



## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him. - Mk 1:19-20

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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**January 21, 2024**

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



# WELCOME TO TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH CHURCH SCHEDULES

## PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Robert Regan  
PASTOR

Rev. Kevin Gregus  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Norman Trela  
RETIRED PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

## PASTORS EMERITUS

Rev. Ted Bojczuk  
PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Peter Paurazas  
PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Idzi Stacherczak  
PASTOR EMERITUS

## PARISH STAFF

Ken Hilliard  
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR  
EXT. 222

Magdalan Koziar  
OFFICE & TUITION COORDINATOR  
EXT. 248

Irene Perconti  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT EXT. 241

Peg Siebenaler  
FAITH FORMATION  
COORDINATOR EXT. 226

David Boyle  
MUSIC DIRECTOR EXT. 225

Dcn. Raul Duque  
PARISH ORGANIST

Mark Schusteric  
MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Jacqueline Guerrero  
BULLETIN & GENERAL  
OFFICE ADMIN EXT. 221

## SCHOOL STAFF

Kathy Berry  
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Chris Garza  
ASSISTANT SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Chicago  
Building a Better Tomorrow for  
Those in Need

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

## ST. SYMPHOROSA

6135 S. Austin Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60638

### SUNDAY MASS

9 AM | 12 PM

### MONDAY — SATURDAY MASS

8 AM mass is held during:

February | April | June  
August | October | December

### SATURDAY VIGIL

5:30 PM

### RECONCILIATION


TUESDAY | 6 PM—7 PM


*All are welcome to join in praying the Rosary after 8 AM mass Monday through Saturday! Come meditate on Christ with us!*

## PARISH OFFICE

6135 S. Austin Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60638

*Located on Austin between  
the school and church buildings*

 773.767.1523

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

 [info@twoholymartyrs.org](mailto:info@twoholymartyrs.org)

### MONDAY—FRIDAY

9 AM—4 PM

### SATURDAY

9 AM — 12 PM

## PARKING AND SAFETY REMINDER

The safety of our parish community is important and must be taken into consideration at each gathering. Should serious medical or facility issues arise unexpectedly we must be prepared. We ask that you observe parking regulations on both campus locations, churches, loading zones, etc.

## PLEASE REFRAIN FROM PARKING IN THE FIRE LANES

## ST. RENE GOUPIL

6949 W. 63rd Place  
Chicago, IL 60638

### SUNDAY MASS

7:30 AM | 10:30 AM

### MONDAY — SATURDAY MASS

8 AM mass is held during:

January | March | May  
July | September | November

### SATURDAY VIGIL


4 PM

### RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS | 3 PM—3:45 PM

## SCHOOL OFFICE

6125 S. Austin Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60638

 773.585.6888

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

 [office@stsymphorosaschool.org](mailto:office@stsymphorosaschool.org)

### MONDAY—FRIDAY

9 AM—3 PM



# FR. BOB'S WEEKLY BLOG

we need an analogy, imagine an airplane in distress. Oxygen masks descend from above. People at that point must make a choice; to take hold and use the oxygen mask, or to refuse it or think it's not needed.

There are consequences to our choices.

God the Son "dropped" from outside time and space because humanity was in distress. We lost sanctifying grace and needed help from outside humanity. That is exactly what we received in the Person of Christ; help from outside time and space; help from heaven for our help on earth.

Now is the time of choice; repent and believe in the Gospel or stay mired in a life of sin and refuse the good news of salvation.

Sadly, there are far too many people in this world who view the good news as bad news. The forces of evil continue to deceive as Satan and his demonic minions attempt to make God look like the bad guy. This is the same tactic used in the Garden of Eden. "Did God really say ...?" And far too often we take the same bait.

Christ is the Savior. He is the way, and the truth and the life. He gives us more than mere biological life. He makes possible the life of grace; the God Life.

Grab hold of the Source of life, and never let go.

### Vigil Mass Change Coming

Thank you to the 300+ people who took the time to complete the Vigil Mass Time survey.

Please note, this was a survey not an election. The purpose of the survey was to help guide parish leadership in decision-making.

Here are the results of the survey (out of 319 submissions): 4 PM Mass (218); 4:30 PM Mass (40); 5 PM Mass (51), and 5:30 PM Mass (10).

Altering Mass times is always a challenge in parish life. Pastors tread lightly. We should all keep in mind that parish Mass times are not a matter of personal convenience. If Mass times were a matter of personal convenience, then we'd have Mass every hour all day Sunday. The Church asks us to consider what a parish needs in terms of the number of Masses that keep the parish as a whole in mind.

Right now, our parish does not need two Saturday Vigil Masses. Beginning with the First Sunday of Lent, we will change to ONE vigil Mass.

