

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday OF ADVENT



December 10, 2023



**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

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](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



Impatience ranks in the Top Ten of confessed sins.

This is not an official poll, but it is my experience as a confessor when people come to me for the sacrament of reconciliation.

They confess their impatience; impatience with their spouse, impatience with their children, impatience with their aging parents.

I must confess impatience, too; impatience in traffic, impatience in the checkout line, impatience with myself. What's the old saying? Patience is a virtue.

What helps, at times, is to remember how patient God is with us; both humanity as a whole and us as individuals. The second reading on the Second Sunday of Advent touches upon God's patience.

St. Paul wrote, "The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard 'delay,' but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

The Lord is, indeed, patient with us. Realizing this helps us, in turn, be more patient with those around us,

and certainly to be more patient with ourselves. God desires that all be saved. We must, however, realize there will come a time when this life ends; either at our bodily death or at the Second Coming of Christ in glory. We don't have forever to get right with God. The time is now.

The season of Advent encourages us to prepare the way of the Lord. He will come again in glory. This is Jesus' promise. The danger with Advent is when we get stuck only looking back in time to His first coming in human flesh.

Yes, we celebrate Christmas, but Advent is also prompting us to look forward. Are we in a good place spiritually? Are we prepared to meet the Lord?

Our culture is spinning. Everyone is in a huge hurry. We all want to get to tomorrow, today. This is not good for the soul, and yet many in our culture don't believe we have a soul. They would say we are just physical beings who will die into nothingness. This is not our belief as Christians. We believe to be true that we are body and soul; and that we are precious in God's eyes.

Every single day is another opportunity for us to grow closer to God and closer to one another.

We learned from yesterday the lessons needed so that we can face today as wiser and more mature disciples of the Lord. In all of it, God

is patient. Like a loving parent, God desires what is best for us, but at the same time God allows us to make our own choices. This was the great risk God took in creating us with freewill. It means we can choose the ways of God, or we can choose against the ways of God.

We can say yes to God or no to God.

Mary, the Blessed Mother, can help us say yes to God as she said yes when the angel Gabriel came to her with glad tidings. God desired to use her in the plan of salvation. She would be the spotless human vessel by which our Savior would enter this world.

We are forever grateful for her yes that led to the very first Christmas and brought joy to the world.

May this Advent season find us growing in patience; patience with others, patience with ourselves, and patience with God.

The Lord's plan will come to fruition. We don't know when. We don't know how. And so, we wait ... patiently, and we prepare ourselves to meet the Lord.

**Quote** -- "Do not accept anything as the truth if it lacks love, and do not accept anything as love which lacks truth." -- **St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross**





# FR. KEVIN'S GREGORIAN RANTS

Within the Liturgy of the Word, the proclamation of the Gospel is set apart from the other readings from Scripture. Since it is the words from and about the works of our savior Jesus Christ, we want to ensure proper attention is directed towards hearing these words.

So, it's appropriate that we sing together a song of praise, and where better than to borrow a word than from the Book of Psalms. The word is "Alleluia" or "Hallelujah".

In Hebrew (the language of the Psalms), it means "Praise the Lord", or even more literally, "All hail to Him Who is". It invokes the name YHWH given by God to Moses from the burning bush. It is the last word that appears in the Psalms.

Since it was in Psalms, we know that "Alleluia" is a word that has long been used in liturgies to worship God. More particularly, it expresses a long-held formula of monotheistic faith. It can, and should be used, whenever a believer desires to declare joy in what God has done for them.

The word also appears in the Book of Revelation

(Chapter 19) as the great multitude in heaven cry out together: "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for his judgments are true and just." They join in this shout of exaltation as they prepare to share in the wedding feast of the Lamb of God.

The liturgy we celebrate on earth at every Mass reflects the heavenly banquet celebrated by the angels and saints in the presence of God.

The congregation, led by the choir, sing Alleluia as the priest or deacon processes with the book of the Gospels, often accompanied by altar servers carrying two lit candles. At bigger liturgies, incense is used to heighten the experience of hearing the good news proclaimed. Amidst the singing of the Alleluia, a verse from Scripture is sung, often pulled from the Gospel of the day.

