

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# HE LEFT AND WENT OFF.

MARK 1:35



©LPI



February 4, 2024

**TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH**  
ST. SYMPHOROSA + ST. RENE GOUPIL



# 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



Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Chicago  
Building a Better Tomorrow for  
Those in Need

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

TUESDAYS | 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](http://www.twoholymartyrs.org)

✉ [info@twoholymartyrs.org](mailto: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](http://www.stsymsschool.org)

✉ [office@stsymphorosaschool.org](mailto:office@stsymphorosaschool.org)

### MONDAY—FRIDAY

9 AM—3 PM



# FR. BOB'S WEEKLY BLOG



One of the main obstacles people say keeps them from belief in God is the reality of evil.

They look at the world and see evidence of man's inhumanity to man and say, "How could a good and loving God allow this to happen?"

In all honesty, that's a fair question; one that our Judeo-Christian faith has wrestled with for thousands of years. Who among us hasn't witnessed an event in the news or in our personal lives that makes us shout, "That is so evil. Why?"

This topic of evil could fill volumes of heady theological books as the author dives into the story of creation, the Fall, Original Sin, spiritual death, physical death, and salvation through the suffering, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. We do not have the space for that in this bulletin.

Please note, however, that as we think about evil, there is a part of us that recognizes evil as evil and recognizes how things SHOULD BE.

Where does the 'should be' come from? Who or what is the standard of "should be" or "ought to be?" Our first reading this Sunday is from the Book of Job. In light of our own struggles with suffering, evil and death, please consider reading the

entirety of Job during the coming weeks and into the season of Lent.

The complete answer to the problem Job raises is to be found in the Person of Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for the salvation of all humankind. With eyes of faith, we can see beyond this world to the reality of eternal life.

The human person is immortal and after this life there are two possibilities: the wicked who reject God's offer of love will experience eternal separation from Love for all eternity, while those who love him in return and do his will in this life will attain eternal life with the Holy Trinity (which is Love).

Best life advice? Stay close to Christ.

## Fr. Norm Trela Update

As of February 1, 2024, Fr. Norm Trela has moved into permanent residence at Franciscan Village in Lemont, Illinois.

This is a tough transition for Fr. Norm and for those who love him. Fr. Norm has been a mainstay on the southwest side of Chicago for a long time; as an associate pastor at St. Symphorosa, as the chaplain for St. Laurence High School, and as the retired priest in residence in the parish rectory.

This journey to transition began a few months ago when Fr. Norm fell in the parish office and broke his shoulder. He's been through numerous surgeries already and had been rehabilitating at Franciscan Village.

The Vicar's Office for the Archdiocese of Chicago, in consultation with his nurses and

doctors, has firmly recommended Fr. Norm move to a facility that is more conducive to his present needs. He will have his own space, and he will also have the attentive daily care he needs.

Please allow Fr. Norm some time to get settled. Keep him in your prayers. And yes, he can receive letters, cards, and personal visits.

Once the winter weather breaks, we plan to have a thank you celebration for Fr. Norm here at the parish. We will work with Fr. Norm on a day and time. He has given so much of his time, treasure, and talent to this community. We can gather as a parish for Holy Mass and to say thank you as he begins his new assignment as the "**Pope of Franciscan Village.**"

Thank you, Fr. Norm. You are loved. You are a beloved son of the God the Father. You have touched many lives and will continue to touch lives in your new environs. God bless you during this transition.

**Quote** -- "Every trial has a purpose, even if we won't see it fulfilled on earth." -- **St. Teresa of Avila**





# FR. KEVIN'S GREGORIAN RANTS

During the offertory and the preparation of the gifts on the altar, you'll notice that the priest and the deacon say some prayers in a quiet voice. We've already talked about the Berakah prayers ("Blessed are you, Lord God..."), but there are a few more. One is during the preparation of the chalice, one is as the priest bows to the altar, and the last is as the priest washes his hands.

The deacon, or the priest in his absence, is responsible to prepare the chalice by mixing wine made from grapes with a small bit of water. As he does this, he speaks these words: "By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity."

In ancient times, water and wine were often mixed to improve the quality and safety of the water, which would come from cisterns, jars, or other sources of stagnate water. It's not a practice that we need to use today due to water filtration and purification.

However, you can see the theological significance of this

action. As the prayer alludes to, the water symbolizes humanity that, without divine intervention, remains idle and unsafe. The added wine of divinity cleanses the water and binds to it. The mixing in the chalice during Mass dates back to 250 AD. St. Cyprian wrote: "Because Christ bore us all, in that he bore our sins, we see that by the water, people are signified, while in the wine, indeed, the blood of Christ is shown. And when the water is mixed with the wine in the cup, the people are made one with Christ, and the multitude of believers is coupled and joined to him in whom it believes."

