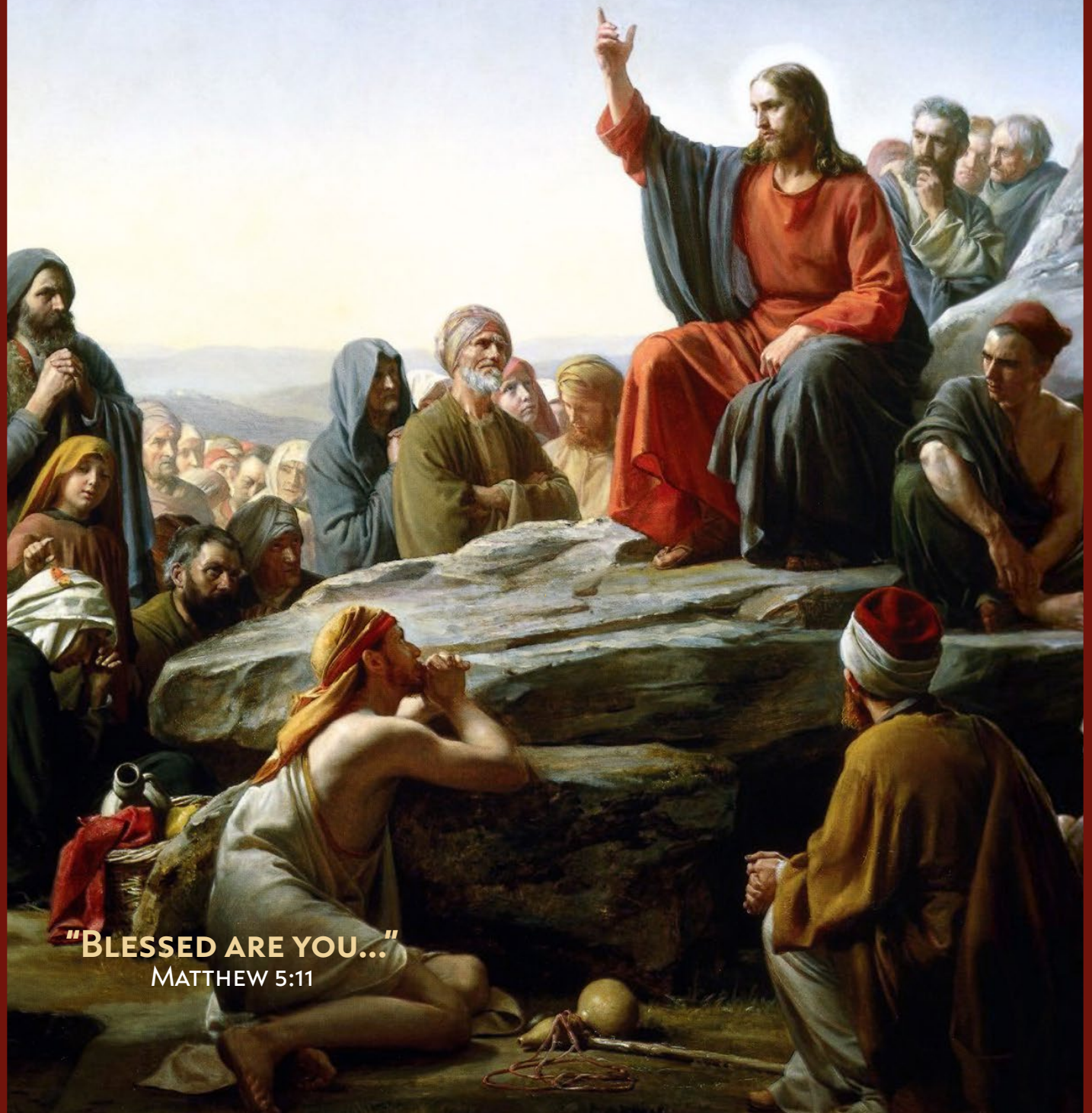


FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | JANUARY 29, 2023



**"BLESSED ARE YOU..."**  
MATTHEW 5:11



**TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH**

**ST. SYMPHOROSA + ST. RENE GOUPIL**

PARISH OFFICE: 6135 S. AUSTIN AVE. | CHICAGO, IL 60638 | (773) 767-1523

[www.twoholymartyrs.org](http://www.twoholymartyrs.org)



