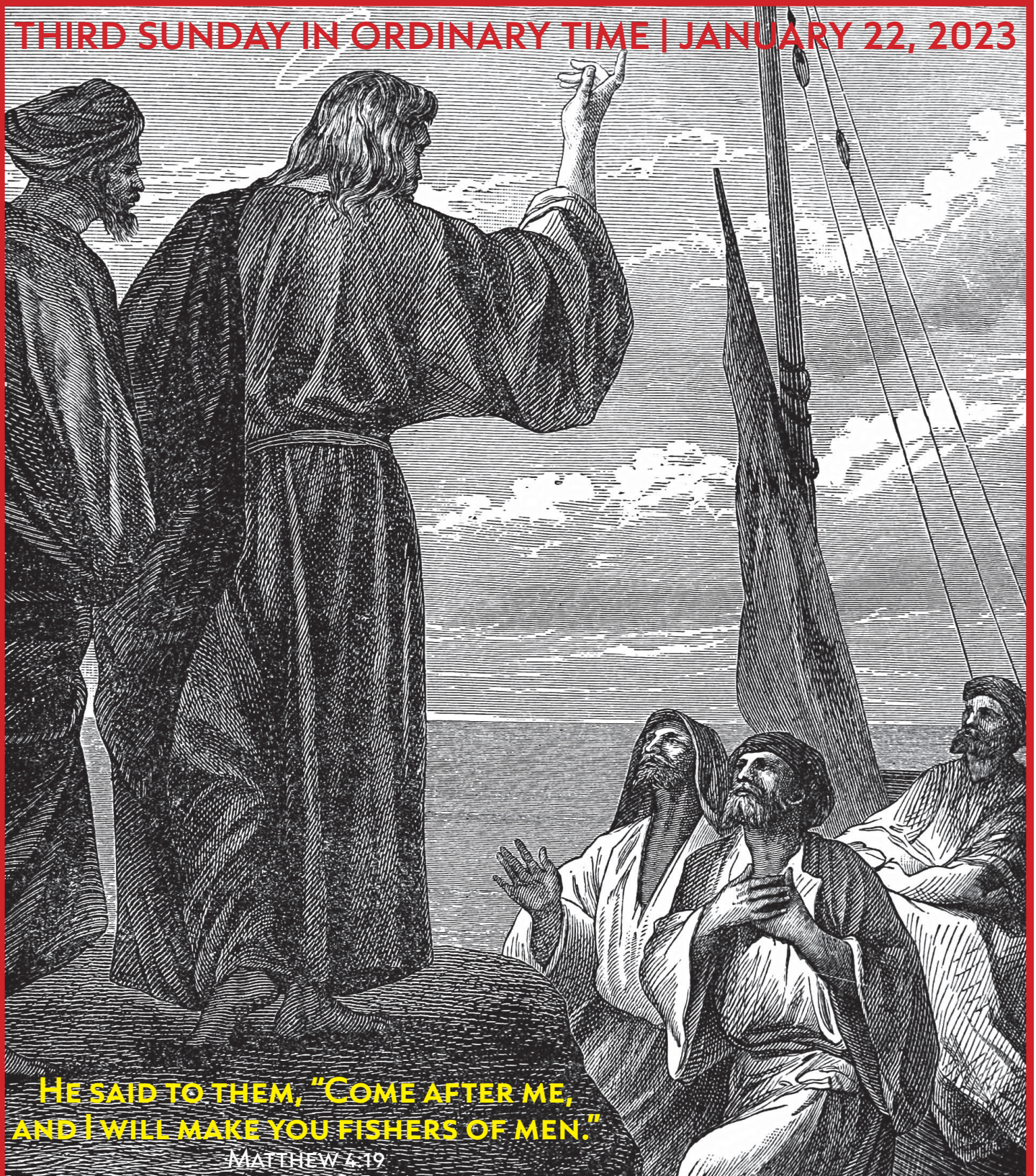


THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | JANUARY 22, 2023



HE SAID TO THEM, "COME AFTER ME,
AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN."

