

MAGI FROM THE EAST



“

WHERE IS
THE NEWBORN
KING OF
THE JEWS?

”



- THREE WISE MEN

©LPI

January 7, 2024



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



The ancient philosopher Plato wrote, "We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light."

Who is Jesus? He tells us, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Jesus isn't merely one light among many lights. He is THE Light. We need no longer live in darkness. We as freewill human beings can decide to hide from the light; to pull down the shades or to figuratively hide/live in a cave. The light didn't disappear. We decided to shut it out by choice.

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Epiphany. A one-word definition of Epiphany is manifestation. God is revealing Himself in time and space in a visible, tangible way – the baby king we call Jesus. The stargazers we call the Magi allowed the "heavens" to guide them to Bethlehem (House of Bread) to the One who is Light.

What are the world's reactions to the Messiah? Our Gospel today helps us see three reactions: acceptance, indifference, and rejection.

The Magi were not Jews. They arrived from afar in search of the truth, and ended up encountering the One who is Truth itself.

In the presence of the Light, they prostrated themselves. To prostrate oneself means to fall to the ground stretched out face down. It's a sign of humility and respect. Then the magi present gifts to the baby king. They accepted the good news.

The chief priests and scribes of the people possessed the prophetic knowledge of the long-awaited Messiah but stayed put in discerning prophecy while being indifferent to the arrival of the One all prophecy pointed toward – the Christ.

King Herod viewed news of the baby king with suspicion and paranoia. He uses deceit to find out where this baby king is located. We eventually learn that King Herod would order the murder of all newly born boys aged two and under. King Herod represents outright rejection of the good news of salvation.

Herod reminds us that evil cannot create, so it destroys.

We see all three reactions to Christ present in our own day and age: those who **ACCEPT** him, those who are **INDIFFERENT**, and those who **REJECT** him.

One of the powerful moments during a Baptism is when the priest or deacon lights the baptismal candle off the Paschal Candle and hands it to baby's Godfather while saying, "Receive the light of Christ."

The baptized have truly received the light of Christ through the waters of baptism by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The priest or deacon continues by saying, "This light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours has been enlightened by

Christ. He/She is to walk always as a child of light."

You and I, as baptized disciples of Jesus, are called to be light bearers in this world. We need not allow ourselves to be swallowed up by the despair of darkness that has no hope for tomorrow. Jesus is the reason for our hope because his Light is eternal, and this Light has broken into this world by way of the baby king who comes, not to live, but to die so that we might have life with him FOREVER.

Let's face it, we live in an ABC culture at the moment. ABC means Anything But Christ. There are still those, like Herod, who see the Messiah as a threat to their way of life, or their power. There are still those who choose to be indifferent. But rejection of Christ and indifference to Christ do not cancel out the truth that Light has come to dispel the darkness.

We are called to receive this Light, live in this Light, and share this Light, until the day the Light brings us Home. Don't be afraid of the Light.

Quote -- "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." -- Martin Luther King, Jr.





FR. KEVIN'S GREGORIAN RANTS

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Universal Prayer, which is also called the Prayer of the Faithful or the General Intercessions. As the people of God, we offer him prayers and petitions in union with the sacrifice of the Mass it's a response to the readings that we heard proclaimed and the creed that we professed together.

It's a great link between hearing and meditating on God's word and the offertory that directly follows.

Every Catholic is baptized as a priest, prophet, and king. Now, the baptismal priesthood is different from the ministerial priesthood, which only comes with ordination and is required to administer the sacraments.

However, each Catholic has the ability to offer themselves and their prayers to God. Here is an excerpt from the Second Vatican Council: "For all their works, prayers and apostolic endeavors, their ordinary married and family life, their daily occupations, their physical and mental relaxation, if carried out in the Spirit, and even the hardships of life, if patiently borne—all these become spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." **(Lumen Gentium 34)**

During the Universal Prayer at Mass, we offer prayers on behalf of the parish community and the entire Church. Generally, we offer a proposed series of intentions at each Mass: for the needs of the Church and her leaders, for public authorities and the salvation of the whole world, for those burdened by any kind of difficulty (illness, unemployment, etc.), for the local community, and for the dead.