You may notice that the priest pauses at the altar and says a prayer in a low voice. Here is what he prays: "Cleanse my heart and my lips, almighty God, that I may worthily proclaim your holy Gospel." It is a recognition of the privilege of proclaiming the Gospel and the preparation that should be done to share the words of Jesus.

However, the proclamation of the Gospel is proper to the deacon, who receives a blessing from the priest prior to the procession: "May the Lord be in your heart and on your lips, that you may proclaim his Gospel worthily and well, in the name of the Father..."

In fact, this exhortation to preach the Gospel is given to a deacon during his ordination: "Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are.

Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach."

During Lent, the Alleluia is not sung because of the penitential nature of the season. Instead of singing with the choirs of the angels around God's throne, we acknowledge our sins in the light of our savior and practice repentance so that we may again have the honor of worshipping God as the angels do.

Fasting from this word of praise also builds our anticipation of declaring it to celebrate the Risen Lord at Easter.

Every time you sing the Alleluia, know that you are joining in the eternal and constant hymn of praise to our God. If you are ever at a loss for words in moments of joy and celebration, know that a simple "Alleluia!" speaks volumes.



# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two Holy Martyrs Parish

## O COME LET US ADORE HIM

### Talk Series on the Eucharist

In this year of Eucharistic Revival, come reflect on the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist as we prepare celebrate his coming at Christmas

Mondays in Advent  
at 7PM

✝ Monday, December 11th  
Location: St. Symphorosa Church  
Fr. Kevin Gregus, Associate Pastor  
The Eucharist and Community

✝ Monday, December 18th  
Location: St. Rene Goupil Church  
Fr. Kevin Gregus, Associate Pastor  
The Eucharist and Friendship with God

Receive a free copy of Bishop Robert Barron's book "This is My Body", which will serve as a guide for our reflections

Contact Us  
773-767-1523  
kgregus@archchicago.org

More Information  
[www.twoholymartyrs.org](http://www.twoholymartyrs.org)



St. Rene Goupil  
Church

6949 W. 63rd Place  
Chicago, IL 60638

St. Symphorosa  
Church

6135 S. Austin Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60638

# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **\*Special Two Holy Martyrs Holiday Basket Raffle\***

- All 11 baskets are unique with item such as: VISA Gift Cards, Gift Certificates, Gourmet Chocolate, Lottery Tickets and much, much more.
- Tickets are now on sale in the Parish Office
- Tickets can also be obtained in the back of the church
- Tickets & money can also be dropped off into the offertory basket in church
- Tickets will be **\$5 each, 3 for \$10 or 7 for \$20**
- The drawing will take place on **Tuesday December 19th at 12pm (noon)** in our **St. Symphorosa Church!** (**Winners of basket do not need to be present at time of drawing**)



## TWO HOLY MARTYRS ANNUAL



Once again Two Holy Martyrs Parish is sponsoring our annual Advent Giving Tree Project. If you would like to participate in this project, please select ornaments from our Giving Tree found in the Gathering Space of church. Shop for the gift requested on the ornament, attach the ornament to the wrapped package, and return to church at masses the weekend of **December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>**.

Some of the ornaments have a request for a gift card. For your convenience, a member of the Transformation Team will be selling Walmart, Jewel and Target gift cards in the Gathering Space after all masses the weekend of **December 9/10th**.

Thank you in advance for your continued generosity with this project.

*Each Ornament has a Gift Request for the Needy to be given to one of the following Charitable Agencies*

**YELLOW** Catholic Charities

**GREEN** PADS-Homeless Shelter in Marquette Park

**WHITE** U. S. Veterans living in Hines Hospital

**PINK** U. S. Veterans living in Manteno

**BLUE** St. Vincent De Paul Society

Please shop for the gift requested on the ornament(s) you have taken. Securely tape the gift request ornament to the gift bag or gift box in which you have placed your purchase.