# WELCOME TO OUR 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 | EXT. 222  
Operations Director

MAGDALAN KOZIAR | EXT. 248  
Office/Tuition Coordinator

HUGO LOPEZ | EXT. 210  
Communications Coordinator

IRENE PERCONTI | EXT. 241  
Administrative Assistant

PEG SIEBENALER | EXT. 226  
Faith Formation Coordinator

DAVID BOYLE | EXT. 225  
Director of Music

DCN. RAUL DUQUE  
Parish Organist

MARK SCHUSTERIC  
Maintenance Supervisor

## SCHOOL STAFF

KATHY BERRY  
School Principal

CHRIS GARZA  
Assistant School Principal



## MASS TIMES

### ST. SYMPHOROSA

6135 S. Austin Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60638

### WEEKEND MASS

Saturday Vigil

5:30 PM

Sunday

9 AM

12 PM

### WEEKDAY MASS

Monday - Saturday | 8 AM at  
alternating church sites in the  
following months:

Feb. | Apr. | June | Aug.

Oct. | Dec.

### RECONCILIATION

Tuesdays | 6 PM to 7 PM

### ST. RENE GOUPILE

6949 West 63rd Place  
Chicago, Illinois 60638

### WEEKEND MASS

Saturday Vigil

4 PM

Sunday

7:30 AM

10:30 AM

### WEEKDAY MASS

Monday - Saturday | 8 AM at  
alternating church sites in the  
following months:

Jan. | Mar. | May | July

Sept. | Nov.

### RECONCILIATION

Saturdays | 3 PM to 3:45 PM

*Join us after every daily mass (Mon. - Sat.) in praying the Rosary.  
Everyone is welcome! Come meditate on Christ with us!*

### Two Holy Martyrs Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday | 9 AM to 4 PM

Saturday | 9 AM to 12 PM

773.767.1523 | info@twoholymartyrs.org

### St. Symphorosa School Office Hours

Monday - Friday | 9 AM to 3 PM

6125 S. Austin Avenue | Chicago, Illinois 60638

773.585.6888 | office@stsymphorosaschool.org



@TwoHolyMartyrsParish

# FR. BOB'S WEEKLY BLOG



Berwyn.

Etched in my memory as a little boy was being sent to school a couple times a year with a small brown envelope that contained the tuition check for St. Leonard Grammar School in

is an excellent choice. We know there are other options on the table. Parents should explore and investigate before making a final choice. We have a quality principal who cares, competent teachers who are committed, and a staff that supports the mission of helping our children learn.

My invitation as pastor of Two Holy Martyrs is that our parishioners support our school. How? Prayer, for sure. Pray for our school children and their respective families. We can also volunteer time. Help out in some capacity. And of course, help financially. The school welcomes donations, or parishioners who would like to sponsor the tuition of a child.

Our parish school requires a \$5,000 a year tuition for one child. Let's put this into comparison. According to recent numbers, the average cost per student for Chicago Public Schools is roughly \$29,000 per student. Public school is not free. Tax money is used to support CPS.

We no longer have our Catholic schools staffed by religious sisters. Those nuns of yesteryear taught us as part of their mission and religious order. Today, most of our teachers are lay teachers who need to be paid a salary with benefits. We truly believe a Catholic school education is an investment in your child, not just a tuition payment. We do, however, need this tuition money to keep our school functioning on a day-to-day basis.

This week, we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. We are proud of our principals, teachers, and staff members across the country who follow their call to teach and form our children as part of the mission of the Church, which is the mission of Christ.

God bless our school children, school families, our principal, our teachers and our staff.

## ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Each year in mid-Winter, we participate in the Annual Catholic Appeal to help support various areas of need within the Archdiocese of Chicago.

There are times we need to be reminded that we are part of something

much larger than our own specific parish. We are part of an archdiocese, which is part of the Universal Church. This Annual Catholic Appeal is important to the mission of the Church.

How is money from the ACA used? Here is a breakdown: 29 percent serving parishes and schools in financially challenged communities; 22 percent back to parishes that reach their ACA goals; 16 percent to archdiocesan ministries; 11 percent for spiritual renewal efforts; 6 percent for priest formation; 5 percent for scholarships; 4 percent for Catholic Relief Services; and 7 percent for cost of the appeal.

