



FEBRUARY 26, 2023

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



Then the devil took Jesus up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." - Mt 4:8-9



TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH

ST. SYMPHOROSA + ST. RENE GOUPIL

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

www.twoholymartyrs.org



WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

PASTORAL STAFF

REV. ROBERT REGAN
Pastor

REV. MATTHEW COMPTON
Associate Pastor

REV. NORMAN TRELA
Retired Priest in Residence

PASTORS EMERITUS

REV. TED BOJCZUK
Pastor Emeritus

REV. MARCEL PASCIAK
Pastor Emeritus

REV. PETER PAURAZAS
Pastor Emeritus

REV. IDZI STACHERCZAK
Pastor Emeritus

PARISH STAFF

KEN HILLIARD | EXT. 222
Operations Director

MAGDALAN KOZIAR | EXT. 248
Office/Tuition Coordinator

HUGO LOPEZ | EXT. 210
Communications Coordinator

IRENE PERCONTI | EXT. 241
Administrative Assistant

PEG SIEBENALER | EXT. 226
Faith Formation Coordinator

DAVID BOYLE | EXT. 225
Director of Music

DCN. RAUL DUQUE
Parish Organist

MARK SCHUSTERIC
Maintenance Supervisor

SCHOOL STAFF

KATHY BERRY
School Principal

CHRIS GARZA
Assistant School Principal



MASS TIMES

ST. SYMPHOROSA

6135 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60638

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday Vigil

5:30 PM

Sunday

9 AM

12 PM

WEEKDAY MASS

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

Feb. | Apr. | June | Aug.

Oct. | Dec.

RECONCILIATION

Tuesdays | 6 PM to 7 PM

ST. RENE GOUPIL

6949 West 63rd Place
Chicago, Illinois 60638

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday Vigil

4 PM

Sunday

7:30 AM

10:30 AM

WEEKDAY MASS

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

Jan. | Mar. | May | July

Sept. | Nov.

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays | 3 PM to 3:45 PM

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

Two Holy Martyrs Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday | 9 AM to 4 PM

Saturday | 9 AM to 12 PM

773.767.1523 | info@twoholymartyrs.org

St. Symphorosa School Office Hours

Monday - Friday | 9 AM to 3 PM

6125 S. Austin Avenue | Chicago, Illinois 60638

773.585.6888 | office@stsymphorosaschool.org



@TwoHolyMartyrsParish

FR. BOB'S WEEKLY BLOG



How easy it is for us mere mortals to be tempted away from God. And if we can be tempted away from God, it soon follows that we are then tempted away from our fellow human beings.

This is always the *modus operandi* of the Adversary: to pull us out of relationship with God and out of relationship with one another. The Greek word *diabolos* basically means to tear apart; to separate. The diabolic one is not only a liar and murderer, but also a divider.

In contrast, the one God who is the Creator all of that exists, is whole; an undivided Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There is no conflict within the Godhead, and Jesus, the Second Person of the Trinity, prays that we be one as He and the Father are one. This is our invitation to live our lives IN UNION WITH CHRIST.

The penitential season of Lent is under way. Our Gospel this Sunday presents to us Jesus being tempted by the Devil in the wilderness. The Lord does not succumb to temptations. Jesus stays focused on the will of God the Father as the Sly One pokes around potential areas of vulnerability.

During Lent, we once again return to the wilderness. We get back to basics. We pray. We fast. We give alms. We each need to take an honest look at our respective lives and if we are in right relationship with God. It's easy, amidst the demands of life, to get spiritually lazy (sloth). We lose zest for the things of God. We risk slipping into despair or angst. We worry about what might happen. The heralding of the good news of salvation gets drowned out by our ratings-driven denizens of despair who love to show us each day "how bad things are."

Lent is to a time to catch ourselves and regain a laser-like focus on Jesus, and to seek reconciliation if we have drifted far from his love. The Lord is

kind and merciful, but we must do our part in the reconciling process. Please consider making use of the sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent. This sacrament, along with the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, are HEALING sacraments.

Also, please become conscious of the ways in which "the tempter" uses to distract you and get you out of relationship. The fishhook analogy is helpful. Seldom will a fish bite a hook without bait on it. What does the angler do? He puts a specific bait on the hook to fool the fish.

We each need to know what the tempter uses to "hook" us. Different bait for different people. Becoming aware of our temptations helps us to better understand what's going on in the spiritual life, and this helps us make choices. We say "Yes" to what is of God, and way say "No" so what is not of God."