The Two Holy Martyrs Saturday Vigil Mass will be 4 PM at our St. Rene campus. **Beginning Saturday, February 17, 2024, there will no longer be a 5:30 Mass option.**

As we move forward from this Mass time change, we will continue to monitor Mass participation to see if we need to add another Sunday Mass (possibly Sunday evening).

In summary, the Two Holy Martyrs Parish Mass schedule beginning on the weekend of February 17-18, 2024 will be: 4 PM Vigil Mass (St. Rene) ... 7:30 AM (St. Rene) ... 9 AM (St. Symphorosa) ... 10:30 AM (St. Rene) ... Noon (St. Symphorosa).

Our Gospel this Sunday uses the word REPENT.

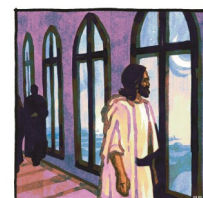
What does this mean? It means to turn away from a life of sin and turn toward God's love and God's law. Jesus says through Mark's Gospel, "This is the time of fulfilment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

The word Gospel means GOOD NEWS. The arrival of the Son of God and Son of man is supposed to be good news for humanity. Sin, evil, and death have been eternally conquered thanks be to Jesus, the Christ, who died on the cross for our salvation.

We have been saved FROM something (sin, evil, death). But here's the other part of the good news; we have been saved FOR something, and that something is love. The truth of the suffering, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus is supposed to CHANGE the way we live in this world.

Jesus, especially through the seven sacraments, gives us the GRACE we need to live for love. This is the spiritual importance of sanctifying grace. On our own power, we are not able to love as we should but by living a life of grace, we rise to a higher love.

When people think they don't need Jesus and don't need his Church, they are essentially saying no to grace. If





# FR. KEVIN'S GREGORIAN RANTS

Here's the text of the prayer said as the priest holds the paten with the bread: "Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life." When it is said out loud, the people respond, "Blessed be God forever."

As the priest prepares the bread and the wine, he says some prayers *sotto voce*, or in a low voice.

Sometimes he will speak them aloud if there is no offertory song, such as at daily Mass, so you may be familiar with these prayers.

They are called the Berakah prayers, which is the Hebrew word for blessing.

These types of prayers have a deep root in the Jewish faith and include any prayer that begins, "Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe..."

They can be used when waking up, when preparing food, when giving thanks, when going to bed, and countless other moments of praise and thanksgiving. The words *barukh* and *berakhah* are both derived from the Hebrew root *Bet-Resh-Kaf* (Hebrew letters), meaning "knee," and refer to the practice of showing respect by bending one's knee.

You see right away the elements of the Berakah. It is a deep prayer that recognizes the reality of what we call the divine economy. God gives us something, namely the wheat that he created and which grows from the earth. Man, in his rational and creative nature, take that good thing and turns it into something better – bread that can be eaten for nourishment. This is what we mean by "fruit of the earth and work of human hands".

The same is done with the wine: "Fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink." God gave man grapes to be picked from the earth that, along with natural yeast, can be made into wine.

On their own, bread and wine are good things that man uses to strengthen and cheer the heart, as Psalm 104 says.

However, at Mass, we don't just leave them in that state. This is

the next step in the divine economy. We offer these good things, improved by man, back to God so that he in turn can transform them into something even better, which is the Body and Blood of Christ.

And if God can transform simple bread and wine into so great and glorious a substance, imagine what he can do when we offer him the greatest gift we can give – our very selves. We receive the gift of life from God and we improve upon it through eating, learning, relating with others, and moving around.

When we offer this good thing to God, he returns it by making it like him and allowing us to share in his own divine life.

These prayers of blessing should echo out from the Mass into our daily lives. While they don't need to be formal, we can take small moments in our day to acknowledge the good things that God has placed in our lives and our role in the divine economy of receiving and returning things back to our creator.



# For the week of:

JANUARY 20th- JANUARY 28th



## Saturday January 20th

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

**05:30PM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob  
✠ Art & Lydia Stetson (Mike, Mark & Frank)  
✠ Donna Martin (Mary Trendle)  
Prayers & God's Blessings for Cynthia Howard (SVdP)

## Sunday January 21st

**7:30 AM** | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin  
✠ Vince Porcelli (wife Judy)

**9:00 AM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob  
✠ Juanita Hill (Arlene Scaletta)  
✠ Patrick & Eugene Scanlon (Margaret)  
✠ Marisol Guerrero 16th yr. Anniversary (Guerrero-Arteaga Family)  
✠ Rosa Rodriguez (Arlene Scaletta)

