



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour. - Mt 15:28

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

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August 20, 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. 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. 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



Those close to me know I am a thrifter. I regularly peruse the aisles of thrift stores looking for hidden gems. The old Bohemian in me shows. I've had my share of "finds."

However, the other day as I stood in the check-out line, I looked up at the wall and noticed the four categories that the Salvation Army proudly displays: Mission Statement, Finding Treasure, When You Give, and Changing Lives.

This was the gem I needed because it also reminds us of WHY the Church exists, and WHY the parish is so important no matter where in the world the parish exists, including the Clearing and Garfield Ridge communities in the City of Chicago.

Mission Statement: Let's avoid the corporate buzzwords. When it comes to the Church, we know the mission comes to us from Jesus: to proclaim the Gospel, which is the good news of salvation. The Church is the sacrament of salvation. She exists to make saints. She exists as the avenue of sanctification in this world. We are called to BE disciples, and to MAKE disciples. When other things in the Church or in parish life become more important than the gospel, then we know we've lost sight of the mission. If we need a short, powerful mission statement, then we need look no further than Jesus. He summed it quite succinctly: Love God. Love neighbor.

Finding Treasure: In chapter six of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus says "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."

Is Jesus your treasure? He is the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him. Jesus helps us along the way by giving us the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church which are avenues of

grace for our spiritual well-being. The Eucharist is a treasure.

Far too often we lose sight of the things of heaven and begin solely living for the material things of this world, which will crumble and decay. This crumble and decay include the buildings of the institutional church. The cathedrals will crumble. Our faith, however, is not in buildings. Our faith is in a Person, and that Person is Jesus, the Christ.

When You Give: In the Church, we call this Stewardship. In some Christian denominations, it's called tithing. Being an intentional disciple of Jesus means being a good steward of our gifts. While the Church provides the means of salvation for us, we in turn help provide for the Church. Closer to home, the parish provides the means of salvation (Sharing the Gospel, teaching the faith, providing access to the sacraments). We, in turn, provide for the parish by way of the Three T's: time, treasure, talent.

Time is the way in which we volunteer. We say, "How can I give of my time for the good of the parish?" Time is valuable, and we are grateful for all those who give their time.

Treasure is the way in which we give financially to the parish. Every parishioner is called to give financially as best we can. Some folks honestly think the parish is sitting on a boat-load of cash. Truth? We are not. Please give as best you are able to support Two Holy Martyrs.

Talent is the way we can share our gifts in service to the universal Church and to the parish. We really do have a lot of talented people who share what God has given them with the Church God has given all of us. This is a beautiful thing. Talent comes in many forms: music, art, legal skills, finance skills, coaching skills, decorating skills, cooking skills, teaching skills. The list could go on and on.

Everything the Lord has given us as individuals can be used for the Church, and for the greater glory of God.

Changing Lives

St. Paul writes in Galatians, chapter 2, "I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me." Before he became Paul, he was Saul, and he was a vehement persecutor of the Church. He rounded up Christians for jail and worse. Then something life-changing happened. Saul had an authentic encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. Life would never be the same.

The mission of Christ summons people to new life. It's an invitation. Love does not coerce. Jesus interacted with people, not to leave them in their sins, but to save them and show them a better way.

He ate with sinners; not to join them in their sins but to CHANGE THEIR LIFE. Far too often we want to drag Jesus down into the mud instead of allowing Him to lift us up out of sin, evil and death into new life.

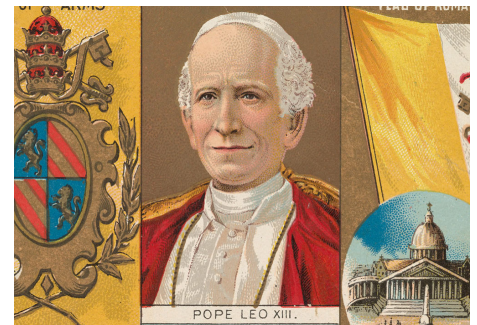
I'm still a sinner. I still stumble and fall, but I know Jesus changed my life. He changed my life on the day I was baptized, but he also changed my life when he found me at the darkest moment of my life, and I found myself in the back pews at St. Mary church in DeKalb, Illinois. He always stood ready for me. I just wasn't ready for Him. Life has a way of humbling us, and the Lord does wonders with rock bottom.