And that, my friends, is the essence of the spiritual life. Saying YES to God and being in UNION with Christ. Sin is always a lack of gratitude toward God's love. Sin basically says, "God's will is not enough for me." And then we choose something which ultimately is not good for us. Sin affects our relationship with God, with others, and with our own self. God's mercy can restore all three.

Dear Holy Spirit. Help us to see things more clearly. To love God dearly. To follow Christ more nearly.

PARISH STRUCTURE REMINDER

We are approaching three years as Two Holy Martyrs Parish. This new chapter began July 1, 2020 when St. Symphorosa Parish and St. Rene Goupil Parish were canonically suppressed, and the new parish emerged.

We are one parish with two campuses, and one pastor assigned as shepherd of the one flock. Although the parish name is Two Holy Martyrs, the two church buildings retain their original names. Our church located at 62nd street and Austin is St. Symphorosa. Our church located at 64th and New England Avenue is St. Rene Goupil.

The past three years have been spent

unifying many aspects of the parish in terms of how things operate on a regular basis. This included: bank accounts, ministries, signage, liturgy, employees, etc.. In many ways, this process continues as we make decisions as to how things will operate as a parish going forward into the decades ahead.

As pastor, I am aware this change has not been easy for many folks. There is the human part of us that says, "I just want it to be like it was before." Trust me, I get it. However (and we knew there'd be a however) for our parish to continue the mission of sharing the Good News of Salvation, we must move forward with a united heart under the inspiration of St. Symphorosa and her Seven Sons, and St. Rene Goupil and the North American martyrs.

I will occasionally hear from a parishioner who says, "But Fr. Bob, this is how we always did it here." Well, here's the thing. We have two histories of doing things to draw from. There are the way folks at St. Rene did certain things, and there are the way folks at St. Sym's did things. Which do we do?

Here's the thing; we are now being invited to decide how we are going to do things at Two Holy Martyrs parish. We draw from our wonderful histories. We look at what works and what doesn't work, and then we make current-day decisions in the interest of the common good of every parishioner, not as individuals or as specific groups.

Our common worship of the Lord will continue to bring us together as brothers and sisters in Christ. The Eucharist serves as an adhesive that brings together as one those who are many in personalities, talents, histories, and appearance. Jesus molds us together as authentic disciples making our pilgrim way Home.

Jesus will bring everything to fruition at the end of time. He says, "Behold! I make all things new." This is the hope that fires our mission today as we serve our people and our community in the Clearing/Garfield Ridge area of Chicago. This is our mission ground. Right here. Right now. Forward, together forward.

"Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death." POPE FRANCIS

LET US PRAY



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 3

Saturday, February 25th

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

- † Matias Almendarez & Filomena Luna (Almendarez Family)
- † Raymond Mancuso (Giuseppa Mancuso)
- † Louise Leahy (Family)

5:30 PM | St. Symphorosa Church | Presider: Fr. Norm

- † Joseph Loduca (Nancy & Rebecca)
- † Guadalupe S. Villarreal (Daughters & Grandsons)

Sunday, February 26th

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

Pro Populo (for the People of the Parish)

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

- † Keith Fox (Fox Family & Family)
- † Michael Genovese (Barbara Rendak)
- † Richard Newtoff (Family)
- † Donald Grisko (Family)

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

- † Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)
- † Jack Orsi (Family)
- † Patti Biniewicz (Walter Frank)
- † Esther Reyes (Mary Wilkins)

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

- Repentance of those who vandalize. (Castillo Family)
- † Norma Koke (Castillo Family)
- † Ann Arundel (Loving Family)

Monday, February 27th | 8 AM | St. Symphorosa Church

- † Anna & Tony Tomassini (Family)
- † Virginia Blazeniak (Mary Kolimas)

Tuesday, February 28th | 8 AM | St. Symphorosa Church

Living & Deceased Members of the John & Mary Kolimas Family (Mary Kolimas)

- † Josephine Regnier (Barbara Rendak)
- † Anne Miller (Lorraine DeLauriea)

Wednesday, March 1st | 8 AM | St. René Goupil Church

- † Virginia Blazeniak (Eleanor Gaca)

Thursday, March 2nd | 8 AM | St. René Goupil Church

- † Joseph Loduca (Nancy & Rebecca)
- † Mary Ann Hildebrand (Barbara Rendak)

Friday, March 3rd | 8 AM | St. René Goupil Church

- † Mary Szlembarski (Barbara Rendak)
- † Thomas Murray (Family)
- † Al Beyer

MASS INTENTIONS FOR SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Saturday, March 4th

8:00 AM | St. René Goupil Church

Health & all the Lord's Blessings for Christina Closson - Birthday (Mary Sarlitto)

All Souls in Purgatory (Diana Schmidt)

† William Bulster (Marie Zilka)