Please consider what you are able to contribute this year for the Annual Catholic Appeal, and please make the commitment.

Being a priest in the trenches of parish life, I often hear from folks who flat out don't trust the Archdiocese of Chicago. There is usually a story involved; and definitely a hurt or resentment of some kind. Folks eagerly give to their respective parish, but want nothing to do with the archdiocese.

My response? I understand. There has been – and still is – a trust factor at times. We need to restore trust. That being said, consider this: we all pay taxes each year to our local, state, and federal government. Take a look at how much of your check gets taken out for taxes. If you do not pay your taxes in a timely fashion, you are heavily fined, and possibly over time, jailed.

Do we approve of how every dime of our tax money is used? Are we assured our tax money won't be wasted on government bloat? Are we assured our tax money isn't being used for corruption? Do we like how much money we spend federally each year on wars?

I offer this just for consideration. The mission of the Church is important in our world today. Her core mission is spiritual – the salvation of souls, but her infrastructure and programs need financial support. You don't HAVE TO. You are not fined or jailed for not financially supporting your parish or the archdiocese. It's an appeal. Please give as you are able. Thank you!

I'm fairly certain the checks were made out for \$150.00 per semester. This might seem shocking to us now, but back in the late 1970s and early 1980s this was a good chunk of change, and my mom and dad made the financial sacrifice for me to attend. They also did this for my five siblings who preceded me. We were not poor but we certainly were not rich.

We learned how to read, how to write, and how to do math. We studied history. We learned about art and music, along with the importance of physical exercise. There was, however, another dimension involved by attending a Catholic school. Our faith was supported and nurtured. God mattered. Jesus mattered, and who we were becoming as human beings mattered. We learned about right and wrong; what was good for us and what was not good for us. Even if we decided to cross the line, we knew we had crossed the line.

The mission of Catholic schools continues today. Our children learn the academic basics, no doubt. Parents who send their children to St. Symphorosa School (the parish school of Two Holy Martyrs) can be assured their children are learning, but they are also being invited to deepen their faith, and learn more about the Person of Jesus.

Parents have the responsibility to raise their children and to educate their children. This is a great responsibility. One option is to home school their child, but if that is not their choice, then a parent must decide where to send their child to school.

We believe our St. Symphorosa School

*“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”* ARISTOTLE

# LET US PRAY



## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 3

### Saturday, January 28th

**4:00 PM | St. René Goupil Church | Presider: Fr. Bob**

† Raymond Mancuso (Giuseppa Mancuso)

† Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

† Adriana Colon (John & Nancy Garcia)

† Patrick Myers (John & Nancy Garcia)

**5:30 PM | St. Symphorosa Church | Presider: Fr. Matt**

† Dominic Santucci (Art & Katie Carpenter)

### Sunday, January 29th

**7:30 AM | St. René Goupil Church | Presider: Fr. Bob**

† Rev. Anthony Harte (Olaska Family)

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

Living & deceased members of the Simon Family (Family)

† Francisco Coronado, Sr. (Coronado Family)

† Lorraine Spry (A&R Society)

† Kathy Calcagno (Arlene Scaletta)

**10:30 AM | St. René Goupil Church | Presider: Fr. Norm**

Pro Populo (for the People of the Parish)

**12:00 PM | St. Symphorosa Church | Presider: Fr. Matt**

† Albert J. Marks (Wife & Family)

### Monday, January 30th | 8 AM | St. René Goupil Church

Health & all the Lord's Blessings for the Battung & Petrosky Families

† John Plewa (Barbara Rendak)

### Tuesday, January 31st | 8 AM | St. René Goupil Church

All Souls in Purgatory (Battung, Cordova, & Petrosky Families)

† Karl Marzec (Ilona Szkodon)

† Mary Butti (Linda Dobias)

### Wednesday, February 1st | 8 AM | St. Symphorosa Church

† Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

† LaVerne Slowinski (Daughters & Family)

† Louise Gomez (Family)

### Thursday, February 2nd | 8 AM | St. Symphorosa Church

† Mary Ann Hildebrand (Barbara Rendak)

† Desaree Noceda (Barbara Rendak)

† Aulse Tomlin (Barbara Rendak)

### Friday, February 3rd | 8 AM | St. Symphorosa Church

† Melinda Mackey (Family)

† Frances Szumowski (St. Symphorosa School Students)