**10:30 AM** | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin  
✠ Lucille Branda (Teresa & Nick Laskewich)  
✠ Rita Tomczak (Katie Sigafoose)  
✠ Rich Janik (Robert Kroll & Family)  
✠ Michael Patrick Sheerhan (SVdP)  
✠ Anthony Sanfratello (Family)

**12PM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin  
✠ Chester Mateja (Canryn & Ryan Graa)  
✠ Krystyna Dana (Daughter)  
✠ Raul Ruis 1yr anniversary (Maria & children)  
✠ Katherine Barrera (Husband)

## Monday January 22nd

**08:00 AM** | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob  
✠ Edward Kloc (Kloc Family)  
Good health & God's Blessings for Jeanine Gayton (Mary Kolimas)  
Birthday Blessings for Laura Sarlitto (Mary Sarlitto)

## Tuesday January 23rd

**08:00 AM** | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin  
✠ Richard Jovanovich (Arlene Scaletta)  
Good Health & God's Blessings for Janet Margieri (Mary Kolimas)

## Wednesday January 24th

**08:00 AM** | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin  
Good Health & God's Blessings for Bob Mikulecky (Mary Kolimas)  
Katrina Sigafoose (Ann Robertson)

## Thursday January 25th

**08:00 AM** | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob  
✠ Anthony & Rose Bluiss (Kathy Calgano)  
Good health and God's Blessings for Fr. Norm (Mary Kolimas)  
✠ Josephine Nych (Family)  
✠ Judith Siwek  
✠ Geraldine Zwolinski (Barbara Rendak)

## Friday January 26th

**08:00 AM** | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob  
✠ Vince Porcelli (wife Judy)  
Good Health & God's Blessings for Barbara Mikulecky (Mary Kolimas)  
Healing and Good Health for Joanne Gulino (Capparelli Family)

## Saturday January 27th

**08:00 AM** | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin  
✠ Richard Zilka (wife Marie)  
✠ Janet Heitz (Marie Zilka)  
✠ Penny Uram (Barbara Rendak)  
✠ Theresa Tulik (Marge Tulik)  
✠ Lucille Shotas (Nancy Shotas)

**04:00 PM** | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob  
✠ Joe Kasper (Jean Piotrowski)  
✠ Jack Ruggiero (Nancy Markham)  
✠ Chalida Svastisale (Family)

**05:30PM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin  
Pro Populo

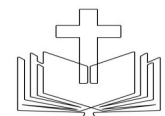
## Sunday January 28th

**7:30 AM** | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob  
✠ Vince Porcelli (wife Judy)  
Health & Lord's Blessings for Luis Estrada  
God's Blessings for Lois Beyer (Grateful Parishioners)

**9:00 AM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin  
✠ Walter Pasternak (Arlene Scaletta)  
✠ Patrick Quirk (Margaret Scanlon)  
✠ Tom Vaughan (Theresa Feddor)  
✠ Eileen Sheedy (Arlene Scaletta)

**10:30 AM** | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob  
✠ Michael Brown (Rose Roberts)  
✠ Vincent Salamendo (Terri & Dan Domarsky)  
✠ Patrick O'Flaherty (Donna LeCompte)  
✠ Judith Siwek (Family)  
Praying for healing of Mona Orsi (Rose Roberts)

**12PM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin  
✠ Rogelio Torres (Norma Lopez)  
✠ Jack Ruggiero (Ferriter & Kolasinski Families)



***Presiders are subject to change without notice.***

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH | JANUARY 21, 2024



**OUR SANCTUARY CANDLES**

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

**JANUARY**

**VINCE PORCELLI & MARIA PORCELLI**

For the repose of their souls, given by Family.

**REST WITH THE LORD HENRY & HELEN KROLL**

given by Judith Scehovic.

**EUGENE BERNADETTE & ANGELA URAM**

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

**FOR THE HEALTH & RECOVERY OF GREGORY JEANNOTTE**

given by Parents.

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

**Please Join Us in Praying for the Sick**

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



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



If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. - Romans 14:8

**Eternal Rest**

- Rose Paczek
- James Jarosz
- Debra "Debbie" Kaufman
- Joseph Galenziewski
- Bernadine Lonak
- William Rich



**Thank you for your generosity!**

PARISH OFFERTORY 1/14: \$6339.00

Split the Pot Winning Envelope #: 66531: \$235.00

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



**Two Holy Martyrs Parish is  
HIRING**

**Full/Part Time Maintenance Person**

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



**OPEN TO ALL  
6TH GRADERS AND UP!**

**THM  
Youth  
Ministry is  
restarting!**

**EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT  
AT 7PM  
BEGINNING JANUARY 25TH**

**SHARP CENTER YM ROOM  
AT ST. SYMPHOROSA**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:  
[2HMYOUTHM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:2HMYOUTHM@GMAIL.COM)**

# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Valentine's Day**  
Hosted by the THM Transformation Team

**Spilt-the-pot**

**Sunday  
January 28th**

**Bingo!**

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

**Chili Bar!** \$20 at the door

**Pulltabs!**

Doors open @ 12:30pm  
Games start @ 1:30pm

**Chili Toppings**

- Cheese
- Crackers
- Onions
- Sour Cream
- Elbow Mac
- Hot Peppers

**CHILI BAR**

**Add Chili to:**  
Hot Dogs  
Nachos

**Also serving:**  
Popcorn  
Chips  
Red Velvet Cake  
Beverages



COME HUNGRY TO THIS SUNDAY'S VALENTINE BINGO! LOCATED AT OUR ST. SYMPHOROSA CAMPUS. DOORS OPEN @ 12:30, GAMES @ 1:30PM.

Are you ready to warm up with bingo and a bowl of chili?? If so, join us at our Valentine Bingo on Sunday, January 28th! Bingo, pull tabs and split-the-pots will be available. Top your chili off with assorted toppings or add chili to your hot dog or nachos for a tasty treat! What says warm up like a bowl of chili with a side of Bingo??

## DONATIONS

ONLINE/ELECTRONIC  
DONATIONS

**\$10,894.00**

December 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

Total number of transactions:  
**292**



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

You may also email us to request one at [info@twoholymartyrs.org](mailto:info@twoholymartyrs.org)

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

Thank you.

# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Share OF YOUR Faith



Support the Church in  
Latin America

[usccb.org/latin-america](https://usccb.org/latin-america)

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## Make a Positive Impact by Showing Solidarity with the Church in Latin America

On January 27-28, 2024, Catholics in many dioceses throughout the United States will participate in the special annual collection for the Church in Latin America.

Your contribution makes a positive impact by supporting seminary studies for future priests, pastoral ministries that provide reconciliation, spiritual direction, and job search assistance to prisoners completing jail sentences, and other vital ministries that bring the light of Christ into the lives of thousands in Central and South America and the Caribbean islands.

The Church in the United States has strengthened its relationship with the Church in Latin America through this collection for nearly 60 years, and you can join in by giving at Mass or through your parish's online giving/e-offertory platform. [#iGiveCatholicTogether](#) also accepts funds for the collection.

*"Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." Luke 6:38*

Each parish is part of the Church Universal; it is the Catholic Church in a particular place. The bishops of the United States created the national collections so that, by combining resources, we can more effectively carry out our mission as Catholics. Each of these important collections is worthy of your support. Each collection represents our community of faith at work in the world, saving souls and improving lives.

The bishops encourage us to view the national collections in the light of stewardship and of sharing. God has given us our light and our prosperity, all we need and more. It is right and just that we give something back through these collections, helping people in our own country and around the world to live better and to grow in the love of Jesus.

One Church. One Mission. Real Lives.



# FAITH FORMATION

## Important!

### Upcoming Events:

**1/20: First Communion Bread Meeting / Retreat.**

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

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

**1/30: Faith Formation Classes  
St. Syms Campus. (Tues.)**



### Faith Formation Program Emergency Closing Information

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**....in the event of a heavy snowfall, or inclement weather you can access Emergency Closing information for our program by going to the: **Two Holy Martyrs Website** at [Twoholymartyrs.org](http://Twoholymartyrs.org) (St. Symphorosa & St. Rene)

In the event of an emergency closing, this announcement would be the First Message to appear on the Website at the top of your screen.



### BELONGING SERVICE

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



### SPIRIT DAY

On February 25th, our Level Eight Confirmation Candidates will gather for their Pre-Confirmation Spirit Day Retreat. This special day starts with mass, after mass there will be a presentation by one of our Priests. Then the students proceed to the classrooms, where they will be engaging in activities that are prayerful, reflective, and, at the same time, fun. We invite all of our parishioners to pray for our Confirmation Candidates as they continue their journey toward the Sacrament of Confirmation.



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

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

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

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

# PARISH SCHOOL NEWS

**ST. SYMPHOROSA SCHOOL  
OF TWO HOLY MARTYRS  
PARISH**

Proudly Presents...

**CATHOLIC  
SCHOOLS WEEK  
OPEN HOUSE**

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

Here we:

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

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

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



**Eat to support** St. Symphorosa School



Use promo code  
GPFUND24



11:00 AM - 11:00 PM  
Tuesday, January 23rd



Lou Malnati's  
Midway 6456 S Cicero

Order online at [loumalnatis.com](http://loumalnatis.com), in the mobile app or call

Powered by  
GroupRaise



**CELEBRATE  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
January 28 - February 3**