However, the intentions can be tailored based on the real needs of the community and the world at any given time, or for specific liturgies such as marriage or a funeral.

The priest introduces the prayers, which are always presented to God the Father through the Son, by calling on all the faithful present to pray for these specific intentions.

He then closes the intentions with a prayer asking that God hear and answer the intentions according to his will. The intercession of a specific saint can also be invoked here.

The petitions should not be lengthy, nor should they be mini-homilies or exhortations. They should express the prayer of the entire community, not certain interest groups. The proper proclaimer of the Universal Prayer is the deacon, or a lector if a deacon is not present. The faithful stand and give expression to their prayer either by an invocation (i.e. "Lord, hear our prayer") said in common after each intention or by praying in silence.

On Good Friday, the Church prays the Solemn Intercessions during the liturgy on behalf of the whole Church. These are an ancient series of ten intercessions that can be chanted and pray for several different groups of people: the Church and the pope, catechumens, all Christians, the Jewish people, believers of God, atheists, and all those in tribulation. At their heart, they ask God to help restore unity and communion among the world's people and God.

We all have our own list of petitions and intercessions that we pray for on a consistent basis.

Often, we ask others to pray for our friends and family in need or for some situation in life. Praying for others is powerful; it helps us to turn outwards from ourselves and our concerns. The Universal Prayers at Mass are our opportunity to join our petitions together and unify them with the entire parish community to place at the foot of the cross.



For the week of:

JANUARY 6TH - JANUARY 14TH



Saturday January 6th

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)

Monday January 8th

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

- ✠ Remedios Ramirez (Rosario Battung)
- Health & Blessings for Gerardo Gonzalez (Juan Garcia)
- Health & Blessings for Fr. Bob (Mary Kolimas)

Tuesday January 9th

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

- ✠ Maria Staszal (Barbara Rendak)
- Birthday Blessings for Celsa Alvarez (Rosario Battung)

Wednesday January 10th

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

- ✠ Dorothy Meng (Meng Family)
- Health & Blessings for Fr. Kevin (Mary Kolimas)

Thursday January 11th

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

- For Fr. Norm's Health (Mary Kolimas)
- ✠ Bill Rich (Barbara Rendak)

Friday January 12th

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

- ✠ Vince Porcelli (wife Judy)
- ✠ Fr. Maniola (Mary Kolimas)
- Praying for the healing of Joanne Gulino (Rose Roberts)

Saturday January 13th

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

- Birthday Blessing for Henry Cordova (Rosario Battung)
- ✠ Dorothy Meng (Meng Family)
- ✠ Vivencio Battung & All Souls in Purgatory (Rosario Battung)
- ✠ Nick Bouzios (Janina)

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

- ✠ Robert Compton (wife Mary Ellen)
- ✠ Nydia Buentello (daughter Nydia)
- ✠ Joseph Kasper (Arlene Scaletta)
- ✠ Robert Adair (Terri Domarsky)

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

- ✠ Gerald Sears (Gregory Jackson & Family)

Sunday January 14th

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

- ✠ Vince Porcelli (wife Judy)
- ✠ Al Beyer (Toni P)
- ✠ Christian Furczon

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

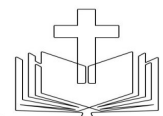
- ✠ Alicia Gaffney (Phillip & Cathy Whitehouse)
- ✠ Claude Wiatrak (wife Clara)
- ✠ Catherine & John Scanlon (Margaret)
- ✠ Joseph Marv Kasper (Theresa Feddor)
- ✠ Rich & Millie Newtoff (Family)

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

- ✠ Heavenly Birthday Blessings for Joanne Bukowiecki (Dan & Patti)
- ✠ Dawn Bodoki (Mom & Dad)
- ✠ Ken Jaros (John & Gloria Bodoki)
- ✠ Joseph Kasper (Linda Dobias)
- ✠ Joanne Bukowiecki (Robert)

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

Pro Populo



Presiders are subject to change without notice.