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR SATURDAY & SUNDAY

### Saturday, February 4th

**8:00 AM | St. René Goupil Church**

All Souls in Purgatory (Diana Schmidt)

† Jose Alcala (Family)

**4:00 PM | St. René Goupil Church | Presider: Fr. Matt**

† Thomas Murray (Family)

† Daniel Marro (Donna Topps)

† Dalia Kucenas (Daughter Silva)

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

† Sara McKenna (Art & Katie Carpenter)

### Sunday, February 5th

**7:30 AM | St. René Goupil Church | Presider: Fr. Matt**

Health & all the Lord's Blessings for Vernon Hylka (Nancy Shotas)

† Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

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

All members of the Altar & Rosary Society (A&R Society)

† Kathy Calcagno (Ray & Mary Lou Kolasinski)

† John Cox (Karen Walsh)

† Frances Szumowski (Kathleen & Jim Laski)

**10:30 AM | St. René Goupil Church | Presider: Fr. Matt**

† Isabel Rodriguez (Bert Rodriguez)

† Christian Furczon

† Joseph & Mary Negoski (Ben & Judy Shafer)

† Judith Siwek (Family)

**12:00 PM | St. Symphorosa Church | Presider: Fr. Norm**

Pro Populo (for the People of the Parish)

*\*Weekend presider subject to change without notice.\**

## PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THE SICK

Arnold Adaska	Denise M. Jandura	Juan Perez
Guadalupe Almendarez	Rich S. Jandura	Maria Paz Perez
Raeann Arends	Rick Jutton	Stanley Polit
Ignatius Battiato	Joan Juris	Leticia Reyes
Domingo Battung III	John Kappel, Jr.	Graciela Rivas
Hichelle Battung	Ron Kelly	Ann Robertson
Dominic Battung	Robert Kroll	Fr. John Rudnik
Hannah Battung	Claudia Kwilosz	Joseph Rudnik
Jean Bell	Sharon Labiak	Jack Ruggiero
Mary Bieser	Flavia Langan	John Shipper
Fr. Ted Bojczuk	James Lapsansky	Mary Shortall
Maxine Carey	Maryann Larson	Elizabeth Sivek
Judy Carranza	Natalie LeCompte	Pat Soltis
Giovanni Carrigan	Domenico Lepore	Brian Styka
Rita Cernick	Rose Ann Lindsay	Sr. Christine Styka
Michael Clifford	Maria Lopez	Terry Styka
Marilyn Crites	Diane Malarick	Michael Sutkowski
Margaret Dalton	Cathy Mazieka	Pat Szczepanski
Leon Detlaf	Lori McCarthy	Joanne Tishka
Debbie Flint	Maria Montiel	Shirley Tloczek
Maria Flores	Edward Moriarty	Buddy Valela
Mia Forbes	Bob Pac	Judith Webber
Nia Forbes	Eleanor Pastorek	Becky Williams
Geri Gestaut	Jesus Perez	JoAnn Wolniak
Heather Hradek	Juan B. Perez	Beverly Zimmerling
Shawn Hughes	Maria P. Perez	Michelle

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

# FR. MATT'S REFLECTION



After Jesus' initial public preaching, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," (Matthew 4:17) St Matthew then reports that Jesus begins to cure people, accomplishing a miracle of

healing for them. At this time in Jesus' public ministry, such healings are not a focus. As He moves about from one town to another, Jesus will heal people of a variety of ailments. On some occasions, the evangelists present these interactions with more detail whereas at other times the authors make only brief references to these revelations of Jesus' healing power. This Sunday we move from the Son of God's concise initial proclamation about repentance and the presence of the Kingdom of God to the first large scale congregation who approach the Lord and listen to Him. This inaugural gathering is known as the Sermon on the Mount and it spans three chapters, one of the single longest texts of Jesus' preaching across the four Gospel. The famed Beatitudes, what we hear in the Gospel Reading today, are Jesus' opening teaching of this sermon.

Differing from the readings on some Sundays in which a particular person, named or unnamed, is central, the readings on this Sunday do not focus on a particular individual. Instead, the teachings from St. Zephaniah, "Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth," (Zephaniah 2:3); St. Paul, "Consider your own calling, brothers and sisters," (1 Corinthians 1:26); and Jesus, "When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them," all are wide in scope,

open to many people, not directed at someone specific. We certainly learn from those interactions and God's revelation when the readings present us with more of a one-on-one dialogue, the details and setting can seem relatable. Simultaneously though, readings, such as the Sermon on the Mount, with masses of people hearing Jesus speak in the open air are no less relevant for us.