MATTHEW 4:19



TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH

ST. SYMPHOROSA + ST. RENE GOUPH

PARISH OFFICE: 6135 S. AUSTIN AVE. | CHICAGO, IL 60638 | (773) 767-1573

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 GOUPILE

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



An old friend called me a few weeks ago right around the time Pope Benedict XVI died. Our phone conversation drifted into the realm of the past few popes. She offered some

brief opinions of John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis. This was interesting because this person has not engaged the faith in decades, and the only information she would have received about these three popes would be through the standard news media or what other people said to her about these popes.

As a side note, John XXIII, Paul VI and John Paul I didn't get a mention.

I could tell she liked John Paul II, didn't like Benedict XVI and, for the most part, liked Francis, but she wasn't totally certain. I sat back and listened. I was tempted to ask, "Well, what do you think about Jesus? Thumbs up or thumbs down?" Thankfully, I restrained myself.

Welcome to our world of likes and dislikes; friending and unfriending.

Our second reading this Sunday challenges us to remember that Christ is the center of our faith. How easily we can forget this and then declare ourselves followers of some fellow human being; someone who has quirks and flaws just like each of us.

St. Paul gets at this temptation in his first letter to the Corinthians.

"For it has been reported to me about you, my brothers and sisters, by Chloe's people, that there are rivalries among you. I mean that each of you is saying, 'I belong to Paul,' or 'I belong to Apollos,' or 'I belong to Cephas,' or 'I belong to Christ.' Is Christ divided?"

The great UNIFIER of our faith is Jesus, the Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Lord's prayer to the Father is that we be one as he and the Father

are One. Christ desires we remain in his love.

We as humans like to complicate things, and far too often, egos get in the way. Humility gets pushed aside in favor of pride. "Me first" over God first. Pretty soon we sound like the people of Corinth. "I belong to Fr. Pflieger. I belong to Bishop Barron. I belong to Fr. James Martin. I belong to Cardinal Raymond Burke."

We're reminded what Jesus said. "Follow me!"

Every pope, every bishop, every priest, every deacon, every religious brother or sister, every lay person must be a servant of the Lord. We ascent to Christ; he who is the way, and the truth, and the life. This is how we maintain authentic unity in the Church. We look FIRST to him and we call upon to Holy Spirit to guide us in truth and in love.

Of course, there is an Adversary at work who likes to play little devilish games. This Enemy's goal is to separate us from God, separate us from each other, and separate us from our own self. Sadly, this Thing is doing a pretty good job today because so many have turned away from God, or grown distant from God. Hatred of the sacred fills in where love used to be. With the unifying love of God out of the picture, we create our selfish fortresses and prepare for battle. We find a "Them" to serve as scapegoat for all that ails this world; all the while that Thing cackles in perverse delight.

FAITH OVER FEAR

Friends, the near future might be challenging for us as intentional disciples of Jesus. We're reminded, however, of the long litany of disciples spread out over 2,000 years who have also carried the flame of faith even during dark spiritual times. Jesus himself prepares us just as he prepared his first disciples so long ago when he said, "If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first." He added, "If they persecuted me, they will persecute you."

Things will happen in this world that will shake our faith, if our faith hasn't already been shaken. We are

challenged to drop our spiritual anchor in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This firm grounding in Christ helps us stand firm amidst the fickle wind and waves of our day. This is not the time to cut and run and in search of some other safe harbor. The only safe harbor is Christ himself.

My core responsibility as pastor and as priest is the salvation of souls. How easy it can be for a pastor/priest to place temporal (earthly) goods above spiritual needs. We can find ourselves fretting over the future of buildings, property, and finances to the exclusion of the primacy of the spiritual life in parish life. All of our temporal goods are at the service of the spiritual life of the parish. One day our buildings will crumble. Money will be of no use. Love, however, lives on.

