

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | FEBRUARY 5, 2023

# LIGHT



“You are the light  
of the world.”

MATTHEW 5:14A



**TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH**

ST. SYMPHOROSA + ST. RENE GOUPIL

PARISH OFFICE: 6135 S. AUSTIN AVE. | CHICAGO, IL 60638 | (773) 767-1523

[www.twoholymartyrs.org](http://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



Most folks who attend Holy Mass in our parish know I make regular use of quotes when I preach. For years, I have been writing down in a few journals catchy or thought-

provoking quotes. Some quotes are humorous, while others serve to support what's being preached.

Not everyone wants to be a voracious reader, but even the most book-resistant person can be stopped in their tracks after seeing a good quote; a quote so good it might even alter how we view the human person and the world we live in. A good quote can alter how we view our faith.

The following quote is written on a torn piece of paper, and I seem to have forgotten to write down who said it. Oh well!

"Somehow Christian values cannot be enforced. If they are enforced, they are not Christian anymore. You cannot love your enemy by force. That's tyranny, and that's not love."

Jesus is all about moving us from mere observance of cold external law. The Lord desires to TRANSFORM our hearts so that our discipleship is not limited to merely obeying the law but more about our hearts being united to his Sacred Heart. It is the love of Christ in us that drives our words and actions. In other words, we live FOR LOVE.

Here's an example: the Fifth Commandment is "You Shall not Murder." This is a concrete external law given to us by God. And yet, look at all the murder that surrounds us today. Why aren't people obeying God's law? Jesus gets to the HEART of the matter, literally. In the Beatitudes, the Lord says, "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God."

In biblical language, the word heart does not mean our physical pumping

heart. Instead, it means the core of our person; the seat of life or strength. It means mind, soul, spirit, or one's entire emotional nature and understanding.

Jesus is a heart doctor, and we need his healing touch. No one likes to be FORCED into obeying. This is why earthly tyranny won't work on everyone. Tyranny tends to work on those who fear the tyrant's threats and brutality. Our faith – Christianity – is a matter of the heart, and our hearts must be centered on Christ himself. He then lives in and through us.

Is this easy? Heck no! We do battle daily with our wounded human nature, that far too often is selfish. We want what we want when we want it. Jesus, in contrast, moves us toward a selflessness that is God focused and neighbor focused. In the spiritual life, we are served by serving others. "It is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned." (Prayer of St. Francis).

Jesus is inviting us into a different way of seeing. We begin to SEE that God's love and God's law are connected and that the parameters the Lord is giving us are for our own good and the good of the human race.

What happens to a young child who gets everything he wants when he wants it? We say that child ends up being spoiled. Well, we can sometimes carry this into adulthood. We want what we want when we want it, regardless of if it's God's will. This is not a good road to take in light of the common good.

When Mother Church (guided by sacred scripture and sacred tradition) teaches, she teaches with God's revelation in mind and all of humanity in mind. Mother Church is not Congress, which is heavily influenced by lobbyists who are out for their own special interests.

We are always able to use our freewill to do whatever we want. God gave us this gift. But is what we want to do in line with God's love and God's law? Is what we want to do when we want to do it even good for us?

It all begins in the heart. Ideally, our heart in relationship with Jesus' Sacred Heart.

## SUNDAY, SUNDAY, SUNDAY

We call Sunday the Lord's Day, and so it is.

Recall, however, Mark's gospel, chapter two. It reads, "The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath."

This means that the sabbath of the Old Covenant was for the people, and that the sabbath of the New Covenant (Sunday) is also for the people. We need it. God needs nothing. Sunday is a day of rest, worship and family FOR US.

As Catholics, Holy Mass is our avenue of formal worship that is for our benefit. Again, God does not need our worship. We need God's grace, and Holy Mass is where we worship, and are in turn sanctified.

Unfortunately, in our culture, Sunday has become just another day of the week. Many folks no longer formally worship. Many folks no longer rest. Many folks no longer spend time with family.

Okay, Fr. Bob, now what? We help people rediscover the Sabbath; we help people see that Sunday is for our good, our well-being. Every single human being worships. We are wired for worship. God put it there. The question is ... who or what are we worshipping?

There are folks who no longer worship at a one-hour Mass but have no problem sitting through a three-and-a-half hour sporting event, or going to a two-hour movie at the theater, or those folks who surf in internet for hours. We make time for what is important to us.

Jesus gives us Holy Mass as pure blessing. He did not intend it to be a burden. He knows we need to worship and he gives us his very own Self as the object of our deepest desire. Happy Sunday!