Be mindful of how Jesus has been in your life, and how you have responded to His love.

Saints were not born saints. Saints know they are sinners who stand in desperate need of God's grace. Saints respond to God's love by echoing the Blessed Mother's famous words, "I am the Lord's servant. Be it done unto me according to your word."

Jesus changes lives. Trust Him. He's been doing it for 2,000 years, and He's not finished.

Quote: "We hold upon this earth the place of God almighty." -- **Pope Leo XIII**





FR. KEVIN'S GREGORIAN RANTS

liturgy of the hours, to name a few.

To put it simply, "every liturgical action ... is an encounter between Christ and the Church" [CCC 1097].

From its earliest days, which even predate the Church, liturgy was seen as a public duty or service undertaken by a citizen for the common good. So, liturgy is a work done on behalf of the people.

This "work" involves all of us and is always public in nature. It starts with God the Father and continues through the Son, Jesus Christ, and is for the people so that we may share in salvation.

However, we know from our experience with the above liturgies that we have a key role in offering these liturgies. The goal of our worship in liturgy is directed at the praise of God and the sanctification of the world.

There are five elements present in each liturgy:

- ✦ **Christological** – Christ as true high priest who offers and is the sacrifice; meaningless without him
- ✦ **Anthropological** – They use signs and symbols accessible to humans;

done to accomplish the salvation for man offered by God

- ✦ **Ecclesiological** – Whole Church participates, including communion of saints; done on behalf of entire Church
- ✦ **Eschatological** – Participation in heavenly liturgy; a foretaste of heaven
- ✦ **Trinitarian** – Done towards the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit

Sure, these are big theological words, but what is important is the meaning of each one.

We can keep these in mind every time we prepare for Mass or for any other liturgy God calls us to participate in the great work of salvation.

The more aware we are of the purpose of what we do, the more we can actively engage with the work of God we do together.

As I work to get this column on its feet, I want to start with some broader concepts in order to set up a solid base camp from which we can mine the depths together.

Last week, I wrote about our primary disposition being one of receptivity. God reaches out to man, and we respond.

One of the central means of this is liturgy.

There are numerous liturgies we participate in as Catholics, with the Holy Mass being the pinnacle.

What are some others?

Confession, baptism, exposition and benediction during adoration, funerals, blessings, care of the sick, and the



Cub Scout Pack 4439 invites any interested families to join us as we start a new year!

All boys and girls entering kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome to register. Through Cub Scouts your child will make new friends and engage in fun, hands-on activities that promote character development, service, and leadership through outdoor activities, STEM, and more! We will have a parent meeting and introduction to scouting night at 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, September 7 in the Sharp Center for interested families. Please reach out to cubscoutpack4439@gmail.com for more information.



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

In need of help or know someone in need of help?

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



MASS INTENTIONS

AUGUST 19TH-AUGUST 27TH

Saturday August 19th

04:00 PM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob
✠Vince Porcelli (Judy Porcelli)
✠Walter & Frances Szumowski (Wes & Debbie Szumowski)
✠Ann Tuszyński (Linda Dobias)
✠Jeffrey Gerlick (Chiaramonte Family)

05:30 PM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Norm
✠Tom Markham (Joanne Tishka)
✠Melinda Mackey (Joanne Tishka)
✠Darlene Gudim (Ray & Marylou Kolasinski)
✠Margert "Peg" Fonte (Art & Katie Carpenter)

Sunday August 20th

07:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin
Pro Populo (for the People of the Parish)

09:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob
✠Linda Sullivan (Family)
✠David Feddor (Family)
✠Virginia Blazeniak (Pat Soltis)
✠Nick Bouzious (Janina)

10:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob
✠Jean Bell (Knights of Columbus)
✠Rita Tomczak (Corbett Family)
✠Tony Blazevich (Karen & Jerry Hughes)
✠Jean Bell (Arleme Scaletta)

12:00 PM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Norm
✠Krystyna Lukasik (Stanley Lukasik)
✠Nijole Kucenas (Silvia Foti)

Monday August 21st

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob
✠Vince Porcelli (Judy Porcelli)
✠Geri Norbut (Family)