We are invited at this time and in this place to stand firm in faith; no matter if we like or don't like a specific pope, cardinal, bishop, priest, deacon, religious brother or sister. Mother Church is guided and powered by the Holy Spirit. There have always been wolves in sheep's clothing in the Church; those who seek to use the authority of the Church to advance their own personal agenda. We're reminded and encouraged by all those within Mother Church who seek to do the Lord's will by living the truth in love.

There have been holy men and women through the centuries who have done the Lord's work, and there are men and women today doing the Lord's work throughout the world. You and I are those men and women today called to be a light to the nations, and we each draw that light from the unifying love of Jesus, the Light of the world.

People today are hungry. Folks are desperately longing for authenticity. The glitz and glamour of the world doesn't do it after a while. The buzz of a new technology weans only to expose a deeper thirst; a thirst no earthly river can fully quench. So many people have lost trust.

Thankfully, we have available to us the One we can trust ... Jesus! You who make all things new. We place our trust in You. Inspire us. Guide us. Strengthen us.

"Do not be afraid. Do not be satisfied with mediocrity. Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." ST. JOHN PAUL II

LET US PRAY



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 21 - JANUARY 27

MASS INTENTIONS FOR SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Saturday, January 28th

8:00 AM | St. René Goupil Church

† Richard Zilka (Marie Zilka)

† Janet Heitz (Marie Zilka)

† Eric J. Olson (Marie Zilka)

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

† Raymond Mancuso (Giuseppa Mancuso)

† Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

† Adriana Colon (John & Nancy Garcia)

† Patrick Myers (John & Nancy Garcia)

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

† Dominic Santucci (Art & Katie Carpenter)

Sunday, January 29th

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

† Rev. Anthony Harte (Olaska Family)

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

Living & deceased members of the Simon Family (Family)

† Francisco Coronado, Sr. (Coronado Family)

† Lorraine Spry (A&R Society)

† Kathy Calcagno (Arlene Scaletta)

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

Pro Populo (for the People of the Parish)

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

† Albert J. Marks (Wife & Family)

Saturday, December 21st

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

† Patricia Biniewicz (Dina Gnat)

† Donna Evans (Rose Roberts)

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

† Frances Szumowski (Kolasinski Family)

† Bud & Doris Carpenter (Art & Katie Carpenter)

† Louis Gomez

Sunday, January 22nd

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

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

† Al Beyer (Toni P.)

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

Pro Populo (for the People of the Parish)

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

† Patricia Biniewicz (Karen Walsh)

† Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

† Vincent Salamendo (Terri & Dan Domarsky)

† Virginia Blazeniak (Jean Piotrowski)

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

† Krysna Dana (Daughter & Family)

† Frances Szumowski (Patricia Perepechko)

† Desaree Noceda (Barbara Rendak)

Monday, January 23rd | 8 AM | St. René Goupil Church

† Virginia Blazeniak (Barbara Rendak)

Tuesday, January 24th | 8 AM | St. René Goupil Church

† Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

Wednesday, January 25th | 8 AM | St. René Goupil Church

† Anthony & Rose Bluiss (Kathy Calcagno)

Thursday, January 26th | 8 AM | St. René Goupil Church

† Keith Fox (Fox Family & Friends)

Friday, January 27th | 8 AM | St. René Goupil Church

† Penny Uram (Barbara Rendak)

† Estelle Cyrnek (Valerie)

† Lucille S. Shotas (Nancy Shotas)

† Chalida Svastisalee (Valdepenas, Smets, & Svastisalee Families)

Weekend presider subject to change without notice.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THE SICK

