

FIRST SUNDAY OF
LENT



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February 18, 2024

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. 221

SCHOOL STAFF

Kathy Berry
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Chris Garza
ASSISTANT SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



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

RECONCILIATION

TUESDAYS | 6 PM—7 PM

ST. RENE GOUPIL

6949 W. 63rd Place
Chicago, IL 60638

SUNDAY MASS

7:30 AM | 10:30 AM

MONDAY — SATURDAY MASS

8 AM mass is held during:

January | March | May
July | September | November

SATURDAY VIGIL

4 PM

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS | 3 PM—3:45 PM

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

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

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

SCHOOL OFFICE

6125 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, IL 60638

☎ 773.585.6888

📍 www.stsymssschool.org

✉ office@stsymphorosaschool.org

MONDAY—FRIDAY

9 AM—3 PM

FR. BOB'S WEEKLY BLOG



Our walk through the season of Lent has begun.

We hear every Lent about prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This year let's add the word gratitude.

A basic definition of gratitude is, "The quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness."

When we participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass every Sunday, we are also expressing our gratitude for what was accomplished FOR US on the cross of Calvary. He accomplished our redemption. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

On the cross, Jesus says, "This is My Body given up for you." We, in return for so great a sacrifice, say, "Thank you, Lord. This is my life given now for you."

Love responds to love. We share our gratitude.

Fr. Kevin Gregus, our associate pastor, has been doing a wonderful job each week in the bulletin of walking us – step by step – through Holy Mass. When his Mass series is complete, I've asked that he have it compiled into a book or pamphlet that people can use to better understand what is happening during Mass.

Part of the challenge today is that far too many folks have no idea why Holy

Mass is so important. We often hear, "Mass is boring," or, "I don't get anything out of Mass." Well, this only makes sense when we don't know what's happening during Mass.

However, when we truly understand the significance of the cross of Christ, it changes how we approach Holy Mass and how we participate in Holy Mass.

Gratitude begins to fill our minds and hearts. Even amidst the trials, tribulations, and temptations of life in this world, we are grateful for what Christ has done for us. We live with hope knowing sin, evil and death are not the victor. Love is stronger than death, and Love is Who went to the cross so that might have life in Him.

When we bring right worship to God at Mass, we in turn are sanctified. Mass is not entertainment. We are not passive observers of the priest "saying Mass." We celebrate Mass as a community gathered in gratitude to say, "Thank you, Lord."

Our culture today is filled with noise and constant activity. We're overstimulated. In street terms, we're a bit jacked up. Holy Mass is our refuge each week (each day if we so desire). When Holy Mass begins, we move out of the ordinary into the extraordinary. We seek, not to be stimulated, but sanctified; to receive God's grace for the life of our soul.

So, pray this Lent? Yes. Fast? Yup. Give alms? Please do. But please recognize the power of the cross and carry gratitude in your heart; a heart that is fully aware of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Parish Mission Week

The week of March 11 through March 15 will be our Parish Lenten Mission Week.

All the liturgies and services will begin at 7 PM at one of our two parish campuses.

Monday, March 11 – Talk and Reflection by Fr. Ryan Brady, associate pastor of St. Linus in Oak Lawn (at St. Rene Goupil church).

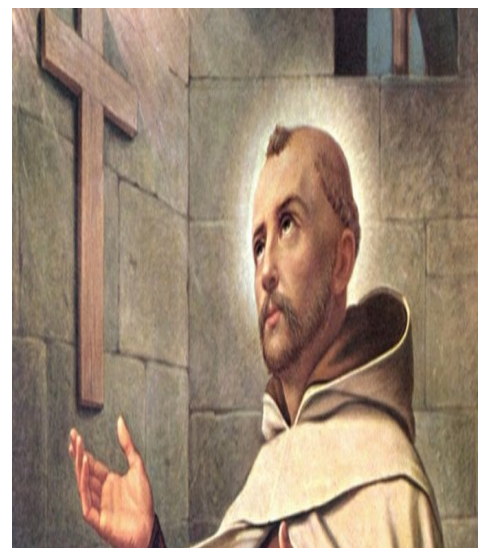
Tuesday, March 12 -- Parish Holy Hour: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, scripture reading, reflection by Fr. Bob Regan, Two Holy Martyrs Parish, Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, and Benediction (at St. Symphorosa church).

Wednesday, March 13 – Reconciliation Service. Brief penance service followed by individual confession with several priests available (at St. Rene Goupil church).