**Please return all gifts to church the WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 16/17.**

## Oplatki Christmas Wafers

*Oplatki are available for purchase in the Parish Office or after all Masses in the narthex of our churches. Each package of oplatki contains 3 white wafers and 1 pink wafer.*

*A \$4.00 donation per package is requested. Limited quantity available*



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



# Super Bingo

## Sunday December 10, 2023

**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**



# For the week of:

DECEMBER 9th- DECEMBER 17th

## Saturday December 9th

**04:00 PM** | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob  
Pro Populo (for the People of the Parish)

**05:30 PM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin  
✠Jean Lasick (Family)  
✠Delores Hubbel (Mary Trendle)  
✠Brian Krol (Nancy Markham)  
✠Sue Saviano (Carpenters Family)

## Sunday December 10th

**07:30 AM** | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob  
✠Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)  
✠Al Beyer (Tonia)  
✠Pawel Biel (Friend Monica)

**09:00 AM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin  
Mary & Michael Connellan (Health & Anniversary) (Monica Normoyle & Family)  
Ann Keniry (Health) (Monica Normoyle & Friends)  
✠Claude Wiatrak (Wife Clara)  
✠Alicia Gaffney (Clifford & Arlene Whitehouse)  
✠Tiffany Meng (Meng Family)

**10:30 AM** | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob  
Living & Deceased Members of Fox & Oczkowski Families (Fox Family)  
✠Mico & Ruth Toribio (Almendarez Family)  
✠John Chavez (Maria Chavez)  
✠Nydia Buentello (Daughter Nydia)

**12:00 PM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin  
✠Lucio & Guadalupe Gonzalez (son Lucio Gonzalez)  
✠Krystyna Lukasik (Stanley Lukasik)  
✠Chester Mateja (Michael & Nora Filetti)

## Monday December 11th

**08:00 AM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob  
✠Virginia Wolniak (Pat Soltis)  
Health & God's Blessings for Fr. Norm Trela (Ann Robertson)

## Tuesday December 12th

**08:00 AM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob  
✠Joann Kukulka (Momma)  
✠Heavenly Birthday Blessings For Dolores Grisko (Family)

## Wednesday December 13th

**08:00 AM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin  
Souls in Purgatory  
Priest Vocations

## Thursday December 14th

**08:00 AM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob  
✠Patrick Carmody (Kathleen Ross)  
✠Bill Rich (Barbara Rendak)

## Friday December 15th

**08:00 AM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob  
✠Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)  
✠Marie & William Pratt (Family)  
Sylvia Grisius - Health (Nancy Shotas)  
✠Dorothy Montwill (Patricia Kutt)

## Saturday December 16th

**08:00 AM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin  
✠Michael Nowakowski (Joe & Josie Pulido)  
✠Eugene Uram (Barbara Rendak)  
✠Albert Caiafa (Marie Zilka)

**04:00 PM** | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin  
✠Joann Kukulka (Momma)  
✠Exiquio Almendarez & Antonia Martinez (Almendarez Family)  
✠Edward Cieslewski (Family)  
✠Joe Kasper (Jean Piotrowski)

**05:30 PM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob  
Pro Populo (for the People of the Parish)

## Sunday December 17th

**07:30 AM** | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin  
✠Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)  
Thank you four your ministry Mary Sarlitto (Friend)  
✠Sherilyn Ghazaleh (Machinist Family)

**09:00 AM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin  
✠Carol Wiatrak (mother-in-law Clara)  
✠All deceased members of the O'Leary & Byrne Families (Bea & Mike)  
✠All deceased members of the Shilney Family (Mary Shilney)  
✠All deceased members of the Novak Family (Patti & Kelli)  
✠Kenneth Bivens - Taura Basulto

**10:30 AM** | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob  
✠Lucille Salamendo (Terri & Dan Domarsky)  
✠Dawn Bodoki (Mom & Dad)  
✠Mary Rapacz (Rapacz Family)  
✠Elaine Peterson (Alfich Family)

**12:00 PM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob  
Birthday Blessings for Caitlin Battung (Rosario Battung)  
✠Fe Gagni & All Poor Souls in Purgatory (Rosario Battung)

*Presiders are subject to change without notice.*

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH | DECEMBER 10, 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      |
| Guadalupe Almendarez | Cathy Mazeika      |
| Maxine Carey         | Ann Robertson      |
| Margaret Dalton      | Fr. John Rudnik    |
| Joanne Gallas        | Jack Ruggiero      |
| Mitch Gallas         | Shirley Tloczek    |
| Ron Kelly            | Fr. Norm Trela     |
| Sharon Labiak        | Beverly Zimmerling |
| Maryann Larson       |                    |
| Natalie Lecompte     |                    |



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



**Thank you for your generosity!**

PARISH OFFERTORY 12/3: \$10,233.00

Split the Pot Winning Envelope # 60127 \$360.00

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



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**

- Albert Caiafa
- Virginia Slakis
- Gloria E Zelenka
- John Labiak
- Joseph Kasper
- Thomas Vaughan, Jr.
- Francis Glab
- Robert Adair
- Roseann Mallary
- Gregory Mendoza

SUPER SENIORS

**SUPER SENIOR CLUB NEWS**

The next meeting for December will be on Wednesday the 13th. **Doors open at 11:30am** meeting convenes at 12pm (noon) in the St. Rene Narthex.

