for surgeries, health scares, mental health, or other illnesses. The council asked that a continuous rite for confession, anointing, and Viaticum (receiving communion for the final time as food for the journey to heaven) be provided to give a full rite for someone at the end of their life on earth.

Again, the sacramental revisions did not indicate that something wrong or corrupted was being done. Rather, they were to distinctly affirm that the sacraments were instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church as essential means of sanctification and signs of faith. The rites of the sacraments should be carried out in as clear and pastoral fashion as possible, being well-adapted to the needs of the faithful, while remaining faithful to tradition. If we can't get the rites right, our lives as Christians becomes exponentially harder because we our access to truth, beauty, and goodness essentially vanishes.





Saturday August 30th

Sunday August 31st

9:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin Birthday Blessings for Victoria Sophia Battung (Rosario Battung) Health & God's Blessings for Pat Soltis (Joan Hamann) 骨Rose Wyrostek (Altar & Rosary)

⊕Menzie.J. Pusateri (Ramazinski Family)

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

PRO POPULO

Monday September 1st

Tuesday September 2nd

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil ALL POOR SOULS IN PURGATORY

Wednesday September 3rd

08:00 AM |St. Rene Goupil

⊕Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

⊕Mitchell J. Kostka (Ramazinski Family)

Thursday September 4th

Presiders are subject to change without notice.

For the week of:

August 30th - September 7th

Friday September 5th

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil ⊕Thomas Murray (Family) ⊕Tony Pelegrino (Family) Health and God's Blessing for Domingo Battung, Jr. (Rosario Battung)

Saturday September 6th 08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil

All Poor Souls in Purgatory **04:00 PM** | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob God's Blessings for Toni & Don Ptak on their 60th Wedding Anniversary (Family)

中Chester Goluch (Family)

中Robert Compton & Kim Boll (Wife & Mother)

Sunday September 7th

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

All Members Living & Deceased of the Altar & Rosary Society

(Altar & Rosary)

 ⊕Claude Wiatrak (Wife Clara)

骨Judy Kaminski (Rita & Ryan Lane)

†Rose Wyrostek (Super Senior Club)

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

Health & God's Blessings for all living & deceased members of the Bodoki Family (John & Gloria Bodoki)

₽Javier Lepe (Family)

☆Mercedes Valentin & Deceased Family (Family)

骨David Casper (Judy Porcelli)

12:00 PM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin

PRO POPULO



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

Gary Polchlopek
Grace Gryska
Lois Zygadlo
Christopher Murphy
Anthony Golf
Craig Rice



OUR SANCTUARY CANDLES

Burning before the Blessed Sacrament are offered for the following intentions for the month of

AUGUST

IN LOVING MEMORY OF VINCE & MARIA PORCELLI For the repose of their souls, given by Family.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF BOB, JOHN, BOBBY SOLTIS & NICK ALDERFER

For the repose of their souls, given by Pat Soltis.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF RICHARD MERDA

For the repose of his soul, given by wife Arlene.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF LYNDA SULLIVAN

For the repose of her soul on her 16th anniversary, given by Family.

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.



Arnold Adaska Guadalupe Almendarez Nancy Alvarez Marlene Annerino Walter Annerino Sharon Arends Mary Bieser Fr. Ted Bojczuk Glenn Boyle Marcia Bufka Steven Campos Maria Candelas Maxine Carev Pat Carone John Clementi MaryEllen Compton Patricia Cuchetto

Margaret Dalton Theresa Feddor Karen Holmes Larry Holmes Joan Juris Christine Keys Irene Koziol Sharon Labiak Elena LeCompte Natalie LeCompte Debbie Lipien Mary Liszka Rosemary Litwin Joelee MacMaster Rich Marcello Cathy Mazeika Clarence Oleszkiewicz

Jacquline Olsen Fay Pac Nancy Pekala Ramon Perez Christine Petry Fred Ritchie Ann Robertson Michael Roman Adan Sanchez Mary Shilney Katrina Sigafoose Karen Singer Pat Soltis Manuel Soto Keith Spencer Fr. Norm Trela Salvador Villagron

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 MARIAN CANDLES

Lord God, with the lighting of this candle, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His mother, please hear our intentions for the month of

AUGUST

PRAYING FOR ALL LIVING & DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE BATTUNG FAMILY

given by Rosario Battung.

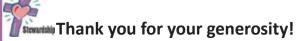
PRAYING FOR ALL LIVING & DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE KOUNTIS, BARA, KUDWA FAMILIES given by Dee.

HEALTH & GOD'S BLESSING FOR MARCIA BUFKA, ELENA & NATALIE LECOMPTE

given by Family.

HEALTH & GOD'S BLESSING FOR JERRY HUGHES given by St. Vincent de Paul Family and Friends.

In the lighting of the Marian candles we ask for the Blessed Mother's intercession as we honor a loved one, living or deceased.



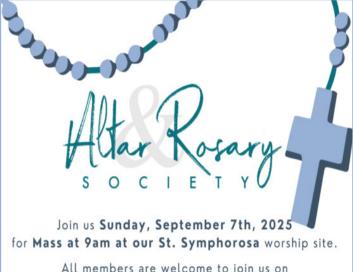
PARISH OFFERTORY: 08/24/25: \$10,016.43

Split the Pot Winning Envelope #: 60317: \$435.00

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

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS





All members are welcome to join us on Tuesday, September 9th, 2025 for our Fall season meeting at St. Rene narthex at 12pm (noon).