† Tony Bojarski (Barbara Rendak)

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

† Josephine Nych (Family)

† Louise Leahy (Family)

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

Health & all the Lord's Blessings for Gerald Sears (Michael & Eileen Woulfe)

† Frances Szumowski (Nancy Markham) & (Hamann & Balicki Families)

† Ange Kasimos (Nancy Markham)

Sunday, March 5th

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

Health & all the Lord's Blessings for Frances Osty - Birthday (Judy Porcelli)

† Al Beyer (Joan & Gloria Bodoki)

9:00 AM | St. Symphorosa Church | Presider: Fr. Norm

Pro Populo (for the People of the Parish)

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

† Christian Furczon

† Lucille Salamendo (Terri & Dan Domarsky)

† Judith Siwek (Family)

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

† Amadeo Castillo - Anniversary of Death (Parents & Family)

† Norma Koke (Castillo Family)

† David Juris (Nincy Giron)

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THE SICK

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

Weekend presider subject to change without notice.

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

FR. MATT'S REFLECTION



Throughout Lent, we will meet and worship God with a wealth of people: one another as fellow parishioners, visitors to our parish or perhaps those we will meet by going to

another parish, and the holy women and men of the Scriptures and Christendom. This very day we return to our first parents, Adam and Eve, recalling their creation and their sin in disobeying God, not trusting His word. Had the Bible ended here, we would be in a miserable and chaotic state. Blessedly, God, though allowing Adam and Eve to suffer the consequences of their actions, does not eternally reject them or humanity. Similarly, although the Season of Lent demands more of us than any other liturgical season, it, too, is not perpetual, it is not God rejecting or punishing us, but allowing us the opportunity to return to and become reconciled with Him as He also offers to Adam and Eve.

Part of the divine revelation about this opportunity for returning to and becoming reconciled with God is portrayed for us in the Gospel Reading, specifically, the account of Jesus' experience of temptation. St. Matthew describes that Jesus "fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread.'" (Matthew 4:3-4) Satan's first temptation is for Jesus is to change stones into bread, appealing to the natural feeling of hunger, which is the more acute for our Lord as He has just come from the desert and His forty days and nights of fasting in the presence of the Father and the Holy Spirit. This attempt to

lead Jesus into sin by abusing His divine power is reminiscent of the appeal to the appetites of Adam and Eve to abuse the freedom and ability, which God has given to them. Adam and Eve yield to this craving: "The woman saw that the tree was good for food," despite having all the food they could want already available to them. By contrast Jesus rejects this temptation to use a supernatural means to feed Himself.

The Tempter then tries to use Scripture to deceive Jesus: "Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" (Matthew 4:5-6) Again, we hear an echo of the temptation of Adam and Eve and Satan's misdirection of the them, "The serpent asked the woman, 'Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent: 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman: 'You certainly will not die!'" (Genesis 3:1-4) Satan deceives Adam and Eve with a half-truth. They will not immediately after eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; however, the rupture in the relationship with God because of eating this fruit will eventually result in death. Jesus sees through this misdirection and manipulation, choosing not to put God His Father ""to the test."" (Matthew 4:7)

The third temptation of Jesus appeals to pride, avarice, even envy, under guise of an offer of something good: "Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their

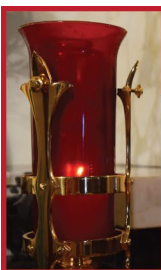
magnificence, and he said to him, 'All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me.'" (Matthew 4:8-9) Although He could be a good ruler (multiple times, people will propose that He take civil leadership of Israel), our Lord knows that world belongs to God, not Satan. In Genesis, the snake also stirs pride, avarice, and envy in Adam and Eve: "'God knows well that the moment you eat of it [the forbidden fruit] your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is evil.' The woman saw that the tree was ... pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom." (Genesis 3:5, 6) Adam and Eve do not need to know good from evil as that knowledge belongs to God who has already created and provided for them, sparing them this knowledge, since evil had not yet entered their world.

In the Second Reading, St. Paul summarizes this contrast between Adam's and Eve's fall and Jesus' justifying sacrifice, including His rejection of Satan and his temptations: "In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so, through one righteous act, acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous." (Romans 5:18-19)

What we believe and pray: Do we believe that God knows us, our temptations, and is ready to aid us? What to stop doing, sins to avoid: Pause to ask God which sins, if you are guilty of any, are the ones He first wants you to reject, as Jesus Himself does.

What to do: Persevere in those sacrifices, that fasting, which will grant you more freedom in God.

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



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

For the repose of the souls of the members of the Calcagno & Bliss Families given by Kathy Calcagno.