Arnold Adaska	Denise M. Jandura	Maria Paz Perez
Guadalupe Almendarez	Rich S. Jandura	Stanley Polit
Raeann Arends	Rick Jutton	Leticia Reyes
Ignatius Battiato	Joan Juris	Graciela Rivas
Domingo Battung III	John Kappel, Jr.	Ann Robertson
Hichelle Battung	Ron Kelly	Fr. John Rudnik
Dominic Battung	Robert Kroll	Joseph Rudnik
Hannah Battung	Claudia Kwilosz	Jack Ruggiero
Jean Bell	Sharon Labiak	John Shipper
Mary Bieser	Flavia Langan	Mary Shortall
Fr. Ted Bojczuk	James Lapsansky	Elizabeth Sivek
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	Buddy Valela
Maria Flores	Bob Pac	Judith Webber
Mia Forbes	Eleanor Pastorek	Becky Williams
Nia Forbes	Jesus Perez	JoAnn Wolniak
Geri Gestaut	Juan B. Perez	Beverly Zimmerling
Heather Hradek	Maria P. Perez	Chester
Shawn Hughes	Juan Perez	Michelle

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

*Make a resolution this year
to visit 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.**



FR. MATT'S REFLECTION



"Four score and seven years ago," for those who are familiar with American history and many students in public speaking classes, those words, the beginning of President

Abraham Lincoln's, "Gettysburg Address," are well known, perhaps the most easily recognized from his oratorical catalogue. When asked what Jesus' most famous words are, a wider range of answers might result. We hear some of the Savior's first words, at least those from St. Matthew's Gospel, in the Gospel Reading for this Sunday yet they might not be the ones, which we would expect.

Now, had Jesus spoken before He meets Sts. Peter, Andrew, James, and John, certainly. He is raised with and undoubtedly speaks with the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph, their extended family members, and their neighbors. Even in the verses, which precede the selection of the Gospel, which is proclaimed today, Jesus declines Satan's temptations and rebukes him. All of these examples precede His public ministry, His evangelization. This Sunday, we hear our Lord as He begins to form a new covenant with His people, the Children of Israel, and in fact with all people.

St. Matthew frames Jesus' initial work by referencing St. Isaiah. What we hear from the Prophet in the First Reading is repeated again as Jesus begins preaching in Galilee. Jesus, as St. Matthew presents Him, commences with fulfilling this part of the Father's will, including the area in which He will begin to announce the Good News: "He left

Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled: Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen." (Matthew 4:13-16)

St. Isaiah's earlier words have been alive in the minds of the faithful of Israel. Christmas Eve, most fittingly, as well as on several other days, the Canticle of Zechariah, taken from St. Luke's Gospel, is read, conveying St. Zechariah's joy at the birth of St. John the Baptist and prophesying what he will accomplish. In particular, at the end of the Canticle, St. Zechariah exclaims, "'for you [St. John the Baptist] will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God by which the daybreak from on high will visit us to shine on those who sit in darkness and death's shadow, to guide our feet into the path of peace.'" (Luke 1:76-79) Notice the similarity of St. Zechariah's description to that of St. Isaiah's prophecy: people sitting in darkness being blessed to see, to be illuminated by light, by daybreak, and death finally being overcome.

St. Zechariah even distinguishes the forgiveness of sins, which is to be accomplished by the Lord and prepared for St. John the Baptist. Having been baptized by St. John and rejected Satan's temptations, our Lord's first public declaration is the initial fulfillment of those earlier words: "From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" (Matthew 4:17) Of all that Son of God could begin saying to the world,

He chooses, "'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" (Matthew 4:17) This one statement exists in tension. Jesus does not simply say, "Repent," and He does not simply say, "the kingdom of heaven is at hand,"; instead, He unites an action, a disposition, with a supernatural yet hidden disclosure. Demanding repentance without any purpose or explanation could have sounded like a royal imposition or an ominous warning. Announcing that God's kingdom is present when nothing external seems out of the ordinary could have resulted in people thinking Jesus to be delusional.