Tuesday August 22nd

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin
✠Shirley Fijolek (Pat, Sue, Lorraine)
Health & all the Lord's blessings for Mike Kolimas (Mary Kolimas)

Wednesday August 23rd

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin
✠Christopher Wiatrak (Mom Clara)

Thursday August 24th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Norm
✠James Ellison (wife Linda)
✠Rich Wilus (Mary Kolimas)

Friday August 25th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin
✠Robert Soltis (Pat Soltis)
✠Judith Siwek (Family)

Saturday August 26th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob
✠Mary Szlembarski (Barbara Rendak)
Happy Birthday Mark Sarlitto (Mary Sarlitto)
Good Health & Safety to Tulik Family (Marge Tulik)

04:00 PM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin
✠Robert Montgomery Sr. (Wife & Children)
✠Al Beyer (Linda Dobias)
✠Casimir & Helen Gerlick (Chiaramonte Family)
✠Edward Gerlick (Chiaramonte Family)

05:30 PM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob
✠Bridget A. Collins (Barb Payne & Nancy Markham)
✠Gerald Sears (Gregory Jackson & Family)
✠Mary Ann Shanahan (Woulfe Family)

Sunday August 27th

07:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob
✠Vince Porcelli (Judy Porcelli)
✠Victor & Zeneida Narea (Vincent Narea)
✠Lauerne Kenney (Kenney Family)
✠Rosemary Kenney (O'Brien Family)

09:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Norm
Pro Populo (for the People of the Parish)

10:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin
✠Jack Orsi (Family)
✠Rita Tomczak (Corbett Family)
✠Bob Smith (Family)
✠Carl & Jean Bell (Ben & Judy Shafer)

12:00 PM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob
✠Krystyna Lukasik (Stanley Lukasik)
✠Judith Siwek (Family)
Praying for the Health of Ann Carey (Woulfe Family)



Presiders are subject to change without notice.



OUR SANCTUARY CANDLES

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

AUGUST

VINCE PORCELLI & MARIA PORCELLI
For the repose of their souls, given by Family.

MARY & PETER SZLEMBARSKI and THERESA & MICHAEL GENOVESE
given by Barbara Rendak.

LEE KARPINSKI
For the repose of the soul, given by Mary Trendle (sister).

RICHARD MERDA
For the repose of the soul, given by Arlene Scaletta (wife).

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

James Rochelle
Dr. Bernard Slusinski
James Marcinkowski
Donald Halper



Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH OFFERTORY 8/13: \$9,956.29

Split the Pot Winning Envelope # 60301 -\$390.00

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

Fr. Peter Parauzas HAS MOVED!

Fr. Peter has recently moved to Franciscan Village: Our Lady of Victory Convent. He has moved due to health-related issues. Fr. Peter loves visitors. Fr. Peter served as the Pastor at St. Rene Church and can now be reached at the following address:

Franciscan Village
Our Lady of Victory Convent
Attn: Rev. Peter Parauzas (rm. 156)
11400 Theresa Drive
Lemont, IL 60439



WEDDING BANNS:

August 25, 2023 - Vivirianna Paramo & Jesús Escobedo (III)

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

8/22-Tuesday

◇ First Day of School | St. Symphorosa School

8/24Thursday

◇ New Family Welcome | St. Symphorosa School at 7PM

8/25- Friday

◇ Welcome Back School Mass | St. Symphorosa at 11AM

◇ Girls Varsity Basketball Team | St. Symphorosa at 5:30PM

8/27-Sunday

◇ Family Mass | St. Symphorosa at 9AM

8/29- Tuesday

◇ Transformation Meeting | St. Symphorosa at 7PM

8/30- Wednesday

◇ Menta Open House | St. Rene Goupil at 4PM

9/01- Friday

◇ School Mass | St. Symphorosa at 11AM

◇ Girls Varsity Basketball Team | St. Symphorosa at 5:30PM



ONLINE/ELECTRONIC

DONATIONS

\$8,208.00

July 1, 2023 to July 31, 2023

Total number of transactions:

270

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



Two Holy Martyrs Parish is HIRING

Full or Part Time Year Round Maintenance Person

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



Calling all crafters & vendors!!

