



THE HOLY FAMILY



The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

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

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December 31, 2023

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH

ST. SYMPHOROSA + ST. RENE GOUPEL



WELCOME TO TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH CHURCH SCHEDULES

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Robert Regan
PASTOR

Rev. Kevin Gregus
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Norman Trela
RETIRED PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

PASTORS EMERITUS

Rev. Ted Bojczuk
PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Peter Paurazas
PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Idzi Stacherczak
PASTOR EMERITUS

PARISH STAFF

Ken Hilliard
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
EXT. 222

Magdalan Koziar
OFFICE & TUITION COORDINATOR
EXT. 248

Irene Perconti
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT EXT. 241

Peg Siebenaler
FAITH FORMATION
COORDINATOR EXT. 226

David Boyle
MUSIC DIRECTOR EXT. 225

Dcn. Raul Duque
PARISH ORGANIST

Mark Schusteric
MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Jacqueline Guerrero
BULLETIN & GENERAL
OFFICE ADMIN EXT. 221

SCHOOL STAFF

Kathy Berry
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Chris Garza
ASSISTANT SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Contact the Two Holy Martyrs
St. Vincent de Paul at (312) 316.3725

ST. SYMPHOROSA

6135 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, IL 60638

SUNDAY MASS

9 AM | 12 PM

MONDAY — SATURDAY MASS

8 AM mass is held during:

February | April | June
August | October | December

SATURDAY VIGIL

5:30 PM

RECONCILIATION


TUESDAY | 6 PM—7 PM


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

PARISH OFFICE

6135 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, IL 60638

*Located on Austin between
the school and church buildings*

 773.767.1523

 www.twoholymartyrs.org

 info@twoholymartyrs.org

MONDAY—FRIDAY

9 AM—4 PM

SATURDAY

9 AM — 12 PM

PARKING AND SAFETY REMINDER

The safety of our parish community is important and must be taken into consideration at each gathering. Should serious medical or facility issues arise unexpectedly we must be prepared. We ask that you observe parking regulations on both campus locations, churches, loading zones, etc.

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM PARKING IN THE FIRE LANES

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

SCHOOL OFFICE

6125 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, IL 60638

 773.585.6888

 www.stsymsschool.org

 office@stsymphorosaschool.org

MONDAY—FRIDAY

9 AM—3 PM

FR. BOB'S WEEKLY BLOG



This weekend we rest upon the precipice of a new calendar year. Don't forget to write 2024 on your checks (yes, Fr. Bob still uses paper checks on occasion).

Liturgically, however, this Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. We're mindful that God, in His plan of salvation, chose to come among us within the context of the human family.

God being God, He could have opted for some other way, but instead, he enters His own creation as a vulnerable baby in an obscure corner of the vast Roman Empire. He's born in and through a young Jewish girl with a carpenter for a stepfather.

He enters this world just like you and I came into the world. God makes Himself relatable in the Person of Jesus, the Christ; the long-awaited Messiah. Jesus truly is the face of the Father. God is not an abstraction. God is not impersonal. This story is a love story from beginning to end.

And how will it end?

"God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them (as

their God). He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away. The one who sat on the throne said. 'Behold, I make all things new.'" (Rev. 21: 3-5)

And that, my friends, is good news. Jesus makes this possible. We don't do it on our own.

With this gift in mind, we change how we want to live our lives. We live now for a love that transcends this world; for the Love that created this world. Even you as an individual have been loved into existence. You are not a mistake. You are not an accident. God willed you to life.

As we enter this new calendar, may we each consider ways we can deepen our relationship with the Lord. People often make a resolution to eat better and to exercise. That's great. But perhaps we can also attend more carefully to our spiritual life. Maybe we need to be more intentional about daily prayer.

Maybe we need to see Holy Mass as more of a blessing than a burden (meaning we participate every Sunday). Maybe we've been meaning to read sacred scripture more often and ponder God's word. Maybe we need to get out of ourselves more and be attentive to the needs of others.

We become more mindful that we love because God first loved us. Amazing grace!

On behalf of Fr. Kevin and Fr. Norm, and the entire Two Holy Martyrs staff, we wish all of you a very

happy new year, and we pray for you and your loved ones. Please pray for us.

Fr. Norm Trela Update

Please keep Fr. Norm in your prayers as he continues to recover and heal from surgeries after falling in the parish office a while ago.