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

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

EMBRACE THE GRACE

The Weekly E-Newsletter of Two Holy Martyrs Parish



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

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

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

New Parishioners and Updating Information:

Please visit the parish office or our website (www.twoholymartyrs.org) to register. If you have changed your phone number, email address, or have moved, please visit our website to update your information or call the parish office.

Sacrament of the Sick and Communion Calls:

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

Sacrament of Baptism:

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

Marriages:

Arrangements must be made at least 6 months prior to the proposed date of the wedding. Please do not schedule a wedding date until you have contacted the parish office. Please contact Maggie (ext. 248) for assistance.

Mass Intentions:

A stipend of \$10 is suggested for any mass intention. Advance notice is required to ensure publication in the bulletin. Mass intentions are limited to 4 per mass & are entered on a first come, first served bases. **The 2024 Mass Intention Book opens in the fall.**

Bulletin Deadlines:

Any parish organization, community group, or ministry that would like to have their group's information published in the bulletin must have it submitted to Hugo Lopez by 10 AM on the Monday before the proceeding weekend liturgy. **No exception!**

Two Holy Martyrs Lenten

FISH FRY

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



February 24, March 10, March 24

5PM-7PM

Dine in & carryout available

twoholymartyrs.org

(773) 767-1523

Spend time with Him at Holy Hour!

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday at 5:45 PM at our St. Symphorosa Church.

Confessions from 6 PM - 7 PM.



FEBRUARY 19, 2023

Split the Pot Collection:

\$465.00

Winning Envelope:

63109

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



TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH OFFERING

For the weekend of Sunday, February 19, 2023

\$7,079.08

Thank you for your generosity!



Your donations make all the difference. thank you!

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

2022 Parish Contribution Letters Now Available!

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

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



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

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

SHARE YOUR VOICE SUPPORT OUR PARISH

It's official! The **Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Survey** is a great way to reflect on your own spiritual growth while helping our parish plan for the future.

Complete the short, 10-15 minute **anonymous** survey at

catholicleaders.org/chicagodmi

or scan the code, or find a paper copy in the narthex or parish office after Mass.

Available from **Ash Wednesday, February 22 to March 31.**

Don't miss this opportunity to be heard.



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT

Stations of the Cross

On the road to Calvary with Jesus

Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent
at 7 PM in our St. Symphorosa church.

So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what
is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha.
John 19:17



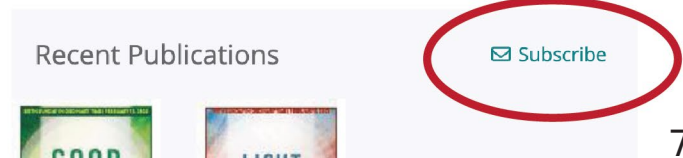
Two Holy Martyrs Parish welcomes LPI as our new bulletin publisher. Based in Wisconsin, LPI offers creative content that helps our parish thrive in communications.

The transition has been relatively smooth. However, if you've signed up to receive the weekly bulletin in your e-mail, you have to sign-up again. Visit: parishesonline.com/home to subscribe.

Enter 60638 in the Zip Code box and select St. Symphorosa and St. René Goupil Parish. Click on our parish and then click on Subscribe.

A screenshot of the LPI website's search interface. It features the text "Live Your Faith, Wherever Life Takes You." and "Search Catholic parishes across the country." Below this are input fields for "Church Name (optional)", "City, State, or Zip", and a checkbox for "Features Streaming Mass". A "Submit" button is at the bottom.

Find Us On



PARISH SCHOOL NEWS

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS (GRADES 4TH-8TH)



Fourth Grade performing plays for Preschool



Fifth Grade at Family Mass



Sixth Grade on the last day before Christmas break



Seventh Grade working on their debates for the story, "The Lady or the Tiger"



Eighth Graders enjoying recess in January!

FAITH FORMATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

2/25: Faith Formation Classes @ St. Sym's Campus (Sat.)

2/26: 8th Grade Family Mass & Confirmation Retreat

2/28: Faith Formation Classes @ Rene Campus (Tues.)



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 2023 Confirmandi will take part in assembling the Easter Baskets and earn service hours for their upcoming Confirmation.



SPIRIT DAY RETREAT

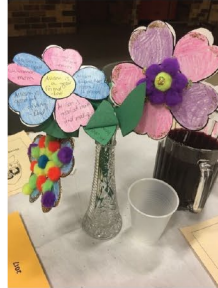
On February 26th, our Confirmation Candidates from our Faith Formation Program and the Eighth Grade Students from St. Symphorosa Catholic School will gather for their Pre-Confirmation Spirit Day Retreat. **This special day will begin at our 9 AM Mass and then continue into the I-Building.** This spiritual 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.



