

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

THAT THE WORLD
MIGHT BE
SAVED.

— JOHN 3:17 —



TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH

6135 S. AUSTIN AVE., CHICAGO, IL | 773.767.1523 | INFO@TWOHOLYMARTYRS.ORG

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Robert Regan
PASTOR

Rev. Kevin Gregus
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Norman Trela
RETIRED PRIEST

PASTORS EMERITUS

Rev. Ted Bojczuk
PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Idzi Stacherczak
PASTOR EMERITUS

PARISH STAFF

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OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Magdalan Koziar
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Irene Perconti
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT

Peg Siebenaler
FAITH FORMATION
COORDINATOR

David Boyle
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Dcn. Raul Duque
PARISH ORGANIST

Matt Capparelli
MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Jacqueline Guerrero
BULLETIN &
GENERAL OFFICE ADMIN

SCHOOL STAFF

Kathy Berry
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Chris Garza
ASSISTANT SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Chicago

Building a Better Tomorrow for
Those in Need

Contact
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!

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM PARKING IN THE FIRE LANES

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

FAITH FORMATION

☎ 773.767.1523 Ext: 226

✉ msiebenaler@archchicago.org

How do I register for

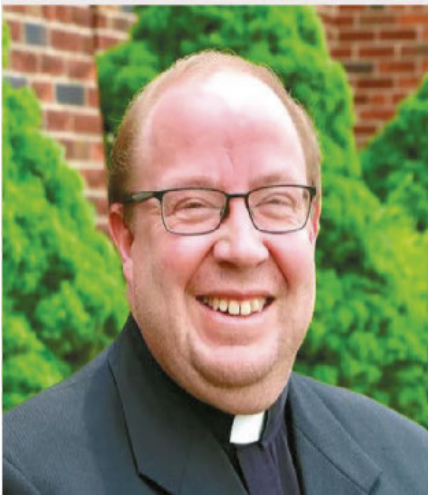
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- 2 Type in our parish name.
- 3 Enter your name and email.





FR. BOB'S WEEKLY BLOG

inevitability of death. From that mindset, they see no need for a Savior.

As faithful disciples of Jesus, we see clearly the reality of all three: sin, evil, and death, and we thank God for Christ, our Savior. On the day of our Baptism, we died with Christ. That's what immersion into the water symbolizes. But we emerge from the waters as a new creation. We have new life in Christ (grace). We need no longer live in fear when we walk humbly with our Lord.

Perhaps this can help us appreciate what Christ has done for us. Imagine you're enjoying a day at the beach. Your child is playing in the water. Suddenly you realize your child has drifted too far from shore and has disappeared. You scream for help.

A stranger nearby gets up and without caution, goes into the water and swims out to find your child. The water is deep, and the waves are choppy. The person doesn't give up the search. After what seemed an eternity, the person is swimming back to shore safely with your child.

Imagine your gratitude. "Thank you. Thank you so much. You saved his life," we'd say. We would NEVER forget the self-sacrificing act of that heroic person.

Now elevate this story to the Story of Salvation, and what Christ has done for us. Before we can be eternally grateful, we must first realize we needed saving from sin, evil, and death. Once we do realize what God has done for us, and we respond, we are then moved to live for the greater glory of God; to live FOR LOVE.

Sometimes, when things start to get overwhelming and we lose sight of the big picture, it helps to go and spend time in front of a crucifix. Doesn't matter if you stand, kneel, or sit. Allow the Cross to remind you that the Son of Man was "lifted up" so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life. And don't forget, Good Friday wasn't the end of the story. Then came the Sunday of resurrection. Love is stronger than death, and Love is Who went to the Cross for us.

Why 52-Card Pick-Up?

We recently introduced "52-Card

Pick-Up" as a new fundraiser for the parish.

This type of fundraiser seeks to create a win-win scenario; the parish receives much-needed additional funds AND the monthly winner receives a generous payout on the investment.

Anyone 18 years of age or older is eligible to play and you do not have to be a parishioner of Two Holy Martyrs. We do ask, however, that the playing card be purchased out of the parish office. Other "rules of the game" have appeared in the bulletin and are available in the parish office.

Basically, here's the game: each month we will "sell" 52 playing cards plus two joker cards (54 cards total). All 54 cards will be available for sale each month. One card is \$100. Near the end of the month, a card will be drawn as the winner (roughly a 50/50 split of the pot). There will also be a second-place card payout each month. If there is no first-place winner for the month, the pot rolls over to the next month. There will always be a second-place payout.