He is in residence at a rehabilitation center in the southwest suburbs. A person's medical information is somewhat personal but at the same time Fr. Norm is a public figure in our parish and people do ask about him.

Bottom line? People care, and we miss Fr. Norm around our parish.

He regularly has close friends and family visiting him and making sure he has what he needs, but we can all offer prayers for him. Dealing with our physical ailments is a challenge, and Fr. Norm is no exception.

Heavenly Father, watch over your servant Norm. Bring him healing in both body and spirit. Bless those men and women who are attending to him medically. Bless his family and friends who love him. He has served Your Son faithfully as a priest and continues to touch the lives of those who cross his path. Give him strength and courage in the days ahead. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen!

Quote -- "“Let us make one point, that we meet each other with a smile, when it is difficult to smile. Smile at each other, make time for each other in your family.” - Mother Teresa (St. Teresa of Calcutta).



FR. KEVIN'S GREGORIAN RANTS

One of the most intense classes we take in seminary is called Christology, which is simply the study of who Jesus Christ is. After Mass, I'd suggest quizzing Fr. Bob or myself what we remember from the class. We were tested on several heresies and councils from the early Church (think years 325 though 600 AD). In these councils, bishops, theologians, and representatives of the pope got together to combat some challenges to Christ's divinity and his humanity. As you know, Jesus is fully God and fully man. This has been well defined since those councils ... so why spend a whole class diving into them?

You'd be surprised to know how often these heresies (aka wrong teachings professed publicly and persistently) pop up even in our own day. You may not realize that we fight off heresy every time we pray the Creed at Mass, which came from these early councils. Heresy is often the result of relieving some tension between these two truths and siding with one over the other: how can one person be both 100% God and 100% man? Those who we now label as ancient heretics were arguing to protect one of the two, but in doing so, they fell into a

wrong view of the other and compromised belief in who Jesus really is.

It's fair, right? Tension is uncomfortable. And at the heart of this discomfort is the scandal of the cross. Many of the famous heretics, like Nestorius, couldn't deal with the idea of our all-powerful God dying in the most humiliating way possible. And yes, it is scandalous, but no less true. God's love for the world and humanity did not allow him to stand aside and watch, but drove him to enter into the very messiness of sin and pull us out. In becoming fully one of us, Jesus saved every part of us because he is also God.

The creed ("Credo" is Latin for "I believe") we say every Mass is actually a combination of two post-conciliar creeds, Nicene (325 AD) and Constantinople (381 AD). After rejecting whatever heresies that had led to the council, the bishops issued clear and concise statements that summarized and defined the official teaching of the Church.

Each word of the creed is carefully selected and stated to communicate true doctrine and belief. We say it during Mass as a community as a public profession of our faith in response to what we have heard in God's Word and what we look forward to in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The Profession of Faith is our opportunity as God's people to respond to the Lord's self-revelation and salvation proclaimed in scripture.

The word of God should be understood and accepted, or else we become mere passive spectators.

It can seem like we are simply reciting simple beliefs every Sunday when we say the creed together, but it's important to remember that 1) this is our faith, and 2) these words were fought over and carefully considered when they were written in the 4th century. As the Mystical Body of Christ, we as the Church say to God that we have heard him and believe in him and what he has told us. It also is a reminder to us that we can always be tempted to unbelief or to break that careful tension that we hold in our belief in our Trinitarian God and our Savior who became man and dwelt among us.

Now you see why it's so important to hold this tension and profess our faith aloud, and why it's important to learn about what tempted Christians in the past in order to steer clear of those temptations and tendencies ourselves. So next time you say the Creed, give yourself a little pat on the back – you're a champion of truth!



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



From the entire Two Holy Martyrs Parish Staff,
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

We would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas with Hope, Peace, and Love in this Christmas season and throughout the New Year. Wishing a season of blessings for every person within our parish and community. May the Lord continue to strengthen our faith and increase our compassion.



**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God |
January 1st**
(not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)

Mary's divine motherhood broadens the Christmas spotlight. Mary has an important role to play in the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. She consents to God's invitation conveyed by the angel (Luke 1:26-38).

Elizabeth proclaims: "Most blessed are you among women and blessed us the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

(Luke 1:42-43).

Mary's role as mother of God places her in a unique position in God's redemptive plan.