Faith Formation families are raising their glasses in a "Toast to Jesus"

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

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



ANOTHER STEP TOWARD FIRST COMMUNION

This past weekend, all our students preparing for Communion, along with their parents participated in a Communion Retreat. This celebration brings us another step forward in preparation for First Communion. The parents shared some good memories from when they first received this special sacrament. The students all had the opportunity to taste the unconsecrated hosts and shared in conversation. We ended this event with viewing the movie "Grandma's Bread". Our students will celebrate First Eucharist on Saturday, May 6th. We invite you to please remember them in your prayers.

Happy are we who have been called to the Lord's Table!



Tips for Getting in the Spirit of Lent

- + Turn the radio off in the car today and simply pay attention.
- + Write a letter, especially to the sick or elderly.
- + Learn something new today.
- + Turn off the TV and listen to music or read.
- + Count your blessings. (You'll need a good deal of time for this one.)
- + Recall a favorite prayer and pray it slowly.
- + Perform a random act of kindness.
- + Imagine God saying to you, "May I have your attention, please?" How will you answer?
- + Fast from something for a day.
- + Read and reflect on a scripture passage.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Thank you to the following neighborhood businesses supporting
St. Symphorosa Girl Scout Troop 26186
in our 2023 Cookie Sale!
 The Scouts will be at the following locations on the given dates and times:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 9-1
 PEACHES AND PEARS
 6435 W ARCHER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 9-1
 TAMALERIA LUPITA
 5904 1/2 W. 63RD ST.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 11-3
 FAIR SHARE SUPERMARKET
 6422 W 63RD ST

SUNDAY, MARCH 12
 ST. SYMPHOROSA AND ST RENE CHURCHES
 AFTER 9 AM, 10:30 AM, AND 12 PM MASS

The graduating class of 1973 from Five Holy Martyrs Church (Pope John Paul II School) will celebrate a 50 year reunion on June 24th at Zach's Grill in Palos Heights. If you are from this class and are interested in joining us, please reach out to Cindy Joyce at cindyjoyc@comcast.net. If you know someone from Five Holy Martyrs class of 1973 please share this with them!



BETHLEHEM ARTS

MARCH 18TH AND 19TH

Our Parish will be hosting representatives of the Catholic Christian Community from Jerusalem and Bethlehem in the Holy Land after all weekend Masses on March 18th and 19th. They will be displaying handcrafted olive wood religious figurines and articles.

Due to political conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic, tourism has been reduced in the Holy Land and the Catholic Community has come to depend more on the sale of these articles abroad to survive. The woodcarvings are beautiful and reflect faith and love for the Lord.

Please consider purchasing a gift that will be remembered and cherished for yourself or someone dear to you.

Come to the Table



Retreat

Parents & Grandparents:
 Do you know someone receiving the Eucharist for the 1st time? Join us, at the St. Rita Shrine Chapel, as Fr. Tom McCarthy and Mrs. Mary Jo Jenkins uncover Jesus' gift of the Eucharist through conversation, prayers, snacks and crafts.

Two retreats are being offered:

March 25th or April 1st (each 9:00 a.m. - noon).

Visit stritchshrinechicago.com or call 773-925-6600 for more information.

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH
ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY



All future meetings of the Super Senior Club and Altar & Rosary Society will now meet in the Narthex at our St. René Goupil Church until further notice.



CASINO Fundraising Night

SATURDAY - APRIL 29, 2023
 6:00PM - 11:00PM

ST. SYMPHOROSA SCHOOL I-HALL
 6148 S MASON AVE CHICAGO, IL 60638

ENJOY A NIGHT OF GAMING, MUSIC, LIVE DJ, RAFFLES, 50/50, FOOD & DRINKS! GAMES AVAILABLE WILL BE BLACKJACK, POKER, CRAPS & ROULETTE. PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT STEM LAB EQUIPMENT, SECURITY UPDATES AND SCHOLARSHIPS. ALL GAMING IS TO WIN PRIZES. NO CASH PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED AT THIS EVENT. 100% OF THE EVENT PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT ST. SYMPHOROSA SCHOOL

TICKET COST: \$30

TICKETS INCLUDE: 25 DOLLARS IN CASINO PLAYING CHIPS, FIVE RAFFLE TICKETS AND TWO COMPLIMENTARY BEVERAGES (BEER, WINE OR SODA) FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

TICKETS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT THE RECTORY

OR

SCAN THE QR* CODE BELOW

*CONVENIENCE FEE APPLIES - \$1.25 PER TICKET

