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JULY 2, 2023

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH

ST. SYMPHOROSA + ST. RENE GOUPIL



WELCOME TO TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH CHURCH SCHEDULES

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Robert Regan
PASTOR

Rev. Norman Trela
RETIRED PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Kevin Gregus
Associate Pastor

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. 210

SCHOOL STAFF

Kathy Berry
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Chris Garza
ASSISTANT SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

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

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

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

FR. BOB'S WEEKLY BLOG



This weekend we say **"Welcome!"** to Fr. Kevin Gregus, our new associate pastor.

He joins the Two Holy Martyrs community as a newly ordained priest. Fr. Kevin was ordained a priest on May 20, 2023 in Holy Name Cathedral by Cardinal Blase Cupich.

We are honored that our archbishop and the Priest Placement Board have entrusted us with a newly ordained priest. This comes with great responsibility on our part. We want Fr. Kevin's first assignment to be successful so that he can serve the Church for decades to come.

Fr. Kevin is a native of Crystal Lake, Illinois and a graduate of the University of Michigan. He worked professionally out of college but discovered the vocation to the priesthood while he was a parishioner at St. Alphonsus in Lakeview (Chicago).

He recently completed six years of formation and academic studies at Mundelein Seminary, where he earned the degree Master of Divinity. Time in the major seminary is not just about academics. A man engages a program that addresses the four pillars of formation: spiritual, human, intellectual, and pastoral.

Fr. Kevin will bring the glow of ordination to us. He will share the Word of God with us and help us celebrate the sacraments.

Please keep Fr. Kevin in your prayers as he settles into the parish rectory and gets acclimated to parish life. This is a transition time, and it can be stressful. He's going to be figuring out where everything is and getting to know staff members and parishioners.

Thank you, Fr. Kevin, for saying YES to God's call to serve as a priest of Jesus Christ, and to beginning this ministry on the southwest side of Chicago. We are grateful.

Eucharist Reverence

One of the core teachings of our faith is Jesus is truly present to us in the Eucharist.

At every Holy Mass, ordinary bread and wine are brought forth to the altar. Once there,

they are mysteriously transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus. The Eucharist is NOT a symbol. The Eucharist is truly Christ.

We are reminded to receive the Eucharist with reverence.

Two recent scenarios concern me. First, we found half a host in the hymn book holder in one of our front pews. We don't know how this happened, but the consecrated host should be consumed immediately upon reception. A host should never make it back to the pew.

The other incident happened at a funeral. A person approached to receive, and as she put out both hands, one of the hands had her cell phone in it.

Please, when we come forward for Communion, both hands should be empty. We form our human hands one on top of the other as to create a brief throne to receive the Body of Christ. We then step to the side and immediately consume the host. We do not walk away with the host.

Also, we have the option of receiving the host on the tongue. Both ways of receiving the Eucharist are fine, but both should be done with great reverence.

Good Neighbors

As a parish, we try to be good neighbors.

Occasionally, however, we will have a neighbor who doesn't care for some of the decisions we make or doesn't like something that is taking place on one of our two campuses.

As the pastor, it will always be my intention to make decisions based on what is best for the future of the parish while always taking into consideration how things can affect the two respective neighborhoods.

Parish leadership decided back in early 2023 to lease the St. Rene school building to a group called MENTA. The St. Rene school building had not been in full-time use since 2015 when St. Rene school closed. The building continued to be used for Faith Formation, Bingo, Polish School and some social events.

In 2020, the formerly separate parishes of St. Symphorosa and St. Rene Goupil united to form ONE new parish, which we now call Two Holy Martyrs. We have two church buildings, and we have two campuses for our use.

Instead of letting the St. Rene school building lay dormant or deciding to "mothball" it, we found a full-time tenant

(MENTA) whose mission we view positively. MENTA is educating young men and women who were not succeeding in a traditional school setting. This school structure seeks to help these students succeed. The lease with MENTA also generates much-needed revenue for our parish.