The parish's share of the fundraiser continues to help offset the revenue we generated from the annual Family Fest. Also, the odds are favorable each month for those who participate. There are only 54 cards, and someone is going to be a winner if all the cards are sold each month.

Instead of having two Grand Raffles each year, we decided it would be better to have ONE Grand Raffle each year and introduce 52-Card Pick-Up as an ongoing monthly event.

As always, thank you for supporting Two Holy Martyrs Parish.



What do we see when we look at a crucifix?

One answer is that we see a form of human execution. The authorities of the Roman Empire excelled in crucifixion. They didn't mess around. A public crucifixion served two purposes: the death of the person on the cross AND it was used to intimidate the general populace from stepping out of line, or else they'd get the same.

The second answer is that we see, through eyes of faith, an act of self-sacrificing love. The Incarnate God (Jesus) took care of what needed taking care of so that the intimate relationship between God and man (heaven and earth) could be restored.

From one perspective, we see the worst that humanity can do from a place of hatred, but from the other perspective, we see what God can do from a place of love. This is the paradox of the Cross.

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. We hear proclaimed in today's gospel, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16-17).

Saved? What are we being saved from through Christ? After all, why would we need a Savior if there was nothing from which we needed to be saved?

Jesus eternally saves us from sin, evil, and death; and He saves us FOR LOVE. Sadly, there are folks out there today who deny the reality of sin and evil, and who ignore the



FR. KEVIN'S GREGORIAN RANTS

While the approval of *Sacrosanctum Concilium* was the most central accomplishment of second session of the Second Vatican Council, it was not the only document that was ratified. They also completed the decree, *Inter Mirifica*, on the responsibilities of the Church in respect to modern means of media and social communication. Given the rapid development of communication technologies (press, cinema, radio, television, etc.). The council fathers felt it was necessary to address the potential uses and dangers of these mediums.

The Church has always had the mission to preach the Gospel to all nations. The most effective means of evangelization, or sharing the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ, has been and will always be personal witness and conversion through in-person accompaniment. However, the tools provided by the media are quite effective in spreading truth and providing faithful resources. This rapid communication can, of course, prove to be a detriment, as any misuse can quickly spread immorality.

Inter Mirifica roots itself in the message of Jesus' relation to the human person, clearly stating that any and all uses of media must always be guided by the moral order and the dignity of the human person. Anyone who produces, writes, or performs in media activity has the duty to respect truth, beauty, and goodness in what they create. The sensitive nature of some media requires that parents be ever aware and cautious in what their children consume.

Any Catholics who work in media are called on by the council to see their profession as a form of service. The decree encouraged the establishment of offices, commissions, and training programs for communications. Parishes, Catholic schools, and seminaries were, and still are, meant to form their students in responsible media consumption and creation.

While the current-day expanse of the Internet and social media wasn't close to the minds who wrote the document, the guidance and theology behind it apply more than ever. Responsibility does rest with the user: "All who, of their own free choice, make use of these media of communications as readers, viewers, or listeners have special obligations. For a proper choice demands that they fully favor those presentations that are outstanding for their moral goodness, their knowledge and their artistic or technical merit" (IM9).

However, the fathers believed that "the principle moral responsibility for the proper use of the media of social communication falls on newsmen, writers, actors, designers, producers, displayers, distributors, operators and sellers, as well as critics and all others who play any part in the production and transmission of mass presentations" (IM11). Anyone who pays attention knows that media creators are much more concerned with profits than any moral obligation. Research shows that these creators know exactly how addicting and how detrimental social media and constant Internet usage is, and yet they still continue to pump out content.

Public authority also holds responsibility, since it "legitimately concerns itself with the health of the citizenry, [and] is obliged, through the promulgation and careful enforcement of laws, to exercise a fitting and careful watch lest grave damage befall public morals and the welfare of society through the base use of these

media" (IM12). One could consider this a prophetic statement by Vatican II, as the widespread use of phones and media has led to real health issues, especially in the developing brains of our youth.

So where did the council envision the Church in the midst of a media world? They called on parishes and dioceses to establish guidelines for usage in line with the soon-to-be-established Pontifical Council for Social Communications. They encouraged collaboration with lay experts who were capable of setting up their own media apostolates. Dedicated Catholic press were called to be established along with priests and religious who know how to take advantage of the opportunities of rapid communication. We can think today of Bishops Fulton Sheen and Robert Barron, Fr. Mike Schmitz, or the Sisters of St. Paul who use modern media with great effectivity.

