



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



"I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep." - Jn 10:14-15

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

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April 21, 2024

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH

ST. SYMPHOROSA + ST. RENE GOUPEL



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PASTOR

Rev. Kevin Gregus
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Norman Trela
RETIRED PRIEST

PASTORS EMERITUS

Rev. Ted Bojczuk
PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Peter Paurazas
PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Idzi Stacherczak
PASTOR EMERITUS

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FAITH FORMATION
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PARISH ORGANIST

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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

WELCOME TO TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH MASS SCHEDULES

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

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



Austrian psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl wrote, "Life is never made unbearable by circumstances, but only by lack of meaning and purpose."

Despite arguments made to the contrary, human beings need meaning, human beings need purpose. Our soul suffers when we succumb to the belief in nothingness. We might be able to decorate the surface with excess wealth, expensive toys, and glitzy entertainment, but they fail to fill a much deeper void.

The void is real. We experience it at various times in our lives. Another word we can use is emptiness. This is the God-shaped hole we have in our hearts that ultimately will only be filled by God in eternity. This is why nothing truly satisfies us in this world. We want more because we were made for more. The temptation is to go looking for love in all the wrong places.

We are pointed in the right direction this Sunday in the second reading (1 John 3: 1-2). The author wrote, "Beloved, we are God's children now. What we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."

Right now? We are God's creation, and by virtue of our baptism, we are God's children, thanks be to Jesus Christ. But as Dr. Kate Wiskus, one of my seminary professors, used to

remind us, "We're not done muffins." Our time on earth is our time of choosing.

Friends, we have been loved into existence by Love. We are not accidents. We are not the result of pure chance. We are not without meaning and purpose. The old *Baltimore Catechism* summed things up quite nicely. "God made us to know him, to love him and to serve him in this world, and to be happy with him in heaven."

We are not supposed to be treading water. We live each day of our respective lives for the greater glory of God, even as we go about the ordinariness of life. A person picking up trash in the park can do such an apparently mundane task with extraordinary grace; with love. It's not just the task at hand. It is the WHY behind the task.

And ultimately, the WHY is love, and "God is love." (1 John 4).

When we begin to see the world through the eyes of Christ, it changes how we view things, including how we see ourselves and our fellow human beings. We are made in the image and likeness of God (*Imago Dei*). We are more than animals. We can both know and love. This is the spark of the divine in us, and why we are different than a squirrel or an elephant.

Don't let the denizens of despair cause you to lose hope. Sadly, many of these "enlightened" folks are teaching our children there is no God and that life has no meaning or purpose, and yet, they are quick to replace God's love and law with their own authority. How quickly the WHY becomes something less than loving; less than God.

God's grace fills the emptiness. God's

love fills the void. This is why it's important to "practice" our faith. Faith looks like something. We pray. We participate weekly in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We listen to or read Sacred Scripture. We perform the corporal and spiritual works of mercy (please look them up if you don't know them or have forgotten them).

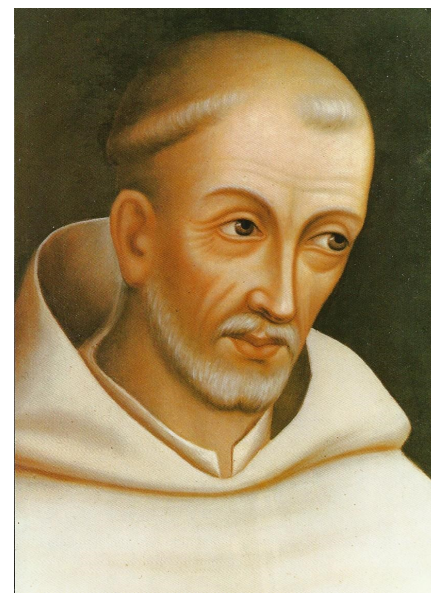
One of the best medicines for worry and despair is to get up and go help someone. We get out of our navel gazing and make ourselves available to someone in need, whether it's family, friends or strangers.

For us to love others, we need to be connected to the One who is Love. Otherwise, we risk our "loving" actions toward others becoming self-serving rather than God-serving.

After all, why are we here on earth? To know God, to love God and to serve God, and to be happy with him forever in heaven.

Quote -- "A saint is not someone who never sins, but one who sins less and less frequently, and gets up more and more quickly." --

St. Bernard of Clairvaux





FR. KEVIN'S GREGORIAN RANTS

We'll move on to Eucharistic Prayer IV. This is the least used of the four main eucharistic prayers, mainly because it has a proper preface.