Additionally, when mixed, the water and wine cannot be separated. Jesus Christ, from the moment of the Incarnation, is forever true God and true man.

As the Council of Chalcedon clarified in 451 AD, Jesus' two natures persist in his person "without confusion, change, division, or separation." Christ elevates humanity to be united with the divinity God intended in the creation of man.

The mixing of water and wine also symbolizes the blood and water which flowed forth from Christ's side when he was pierced on the cross. This was a foreshadowing of the sacraments of salvation that would be given to the Church, namely Baptism and the Eucharist.

Once the Berakah prayers are complete and the water and wine are mixed, the priest bows and says, "With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day be pleasing to you, Lord God." This prayer speaks of our humble offering on the altar and the direction in which the sacrifice is being offered.

The priest's last action before beginning the Eucharistic prayer is the ablution. He washes his hands and says, "Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin." Not only does it serve a sanitary purpose of cleaning one's hands, but it speaks of what is about to happen. The priest, by the power of God, is going to consecrate the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. This final prayer is the priest asking God that he remembers his own sinful humanity and it is by the power of God that the priest is able to offer so great a sacrifice.



# For the week of:

February 3rd—February 11th



## Saturday February 3rd

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

- ✠ Joe Kasper (Dorothy Sangpeal)
- ✠ Thomas Murray (Family)
- ✠ Jack Ruggiero (Bill McGleam)
- ✠ Angeline McGleam (husband Bill)

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

- ✠ Virginia Pieczynski (Tom & Dawn Gasior)
- ✠ Donna Martin (Mary Trendle)
- ✠ Kathleen Gutierrez (Lynn Alkins)

## Sunday February 4th

**7:30 AM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin

PRO POPULO

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

- ✠ Robert Adair (Karen Walsh)
- ✠ Glen Altman (Arlene Scaletta)
- ✠ Virginia Pieczynski (Arlene Scaletta)

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

- ✠ Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)
- ✠ Christian Furczon
- Health & God's Blessing for Joan Orsi (Rose Roberts)
- ✠ Jack Orsi (Rose Roberts)
- ✠ Joseph & Mary Negoski (Ben & Judy Shafer)

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

- ✠ Krystyna Lukasik (Stanley Lukasik)

## Monday February 5th

**08:00 AM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob

- God's Blessings for Wedding of Andre & Catherine David (Mary Kolimas)
- ✠ George Shaffer (John Garcia)

## Tuesday February 6th

**08:00 AM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- ✠ Tony Bojarski (Barbara Rendak)
- ✠ Robert Kloc (Kloc Family)
- ✠ John Chavez, Jr. (Wife Maria & Family)

## Wednesday February 7th

**08:00 AM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- ✠ Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)
- ✠ Stanley Judeikis (Family)

## Thursday February 8th

**08:00 AM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠ Barbara Matthews (John Garcia)
- ✠ Elizabeth Pretkelis-Heaton (Barbara Rendak)

## Friday February 9th

**08:00 AM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠ Josephine Wodarczyk (Barbara Rendak)
- ✠ Krystyna Lukasik (Stanley Lukasik)
- Birthday Blessings for Nancy Shotas (Husband Steve)

## Saturday February 10th

**08:00 AM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin

- In Honor of Our Lady of Lourdes for Good Health Blessings (Rosario Battung)

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

- ✠ Robert Compton (Wife Mary Ellen)
- ✠ Valentina & Felix Almendarez (Almendarez Family)

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

- ✠ Gerald Sears (Gregory Jackson & Family)

## Sunday February 11th

**7:30 AM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob

- ✠ Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

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

PRO POPULO

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

- ✠ Ken Jaros (John & Gloria Bodoki)
- ✠ Rita Tomczak (Katie Sigafoose)
- Prayers for Recovery of Joanne Gulino (Florence & Steve Wilton)
- ✠ Judith Siwek

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

- ✠ Bob, John & Bobby Soltis (Pat Soltis)
- ✠ Nick, Mickey & Miriam (Pat Soltis)
- ✠ Sophie Budz (Barbara Rendak)
- ✠ Stanley Judeikis (Family)