Overall, the decree affirmed that modern media are powerful gifts of God when rightly used, but dangerous when exploited. Both creators and consumers bear moral responsibility. The Church calls for formation, oversight, and active engagement in communications, using them to spread truth, protect human dignity, and proclaim the Gospel.





For the week of:

September 13th - September 21st

Saturday September 13th

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

PRO POPULO

Sunday September 14th

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

✠Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

✠Joseph & Josephine Dyniakoski (Family)

✠Charlotte Zdziennicki (Daughter & Family)

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

In loving memory of Simforosa Valdepenas on her anniversary (Svastisalee & Valdepenas Families)

✠Irene Podlasek (Pozniak Family)

✠Rose Wyrstek (Arlene Scaletta)

✠Eleanor Pastorek (Joan Hamann)

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

✠Christian Furczon

✠David Casper (Judy Porcelli)

Health & God's Blessings for all Living & Deceased Members of the Guzik Family (John & Gloria Bodoki)

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

✠Nancy Janda (Husband Douglas)

✠Rose & ✠Wally Cachor (Barbara Gaughan)

✠Eleanor Pastorek (Dolores Kling)

✠Wanda Stanek (Arlene Scaletta)

Monday September 15th

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil

Birthday Blessings for Benjamin Curiel (Cruz Family)

✠Helena Turek (Janina)

✠Mel Keiffer (Janina)

Tuesday September 16th

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil

✠Giuseppe Amaro (Muriel Marin)

Wednesday September 17th

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil

✠Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

✠Andy Budz III (Barbara Rendak)

Thursday September 18th

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil

✠Grace Gryska (Knights of Columbus)

Friday September 19th

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil

✠Helena Turek (Janina)

Saturday September 20th

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil

✠Vivencia Battung & All Poor Souls in Purgatory (Rosario Battung)

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

In loving memory Ronnie Giron on his 1 year anniversary (Giron Family)

✠Edward Cieslewski (Family)

✠David Kerstnik (Larry Holmes)

✠Beverly Zaleski (Jean Piotrowski)

Sunday September 21st

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

PRO POPULO

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

✠Menzie Pusateri (Pat Soltis)

Health & God's Blessings for Mary Shilney

(St. Vincent de Paul Family)

In loving memory of Ron Cempel on his birthday

(Cempel Family)

God's Blessings to Domingo III & Hichelle Battung on their wedding anniversary (Battung Family)

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

✠Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

✠Joseph & Josephine Dyniakoski (Family)

✠John Chavez Jr (Family)

✠Sue Solcani & Carolyn & Tom Simek (Florence)

12:00 PM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Garcia

✠Bruna Almazon (Almazon Family)

✠Eleanor Pastorek (Dolores Kling)

Presiders are subject to change without notice.



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

Beverly Morales





OUR SANCTUARY CANDLES

Burning before the Blessed Sacrament are offered for the following intentions for the month of

SEPTEMBER

IN LOVING MEMORY OF VINCE & MARIA PORCELLI

For the repose of their souls, given by Family.

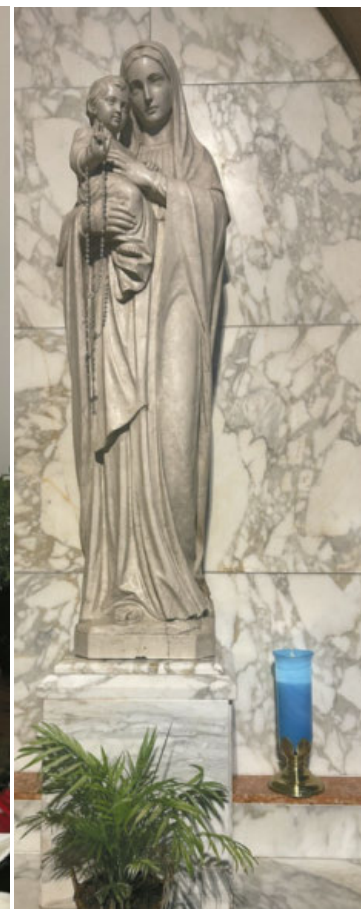
PRAYING FOR ALL LIVING & DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE BATTUNG FAMILY

given by Rosario Battung.