Together, though, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,'" (Matthew 4:17) repeats God's earlier providential work to form a new relationship, a spousal covenant, with His Chosen People. How often in the Old Testament does God bless His people all to see them become complacent, act unfaithfully, suffer from separating themselves from Him, and then repent and return to Him. Jesus will initiate this return to God once again but now by being Emmanuel, God actually with us, forgiving sins, and revealing that God's Kingdom and life with Him will exceed even the earthly Holy Land. This first statement of Jesus' public ministry may not be the one, which first comes to mind when we think of Jesus but it is good for us to be oriented by it once again.

What we believe and pray: Which of Jesus' words come to your minds when you think of Him?
 What to stop doing, sins to avoid: Have you neglected daily time with God's word?
 What to do: If you have not been reading from God's word, begin today with this Gospel, Matthew, Chapter 4.

"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 JANUARY

For the repose of the soul of Michael Nowakowski given by Parents Joe & Josie Pulido.

For the living & deceased members of the Battung Family given by Rosario Battung.

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

For the repose of the soul of Joan Brown given by her daughter Cathy Kordelewski.

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



TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH
ST. SYMPHOROSA † ST. RENE GOUPIL

MONTHLY BINGO!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH
ST. RENE GOUPIL CAMPUS
(FLANNERY HALL)
6340 SOUTH NEW ENGLAND AVE.

DOORS OPEN AT 12:30 PM
GAMES BEGIN AT 1:30 PM

ADMISSION TO PLAY: \$20 AT THE DOOR



Your donations make all the difference, thank you!

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



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 EDUCATORS** in the month of January:

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

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 2023 Mass Intention Book is open.**

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!**



JANUARY 15, 2022

Split the Pot Collection:

\$402.00

Winning Envelope:

63612

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



TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH OFFERING

For the weekend of Sunday, January 15, 2022

\$7524.46

Thank you for your generosity!

SAVE THE DATE!

CASINO Night



MARCH 18, 2023

Sponsored by the St. Symphorosa School Advisory Board

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



NCYC

Save the date

NCYC FULLY ALIVE

Join the Chicago Archdiocesan Pilgrimage at:

NCYC Fully Alive

Thursday, November 16 — Sunday, November 19, 2023

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is a biannual event held at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN.

High schoolers are invited to join 30,000 of their peers from across the United States for this electrifying pilgrimage, filled with opportunities for worship, music, speakers, a thematic park, and more.

We are excited to once again be taking a Pilgrimage from the Chicago Archdiocese to NCYC. Please look out for more information regarding registration coming in 2023.

Scholarships will be available through the Archdiocese for parishes participating in the Chicago delegation.

Please email youthministry@archchicago.org with any questions.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT

2022 Parish Tax Letters 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.



Mid-life Singles (mid-30s to 50s):

Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose and belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at the Joseph and Mary Retreat House (formerly Cardinal Stritch Retreat House) in Mundelein, IL (in the northern suburbs), on March 3rd - 5th, 2023.

Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it!
Cost is \$285 for meals and a single room.

Visit www.ReflectRetreat.com, e-mail reflect.chicagoland@gmail.com, or call (630) 222-8303 for details.

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



What to do at a Holy Hour?

AN EASY TO USE GUIDE ON HOW TO PRAY

Ever try to pray only to soon find out you don't know what to do? Ever visit a Holy Hour in front of the Monstrance and become frustrated because you didn't know what to do?

Here are a few suggestions as to how to make a good holy hour.

MINUTES 0-5: Meditate on the following quote from the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "God calls man first. Man may forget his Creator or hide far from his face; he may run after idols or accuse the deity of having abandoned him; yet the living and true God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer. In prayer, God's initiative of love always comes first; our own first step is always a response." (no. 2567)

MINUTES 5-10: Look in your heart; look at your life. What do you want? What do you really want from God? Tell God right now what you need from Him during this time of prayer.