Thursday, March 14 – Taizé service with the THM choir (St. Symphorosa church)

Friday, March 15 – Living Stations of the Cross performed by our St. Symphorosa school children (at St. Symphorosa church).

Quote -- "Whoever does not seek the cross of Christ, doesn't seek the glory of Christ." – **St. John of the Cross**





FR. KEVIN'S GREGORIAN RANTS

It is a posture that signifies supplication, praise, and need. The one praying in orans is coming before a person who is superior and can provide something. Think of a small child who, without speaking, raises their arms high because they want their parent to pick them up and hold them.

Our postures at Mass means something. Often, we can get in the mode of “Catholic calisthenics”: stand, sit, stand, sit, stand, kneel, process, kneel, stand. The actions and stances depend on our role at the Mass. During the Eucharistic Prayer, the congregation kneels while the priest assumes the orans position as he offers the bread and wine on behalf of the entire people gathered for worship.

There isn't a rubric in the missal that calls for the laity, or even the deacon, to use the formal orans position of raising one's hands to God in offering. This action is reserved for the priest who stands in persona Christi (in the person of Christ) as the mediator at every Mass.

However, we can at times use what could be called the “begging orans” posture, or the “receptive orans” posture. This looks like an extension of one's hands not by raising them up, but by lowering them down with the palms of the hands facing upward while praying. This is the hand posture of beggars intending or hoping to receive gifts from God himself through actions of the priest

during Mass. It better reveals the action of the laity in the liturgy as “receivers” of God's gifts through the ministry of a mediator.

We don't want to take up practices at Mass that distract others from the central point of worship, which is the altar. While there is room for private devotion, it shouldn't put us out of harmony with our fellow Catholics during communal worship. No Mass is ever private, even one a priest does by himself. Unitive and normative gestures and postures are given to us so that we aren't be pulled in multiple directions during the very time we are meant to join as one Body of Christ in worship and praise of the Father.

Outside of Mass, the orans position can be used freely, perhaps while singing along to praise and worship music or in silent prayer before the Lord. Any form of the orans position is never a requirement in prayer, but can assist in deepening our prayer by the use of our entire body.



You've probably noticed that when the presiding priest is praying to God the Father on behalf of the people during Mass, his hands are spread open. Each priest may do this differently, as the instructions in the missal simply say, “with hands extended”. This is called the “orans positions”, which is the Latin word for “praying”.

The orans posture dates back to the earliest days of the Church. Frescos and wall paintings from the underground catacombs outside of Rome portray priests and other Christians in this stance. You can see an example of this in the picture below. It dates back even further, as tradition and practice tell us that the ancient Israelites would adopt the orans in offering personal prayer to God. The priests in the temple also raised their hands in prayer during formal rites. It is an exterior sign of an interior disposition. You can also think of Moses raising his hands in the battle against Amalek in Exodus, his arms being supported by Aaron and Hur to ensure a victory by the power of God.

For the week of:

February 10th—February 18th



Saturday February 17th

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

- ✠ Robert Hilliard (Ken & Michelle)
- ✠ Elaine Hilliard (Ken & Michelle)
- ✠ Darlene Gudim (Ken & Michelle)

Sunday February 18th

7:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- ✠ Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)
- ✠ Bobby Soltis (Pat Soltis)
- ✠ Bernie E. Myszkowski

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

- ✠ Ronald Cempel (Karen Walsh)
- ✠ Nick Bouzios (Janina)
- ✠ Rich Newtoff (Family)
- ✠ Donald Brann (Arlene Scaletta)

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

PRO POPULO

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

- ✠ Chester Mateja (John & Cathey Filetti)
- ✠ Tadeusz Dana (Daughter)
- ✠ Paulino Villarreal Sr. (Paulino Villarreal Jr.)