*"Rest provides fine-tuning for hearing God's messages amidst the static of life."*

SHELLY MILLER

# LET US PRAY



## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 4 - FEBRUARY 10

### Saturday, January 4th

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

- † Thomas Murray (Family)
- † Daniel Marro (Donna Topps)
- † Dalia Kucenas (Daughter Silva)

5:30 PM | *St. Symphorosa Church* | *Presider: Fr. Bob*

- † Sara McKenna (Art & Katie Carpenter)

### Sunday, February 5th

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

Health & all the Lord's Blessings for Vernon Hylka (Nancy Shotas)

- † Al Beyer (Toni P.)
- † Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)
- † Josephine Regnier (Sage Family)

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

All members of the Altar & Rosary Society (A&R Society)

- † Kathy Calcagno (Ray & Mary Lou Kolasinski)
- † John Cox (Karen Walsh)
- † Frances Szumowski (Kathleen & Jim Laski)

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

- † Isabel Rodriguez (Bert Rodriguez)

† Christian Furczon

- † Joseph & Mary Negoski (Ben & Judy Shafer)

† Judith Siwek (Family)

12:00 PM | *St. Symphorosa Church* | *Presider: Fr. Norm*

Pro Populo (for the People of the Parish)

### Monday, February 6th | 8 AM | *St. Symphorosa Church*

Health & all the Lord's Blessings for Frances Hisson (Arelene Scaletta)

- † Tony Bojarski (Barbara Rendak)

### Tuesday, February 7th | 8 AM | *St. Symphorosa Church*

Health & all the Lord's Blessings for Samantha Kuebler (Mary Kolimas)

- † Louis Gomez (Family)

### Wednesday, February 8th | 8 AM | *St. Symphorosa Church*

- † Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

- † Virginia Blazeniak (Irene Perconti)

### Thursday, February 9th | 8 AM | *St. Symphorosa Church*

Health & all the Lord's Blessings for Nancy Shotas (Steve Chavos)

- † Josephine Wodarczyk (Barbara Rendak)

- † James Suchy (Family)

### Friday, February 10th | 8 AM | *St. Symphorosa Church*

Health & all the Lord's Blessings for Adele Vacchiano (Arlene Scaletta)

- † Rev. Francis Maniola (Olaska Family)

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR SATURDAY & SUNDAY

### Saturday, February 11th

8:00 AM | *St. Symphorosa Church*

- † Grupenhagen Family (Marie Zilka)
- † Sophie Budz (Barbara Rendak)
- † Patricia Biniewicz (Jean Piotrowski)

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

Pro Populo (for the People of the Parish)

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

- † Dorothea Caffey (Jim & Tricia Ramazinski)
- † Catherine Lawler (Mary Trendle)
- † Frances Szumowski (Art & Katie Carpenter)

### Sunday, February 12th

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

Health & all the Lord's Blessings for Vernon Hylka (Nancy Shotas)

- † Al Beyer (Toni P.)

- † Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

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

Living & deceased members of the Budoosky Family (Fox Family)

Deceased members of the Trezek Family (Family)

- † Marge & Bob Fitzgerald (Sally Carmody)

- † Eileen "Sally" Setina (Nancy Markham)

- † Marianna Loughran (Bunco Gals)

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

- † Valentina & Felix Almendarez (Almendarez Family)

- † Nydia Buentello (Laurel Family)

- † Mary Rita Flowers (Hughes Family)

- † Jesse Sandoval (Donna Topps)

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

- † Mary Suchy (Family)

- † Bob John & Bobby Soltis (Soltis Family)

- † Nick Alderfer & Mickie Valestin (Soltis Family)

*\*Weekend presider subject to change without notice.\**

## PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THE SICK

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

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

# FR. MATT'S REFLECTION



When discovering something new, solving a mystery, perhaps even investigating a crime or problem, the dedicated individuals occasionally will describe

their endeavor as analogous, "to peeling back the layers of an onion," laboring to find the core, the sought-after answer. One layer removed, one step completed, allows access to the next one and so forth until the center, the origin or end is found. For anyone who cooks with onions, peeling the layers not only leads to the core but can progressively release more potent odors. Nearing the end of mystery or the solution to a problem can heighten the sense of urgency and excitement as the conclusion seems imminent. Our Lord knows these conditions of our humanity, our experiences, desires, and communication. As we continue with the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel Reading for this Sunday, Jesus segues from the Beatitudes, the ways, which lead to happiness in God and those who practice them, to their responsibilities. The Son of God is beginning to peel back the layers of what discipleship will require.

In the second portion of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus does not reference onions but instead chooses salt as a metaphor. Salt seems to have been a familiar seasoning, not a rare spice beyond the experience of the crowds who are listening to Him. Salt, with its distinct flavor (analogous to an onion's characteristic odor), would seem to lose its purpose if, as Jesus cautions, it no longer is characterized with any taste: "You are the salt of the earth.

But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot." (Matthew 5:13) Salt is supposed to be noticeable, distinguishable because of its taste.