This means it can only be used in Ordinary Time because the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter all have their respective prefaces. The same goes with the feast days of saints and Masses for the Dead.

So, why does EPIV require its own proper preface? The defining quality of this prayer is its deep dive into salvation history. Both the preface and the text before the words of institution speak of God's redeeming work in history from the very moment of creation. The preface speaks of God's reality that led to creation: "Yet you, who alone are good, the source of life, have made all that is, so that you might fill your creatures with blessings and bring joy to many of them by the glory of your light."

Creation is truly a gift; not a necessity, but streaming from God's overflowing love.

Following the Sanctus, we recall creation and the fall – man formed in God's image was created to serve him. While the fall of man separated us from God due to disobedience, we

were not thrown away as completely corrupted: "You did not abandon him to the domain of death. For you came in mercy to the aid of all, so that those who seek might find you."

As we hear, it was through covenants and the prophets that God began to draw man back into right relationship.

This culminates with the Father's love that leads him to send his Son to dwell in the world and heal it from within. This is not just through the cross, but through every part of his Incarnation: To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation, to prisoners freedom, and to the sorrowful of heart, joy."

In order that we live for God and for others, Jesus underwent his Passion and Resurrection, then sent the Holy Spirit to perfect and sanctify creation.

The Institution Narrative is beautifully introduced: "For when the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, Father most holy, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end," which is pulled directly from John 13 which we recently heard on Holy Thursday.

As we move into the anamnesis, offering, and intercession, EPIV sounds similar to the other EPs.

One line that stands out however: "as we await his coming in glory, we offer you his Body and Blood, the sacrifice acceptable to you which brings salvation to the whole world."

Like EPIII, this highlights the Mass as the highest of prayers.

Given to us by Jesus ("Do this in memory of me"), we gather for every liturgy knowing that because it is a return to Calvary, it is the highest sacrifice and offering to God possible. It indeed is the privileged means by which God continually saves us.

In the intercessions, a progressively larger group is brought to the Lord through the offering. It starts with the pope and the local bishop, but includes a wider body - all the clergy, those who take part in the offering, those gathered at the Mass, God's entire people, and all who seek him with a sincere heart.

The work of the liturgy is to bring all of creation into the praise and worship of God so that it can all be sanctified.

We end by pointing to life in heaven with the angels and saints: "There, with the whole of creation, freed from the corruption of sin and death, may we glorify you through Christ our Lord, through whom you bestow on the world all that is good." This is our hope, that through the offering of sacrifice and the praise of God's name, we can arrive at our heavenly homeland to dwell there in freedom and love forever.





For the week of:

April 20th - April 28th

Saturday April 20th

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

Sunday April 21st

7:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob
✠ Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)
Prayers for Autumn Muhamed (Mary Sarlitto)
45th Anniversary Blessings for Pat & Jack Kenney (Family)

9:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob
✠ Virginia Pieczynski (Pat & Dennis Leahy)
✠ Michael Trendle (Irene P)
✠ MaryAnn Larson (Pickle Ball Girls)
✠ Robert Dorencz (Rita & Ryan Lane)

10:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob
✠ Irene & Fidel Parra (Almendarez Family)
✠ Eddie Walsh (Murphy Family)
✠ Alice Tomczak (Robert & Sons)
✠ Cathy Gorman (Friend)

12:00 PM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob
✠ Patrick Corbett (sister in law Ela)
✠ Rose Gurgone (Cathey & John Filetti)
✠ Charles McDermott (Family)
✠ Joanna & Karol Marzec (Ilona Szkodon)

Monday April 22nd

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa
✠ Sophie Plosaj (Barbara Rendak)

Tuesday April 23rd

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa
✠ Victor & Zeneida Narea (Vincent Narea)
✠ Bernadette Simpson (Barbara Ann Rendak)

Wednesday April 24th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa
✠ Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)
✠ Dominic Capparelli (Capparelli Family)
Birthday Blessings for Michael Sarlitto (Mary Sarlitto)
✠ Thomas Hermle (Virginia & Sarah Gahan)

Thursday April 25th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa
✠ Michael Trendle (Parish Office)

Friday April 26th

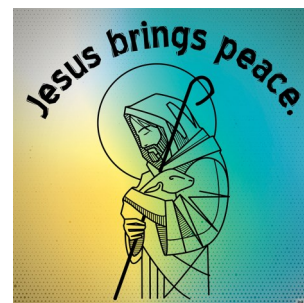
08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa
Peace for Daniel Sarlitto