Monday February 19th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠ Heavenly Birthday Blessings for Geneva Battung (Rosario Battung)
- ✠ Michelle Valestin (Pat Soltis)
- ✠ Pat Wodarczyk (Barbara Rendak)
- ✠ Joseph Slowinski (Daughters & Families)
- ✠ Gavino Cordova & All Poor Souls in Purgatory (Rosario Battung)

Tuesday February 20th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- ✠ Ernest Meng (Meng Family)
- ✠ Paulino Villareal Sr. (Paulino Villareal Jr.)
- ✠ Mickey Valestin (Pat Soltis)

Wednesday February 21st

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- ✠ All Souls in Purgatory
- Healing for Karen & Colman Moritaty (Katie Sigafoose)
- Praying for the health of Katrina Sigafoose (mother)

Thursday February 22nd

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠ Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)
- ✠ Geraldine Zwolinski (Barbara Rendak)
- ✠ Judith Siwek (Family)

Friday February 23rd

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠ Charles & Dollie Gusline (Daughter Clara)
- Peace for Daniel Sarlitto
- Praying for the health of Jenny & Jessica (friend)

Saturday February 24th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- ✠ Barbara & Donald Suda (Marie Zilka)
- Birthday Blessings for Alex Tulik (Marge Tulik)
- Birthday Blessings for Ashley Battung (Rosario Battung)
- ✠ Richard Jovanovich (Family)

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

- ✠ Kathleen Gutierrez (Barb Grzenia)
- ✠ Carol Stachowski (Susan Gasior)
- ✠ Anna Griffin (Markham Family)

Sunday February 25th

7:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠ Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)
- ✠ Joseph Loduca (Nancy & Rebecca)
- ✠ Rosie Donato (Patricia Taylor)

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

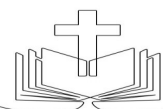
- ✠ Heavenly Birthday Blessings for Lynda Sullivan (Family)
- ✠ Jean Sirjay (Nancy & George Groszek)
- ✠ Elizabeth Bojarski (Barbara Rendak)
- ✠ Virginia Pieczynski (Altar & Rosary Society)
- ✠ Guadalupe Villarreal (daughter & grandson)

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

- ✠ Matias Almendarez & Filomena Luna (Almendarez Family)
- ✠ Dawn Bodoki (Mom & Dad)
- ✠ Jack Orsi (Family)
- ✠ Sara Bragiel (St Rene Family)

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

PRO POPULO



Presiders are subject to change without notice.

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH | February 18, 2024



OUR SANCTUARY CANDLES

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

FEBRUARY

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

LYNDA SULLIVAN
For the repose of her soul, given by Family.

MICHAEL NOWAKOWSKI
For the repose of his soul, given by Joe & Josie Pulido (Parents).

ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOLTIS, KRZAN & PICHLER FAMILIES
given by Pat Soltis.

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 | Debbie Lipien | Manuel Soto |
| Guadalupe Almendarez | Rosemary Litwin | Shirley Tloczek |
| Maxine Carey | Joelee MacMaster | Fr. Norm Trela |
| Margaret Dalton | Cathy Mazeika | Judith Webber |
| Joanne Gallas | Clarence Oleszkiewicz | Beverly Zimmerling |
| Mitch Gallas | Ramon Perez | |
| Karen Holmes | Ann Robertson | |
| Ron Kelly | Fr. John Rudnik | |
| Sharon Labiak | Adan Sanchez | |
| Maryann Larson | Katrina Sigafoose | |
| Natalie Lecompte | Karen Singer | |



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



Get Ready...The Two Holy Martyrs 2024 Grand Raffle is coming....with some exciting changes!
Also, please contact the Parish Office if you would like to play a leadership role on the Parish Fundraising Committee!



Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH OFFERTORY 2/11: \$8,939.00

Split the Pot Winning Envelope #: 63782: \$415.00

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

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



Super Bingo
Sunday February 18, 2024

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



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

AT OUR ST. SYMPHOROSA CHURCH

Please join us all Fridays in Lent | 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY 16 | FEBRUARY 23 | MARCH 1
MARCH 8 | MARCH 15 | MARCH 22
MARCH 29

773-767-1523 | info@twoholymartyrs.org



TWO HOLY MARTYRS | 6135 S. AUSTIN AVE. | CHICAGO, IL

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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Fish Fry Menu

FEBRUARY 16, MARCH 1,
MARCH 15
5PM-7PM
THE SHARP CENTER SOCIAL HALL
ON THE ST. SYMPHOROSA CAMPUS

Fish Specials

Fish Plate \$12.00
(2 pieces of fish, fries, Cole slaw, bread)
Additional piece of fish \$3.00
Plate of fries \$2.00

Pierogi (4 per order)

Cheese \$4.00
Potato \$4.00
Kraut \$4.00
Fruit \$4.00

Additional Items

Potato Pancakes \$5.00
Cheese Quesadilla \$3.00
Soup \$5.00
Kids Meal (quesadilla, chips, juice box & cookies on a frisbee) \$5.00
Pound Cake Slice \$2.00

Thirst Quenchers

Water \$2.00
Coke \$2.00
Diet Coke \$2.00
Sprite \$2.00
Juice Box \$1.00



Two Holy Martyrs Lenten

FISH FRY

at our St. Symphorosa Sharp Center Social Hall
5940 W. 62nd St.