Shifting from food and the sense of taste, Jesus moves on to light and the sense of sight. Light is integral if objects are to be seen under normal conditions by our eyes. Again, light, whether emitted from the Sun, candles, or oil lamps, probably is familiar to most of the people who are in Jesus' presence. The absence of light would complicate movement then as does even now. One of the properties of light is that it interacts with things to make them and their features, such as color and size, visible to us. We are able to distinguish items, even people, in most instances, predominantly by how they appear, which depends on illumination. Hence, Jesus exhorts those before Him, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." (Matthew 5:14-16)

Both salt and light are ordinary yet distinct. It is on this basis, salt by its nature conveying salty flavor and light by its nature illuminating objects, that they are easily recognizable and perhaps the reason for why Jesus references them as ways of teaching how those who would follow Him are to be ordinary yet distinct. This understanding of Jesus' preaching is part of the commentary proffered by our bishops: "By their deeds the disciples are to influence the world for good. They can no more escape notice than a city set on a mountain. If they fail in good works, they are as useless as

flavorless salt or as a lamp whose light is concealed." (Accessed on 30 January 2023, <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/matthew/5>.)

Jesus is not calling for these early inquirers to act ostentatiously in His name, making a public spectacle or upheaval. By contrast, one who is genuinely a disciple of the Word made flesh will be noticeable to others in a way that leads back to Christ and will "glorify your heavenly Father." Differing from salt, which by its nature bears a salty flavor, and light, which by its nature illuminates things, those who would be followers of the Lord will have to choose to persevere in His way, in word and deed, in worship and daily living. St. Paul describes how he has acted as a Christian, a way of being salt and light: "I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear and much trembling, and my message and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of Spirit and power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God." (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

How, in what specific ways, do we demonstrate that we are Christians? This is a challenging question. To be authentic but not showy, to be distinguishable but not attention-seeking, Jesus has already provided us with some direction: the Beatitudes. What we believe and pray: We are "salt of the earth" and "the light of the world." What to stop doing, sins to avoid: Being honest with ourselves, do we want to be known as Catholics, why or why not? What to do: Go back to the Beatitudes or St. Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians and learn what they teach us.

"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 FEBRUARY

For the repose of the souls of the members of the Calcagno & Bliss Families given by Kathy Calcagno.

For the repose of the souls of Vince Porcelli & his daughter Mania Porcelli given by

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

## WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

### New Parishioners and Updating Information:

Please visit the parish office or our website ([www.twoholymartyrs.org](http://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!**



*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 PARISHES** in the month of February:

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

## 2022 Parish Contribution Letters Now 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](http://twoholymartyrs.org).



We will hold all requested tax letters for pick-up or send it via email.



## TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH OFFERING

For the weekend of Sunday, January 29, 2022

# \$8,963.10

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**JANUARY 29, 2022**  
Split the Pot Collection:

# \$370.00



Winning Envelope:

# #63875

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

## ONLINE/ELECTRONIC DONATIONS

# \$8,551.00

**December 1 - December 31, 2022**

Total number of transactions:  
265

*Thank you for your generosity!*



## SAVE THE DATE!

# CASINO Night



## MARCH 18, 2023

Sponsored by the St. Symphorosa School Advisory Board



# ASH WEDNESDAY

## FEBRUARY 22, 2023

8 AM Mass - St. Symphorosa  
11 AM School Mass - St. Symphorosa

Noon Service - St. René Goupil  
3:30 PM Service - St. Symphorosa  
4:30 PM Service - St. René Goupil  
5:30 PM Service - St. Symphorosa

7 PM Mass - St. René Goupil

*Spend time with 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.**



# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT

## New for Lent 2023



To the men of Two Holy Martyrs Parish, if you are interested in a more challenging and substantive Lent, consider Exodus Lent.

Exodus Lent is a 46-day spiritual exercise for men based on three pillars: prayer, asceticism, and fraternity.

This program would begin on February 22 (Ash Wednesday) and end 46 days later, on April 8 (Holy Saturday).

More information about Exodus Lent may be found at <https://exodus90.com/how-lent-works/>.

I am willing to organize Exodus Lent but need to know if any men are interested in participating it. If you have any questions or would like to participate in Exodus Lent, please contact me at [matthew.compton1@icloud.com](mailto:matthew.compton1@icloud.com) or call me at (773) 767-1523, ext. 229.  
Fr. Matt

## Map for Healthy Families

“Am I understanding you?”, “If I am hearing you correctly ...?”, “Is that what you mean?”

If you have ever thought or asked these questions or desired that a family member or friend better understood you, then the “Map for Healthy Families,” might be a source for improving your communication skills.

The “Map for Healthy Families” is part of a curriculum called *Survival Skills for Healthy Families*. *Survival Skills for Healthy Families* “is a quickly learned and easily adapted family education program, which has proven effective in a variety of communities, cultures, and languages.”