MINUTES 10-15: Find a passage from the Bible. Maybe it's a Psalm; maybe it's the readings from daily Mass; maybe it's the readings at the upcoming Sunday Mass. Find a passage from Scripture. Read the passage slowly. Get familiar with the text. Read the passage a second time, this time read it even slower. Very, very slowly read the passage a third time. Pay attention to which word, words, or phrases "tug" at your heart or get your attention.

MINUTES 15-25: Think about your life; think about the reality of your life. What are the word, words, or phrases from the Bible speaking to in your life? How does the Bible passage connect to your life? Look deep within.

MINUTES 25-35: Talk to God. Talk to God as if He were a real person. Talk to God like Moses did: "The Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as one man speaks to another." (Exodus 33:11)

MINUTES 35-45: Listen. God will speak to you. Maybe God will speak to you through a thought in your head ... or a song in your heart or a memory ... or a feeling in your body. Listen with all your senses.

MINUTES 45-50: Return to the Scripture passage again. Read it slowly one more time. Is there any word, words, or phrases that speak to you again?

MINUTES 50-55: What can you do today, this week, to act on what God has revealed to you? Practically speaking, in your real life, what can you do?

MINUTES 55-60: Thank the Lord. Blessings are specific and so should our gratitude. Tell God specifically what you're thankful for.

PARISH SCHOOL NEWS



ST. SYMPHOROSA
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
OF TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 29, 2023

10:30am-1:30pm



**GET IN THE GAME AT ST. SYMS!
MEET CHICAGO BEARS RUNNING BACK DAVID
MONTGOMERY AND CHICAGO WHITE SOX MASCOT
SOUTHPAW!**

HERE WE...

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

773.585.6888 6125 S. Austin Ave Chicago, IL 60638 www.stsymsschool.org



Catholic Schools
Faith. Excellence. Service.

FAITH FORMATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/22: Second Grade Family Mass

1/28: Faith Formation Classes - St. Symphorosa Campus (Sat.)

1/29: Catechetical Resource Day

1/31: Faith Formation Classes - St. René Goupil Campus (Tues.)



Our Communion students are learning the proper etiquette on receiving the sacrament.

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

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

On February 11 & 12, our First Communion Candidates along with their parents are invited to a Special Communion Bread Meeting/Retreat. As part of this celebration, we will pray together and share stories about our Holy Communion Masses from the past. Important information regarding the actual Communion Ceremony will be discussed. Parents are welcome to ask any questions they may have concerning this momentous occasion. In addition, at the very end of our Retreat everyone will have the opportunity to view the film "Grandma's Bread".

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

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

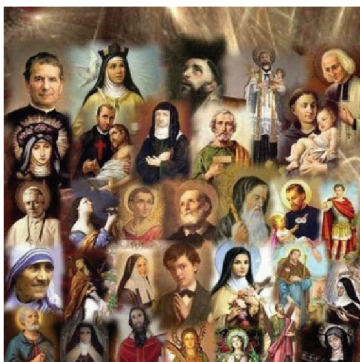


Thank You God for the Eucharist, and the joy it brings into our lives. Happy are we who have been called to the Lord's Table!



BELONGING SERVICE

This Sunday at the 9 AM Mass at our St. Symphorosa Church, our Faith Formation Students and Second Graders from our St. Symphorosa School preparing for Holy Communion will be received as candidates for First Eucharist. The candidates are invited to bring a loaf of sandwich bread to Mass. The bread symbolizes Jesus, The Bread of Life. All the bread will be donated to our local food pantry.



Our level eight students, preparing for Confirmation, have been assigned their "Saint Projects" (a requirement for Confirmation.) The students will select their saints to research, and they will present their findings to their class in the coming months. Many times, our Confirmandi choose the Saint whose name they take as their Confirmation Name.