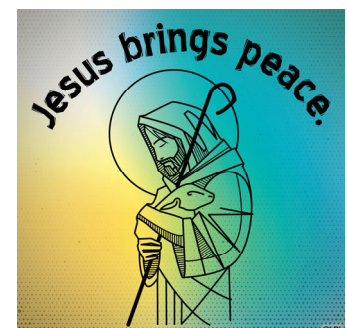
The recent increased activity has caught the attention of some of the neighbors along 63rd Place by the St. Rene campus. Understandably, a few neighbors have expressed various concerns (parking, sidewalk loitering, students outside, etc.). At least one neighbor expressed frustration that the neighbors were not consulted about this decision to lease the school building to a private school organization.

We have been in regular contact with the MENTA administration. They have been excellent to work with since our relationship began. They will certainly listen to legitimate concerns about the daily affairs of the school.

Our parish will continue to use Flannery Hall for Bingo and various social events, as the MENTA school operates Monday through Friday from morning until evening.



WELCOME, FR. KEVIN GREGUS





MASS INTENTIONS

JULY 1ST-JULY 9TH

Saturday July 1st

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

- ✠Tomas Murray (Family)
- ✠George Nowak (Wes & Debbie Szumowski)
- ✠Julio Martinez (Family)
- ✠Victor Roa (Family)

05:30 PM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Norm
Pro Populo (for the People of the Parish)

Sunday July 2nd

07:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠Sgt. Omar Saucedo - 18th yr. Anniversary of death (Family)
- ✠Jerome Woywerowski (Ted Wiecek)
- ✠James Connolly (O'Brien -Kenney Family)
- ✠Catherine O'Brien (O'Brien -Kenney Family)

09:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- Altar & Rosary Members (A&R Society)
- ✠Virginia Blazeniak (Frances Hisson)
- ✠Kathleen, Ann & Thomas Calgagno (Shirley & Wish Kucik)
- ✠Gloria Iuliano (Yakes Family)

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

- ✠Vince Porcelli (Judy Porcelli)
- ✠Joseph Lesker (Diane Biondo)
- ✠Dawn Bodoki (Mom & Dad)
- ✠Rita Tomczak (Corbett Family)

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

- ✠Frances Block (C. Moran)

Monday July 3rd

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

- ✠Laura Pelegrino and Family Unity in Christ
Forgiveness of all Souls everyday (Mary Kolimas)
Happy Birthday to Visitacion Dayag (Rosario Battung)
Our Lady of Piat (Rosario Battung)

Tuesday July 4th

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

- ✠Tom Markham (Family)
- ✠Larry Piotrowski (Jeanie)
- ✠Sgt. Omar Saucedo—18th yr. Anniversary of death (Family)

Wednesday July 5th

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

- ✠Frank Strzelec (Barbara Rendak)
- ✠Joan Hadac (St. Vincent de Paul Society)

Thursday July 6th

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

- ✠Noreen Bergdolid (Jim Platt & Diane Dudek)
- ✠Carmen Flores (Daughter Grace Pachowicz)
- ✠Joe Rice (Linda Dobias)

Friday July 7th

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

- ✠Vince Porcelli (Judy Porcelli)
- ✠James Inendino (Friends)

Saturday July 8th

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

- ✠Mary Babich (Mary Zilka)

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

- ✠Gloria & Raul Parra Family (Almendarez Family)
- ✠Eugene Zozienicki (Daughter)
- ✠Louis & Mary Rapacz (Rapacz Family)
- ✠Robert Compton (wife Mary Ellen Compton)

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

- ✠Irene Podzaser (Pozniak Family)
Ruby Buchreiter praying for your health (Ann Robertson)
- ✠Esther Konczal (Tricia & Jim Ramazinski)

Sunday July 9th

07:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin

Pro Populo (for the People of the Parish)

09:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Norm

- ✠Claude Wiatrak (wife Clara)
- ✠Lerma Magbanna Coronado (Coronado Family)
- ✠Doris Yacko (Dan & Patti)
- ✠Virginia Blazeniak (Tony & Kelli Alvarez)

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

- ✠Vince Porcelli (Judy Porcelli)
- ✠Rita Tomczak (Corbett Family)
- ✠Walter Szumowski (Wes & Debbie Szumowski)
- ✠Judith Siwek (Family)

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

- ✠Patricia Zagorski (Barbara Rendak)
Strabrawa Family (C. Moran)



Presiders are subject to change without notice.