The “Map for Healthy Families,” one lesson from the larger curriculum, will be offered on Saturday, February 18, from 1:00-3:00 PM, at St. Rene Church. There is no registration fee and handouts will be provided.

Additional information about this instruction may be found at the following website: <https://familywellness.com>.

If you have questions about this presentation, please contact me at (773) 767-1523, ext. 229, or at [matthew.compton1@icloud.com](mailto:matthew.compton1@icloud.com).  
Fr. Matt

# PARISH SCHOOL NEWS



ST. SYMPHOROSA  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
OF TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH

## TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP 1:1 MATCHING PROGRAM

Do you know that only 1 in 5 kids benefits from a tax credit scholarship? At St. Symphorosa School, 48 kids remain on our waitlist hoping for a scholarship. Help us get more kids off the waitlist and into our classrooms.

If you make your donation between Dec. 1 and March 31, 2023, your donation will be doubled through the @archchicago 1-for-1 Matching Program.

We have a special opportunity to make a difference in our community. Catholic education would not happen without the help and support of our community and those who love our Church. This program provides life changing scholarships to children in our community who otherwise would not have access to our wonderful school.

### LEARN MORE AT:

<https://schools.archchicago.org/curriculum-and-resources/tax-credit-scholarships/donating-to-a-tax-credit-scholarship>

### MORE CONTACT INFO:

Tax Credit Scholarship Office  
[tcs@archchicago.org](mailto:tcs@archchicago.org) or  
312.534.261



# FAITH FORMATION

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**2/11: Faith Formation Classes St. Syms Campus. (Sat.) & Communion Retreat.**

**2/12: Communion Retreat.**

**2/14: Faith Formation Classes Rene Campus. (Tues.)**



### Gospel Reflection

Matthew 5: 1 – 12a

*I believe this gospel shows us how merciful the Lord really is and how he loves everyone. Not only is He merciful, but He lifts us up. This is a sign of God's love. God offers help to those He sees are in need. The Lord is BIG and is always looking after us, which shows us how protective He is to us all. We should never take this for granted because this is Real and True.*

Evolet E.

### SPIRIT DAY RETREAT

On February 26th, our Confirmation Candidates from our Faith Formation Program and the Eighth Grade Students from St. Symphorosa Catholic School will gather for their Pre-Confirmation Spirit Day Retreat. This special day will begin at our 9 AM Mass and then continue into the I-Building. This spiritual day will be filled with activities that are prayerful, reflective, and at the same time, fun. We invite all our parishioners to pray for our Confirmation Candidates as they continue their journey toward the Sacrament of Confirmation.



## FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

Peg Siebenaler, Faith Formation Coordinator  
(773) 767-1523 Ext. 226 | [msiebenaler@archchicago.org](mailto: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 tell stories about our Holy Communion Experiences from the past. We will also share Bread within the context of this gathering and each First Communicant will receive a Special Remembrance of this Sacrament.*

*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".*

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

**Our Level One Faith Formation students are already preparing for next year when they will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.**



### Faith Formation Program Emergency Closing Information

**Important Reminder:** 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](http://TwoHolyMartyrs.org).

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

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Thank you to the following neighborhood businesses supporting

## St. Symphorosa Girl Scout Troop 26186

in our 2023 Cookie Sale!

The Scouts will be at the following locations on the given dates and times:

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 10-2  
A CUP OF JOE  
6806 W ARCHER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 12-4  
SHOP & SAVE MARKET  
5829 S. ARCHER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 10-2  
JEWEL-OSCO  
6107 S ARCHER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 9-1  
PEACHES AND PEARS  
6435 W ARCHER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 9-1  
TAMALERIA LUPITA  
5904 1/2 W. 63RD ST.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 11-3  
FAIR SHARE SUPERMARKET  
6422 W 63RD ST

SUNDAY, MARCH 12  
ST. SYMPHOROSA AND ST RENE CHURCHES  
AFTER 9 AM, 10:30 AM, AND 12 PM MASS

## 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.

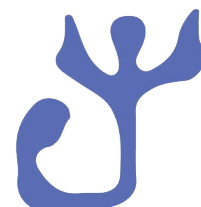
This unique retreat/workshop will be held at St. Mary's Retreat House, Lemont, Illinois. The Joyful Again! program is for both men and women (all ages) who have been widowed and are still trying to find hope and new joy in life. All are welcome!

**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 or e-mail us at joyfulagain7211@gmail.com  
Website: www.joyfulagain.org



INSTITUTE FOR  
DIACONAL STUDIES

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



## 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, DMM 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/fzPB0UyWfb](https://forms.office.com/r/fzPB0UyWfb).

For more information, please contact Anastasia Jakubow at [ajakobowrashchian@archchicago.org](mailto:ajakobowrashchian@archchicago.org).