PRAYING FOR ALL LIVING & DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE ARENDS FAMILY

given by Sharon Arends.

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.



OUR MARIAN CANDLES

Lord God, with the lighting of this candle, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His mother, please hear our intentions for the month of

SEPTEMBER

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MAGDALENA VALERIO

For the repose of her soul, given by Guerrero-Arteaga Family.

PRAYING FOR ALL LIVING & DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE SULLIVAN, PRENDERGAST, ALVAREZ FAMILIES

given by Family.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF RONNIE GIRON

For the repose of his soul, given by Giron Family.

HEALTH & GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR JERRY HUGHES

given by St. Vincent de Paul Society.

In the lighting of the Marian candles we ask for the Blessed Mother's intercession as we honor a loved one, living or deceased.



Please join us in Praying for the Sick

Arnold Adaska	Margaret Dalton	Jacqueline Olsen
Guadalupe Almendarez	Theresa Feddor	Fay Pac
Nancy Alvarez	Karen Holmes	Nancy Pekala
Marlene Annerino	Larry Holmes	Ramon Perez
Walter Annerino	Joan Juris	Christine Petry
Sharon Arends	Christine Keys	Fred Ritchie
Mary Bieser	Irene Koziol	Ann Robertson
Fr. Ted Bojczuk	Sharon Labiak	Michael Roman
Glenn Boyle	Elena LeCompte	Adan Sanchez
Marcia Bufka	Natalie LeCompte	Mary Shilney
Steven Campos	Debbie Lipien	Katrina Sigafosse
Maria Candelas	Mary Liszka	Karen Singer
Maxine Carey	Rosemary Litwin	Pat Soltis
Pat Carone	Joelee MacMaster	Manuel Soto
John Clementi	Rich Marcello	Keith Spencer
MaryEllen Compton	Cathy Mazeika	Fr. Norm Trela
Patricia Cuchetto	Clarence Oleszkiewicz	Salvador Villagron

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



Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH OFFERTORY:
09/0725: \$9,452.38

Split the Pot Winning Envelope #:
60346: \$410.00

To our registered parishioners, please remember a minimum of \$5.00 is required to participate.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



NEW THM Fundraiser

Are YOU holding the LUCKY Card?

Less than 40 cards remain for the
SEPTEMBERS 30th DRAWING!

IF ALL CARDS ARE SOLD....

1st - \$2,500
Runner Up - \$200

Stop into the Parish Office
(6135 S. Austin Ave.)
and choose a LUCKY CARD
\$100 each

Drawing will be
Tuesday, Sept. 30th (Parish Office)

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUPER SENIORS CLUB NEWS

You're invited to join us for our next meeting on

Wednesday, September 17th, 2025

Doors open at 11:30am
meeting convenes at **12pm (noon)**
in our **St. Rene Narthex.**

We are looking for volunteers for the next upcoming meetings to help out temporarily until Ms. Linda (President) recovers. Please reach out to Ms. Linda at 773.586.3599



Knights of Columbus



It's Tootsie Roll Time

Two Holy Martyrs Knights of Columbus will make available for purchase

Tootsie Roll Banks

Saturday, September 20th and

Sunday, September 21st

before and after all Masses

\$4.00 or 3 for \$10.00

(Proceeds benefits THM S.P.R.E.D. Group!)



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Doors Open at 11:30am
Games Begin at 1:00pm

Refreshments & Food
are available for purchase
FREE COFFEE

ADMISSION \$20 AT THE DOOR



Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

(O.C.I.A.)

Never Been Baptized?

Baptized in another Christian tradition?

Been baptized but never received your First Communion or Confirmation?

Two Holy Martyrs Parish would like to invite all individuals who are seeking to further their faith and grow closer to God by joining us for our first Order of Christian Initiation of Adults meeting. With the help of the parish community, individuals interested in joining our Christian community have an opportunity through O.C.I.A. to explore and deepen their relationship with Christ and grow in their knowledge of the truths of the Catholic faith.

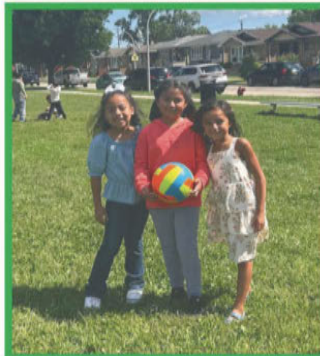
Our first meeting will be held on **Saturday, September 27th** beginning at **9:30am**. We will meet in the parish school, **St. Symphorosa**, located at **6125 S. Austin Ave**. Please contact the parish office and ask to speak with someone in regards to O.C.I.A. if you have any questions and need more assistance.