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH | JULY 2, 2023



OUR SANCTUARY CANDLES

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

JULY

VINCE PORCELLI & MARIA PORCELLI

For the repose of their souls, given by Family.

TOM MARKHAM

In loving memory, given by Family.

BEN JANIK, TED TOMCZAK, HENRY KROLL, & RAY RASKEY

For the repose of their souls, given by Rich Janik.

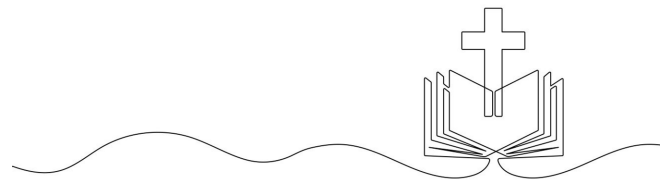
In the lighting of candles, we remember and truly live the words of Our Lord: "I am the Light of the World." In the lighting of the sanctuary candles we honor a loved one, living or deceased.

Please Join Us in Praying for the Sick

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



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

Ronald Cempel
Gerald Fredrick Sears
Valerie Kosiek



WEDDING BANNS:

July 14, 2023 - Victoria Harrison & Dan Capparelli (I & II)



Spring '24 Confirmation candidate

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



FAMILY FEST

2023 Family Fest is just 18 days away!

STARTS ON JULY 20-JULY 23

4-Day Wristbands go on sale and sold at:

Mass: starting on July 1 & 2, 8 & 9, 15 & 16

Parish Office: begins on July 5th during regular business hours

Prices:

CASH/*CREDIT CARD ACCEPTED (*cc is a 4% service fee) NO Checks accepted

\$60 - Pre-sale (Pre-sale ends Wednesday July 19th)

\$70 - during fest

\$35 - 1 day is sold during fest

Volunteers are still needed (please contact the parish office for more info)

Donation/Sponsor (please contact the parish office for more info)

GRAND RAFFLE UPDATE!

\$20 each or 6 tickets for \$100

Please do not delay in purchasing your "Lucky" Grand Raffle Tickets for next month's Family Fest (July 20-23). Don't miss your chance at \$500 with the Early Bird Drawing on June 13th. Remember, there is no cost to take Grand Raffle Tickets until they are sold!

Please take some tickets and sell them to family and friends over the summer!

Two Holy Martyrs Parish is currently about \$5,000 behind last year's record Grand Raffle sales. Please take some tickets and sell them to family and friends over the summer!

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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

7/01 - Saturday

◇ PARISH OFFICE CLOSE

7/02 - Sunday

◇ PARISH OFFICE CLOSE

7/03 - Monday

◇ PARISH OFFICE CLOSE

7/04 - Tuesday

◇ PARISH OFFICE CLOSE

◇ No Holy Hour & No Confessions

◇ Varsity Volleyball Team Practice | St. Symphorosa at 6:30PM

◇ Narthex - Committee Knights of Columbus | St. Rene Goupil at 7PM

7/05 - Wednesday

◇ Summer School | St. Symphorosa at 8:30AM

◇ St. Vincent de Paul Meeting | St. Symphorosa at 6:30PM

7/06 - Thursday

◇ Summer School | St. Symphorosa at 8:30AM

◇ Summer Band Lessons | St. Symphorosa at 9AM

7/11 - Tuesday

◇ Summer School | St. Symphorosa at 8:30AM

◇ Varsity Volleyball Team Practice | St. Symphorosa at 6:30PM

7/12 - Wednesday

◇ Summer School | St. Symphorosa at 8:30AM

7/13 - Thursday

◇ Summer School | St. Symphorosa at 8:30AM

◇ Summer Band Lessons | St. Symphorosa at 9AM

7/14 - Friday

◇ Baptismal Classes - Parents | St. Rene Goupil Church at 6PM

7/15 - Saturday

◇ FEAST of ST. SYMPHOROSA | ALL MASSES

7/16 - Sunday

◇ FEAST of ST. SYMPHOROSA | ALL MASSES

◇ BINGO | St. Rene Goupil - *Doors Open at 11:30AM*

KINDLY NOTIFY THE PARISH OFFICE IF DATES FOR THESE EVENTS HAVE CHANGED.