What St. Paul will later write to the body of the Church in Corinth, the faithful of that early Catholic Church, remains applicable of us today: "Consider your own calling, brothers and sisters. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. . . . It is due to him [God the Father] that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, so that, as it is written, 'Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord.'" (1 Corinthians 1:26, 30-31) Such a calling is possible because our Lord's work of "righteousness, sanctification, and redemption," is offered to all people, not a small fraction of the world's population.

Among the Beatitudes, which Jesus distinguishes, we hear "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied." (Matthew 5:6) Relatedly, Jesus then adds, "Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:10) The Savior has not yet revealed how this righteousness will be achieved, what He will later do to accomplish and extend the gift of right-relation with God to humanity, but He calls, "Blessed," those who already thirst for righteousness and those who are willing to suffer for it.

Considering each of the Beatitudes, they are challenging to our internal passions

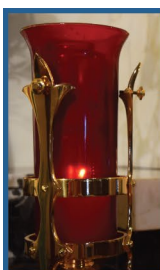
and contemporary attitudes yet they are not esoteric, accessible only to an elite group. To be "poor in spirit," humble, rather than boastful or thinking ourselves self-righteous, that is possible for us. To be "meek," willing to pass by unnoticed and not quick to take personal offense, rather than ostentatious and easily slighted, that is possible for us. To be "clean of heart," what we choose dwell upon, focusing on Christ, rather than choosing to give quarter to proud, lustful, or vengeful thoughts and desires and trying to justify such self-indulgent decisions, that is possible for us. In these and all of the Beatitudes, we not only receive them as God's word but then go to God, "poor in spirit," asking that He grant to us the grace to practice and persevere in the Beatitudes. Practicing the Beatitudes is how we might be more "in Christ Jesus," as St. Paul will later profess. Although we were not there in the crowd that first hears Jesus announce the Beatitudes, their practice and their accompanying promises extend to us and have been hallmarks of the holy women and men who have transmitted the Catholic faith to us. When much seems chaotic and depressing in the world because of the evil, which some people do, the Beatitudes are an antidote, a way of countering with goodness.

What we believe and pray: Last Sunday, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, has been designated Sunday of the Word of God. Have you begun reading the Scriptures daily?

What to stop doing, sins to avoid: Stop being boastful or desiring to be praised, this is St. Paul's warning.

What to do: Go back to the Beatitudes, the beginning of chapter five in St. Matthew's Gospel and ask God which of them He wants you to practice more intentionally at this time.

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



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

For the repose of the soul of Michael Nowakowski given by Parents Joe & Josie Pulido.

For the living & deceased members of the Battung Family given by Rosario Battung.

For the repose of the souls of Vince Porcelli & his daughter Maria Porcelli given by Family.

For the repose of the soul of Joan Brown given by her daughter Cathy Kordelewski.

May this light which reminds us of Jesus' presence in the Tabernacle help welcome our prayers into His eternal presence.

EMBRACE THE GRACE

The Weekly E-Newsletter of Two Holy Martyrs Parish



Are you signed up to receive Father Bob's Embrace the Grace Weekly Reflection?

Register your email by scanning the QR Code, calling the office, or visiting our website!

# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT



**TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH**  
ST. SYMPHOROSA † ST. RENE GOUPIL

## MONTHLY BINGO!

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH**  
**ST. RENE GOUPIL CAMPUS**  
**(FLANNERY HALL)**  
6340 SOUTH NEW ENGLAND AVE.

**DOORS OPEN AT 12:30 PM**  
**GAMES BEGIN AT 1:30 PM**

ADMISSION TO PLAY: \$20 AT THE DOOR



*Your donations make all the difference, thank you!*

In need of help? Call St. Vincent de Paul at (773) 682-3342.



Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request in praying for **FOR EDUCATORS** in the month of January:

**We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.**

### WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

#### New Parishioners and Updating Information:

Please visit the parish office or our website ([www.twoholymartyrs.org](http://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.

#### Sacrament of the Sick and Communion Calls:

Please contact our parish office to make arrangements. If calling after business hours please call (773) 242-7525.