PARISH SCHOOL NEWS

Soar to the Stars at St. Symphorosa School

September 7, 2025 ~ St. Symphorosa School families came together for an All School Family Mass & Picnic at St. Rene Goupil. It was a beautiful afternoon, celebrating the beginning of a new academic year for our students, teachers & families.




SAVE THE DATE
GRATEFUL THANKFUL BLESSED
DINNER AND FUNDRAISER
 JOIN TWO HOLY MARTYRS ST. SYMPHOROSA
 SCHOOL FOR A NIGHT OF DANCING,
 COMMUNITY BUILDING, AND FUN.
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Blast Off to Preschool at St. Syms!
 Just 3 openings remain~ secure your child's spot today and watch them soar to new heights this school year!



St. Symphorosa School
McTeacher's Night Fundraiser!
 Bring cash for pies & tips at event!
 10% of all food sales & 100% of all pie sales during the event will benefit the school!
 Cash only for pies!
When?
 Thursday,
 October 2nd, 2025
 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Where?
 McDonald's
 6720 W. Archer Ave.
 Chicago, IL 60638
 Teachers will be in pie costumes!
 Cash only for pies & tips!



For more information or to schedule a tour, email marketing@stsymsschool.org
 Stay connected with St. Symphorosa Catholic School!
 Visit our website at www.stsymsschool.org and follow us on Facebook & Instagram for the latest updates on school news, events and more!

FOLLOW US



PARISH FAITH FORMATION

Upcoming Events:

FALL CLASSES BEGIN AFTER LABOR DAY!!

- 9/18:** Commitment Serv.
6pm @ St. Syms Church.
- 9/21:** Catechist Sunday & Welcome Back Mass.
9am @ St. Syms.
- 9/22:** Commitment Serv.
6pm @ St. Syms Church.
- 9/23:** Faith Formation Classes
Syms Campus. (Tues.)
- 9/27:** Faith Formation Classes
Syms Campus. (Sat.)
- 9/28:** Welcome Back Mass.
10:30am @ St. Rene.
- 9/29:** Commitment Serv.
6pm @ St. Rene Church.



We commemorate Catechetical Sunday on **September 21st** at **9:00 am** Mass.

We will recognize and celebrate all our teachers and catechists who are involved in the Catechetical Ministry at our Parish.

The 2025 theme encourages us to be prepared to share the basis of our faith, the Lord, and the hope he provides.



2025 – 2026 WELCOME BACK FAMILY MASSES

Come and Connect with God in a sacred way at our beginning of the year Family Masses for all our Faith Formation Families on **Sunday, September 21st 9:00am at St. Symphorosa Church or Sunday, September 28th 10:30am at St. Rene Church.** Students and their families are invited to attend Mass and donate a non-perishable food item for the needy. *(Food baskets will be located in the Narthex).*



PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmation students, along with their parents, will soon participate in a Commitment Service, in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. During the upcoming year these students will seek service opportunities to help them grow in discipleship as they serve those in need. We invite you to please remember them in your prayers during this time of preparation.

The dates for our Commitment Services are listed on the September Calendar of Events. Confirmation Students should attend one of these services, as a Commitment Service is a requirement for Confirmation.



FIRST RECONCILIATION PARENT MEETING

On **October 4th & October 14th**, parents will gather for a special meeting in preparation for their child's celebration of First Reconciliation which takes place in December.

We initially prepare our children for this sacrament as we teach them about right and wrong. And way before they understand what sin is, we teach them to say "I'm sorry" when they have done wrong or have hurt someone. Once again, we emphasize that parents are the first and primary catechists of their children, using "teachable moments" to help their children grow in faith.

The focus of these Parent Gatherings will be to honor your role as parents and assist you in that role. *(parents need only attend one meeting.)*

BLESSING OF THE PETS

IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS



**SUNDAY OCTOBER
5TH
1:30 PM - 2PM**

**ST. RENE GOUPIL
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64TH & NEW ENGLAND**



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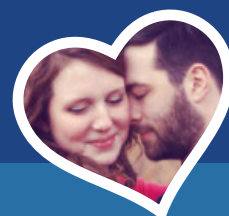
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TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH | September 14, 2025

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