***Presiders are subject to change without notice.***

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH | February 4, 2024





**OUR SANCTUARY CANDLES**

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

**FEBRUARY**

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

**LYNDA SULLIVAN**  
For the repose of her soul, given by Family.

**MICHAEL NOWAKOWSKI**  
For the repose of his soul, given by Joe & Josie Pulido (Parents).

**ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOLTIS, KRZAN & PICHLER FAMILIES**  
given by Pat Soltis.

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         | Shirley Tloczek    |
| Guadalupe Almendarez | Rosemary Litwin       | Fr. Norm Trela     |
| Maxine Carey         | Joelee MacMaster      | Judith Webber      |
| Margaret Dalton      | Cathy Mazeika         | Beverly Zimmerling |
| Joanne Gallas        | Clarence Oleszkiewicz |                    |
| Mitch Gallas         | Ramon Perez           |                    |
| Karen Holmes         | Ann Robertson         |                    |
| Ron Kelly            | Fr. John Rudnik       |                    |
| Sharon Labiak        | Adan Sanchez          |                    |
| Maryann Larson       | Karen Singer          |                    |
| Natalie Lecompte     | Manuel Soto           |                    |



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**

- Rose Donato
- William Rich
- Susan Gannon



**Thank you for your generosity!**

PARISH OFFERTORY 1/28: \$11,344.00

Split the Pot Winning Envelope #: 60040: \$375.00

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



**Two Holy Martyrs Parish is  
HIRING**

**Full/Part Time Maintenance Person**

We are currently accepting resumes for a Part Time or Full Time Maintenance Position. Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter, highlighting experience and interest to [khilliard@archchicago.org](mailto:khilliard@archchicago.org)



**Anyone interested in assisting at our monthly BINGO at our St. Rene Campus? Please contact Ms. Kathy Clepp at 773.858.1497**



**If you would like a statement of your contributions for 2023, please call the parish office at 773.767.1523 to request your letter during our business hours or visit our website at [twoholymartyrs.org](http://twoholymartyrs.org)**

**The statement can be picked up in person with a photo ID or email to you. Thank you.**

# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LITURGY NOTICE

REVISED PARISH MASS SCHEDULE  
effective  
February 17-18, 2024:

### Saturday

4 PM Mass (Vigil Mass) at St. Rene church

### Sunday

7:30 AM Mass at St. Rene church

9 AM Mass at St. Sym's church

10:30 AM Mass at St. Rene church

Noon (12PM) Mass at St. Sym's church

**Note:** The 5:30 PM Saturday Vigil Mass will no longer be an option starting Saturday, Feb. 17.



## FEBRUARY 14, 2024

8AM Mass - St. Symphorosa

11 AM School Mass - St. Symphorosa

Noon Service - St. Rene Goupil

3:30 PM Service - St. Symphorosa

4:30 PM Service - St. Rene Goupil

5:30 PM Service - St. Symphorosa

7PM Mass - St. Rene Goupil

Please scan the QR code below to get more information on the  
**2024 Annual Catholic Appeal**

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



2024 Annual Catholic Appeal

Together at the table



[annualcatholicappeal.com](http://annualcatholicappeal.com)

Last Supper by Jen Norton, JenNortonArtStudio.com. Printed with permission.



## Winter Parking REMINDER

To allow for winter plowing and salting operations, all vehicles must be removed from parish lots prior to any snow/ice events. The inability to properly plow/salt our lots could result in the vehicle being towed at the owner's expense. The parish appreciates everyone's cooperation! If you have any questions/concerns, please contact the Parish Office at (773)767-1523. Thank you!



# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



SUPPORT THE CHURCH  
IN CENTRAL AND  
EASTERN EUROPE



## RESTORE THE CHURCH BUILD THE FUTURE

Catholics are called to evangelize their neighbors and loved ones by leading them into an encounter with Jesus Christ. When faithful disciples offer a visible and active presence in their communities, they live that calling through their works of mercy, their public worship, and their willingness to share the gospel message with those they meet.

In two former republics of the Soviet Union, which experienced 70 years of communist oppression, the Church is becoming that visible and active presence. Since 2018, the Center for Catholic Youth in the Republic of Georgia has brought together hundreds of children and youths for faith-enriching activities like Bible school, Lenten spiritual exercises, pilgrimages, and works of service in parish communities. Meanwhile, in central Asia, the construction of a new cathedral and pastoral center in the heart of Kyrgyzstan's capital city, Bishkek, is a

visible sign of hope and welcome in a land where 90% of the population is Muslim.

For more than 30 years, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has worked to restore a visible, active Church in Central and Eastern Europe and to build a hopeful new future in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and more than 25 other countries throughout the region. Your contributions to the USCCB's Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe fund grants to construct churches, enliven the faith of children and young people, and form disciples who live to help others encounter Christ.