Saturday April 27th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa
Birthday Blessings for Samantha Petrosky (Rosario Battung)
✠ Michael Gahan (Virginia & Sarah Gahan)
✠ William Shanahan (Woulfe Family)
04:00 PM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin
PRO POPULO
✠ Martin Sangpeal (Family)
✠ Michael Trendle (Ben & Judy Shafer)
✠ Jack Ruggiero (Maxine)
✠ John Labiak (Maxine)
God's Blessings for Juanita Puente on her 70th Birthday (Family)

Sunday April 28th

7:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin
✠ Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)
God's Blessings for Lois Beyer (Grateful Parishioner)
✠ Mini Esposito (Three Sons Restaurant)
9:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob
✠ Patrick Carmody 3 yr. Anniv. (Kathleen Ross & Carmody Family)
✠ Nick Bouzios (Janina)
✠ Virginia Pieczynski (Pat & Dennis Leahy)
✠ Theresa Rovella (Art & Katie Carpenter)
10:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin
✠ Jack Orsi (Family)
God's Blessings and Thank You to All St Vincent DePaul Members
✠ Lorenzo & Anna Maria Duran (Daughter)
✠ Janis Marie (Irene Perconti)
12:00 PM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob
✠ Kevin Wilson (David Montes)
✠ Darlene DeYoung (Sue Gasior)



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

APRIL

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

GREG GASIOR
For the repose of his soul, given by Susan Gasior.

RICH & MILLIE NEWTOFF
For the repose of their souls, given by Family.

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 | Karen Singer |
| Guadalupe Almandarez | Debbie Lipien | Manuel Soto |
| Sharon Arends | Rosemary Litwin | Shirley Tloczek |
| Fr. Ted Bojczuk | Joelee MacMaster | Fr. Norm Trela |
| Maxine Carey | Rich Marcello | Judith Webber |
| Margaret Dalton | Cathy Mazeika | Beverly Zummerling |
| Joanne Gallas | Clarence Oleszkiewicz | |
| Mitch Gallas | Ramon Perez | |
| Karen Holmes | Ann Robertson | |
| Joan Juris | Michael Roman | |
| Ron Kelly | Adan Sanchez | |
| Sharon Labiak | Katrina Sigafoose | |

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

Dorothy Gortowski
Isaura Rangel



Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH OFFERTORY 4/14: \$7,513.04

Split the Pot Winning Envelope #: 63379: \$420.00

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



We would like to say **THANK YOU** to all the bakers, volunteers, for all of the donations and for your purchases this past weekend at our Bake Sale. We raised **\$1,350.00** on all the goodies.

Join us at our next meeting will take place on Tuesday May 7th, 2024. Come join us, we will meet at St. Rene narthex at 12pm.

SEE YOU THERE!!



SUPER SENIOR CLUB NEWS

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday April 24th. **Doors open at 11:30am**, meeting convenes at 12pm(noon) in the St. Rene Narthex.

SEE YOU THERE!!



Misericordia Candy Days

Volunteers will be collecting for Misericordia Candy Days at St. Symphorosa & St. Rene Goupil worship sites the weekend of April 27-28. Your support is appreciated.



ONLINE/ELECTRONIC DONATIONS

\$10,280.00

March 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024

Total number of transactions:
294

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

TWO HOLY MARTYRS

GRAND RAFFLE

**4 MASSIVE \$500
LOTTERY BASKET
DRAWINGS**

MAY 28th

JUNE 4th

JUNE 11th

JUNE 18th

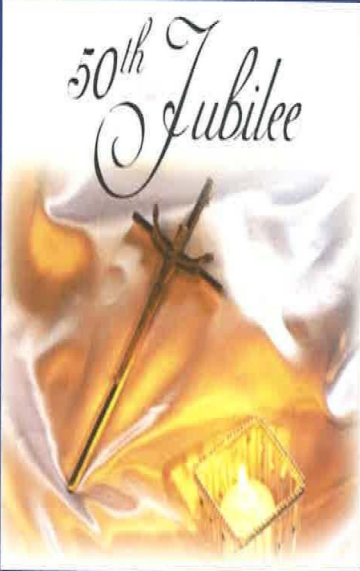
...AND THEN...

Over \$18,500 on June 23rd


BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW

\$20 Each or 6 for \$100


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT




50th Jubilee





50th Anniversary of Priesthood



Ordained May 8, 1974



Please scan the QR code to RSVP by April 1st. Or email your RSVP at ksoup24@aol.com. Thank you!