#### Sacrament of Baptism:

Celebrated the second and fourth Sunday of the month at 1:30 PM in Church. A Parent Preparation Session is required. Please contact Maggie (ext. 248) for more information.

#### 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 contacted 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 2023 Mass Intention Book is open.**

#### 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 to Hugo Lopez by 10 AM on the Monday before the proceeding weekend liturgy. **No exception!**



**JANUARY 22, 2022**

Split the Pot Collection:

**\$400.00**

Winning Envelope:

**60188**



Reminder: A minimum of \$5.00 is required to participate.

**TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH OFFERING**

For the weekend of Sunday, January 22, 2022

**\$8,335.43**

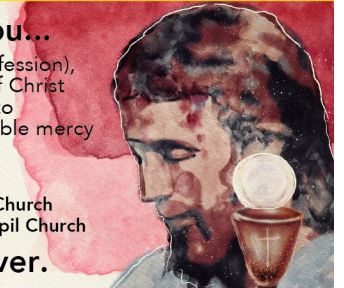
*Thank you for your generosity!*

### He's waiting to forgive you...

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession), we encounter Jesus Christ. The Heart of Christ burns with love for us and He wants us to experience his immense and unfathomable mercy by confessing our sins and receiving his forgiveness. **Come to confess on:**

Tuesdays | 6 PM to 7 PM | St. Symphorosa Church  
Saturdays | 3 PM to 3:45 PM | St. René Goupil Church

**...His mercy endures forever.**



## 2022 Parish Contribution Letters Now Available!

Parishioners who are in need of a 2022 charitable donation letter for tax purposes can call the office at (773) 767-1523 during business hours or visit our website at [twoholymartyrs.org](http://twoholymartyrs.org).



We will hold all requested tax letters for pick-up or send it via email.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**CASINO**  
*Night*



**MARCH 18, 2023**

Sponsored by the St. Symphorosa School Advisory Board

# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT

## New for Lent 2023



To the men of Two Holy Martyrs Parish, if you are interested in a more challenging and substantive Lent, consider Exodus Lent.

Exodus Lent is a 46-day spiritual exercise for men based on three pillars: prayer, asceticism, and fraternity.

This program would begin on February 22 (Ash Wednesday) and end 46 days later, on April 8 (Holy Saturday).

More information about Exodus Lent may be found at <https://exodus90.com/how-lent-works/>.

I am willing to organize Exodus Lent but need to know if any men are interested in participating it. If you have any questions or would like to participate in Exodus Lent, please contact me at [matthew.compton1@icloud.com](mailto:matthew.compton1@icloud.com) or call me at (773) 767-1523, ext. 229.  
Fr. Matt

## Map for Healthy Families

“Am I understanding you?”, “If I am hearing you correctly ...?”, “Is that what you mean?”

If you have ever thought or asked these questions or desired that a family member or friend better understood you, then the “Map for Healthy Families,” might be a source for improving your communication skills.

The “Map for Healthy Families” is part of a curriculum called *Survival Skills for Healthy Families*. *Survival Skills for Healthy Families* “is a quickly learned and easily adapted family education program, which has proven effective in a variety of communities, cultures, and languages.”

The “Map for Healthy Families,” one lesson from the larger curriculum, will be offered on Saturday, February 18, from 1:00-3:00 PM, at St. Rene Church. There is no registration fee and handouts will be provided.

Additional information about this instruction may be found at the following website: <https://familywellness.com>.

If you have questions about this presentation, please contact me at (773) 767-1523, ext. 229, or at [matthew.compton1@icloud.com](mailto:matthew.compton1@icloud.com).  
Fr. Matt

# PARISH SCHOOL NEWS



ST. SYMPHOROSA  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
OF TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH

# OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 29, 2023  
10:30am-1:30pm



**GET IN THE GAME AT ST. SYMS!  
MEET CHICAGO BEARS RUNNING BACK DAVID  
MONTGOMERY AND CHICAGO WHITE SOX MASCOT  
SOUTHPAW!**

**School families!**

Refer a friend who enrolls  
and receive a \$350 tuition  
credit!

**Parishioners!**

Refer a friend who enrolls  
and receive \$250 in gift  
cards of your choosing!