For the week of:

DECEMBER 30th - JANUARY 7TH

Saturday December 30th

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

- ✚ Vince Porcelli (wife Judy)
- ✚ Philomena Cozzi (Friend)
- ✚ Joann Watts (Friend)
- ✚ Joe Kasper (Toni P)

05:30PM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✚ Gerald Sears (Gregory Jackson & Family)
- ✚ Philomena Cozzi (Friend)
- ✚ Joann Watts (Friend)
- ✚ Sharon Dykema (Nancy Markham)

Sunday December 31st

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

- ✚ Vince Porcelli (wife Judy)

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

Pro Populo

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

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

Monday January 1st

09:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob

Tuesday January 2nd

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- ✚ George Nowak (Wes & Diane Szumowski)
- ✚ In Loving Memory of May (3 Son's Restaurant)

Wednesday January 3rd

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- ✚ Heavenly birthday blessings for Donald Grisko (Family)
- ✚ Heavenly birthday blessings for Victoria Michalec (daughter Angela)

Thursday January 4th

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- ✚ Vince Porcelli (wife Judy)
- ✚ Penny Uram (Barbara Rendak)

Friday January 5th

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- ✚ Kathleen Cordin (Nancy Markham)

Saturday January 6th

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin

Praying for the health of Fr. Norm Trela

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

- ✚ Thomas Murray (Family)
- ✚ Elisa Aranda (Almendarez Family)
- ✚ Max Colunga (Garcia Family)
- ✚ John Labiak (Bill McGleam)

05:30PM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- ✚ Darlene Randle (Ramazinski Family)
- ✚ William R. "Wink" Foulk, III (Markham Family)

Sunday January 7th

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

- ✚ Vince Porcelli (wife Judy)
- ✚ Mary Joyce (Family)
- ✚ Griffin Tulik (Marge Tulik)
- ✚ Joseph Marv Kasper (Senior Club)

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

- ✚ Anthony & Victoria Frydrychowski (Kloc Family)
- ✚ Claude Wiatrak (wife Clara)
- ✚ Thomas Herman (Patti Grzenia)
- ✚ Phyllis Tierny (Arlene Scaletta)
- ✚ Russ Gonsowski (Family)

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

Pro Populo

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

- ✚ Gerald Sears (Maiellaro Family)
- ✚ Ramon Perez 9th Anniversary (Family)
- ✚ Sherry Ibarra (Peter Ibarra)



Presiders are subject to change without notice.

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH | DECEMBER 31, 2023



OUR SANCTUARY CANDLES

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

DECEMBER

VINCE PORCELLI & MARIA PORCELLI

For the repose of their souls, given by Family.

MICHAEL NOWAKOWSKI

For the repose of his soul, given by Joe & Josie Pulido.

PHIL SCALETTA

For the repose of his soul, given by wife Arlene Scaletta.

THANKSGIVING FOR BATTUNG FAMILY

given by Rosario Battung.

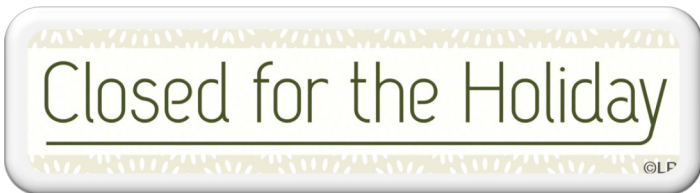
In the lighting of candles, we remember and truly live the words of Our Lord: "I am the Light of the World." In the lighting of the sanctuary candles we honor a loved one, living or deceased.

Please Join Us in Praying for the Sick

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Arnold Adaska | Debbie Lipien | Beverly Zummerling |
| Guadalupe Almendarez | Cathy Mazeika | |
| Maxine Carey | Clarence Oleszkiewicz | |
| Margaret Dalton | Rose Paczek | |
| Joanne Gallas | Ramon Perez | |
| Mitch Gallas | Ann Robertson | |
| Ron Kelly | Fr. John Rudnik | |
| Sharon Labiak | Jack Ruggiero | |
| Maryann Larson | Shirley Tloczek | |
| Natalie Lecompte | Fr. Norm Trela | |



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



Parish office will be closed on Monday January 1st. We will resume back for regular hours on Tuesday January 2nd at 9am-4pm

Happy Holidays!



Due to an early deadline, contribution information will be printed on the next bulletin.