You are cordially invited to celebrate with

Rev. Marcel J. Pasciak

Sunday, April 21, 2024
Fiftieth Jubilee Mass at 3:00 pm
Dinner will follow in the church hall

St. Patricia Church
9050 S 86th Avenue, Hickory Hills IL 60457



The Cub Scouts of Pack 4439 will be collecting food for our annual Scouting for Food community service project. Donations will help the Northern Illinois Food Bank gather food for neighbors in need. We are calling on our neighbors to make this service project a success. Please consider donating non-perishable food items in one of these three locations.

- **Donation boxes in Church after all Masses April 20 & 21**

Thank you for your generous support!



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

SVDP Bundle Weekend is approaching Saturday, May 18th at 1pm-5pm & Sunday, May 19th, 2024 at 7am-12pm. If you have a donation or just want to drop off, the SVDP **Blue Drop Box** is located next to the St. Rene Rectory on 63rd Place. If you are clearing out a house or apartment, it's best to call the SVDP Store for a pick-up @ 708-263-0834 to schedule the appointment.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

If you have any items you would like to donate, you can do the following:

- ◆ Hold for **May 18 & 19** for **St. Vincent de Paul** drive.
- ◆ If you can not wait until **May 18 & 19**, please drop off items at the drop box at the St. Rene Campus (**blue box**) or at your nearest **Salvation Army or Goodwill**.
- ◆ There is a **Salvation Army on 63rd St. and Nagle Ave.**
- ◆ **DO NOT DROP OFF ANY ITEMS AT THE PARISH OFFICE** Unfortunately, the Parish Office does not have the resources to manage unplanned drop offs.

Thank you!

PARISH FAITH FORMATION

Important!

Upcoming Events:

- 4/20: Faith Formation Classes
St. Syms Campus. (Sat.)
- 4/21: Third Grade Family Mass.
- 4/23: Faith Formation Classes
St. Syms Campus. (Tues.)
- 4/24: Confirmation Practice.
- 4/27: First Communion Practice.
- 4/28: **CONFIRMATION DAY!**
- 5/4: **COMMUNION DAY!**
- 5/14: Faith Formation Classes
St. Syms Campus. (Tues.)
- 5/18: Faith Formation Classes
St. Syms Campus. (Sat.)
- 5/19: Sixth Grade Family Mass



The Third-Grade Family Mass will be held on, Sunday, April 21st at 9:00am at St. Symphorosa church. Please look for our Jesus Project display in the narthex. We look forward to welcoming all our Third Grade Families on April 21st.

FIRST EUCHARIST

On Saturday, May 4th, our Faith Formation students and the 2nd Graders from St. Symphorosa Catholic School will receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. These young children have worked hard preparing for this special day and we invite you to please remember them in your prayers. The practices for First Holy Communion will take place at St. Rene Church on Saturday, April 27th . There will be a practice held at 10:30am and a second practice held 1:00pm. The child and at least one parent should attend the practice which they were assigned.



JESUS PROJECTS

This year, our students in Level Seven are focusing on the Person of Jesus in the Gospels. These students will be using some creative art form to depict a Jesus story of their choice. The projects will be on display in the narthex for viewing by our parish community during the month of May.



CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, April 28th, Sixty-Eight students from our Faith Formation Program and from St. Symphorosa School will be confirmed by the Most Reverend Joseph Perry, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago. The students have worked hard at preparing for this special day and we ask that you remember them, their sponsors, and parents in your prayers. Practice for this sacrament will take place at St. Symphorosa Church on Wednesday, April 24th at 6:00pm. The Confirmation candidate and sponsor need to attend. If, for some important reason, the Sponsor is unable to attend, the student must be accompanied by a parent.

PARISH SCHOOL NEWS

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS (GRADES PK-2ND)



Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!



Pre-K had a blast on the Egg Hunt



Kindergarten families provided 121 Easter baskets for children at Advocate Children's Hospital, and the food pantry at Saint Turibius.



First grade learned about and made Solar Eclipse mobiles before Easter Break



With so much left to learn this year, our second graders will continue together as a virtuous family



Second grade making their own rulers to measure in math

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

Help Wanted-Marketing Director

We are seeking a Marketing Director for St. Symphora School. The position is part-time, 20 hours per week and includes work on campus and in the field. We are seeking a self-motivated, strong advocate of the school that will grow enrollment. Training will begin in May, with a June 10 start. Qualified and interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume to Dr. Kathy Berry no later than April 22nd. kberry@stsymsschool.org
A detailed job description is available by emailing office@stsymphoroschool.org