THANK YOU
for your generosity

We'd like to THANK our THM Parish & Community for their generosity of donations to our "May Bundle Week-End."
Thank you, also to the students, parents, scouts & leaders, who helped out on Saturday and Sunday. Your assistance was greatly appreciated.
The next "Bundle Week-End" will be in November at St. Symphorosa's Parking Lot, dates and times will be announced at a later date.

THM - St. Vincent de Paul Society



Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH OFFERTORY 6/25: \$8,551.00

Split the Pot Winning Envelope # 63856 - \$355.00

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

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSE ON
SATURDAY JULY 1ST
through
TUESDAY JULY 4TH**

**NO CONFESSIONS /
NO HOLY HOUR ON THE 4TH**

**BACK IN THE OFFICE
WEDNESDAY JULY 5TH**

Have a safe weekend!

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Two Holy Martyrs Parish is **HIRING**

Seasonal/Full or Part Time Maintenance Person

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

Financial Aid 2023-2024

Please apply ASAP if you would like to be considered for assistance for next school year here at St. Symphorosa's School.

The committee here at St. Symphorosa School has met several times and our funds are getting low to help

A \$30.00 processing fee is required to be paid online when submitting the application.

The FACTS application for Financial Assistance must be completed, submitted, and verified for a student and family to be considered to receive Financial Assistance from the parish.

The FACTS application is also needed to continue to receive CARITAS or any other aid from the Archdiocese.

To apply online, click on the link below. Be sure to fill out every portion of the application including the short essay portion. All applications are reviewed thoroughly by the Financial Aid Committee.

[FACTS Application](#)

If you have any questions, please call Maggie Koziar at 773-585-6888 ext. 248 or email at mkoziar@archchicago.org.



The *QUEEN OF PEACE H.S.*
Class of 1973 will hold their 50th Class Reunion
on

September 15, 2023 at St. Laurence H.S. @
6:30 p.m.

Please see the Queen of Peace (QOP) Class of 1973
Facebook page for more information

or
send an email to

patricethomas6314@gmail.com.

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



Super Bingo

Sunday July 16, 2023

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

FAITH FORMATION

Important!

Summertime / Family Time

The heat of summer is upon us! It's Vacation Time! We may try to think of ways to spend time with our children, Family Time! One of the *greatest* gifts we can give is the gift of *time*. If you ask some adults what meant the most to them growing up, you will often hear good memories of people "who had time for them". Given the fast pace of today's society, what might be some ways that you can build just a little more family time into your lives? These are just a few simple ways to show you care:

Sunday Mass

Remember to put God in the first place and everything else will be in the right place.

The Family Meal

Do everything you can to sit at the dinner table together. This can be a relaxed time when the family can talk about the day and just enjoy being together.

Family Traditions

These need not be elaborate. Children look forward to helping bake cookies etc. A family BBQ, a picnic or a day at the beach/pool or any other activities that the family does together routinely.

Bring on the Board Games

Even young children enjoy sitting around a board game and playing as a family. This is also a great opportunity to help your child learn to be a good sport and have fun whether winning or losing.

Be present and available to listen

In order for children to want to talk with parents, it is important for the parents to be available. Whether riding in a car, sitting on the couch, or just hanging out together, it is important to provide opportunities for children to share what's on their minds.

Take a hike or bike ride

Enjoy a short hike or bike ride as a family. This is a no-cost way, not only to stay healthy, but also to build family memories.

Your family may already be creating great memories of times together. If you are, know that you are giving your child an invaluable gift. Your *time* is a more precious gift to your child than you could ever imagine.

Blessings!



Registration for the upcoming 2023 – 2024

Faith Formation School year are now open! New and returning families are invited to register.

Registration materials are available on our Parish Website. You may also register at the Main Parish Office. We will continue to offer Faith Formation Classes for grades 1- 8. Classes will be held on **Tuesday evenings, from 6:00pm until 7:30pm.**

In addition Classes will be offered on **Saturday mornings, from 9am until 10:30am...**

All our classes, (both Tuesdays and Saturdays) will be held at our St. Symphorosa Campus.

Classes begin after

Labor Day!