See you there!!

We welcome Sr. Carol I. Njoku, DMMM
this weekend as she shares more about WIN-DREAM
International and their Mission in developing countries of Africa



For more information visit www.win-dreaminternational.org

About WIN-DREAM

WIN-DREAM INTERNATION is a non-profit organization registered in the United States for religious and humanitarian mission to achieve an all-inclusive social justice, peace and human development by reaching out to the needy, vulnerable, indigent, and voiceless groups in developing countries of Africa especially Nigeria and South Sudan. We collaborate with religious and humanitarian institutions working in the selected countries to achieve the following objectives:

- a. To promote diversity, human rights, human development and social justice;
- To feed, clothe and support children's education especially orphans and displaced children, those from Indigent families, and victims of abuses;
- To promote rehabilitation programs and empowerment projects for poor families especially those recovering from the ravages of conflicts, environmental disaster, covid-19 pandemic and economic despair;
- To support women and youth s' vocational training, diversity and community development projects to promote human dignity and self-actualization;
- To promote peace advocacy through catechesis, training on non-violent strategies of conflict resolution, peace and nation building;
- To develop legal framework for protecting the rights as well as education of women and the girls.
- To support the Catholic prolife teaching through catechesis and female empowerment.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Individual playing cards will be sold for \$100 each and Randomly assigned or Selected for entry into a monthly drawing - Playing card purchases are only valid for one drawing

·Cards shall be available for Purchase on the first business day of each month in the Parish Office – Only 1 set of playing cards shall be active at a time

 A Random Drawing will take place at 10 AM on the last regular scheduled Tuesday of every month (Allows for current week Bulletin Publication)Sept. Drawing will be September 30th at 10am

•The prize pool will consist of 50% of the total paying card revenue during the month o For example if the entire deck of playing cards was sold, the total prize pool would be \$2,700 = (54 x \$100 x 50%)

o \$2,500 First Prize and

o \$200 Runner-Up Prize

·IF ALL of the cards in the deck were NOT sold, the total prize pool shall be calculated based on the actual number of sold cards

o For example, if 30 playing cards were sold during the month, the total prize pool would be \$1,500 = (30 x \$100 x 50%)
o \$1,300 First Prize

and

o \$200 Runner-Up Prize

•NOTE: All 54 cards will be entered into each month's drawing. IF a non-purchased card is the 1st card selected in the drawing, the purchased prize pool (less \$200) will be added to next month's total prize pool
o For example, if only 30 cards were sold AND one of the 24 non-purchased cards was

selected 1st in the drawing...\$1,300 will transfer to the next month's prize Pool

•The 2nd Card Drawn will win a Runner-Up Prize of \$200 Cash – The Runner-Up Prize will be awarded every month regardless of the number of cards sold – IF an unsold card is drawn 2nd, additional cards will continue to be drawn until a sold card is selected for the Runner-Up \$200 Cash

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF RULES: See the church narthex or the Parish Office -18 and over to play

PARISH SCHOOL NEWS











For more information or to schedule a tour, email marketing@stsymsschool.org Stay connected with St. Symphorosa Catholic School! Visit our website at www.stsymsschool.org and follow us on Facebook & Instagram for the latest updates on school news, events and more!





FOLLOW US



PARISH FAITH FORMATION

<u>Upcoming</u> **Events:**

FALL CLASSES BEGIN AFTER LABOR DAY!!

9/09: Faith Formation Classes Syms Campus (Tues.) Parent Orientation.

9/13: **Faith Formation Classes** Syms Campus. (Sat.) Parent Orientation.

9/18: Commitment Serv. 6pm @ St. Syms Church.

9/21: Catechist Sunday & Welcome Back Mass. 9am @ St. Syms.

9/22: Commitment Serv. 6pm @ St. Syms Church.

9/23: **Faith Formation Classes** Syms Campus. (Tues.)

9/27: **Faith Formation Classes** Syms Campus. (Sat.)

9/28: Welcome Back Mass. 10:30am @ St. Rene.

9/29: Commitment Serv. 6pm @ St. Rene Church.





PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmation students, along with their parents, will soon participate in a Commitment Service, in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. During the upcoming year these students will seek service opportunities to help them grow in discipleship as they serve those in need. We invite you to please remember them in your prayers

The dates for our Commitment Services are listed on the September Calendar of Events. Confirmation Students should attend one of these services, as a Commitment Service is a requirement for Confirmation.

during this time of preparation.



2025 - 2026**WELCOME BACK FAMILY MASSES**

Come and Connect with God in a special way at our beginning of the year Family Masses for all our Faith Formation Families on

Sunday, September 21st 9:00am at St. Symphorosa Church or Sunday, September 28th 10:30am at St. Rene Church.

Students and their families are invited to attend Mass and donate a non-perishable food item

> for the needy. (Food baskets will be located in the Narthex).



We commemorate Catechetical Sunday on September 21st at 9:00 am Mass.

We will recognize and celebrate all our teachers and catechists who are involved in the Catechetical Ministry at our Parish.

The 2025 theme encourages us to be prepared to share the basis of our faith, the Lord, and the hope he provides.

HURRY!!! REGISTER FOR CLASSES BY FRIDAY, SEPT. 5TH!!







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