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH | JANUARY 7, 2024



OUR SANCTUARY CANDLES

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

JANUARY

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

REST WITH THE LORD HENRY & HELEN KROLL
given by Judith Scehovic.

EUGENE BERNADETTE & ANGELA URAM
For the repose of their souls, given by Basia Rendak.

FOR THE HEALTH & RECOVERY OF GREGORY JEANNOTTE
given by Parents.

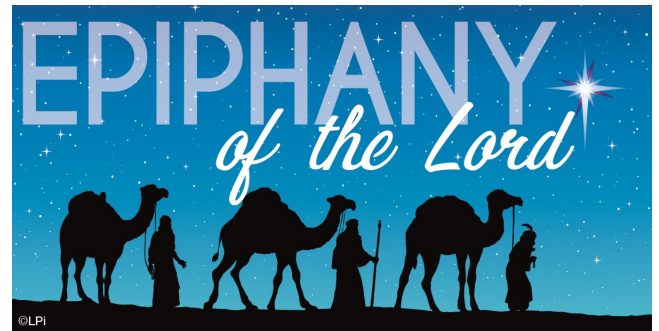
In the lighting of candles, we remember and truly live the words of Our Lord: "I am the Light of the World." In the lighting of the sanctuary candles we honor a loved one, living or deceased.



Thank you for your generosity!

- 1) PARISH OFFERTORY 12/24: \$7,885.00
- 2) PARISH OFFERTORY 12/31: \$9,806.00
- 1) Split the Pot Winning Envelope # 60284 \$370.00
- 2) Split the Pot Winning Envelope # 60013 \$345.00

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



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

Please Join Us in Praying for the Sick

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



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

- Maria Diaz
- Rosaria Alimanni
- Guadalupe Graham
- Vito LaRocchia
- Virginia Piaczynski
- William Rich



Meeting for Parish Organization Leaders

Meeting will be held on
January 16th, 2024
at 10am or 6pm in the Sharp
Center on our St. Symphorosa
Campus

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for the help from our Cub Scouts at our St. Symphorosa Church...



**Two Holy Martyrs Parish
St. Rene Goupil Campus
6340 S. New England Ave**



Super Bingo Sunday January 14, 2024

Doors Open 11:30AM - Games Begin 1:00PM

**Refreshments & Food are Available for Purchase
FREE COFFEE**

Admission \$20 at the Door

For More Information Call 773-767-1523

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.

Valentine's Day
Hosted by the THM Transformation Team

Spilt-the-pot

Sunday
January 28th

Bingo!

Chili Bar! \$20 at the door
Doors open @ 12:30pm
Games start @ 1:30pm

Pulltabs!

In the St. Sym's
I Hall
6148 S. Mason

Come on out of the cold and warm up at our Valentine's Bingo on January 28th! Enjoy bingo and a bowl of chili at our Chili bar with all the toppings! Pull tabs and split-the-pots will also be available so get ready to win at Two Holy Martyrs!!

FAITH FORMATION

Important!

Upcoming Events:

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.

1/21: Second Grade Family Mass,
AKA: The First Communion
Belonging Mass. 9:00am
St. Syms Church.

1/27: Faith Formation Classes
St. Syms Campus. (Sat.)

1/30: Faith Formation Classes
St. Syms Campus. (Tues.)



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.



BELONGING SERVICE

On Sunday, January 21, at the 9:00am. Mass, at St. Symphorosa Church our Faith Formation students and second graders from 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 donating to our local food pantry.



PARISH SCHOOL NEWS



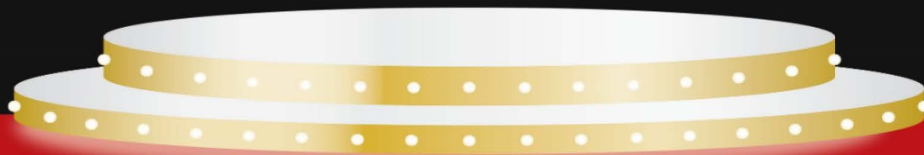
Proudly Presents...

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**