Catechetical Resource Day 2023 is a special event sponsored by the Southwest Suburban Cluster. This year we will gather at Incarnation - St. Terrence in Crestwood, on Sunday afternoon, January 29. This formation day is an inspirational day for catechists from all the parishes in the Southwest Area. Catechists gather to exchange information and provide mutual support in our efforts to share our Catholic faith. The afternoon will begin with a prayer, followed by various informative and spiritual presentations. It is our hope that many of our own catechists here at Two Holy Martyrs' will set aside time to participate in this afternoon of formation and camaraderie. Call the Faith Formation Office with questions.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



INSTITUTE FOR
DIACONAL STUDIES

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Are you, or someone you know, widowed?



If you have been recently widowed and are still struggling with the loss, or if you have been widowed for some time and need something to get you “over the hump” because you seem stuck in one spot, this program is designed to help you move on with life while still treasuring your past and its precious memories.

EXPLORING THE DIACONATE 2023

The Institute for Diaconal Studies (IDS) invites all men who feel the gentle nudge of the Holy Spirit to attend an Exploring the Diaconate session. It is a time to pray, discuss, and learn more about the discernment process and the formation program that aspirants and candidates pursue. Please join us, with your wives, if married, as we explore the potential of a vocation, engage in dialogue and pray in search of the next step. All are welcome to attend any of the sessions.

RSVP REQUIRED

Contact Sr. Caroline Onuoha, DMMM at 847.837.4563 or conuoha@usml.edu

7:30–8:30 P.M.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Monday, February 6, 2023 | Zoom |
| Tuesday, March 7, 2023 | Zoom |
| Monday, April 24, 2023 | Our Lady of Ransom, Niles |
| Tuesday, May 9, 2023 | Our Lady of Ransom, Niles |

For more information contact Deacon Bob Puhala, bpuhala@usml.edu or 847.837.4564 or visit us at usml.edu.

Application deadline for the 2023–2024 Aspirancy Path is July 15, 2023.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



MARRIAGE PREPARATION FACILITATOR TRAINING

Join us for Marriage Preparation Facilitator Training. All married couples feeling called to marriage ministry and interested in facilitating PreCana sessions to inspire engaged couples in the vocation and mission of marriage are invited to one of the upcoming Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation Facilitator Trainings.

Saturday, February 25
9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Zoom Session

To register, please click here or visit forms.office.com/r/fzPBUUyWfb.
For more information, please contact Anastasia Jakubow at ajakobowrashtchian@archchicago.org.



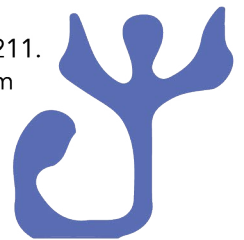
This unique retreat/workshop will be held at St. Mary's Retreat House, Lemont, Illinois. The Joyful Again! program is for both men and women (all ages) who have been widowed and are still trying to find hope and new joy in life. All are welcome!

What: Retreat/workshop for Widowed Men & Women

When: April 1 & 2 (2-day program)

Where: St. Mary's Retreat House in Lemont, Illinois (Commute or stay overnight.)

For further information, call 708-354-7211.
E-mail us at joyfulagain7211@gmail.com
Website: www.joyfulagain.org



OPPOSING ASSISTED SUICIDE

A training on talking to lawmakers

Legislation that seeks to legalize assisted-suicide is coming to Illinois.

Training sessions will be provided by:

Bob Gilligan

Executive Director, Catholic Conference of Illinois

Dawn Fitzpatrick

Senior Coordinator, Human Dignity/Solidarity, Archdiocese of Chicago

Several dates for this training are offered (via Zoom)



January 26 - 7:00 p.m.

January 30 - 7:00 p.m.

February 2 - 7:00 p.m.

This webinar will help you understand why such a law should be opposed.

It will teach you how to communicate effective messages in regards to assisted-suicide.

We will demonstrate how to communicate with your legislator.



RSVP to: info@ilcatholic.org by January 25

When submitting your RSVP, please include name, email and session you will be attending