More information about the collection and the range of projects it supports can be found at [www.usccb.org/ceee](http://www.usccb.org/ceee).

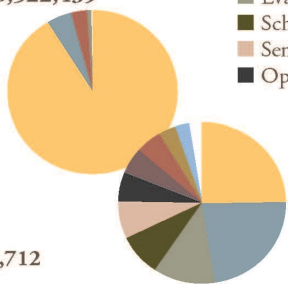
### 2022 DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS

Total Number of Grants Approved: 354

Total Amount Approved: \$8,522,439

#### EXPENSES

Grants and Donations	91.28%
Program Costs	4.76%
Promotions and Fundraising Expenses	3.06%
Administrative Expenses	0.88%
Allocations-Internal Grants	0.01%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,326,712</b>



#### PROGRAM AREA

PROGRAM AREA	GRANTS	AMOUNT	PERCENT
Construction	73	\$2,108,439	24.74%
Emergency*	9	\$1,951,804	22.90%
Evangelization	77	\$1,007,437	11.82%
Scholarships	80	\$728,122	8.54%
Seminary Support	16	\$629,884	7.39%
Operational Support	28	\$503,860	5.91%
Equipment/Accommodation Purchase	19	\$452,180	5.31%
Social Aid	21	\$412,320	4.84%
Education	10	\$283,976	3.33%
Vehicle Purchase	11	\$242,423	2.84%
Multimedia	10	\$201,994	2.37%

\*Includes grants for urgent humanitarian and pastoral responses to the crisis in Ukraine.



### Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS • 3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON, DC 20017-1194  
202-541-3400 • FAX 202-541-3460 • [WWW.USCCB.ORG/NATIONALCOLLECTIONS](http://WWW.USCCB.ORG/NATIONALCOLLECTIONS)

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ALBANIA • ARMENIA • AZERBAIJAN • BELARUS • BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA • BULGARIA • CROATIA • CZECH REPUBLIC • ESTONIA  
GEORGIA • HUNGARY • KAZAKHSTAN • KYRGYZSTAN • LATVIA • LITHUANIA • MACEDONIA • MOLDOVA • MONTENEGRO • POLAND  
ROMANIA • RUSSIA • SERBIA • SLOVAKIA • SLOVENIA • TAJIKISTAN • TURKMENISTAN • UKRAINE • UZBEKISTAN



# FAITH FORMATION

## Important!



### 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 the: **Two Holy Martyrs Website at [Twoholymartyrs.org](http://Twoholymartyrs.org)** (St. Symphorosa & St. Rene)

In the event of an emergency closing, this announcement would be the First Message to appear on the Website at the top of your screen.



### Upcoming Events:

**2/10: Faith Formation Classes**  
St. Syms Campus. (Sat.)

**2/13: Faith Formation Classes**  
St. Syms Campus. (Tues.)

**2/24: Faith Formation Classes**  
St. Syms Campus. (Sat.)

**2/25: Eighth Grade Family Mass.**  
And  
**Confirmation Retreat.**

**2/27: Faith Formation Classes**  
St. Syms Campus. (Tues.)



### SPIRIT DAY RETREAT

On February 25th, 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 the 9:00am 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.



The Eighth-Grade Family Mass will be held on Sunday, February 25th at 9:00am at St. Symphorosa Church. All students who will be making their Confirmation this Spring, their Sponsors and their families are invited to attend this Mass. We will feature the Eighth-Grade Saint Projects in the Narthex. The Saint Project is a requirement for the reception of the Sacrament.

We look forward to welcoming All our Confirmation families on February 25th at 9:00am at St. Symphorosa Church. (The Confirmation Retreat follows this Mass.)



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



This is a Photo from the Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> Communion Bread Meeting ... Another Toast To Jesus !!! Cheers !!!

# PARISH SCHOOL NEWS



## ST. SYMPHOROSA SCHOOL NEWS



## JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS WORK WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS

OUR JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS TOOK A SPECIAL FIELD TRIP TO WINTRUST SPORTS COMPLEX TO WORK WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES.

WE WERE SO THRILLED TO GIVE OUR STUDENTS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH SUCH A SPECIAL GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS AND BE OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY!

CALL 773.585.6888 OR EMAIL [RBANDEN@STSYMPHOROSASCHOOL.ORG](mailto:RBANDEN@STSYMPHOROSASCHOOL.ORG) TO SCHEDULE A TOUR!