ONLINE/ELECTRONIC DONATIONS

\$15,889.00

October 1, 2023 to November 30, 2023

Total number of transactions:
517



THANK YOU TO ALL THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE BASKET RAFFLE, WE MADE APPROXIMATELY \$4,030.00

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE WINNERS OF THE HOLIDAY BASKETS RAFFLE,

1. Cheryl M.
2. Barbara S.
3. Sullivan Family
4. Sally E.
5. Mark K.
6. Lorel B.
7. Ellen S.
8. Sally E.
9. Patrice L.
10. Brian M.
11. Jorge R.



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Thank you once again to the parishioners of Two Holy Martyrs parish who donated gifts to our Advent Giving Tree Project. We were able to send approximately 700 gifts to three charities, and \$5,000 in gift cards to St. Vincent de Paul and Catholic Charities to assist them in their work with needy families. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

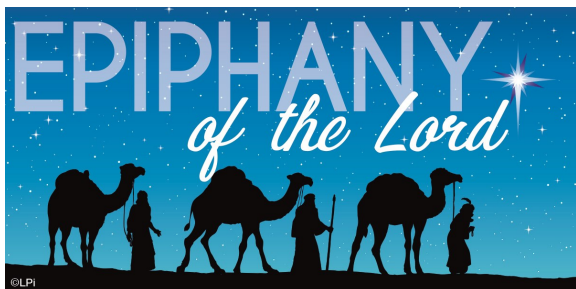
A special thank you to the Pacino family for their continued help in delivering the gifts to the charities.



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

Sharon Dykema
Diana Marleau
Joan Vanderplow



**We have Epiphany Kits available
at the parish office.
Suggested donation is \$5.00**



FAITH FORMATION

Important!

Upcoming Events:

1/1/24: HAPPY NEW YEAR !!

Classes Resume:

1/13: Faith Formation Classes
Saturday, St. Sym's Campus.
9am - 10:30am.

1/16: Faith Formation Classes
Tuesday, St. Sym's Campus.
6pm - 7:30pm.



NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Another year is dawning
with the chance to start anew.
May I be kinder, wiser, Lord,
In all I say and do.
Not so caught up in selfish gain
That I would fail to see
The things in Life that mean the most
Cost not a fancy fee.
The warm, kind word that I can give,
The outstretched hand to help,
The prayers I pray for those in need-
More precious these than wealth.
I know not what may lie ahead
Of Laughter or of tears:
I only need to know each day
That You are walking near.
I'm thankful for this brand New Year
As now I humbly pray,
My hand secure in Yours, dear Lord,
Each step along the way.

Kay Hoffman



LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT

We congratulate all the students on their very creative lighthouses.

Reminding us all that Jesus is the Light of the world!



Faith Formation Program Emergency Closing Information

In the event of a heavy snowfall, or inclement weather, you can access Emergency Closing Information for our program by going to our website:
Twoholymartyrs.org

In the event of an emergency closing, the announcement of the emergency closing will be the first message displayed on the website homepage.

PARISH SCHOOL NEWS

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



URGENT SCHOLARSHIP HELP NEEDED for Catholic Schools

**Please make a gift to safeguard the
future of Catholic education.**



With the sunset of the Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship program, thousands of Catholic school families cannot keep their children in school.

Thankfully, supporting scholarships has never been easier. Please visit archchicago.org/scholarships to make an online gift to any school in the Archdiocese of Chicago.



Given the sunset of the Tax Credit Scholarship December 31st, we are in great need of funds to support our school children who desire to remain at St. Symphorosa School. We currently have 44 students who are receiving a Tax Credit Scholarship for this school year based on their families' financial need. We believe all things are possible with God and I am hopeful with the support of our school and parish community, these children will be able to continue their education at our parish school, St. Symphorosa next year and beyond. I hope that you will consider making a donation specifically directed to St. Symphorosa School to support our students.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and generosity.

With Gratitude,

Dr. Kathy Berry-Principal



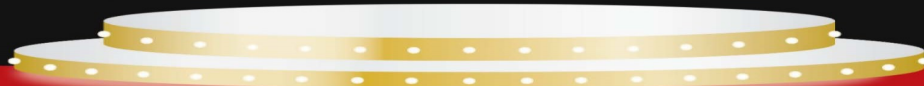
Proudly Presents...

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK OPEN HOUSE

We are "Setting the Stage for Success" at St. Symphorosa School!

Here we:

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



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024
10:30AM-1:30PM**

**6125 S. AUSTIN AVE CHICAGO, IL 60638
773.585.6888 WWW.STSYMSSCHOOL.ORG**