773.585.6888

6125 S. Austin Ave Chicago, IL 60638

[www.stsymsschool.org](http://www.stsymsschool.org)



# FAITH FORMATION

## UPCOMING EVENTS

1/29: Catechetical Resource Day

1/31: Faith Formation Classes - St. René Goupil Campus (Tues.)

### BELONGING SERVICE

Some of our second grade students who attended the Belonging Mass. Bread Donations and Artwork of First Communion Student's.



Elyssa Garcia reads the Intercessions for our Belonging Mass.



## FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

Peg Siebenaler, Faith Formation Coordinator  
(773) 767-1523 Ext. 226 | msiebenaler@archchicago.org

On February 11 & 12, 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 and share stories about our Holy Communion Masses from the past. 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.)

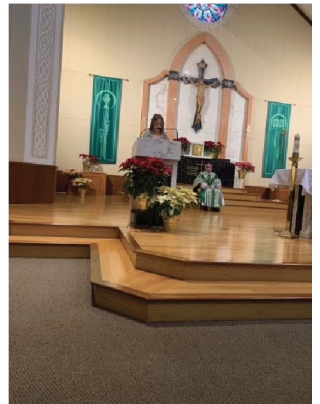


We are looking forward to seeing all our First Communion Families at the Bread Meeting Celebration!

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!

Readers for the Belonging Masa: Adelynn Lepkowski & Brett Gruber.

Gift Bearers: Maricela & Anabel Valles, Nereida Sanchez, Nida Alsawadi, Edward Cortes & Dean Ramirez Cortes.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Chicago

Building a Better Tomorrow for Those in Need

Dear Parishioners,

As we start the New Year, the Members of the Two Holy Martyrs Saint Vincent de Paul Society would like to **Thank You** for your generosity and support. We would also like to take this opportunity to tell you more about what we do and how we do it.

During 2022, we were able to provide the following assistance.

- At Easter, we were able to deliver Easter plants to 19 of our shut ins
- At Thanksgiving, we were able to provide Gift Cards and Food Vouchers to 17 of our neediest families (26 adults and 10 children).
- For Thanksgiving, one of our retired members purchased three turkey's that were delivered to three of our neediest families
- For Christmas, one of our retired members purchased six hams that were delivered to six of our neediest families
- For Christmas, the UBAM organization donated food baskets that they paid for and delivered to eight of our neediest senior citizen families (11 adults).
- For Christmas, Crosstown Garage Door donated and delivered food baskets to thirteen of to our neediest families (27 adults and 15 children).
- For Christmas, SVdP provided Popcorn Tins, Gift Cards and Food Vouchers to 22 of our neediest families (39 adults and 26 children).
- Throughout the year, we were able to provide assistance in one or more of the following forms: Food Vouchers, Gift Cards, Rent and/or Utility payments, Car Repair, Adult Diapers, Clothing, etc. to a total of 58 families that consisted of 89 adults and 59 children.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our parishioners. How do we receive support to provide this assistance

- The SVdP Ornament on the annual Giving Tree
- The THM Thanksgiving Collection is designated for SVdP
- The Poor Boxes located on both campuses
- Random donations sent to the parish office or dropped in the collection basket
- A \$500.00 donation from the Knights of Columbus
- The St Symphorosa Students donated socks that were distributed to the needy via The Knights of Columbus and the St Blasé Food Pantry
- The St Symphorosa Students donated personal hygiene items that were distributed to the needy via the St Turibius Food Pantry
- When COVID hit, the Rosary for Peace group was no longer meeting. When they were active, they had a voluntary collection at each meeting. With the COVID shut down, Richard Wilus gave over \$2,000 to Father Norm to use at his discretion and Father Norm passed these monies on to SVdP.
- We conducted two very successful clothing drives in 2022
- There is a SVdP clothing Drop Box on the St Rene Campus located in the parking lot just West of the school. Parishioner and neighbors have been very generous with their donations

St Francis said, "It is in giving that we receive." Anyone of our members can tell you how true this experience is. If you are interested in joining our team, please consider attending one our meetings or calling us for more information. We will meet next at the St Rene Flannery Hall at 6:30 PM on Wednesday 2/1/22 or the next meeting at 6:30 PM at the St Symphorosa Sharp Center/Social Hall at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, 3/1/22. If you have any questions, please call the SVdP Client Phone at 773-682-3342