**SEE YOU THERE!!**

**Dec. 13th will be the last meeting for this year.**

**No meetings in January or February.**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

An Exelon Company

Com Ed has confirmed that there will be a planned **Power Outage on Wed. December 27, 2023** beginning around 8am and lasting up to 8 hours. This outage will impact the **St. Rene Campus.**

The faith community of **Two Holy Martyrs Parish** invites you to join us as we celebrate the ***Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe*** on Tuesday, December 12th. Celebration of the Mass of Roses will begin at 7pm at St. Rene Goupil church, located on 64th Street and South New England Avenue.

**Two Holy Martyrs Parish**  
St. Symphorosa † St. René Goupil

**SURVEY**

Just a reminder to check the insert on today's bulletin and please select ONE. Thank you!



# FAITH FORMATION



## CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SOLDIERS

In the true spirit of Advent and Christmas, Two Holy Martyrs Parish will again be remembering our U.S. Veterans and soldiers this holiday season. Please participate in this out-reach project by making cards for our veterans at Hines Hospital in Maywood and our soldiers stationed overseas, thanking them for their sacrifice and service. If you have a few moments, help us in this endeavor by spreading some Christmas joy this holiday season. All cards can be turned-in at class or at our main parish office....by, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your efforts in making this holiday a little brighter for our American soldiers.



Congratulations to all our students who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the First Time! May God Continue to Bless You!

## Important!

### Upcoming Events:

**12/16:** Faith Formation Classes  
Saturday, St. Sym's Campus.  
9am - 10:30am.

**12/17:** Fifth Grade Family Mass.  
9am.

**12/19:** Faith Formation Classes  
Tuesday, St. Sym's Campus.  
6pm - 7:30pm.

**12/24: Christmas Pageants.**

**12/25: MERRY CHRISTMAS !!**



## JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

At Baptism, we are all given a lighted candle. This reminds us to live as followers of Jesus, *The Light of the World*. Our Faith Formation families will be constructing their own lighthouses. The lighthouse creations will be on display in the narthex at both our worship sites, this December and into the New Year. Please take a moment and visit our display. May these lighthouses serve as a reminder, for us to be *Shining Lights, In Today's World*.



The Fifth-Grade Family Mass will be held On Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at St. Symphorosa Church. Fifth Grade Students and their families are invited to attend this Mass. Families are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to our local food pantry. In addition, our fifth grade students are asked to construct a lighthouse with their family and bring your lighthouse to Mass. All the lighthouses will be placed on display in the narthex of the Church. Please take a moment to come and view all the lighthouses, which are meant to remind us that *Jesus is the Light of the World*. We look forward to welcoming all of you on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at St. Symphorosa Church.



## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

On Christmas Eve at the 4:00pm Mass at St. Symphorosa and at the 6:00pm Mass at St. Rene we will present a Christmas Pageant for our community here at Two Holy Martyrs Parish. This performance gives our children the opportunity to celebrate Jesus' birthday. As part of the celebration, we have the students re-enact the Christmas Story..... (in a simple way) Allowing them to experience firsthand the true meaning of Christmas. Please email Miss Peg if you would like to participate.  
Thank You!

[msiebenaler@archchicago.org](mailto:msiebenaler@archchicago.org)

# 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](https://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



St. Symphorosa School Cheerfully Invites You To...

## SANTA'S OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

11AM-1PM

ST. SYMPHOROSA SCHOOL (A HALL)

6125 S. AUSTIN AVE  
CHICAGO, IL 60638

Meet and take photos with Santa,  
tour our school, enjoy holiday treats,  
arts and crafts, and much more!



ST. SYMPHOROSA  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
OF TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH

773-585-6888

[www.stsymsschool.org](http://www.stsymsschool.org)