Two Holy Martyrs Parish invites you to join our 9th annual

Holiday Extravaganza luncheon, craft & vendor fair

Sponsored by the THM Transformation Committee

Sunday, November 12, 2023

10:30am-2:30pm

Sharp Center

5940 W. 62nd Street, Chgo. IL, 60638

Please contact Taura Basulto at (708) 634-6748 or thmvendorfair@gmail.com to secure your spot!

**Booth fee \$40 (no chairs)
Table fee \$45 (2 chairs)
Electricity fee \$5**

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

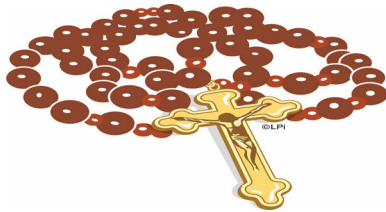


Attention all St. Symphorosa School students and Two Holy Martyrs Religious Education students:

Are you looking to participate in athletics during the 2023 - 2024 school year?

Some of the sports offered this year include: Coed soccer (grades pre-k - 3), basketball (grades 1-8), girls volleyball (grades 5-8), and Coed run club (grades 4-8) for students.

Please email athletics@stsymsschool.org for more information on how to register!



Altar and Rosary Society would like to invite you to come and join us for Mass on Sunday September 3rd at 9am at St. Symphorosa Church. On Tuesday September 5th, they will have a meeting in the Narthex at St. Rene Goupil. Meeting begins at 12pm. Please join us!



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 September 10, 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



An Invitation

Maybe you're someone who sang in a choir when you were in grade school or high school. You should consider joining the parish choir.

Or maybe you're someone who sang on stage in the theater or a garage band. You'd probably love to sing in the choir.

Or you might just be that person who's always among the first to sign up for karaoke or belting it out with the oldies station as you drive down Archer Avenue. Choir is waiting for you!

The parish choir rehearses Wednesdays 7-8:30pm at St. Symphorosa and alternates singing for the 9am and 10:30am Masses on Sundays beginning in mid-September until early June. We also serve on Christmas Eve & Day and during the Holy Week services.

New and returning members are asked to call or email by September 8 so that the correct number of choir binders and chairs can be prepared in time for the first rehearsal.

If you're interested in joining or have questions please contact :

David Boyle
773.767.1523 ext. 225
or email 2HMChoir@gmail.com



FAITH FORMATION

Important!



Registration for the upcoming
2023 – 2024

Faith Formation School year is
still 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



FALL CLASSES
BEGIN
AFTER
LABOR DAY!



CATECHIST FORMATION MEETING

THANK YOU for making a commitment to the Catechetical Ministry here at Two Holy Martyrs Parish and forming young people in our Catholic faith. All our Catechists will be invited to a beginning of the year Catechist Formation meeting. We will gather together for prayer, snacks/refreshments, discussion and planning. I hope all our catechists are able to attend. If you are contemplating joining the Catechetical ministry.... Please give me a call.... You are welcome to attend our upcoming meeting and see what we are all about. The success of our program stems from you! I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteering in Two Holy Martyrs Faith Formation Program is something I'm honored to take part in. From being a little girl till now, my biggest dream in life is to become a teacher. Volunteering makes that dream seem more possible, and gives me an inside look of what it's like to deal with children of all different ages, with different personalities, and all sorts of characteristics. The days I volunteer always bring something different, whether that be children, activities, different things to do, or different places to be. What makes me love volunteering even more, is the feeling of building a deeper relationship with God, gathering together weekly with children who put the biggest smile on my face, as they learn about the Creator of this earth. The memories I continue to make volunteering are those I will cherish forever. I couldn't imagine my life without volunteering at Two Holy Martyrs.



Our Summer Students
learning about the
Sacrament of
Baptism.

PARISH SCHOOL NEWS



**SCHOOL STARTS
AUGUST 22ND!**



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

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN OUR FAMILY!

WE BELIEVE

All things are possible with God

A community of kindness, love,
and support equals success

Our children are steward of God's
gifts

COME SEE WHAT SETS US APART...

- Your child is known and loved
- Affordable before and after school care
- Financial Aid available for qualified families
- 21st Century STEM Studio

CONTACT US!

PHONE

773-585-6888

EMAIL

st.symphorosa1@gmail.com

6125 S. Austin Ave Chicago, IL 60638

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 41 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 School 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