February 16, March 1, March 15
5PM-7PM

Dine in & carryout available

twoholymartyrs.org

(773) 767-1523

Our Lenten Friday Night Fish Fry Dinners are back! Join us in the St. Symphorosa Social Hall for a fish dinner and lots of socializing! Don't like fish? We have several other dishes as well as a special plate for the kiddos! Come hungry and spend an evening with your parish family! Carry out is also available. After dinner, walk over to church for our weekly Stations of the Cross, starting at 7PM.

Lenten Bracelets

The color purple symbolizes suffering, mourning, & penitence. Purple reminds us that we are called to repent and ask forgiveness.

The Cross signifies God's greatest act of love; bringing forgiveness, healing & hope to the world.

The Cross is a symbol that reminds us to have faith. Wear your bracelet to let faith fill your heart more each day this lent.

To ensure that all our faithful receive a bracelet, please, only one per person.

Sponsored by the THM Transformation Committee



As we prepare for the upcoming Lenten Season, Lenten bracelets will be available in the narthex of each THM worship site starting Ash Wednesday. Please take a bracelet to help remind you of the sacrifice, suffering and hope that Lent imparts on us as we enter the most Holy season of the year. Please be respectful by only taking one bracelet per person so that all parishioners may receive one.

FAITH FORMATION

Important!



Upcoming Events:

- 2/24: Faith Formation Classes St. Syms Campus. (Sat.)
- 2/25: Eighth Grade Family Mass. and Confirmation Retreat.
- 2/27: Faith Formation Classes St. Syms Campus. (Tues.)
- 3/02: Faith Formation Classes St. Syms Campus. (Sat.)
- 3/12: 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 (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.



The Eighth-Grade Family Mass will be held on Sunday, February 25th at 9:00am at St. Symphorosa Church. All students who will be making their Confirmation this Spring, their sponsors and their families are invited to attend this Mass. We will feature the Eighth-Grade Saint Projects in the narthex. The Saint Project is a requirement for the reception of the Sacrament.

We look forward to welcoming all our Confirmation families on February 25th at 9:00am at St. Symphorosa Church. (The Confirmation Retreat follows this Mass.)

LENTEN OUTREACH

Our Faith Formation students invite all of our parishioners to participate in our Lenten Outreach project. All levels will be donating Children's Easter Basket items for the local shelters and agencies we service. Donations can be brought to our Faith Formation classes, to the Main Parish Office on Austin Ave. or dropped off in the narthex when attending Mass. Please note, we can always use empty Easter Baskets and the cellophane bags to wrap the baskets, after we fill them. For more information, feel free to call the Faith Formation Office. God be with you and your dear families as we journey through this holy season of Lent. Our 2024 Confirmandi will take part in assembling the Easter Baskets and earn service hours for their upcoming Confirmation.



Our students preparing for First Communion discussed the Bible story.... "The Wedding Feast at Cana"
Together we shared Grape Juice and toasted to Jesus. ♥

SPIRIT DAY RETREAT



On February 25th, our Confirmation Candidates from our Faith Formation Program and the Eighth Grade students from St. Symphorosa Catholic School will gather for their Pre-Confirmation Spirit Day Retreat. This special day will begin at the 9:00am Mass and then continue into the I-Building. This spiritual day will be filled with activities that are prayerful, reflective, and, at the same time, fun. We invite all our parishioners to pray for our Confirmation Candidates as they continue their journey toward the Sacrament of Confirmation.

PARISH SCHOOL NEWS



ST. SYMPHOROSA SCHOOL NEWS



ART AND ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

OUR JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN AN "ART AND ESSAY" CONTEST HELD BY THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO. STUDENTS DISPLAYED THEIR LITERARY AND ARTISTIC TALENTS FOR THE THEME, "I BELIEVE GOD IS PRESENT IN MY LIFE"

THE WINNERS WERE ANNOUNCED AT OUR FRIDAY MASS. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS! A SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO SIXTH GRADER ALEXIS C. FOR BEING SELECTED BY THE ARCHDIOCESE AS ONE OF THE WINNERS ACROSS ALL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS!

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