Please call Miss Peggy, with any questions. We are grateful for your support. (773) 767-1523 ext. 226

**Faith Formation Classes
Resume after
Labor Day.**



CALLED TO SERVE

Serving as a catechist in the faith formation process at Two Holy Martyrs is certainly more than being a volunteer. It is a calling from God to serve the people of God, the Church. In Baptism, we are called to live a life of holiness and to help others do the same. As catechists, we have the opportunity to grow in our faith, in our friendship with Jesus, and in holiness. As we anticipate another year of faith formation, we invite you to reflect on your call to share your faith as a catechist. To respond please call Ms. Peg at (773) 767-1523, Ext. 226.

PARISH SCHOOL NEWS

MAY HIGHLIGHTS

(GRADES 3RD-8TH)



Third graders enjoy some snacks (and company) from the kindergarteners' lemonade stand!



Fourth graders displayed their knowledge of Chicago landmarks.



Fifth Grade enjoying the annual Kindergarten lemonade stand



Sixth Grade Boys Celebrate 1st Place JV Basketball Championship



Seventh grade on their field trip to Fair Oaks Farm.



Eighth grade at the Playhouse Theatre

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

HELP NEEDED!

We are seeking student volunteers to help run the Kids Games at Family Fest! This is a great opportunity to earn service hours for any student 7th-12th Grade!

Available Shifts (you can work more than one!)

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| THURSDAY, JULY 20 | 7PM-9PM | SATURDAY, JULY 22 | 6PM-9PM |
| FRIDAY, JULY 21 | 7PM-9PM | SUNDAY, JULY 23 | 12:30PM-5PM |
| SATURDAY, JULY 22 | 12:30PM-5PM | SUNDAY, JULY 23 | 5PM-8:30PM |

Contact Richard Banden at rbanden@stsymphoraschool.org to volunteer!

Save the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program

Families of Two Holy Martyrs Parish and St. Symphorosa School. I am writing on behalf of the school to ask for your help. This school year we had 39 students who will benefit from a Tax Credit Scholarship for the 23-24 school year. This opportunity is very important for the health and growth of our school. Recently there have been misconceptions shared about the scholarship so I want to be sure I am sharing the facts and requesting your assistance.

Keep the Tax Credit Scholarship for Kids!

The Tax Credit Scholarship Program, made possible by the Illinois Invest in Kids Act, provides need-based scholarships to Illinois K-12 students and their families. Without this program, many hardworking families may not have the ability to select the school of their choice due to financial constraints.

This valuable program provides opportunities to kids and relieves financial burdens for the families that need it most. We can secure the future of this critical resource for families by getting the program extended.

Basics about the program:

Individuals and corporations can donate to scholarship granting organizations (SGOs), like Big Shoulders Fund, and receive a credit on their state income taxes. The SGOs then award scholarships to students in need who want to attend a qualified non-public school of their choice.

Benefits of the program:

Since the Tax Credit Scholarship Program began in 2017, hundreds of thousands of students have applied for the scholarship statewide. Thousands of students receive the scholarship annually, helping families make the best education decision for their children. Since the program began in 2018, Big Shoulders Fund has awarded over \$72 million in tax credit scholarships and Empower Illinois has also awarded millions in scholarship funding.

Why we need your help:

The Tax Credit Scholarship Program is currently slated to end at the end of 2023, and we need your help to extend this deadline and keep this option available to families. This program has helped tens of thousands of deserving students and families across the state and eliminating this program will take away a critical component of making school options more expansive and affordable. While securing an extension to the sunset date would be a win, ultimately, we are advocating to remove the sunset date to ensure this program can continue giving opportunities to the students who need it most.

Take Action Now:

Please email, call, and tweet your state lawmakers using the link asking them to continue the Tax Credit Scholarship Program by removing the sunset provision. You can use the template already included or add your personal story. <https://p2a.co/az27xdu>

This is an extremely worthwhile program for our students. It enables families who have financial need to choose and have the means to attend our school, where students are known and loved. Our goal is for St. Symphorosa to be the Catholic elementary school of choice in the Midway area, delivering academic excellence and forming Disciples of Christ who love and serve.

Thank you for your support and assisting us in realizing this goal.

With Gratitude
Dr. Kathy Berry EdD
Principal