



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"
Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ,
the Son of the living God." - Mt 16:15-16

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



August 27, 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

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

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

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

FR. BOB'S WEEKLY BLOG



Jesus asks His apostles a couple significant questions in this Sunday's Gospel.

First, the Lord asks, "Who do people say that I am?" The apostles offer a few options. Then Jesus asks them point-blank, "Who do you say that I am?"

Everything in our Catholic faith hinges on the truth of WHO Jesus is.

We know not everybody believes Jesus is the Son of God. Some think the entire Jesus thing is a fairy tale. Others are willing to admit he was an historical figure, but he was NOT God. There are even some folks who have never given the Jesus question serious thought.

Listen to Jesus ask you the same question He asked his first followers. "Who do you say that I am?"

If we say Jesus is God, the Messiah, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, then the reality of this truth requires total surrender. If Jesus is not God, then we can stop the charade today. We can take down the crucifix, remove the tabernacle, and extinguish the candles.

My hope is that our response echoes the reply of St. Peter when he answers, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." The one thing that cannot be true is that Jesus is both God and not God. That's not a possibility, but in our culture of cognitive dissonance, we hear people say things like, "Well, he's your Savior not mine." Or more bluntly, "That might be true for you but it's not true for me."

God the Father sent God the Son to be Savior for all the world; all of humanity. This includes you and I. God's plan of salvation knows no boundary. As we read in John's gospel, chapter three, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

Jesus is God the Father's offer of salvation. It can be accepted or rejected. We can choose either one, but if Jesus is truly Divine, why would we reject Him? Many people think they can remain indifferent. But eventually a choice needs to be made.

If we ascent to the truth of Jesus being fully divine and fully human, then everything else in the Catholic faith flows from this truth. The Church exists in this world to be the Sacrament of Salvation, and the Lord has

left the keys of the kingdom in the Chair of St. Peter; a.k.a. the Pope, who must be the guardian of revealed truth.

A specific Pope cannot wake up one day and declare, "We no longer believe in the resurrection of Jesus," and suddenly revealed truth changes based on the whim of a Pope. A Pope cannot suddenly say, "Stealing is okay, and so is adultery." The Pope, in union with the bishops across the globe, must guard the deposit of the faith, no matter how the political winds of the day might be blowing.

The Church is often disliked for the same reason children occasionally dislike their parents. A parent provides the child with guardrails, parameters, and limits that the young child does not understand. The child might shout in protest, "But why?" And the parent responds, "Because I love you." The parent sees things the child cannot yet see, and God sees things we sometimes fail to see.

As we lose more and more trust in our earthly institutions (all of which contain imperfect human beings), we can always place our trust in the One who is the Son of God. Jesus, I trust in you. He is the way, and the truth, and the life. He is the way to the Father.

Catholic School Education

Our parish grade school welcomed students back last Tuesday for another year of stimulating the minds and hearts of our children.

St. Symphorosa School (the parish school of Two Holy Martyrs) begins the 2023-2024 year with an enrollment of 241 students. We also welcomed back ALL our teachers from last year under the leadership of Dr. Kathy Berry.

We are grateful to the parents who have made the choice to entrust the minds and hearts of their respective children to our principal, our teachers and our aides.

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago have a long tradition of providing a quality elementary education. Our schools are important for the mission of the Church, and the mission of the Church is more than teaching academics. The mission of the Church is essentially sharing the good news of salvation in the Person of Jesus, the Christ.

Certainly, our school teaches the basics that our children need to learn in the areas of math, science, history, language, music and art. We want our children, however, to use everything they learn for the greater glory of God. We want our children to not only be good students, but to mature into being good human beings.

A child can have a 4.0 GPA but not be maturing in virtue. Education is about more than rote learning and "getting good grades." The ancient philosopher Aristotle said it best when he wrote, "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."

As pastor, I ask that all our Two Holy Martyrs parishioners be ambassadors for

the school. Pray for our principal, teachers, aides and students. Pray for the parents who are raising children during confusing times. If you are so inclined, please consider a financial donation to the school that can help pay tuition for families that need assistance. And lastly, use word of mouth to let prospective families know there are alternatives to the public schools in our area.

Tuesday Evening Adoration

Just another reminder that our parish offers Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday evening in our St. Symphorosa church.

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the altar from 5:45 PM until 6:45 PM. This is a wonderful time for quiet and stillness in the Presence of the Lord. The Holy Hour concludes with Benediction at roughly 6:38 PM.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on Tuesday evening in our St. Sym's church starting at 6 PM.

As our society grows louder and louder, it is time spent in stillness and quiet that can serve as an antidote to the disturbing noise. Our parish offers the time and space so that we can nourish our souls as we spend time face-to-face with Christ.

Quote - "Do not fear; Jesus is more powerful than Hell." -- Padre Pio





FR. KEVIN'S GREGORIAN RANTS

At some point, every Catholic asks a question like this: "Why do I have to go to Mass?" Perhaps we are genuinely curious and want to make sure we're not doing things just for their own sake.

Or maybe we are a tad lazy and don't want to get ourselves and our families up and out the door on the weekend. Regardless of the intention behind it, Jesus instituted the Mass for our own good and gave it to the Church.

Did you know that we state the purpose of Mass every time we go? It's true – one of the responses we say together in the middle of Mass encapsulates the reason we are gathered together as the people of God.

These words will sound familiar: "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church."

You'll recognize it as the response to the priest during the offertory, when the priest takes the gifts of bread and wine offered by the people and prepares them to be consecrated and transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Like any response at Mass that we make every week, we can sometimes just say them without thinking about it. But if someone were to ask you why you are at Mass, you could reply with just this response and be 100% correct. Let's look at it more deeply.

What the priest offers is indeed a sacrifice: through him, we are giving up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy. Bread and wine are good; the Body and Blood of Christ are (infinitely) better.

But the bread and wine are not all that is offered. We also put on the altar our own sacrifices: our intentions, joys, desires, sufferings, and in the end our very selves.

We want God to transform these good things into something even better and more in union with God himself. All these can be their on the altar at the hands of the priest that have been specially blessed to make this great offering.

This sacrifice is offered for a purpose. Yes, to receive back the Body and Blood of Christ, but also because it is the best way we know to praise and worship God.

We glorify and honor God in his totality when we bring him good things to return to us. The greatest gift he gave us is Jesus Christ, and praise his name by offering what he most loves.

This sacrifice is communal. We offer for ourselves and our own good, and for that of the whole Church. That includes those who are suffering, those who have no one to pray for them, and those who feel that they are on the outside looking in.

The Church's work is done most effectively through the power of the sacraments, and most especially the Eucharist.

Mass is essential, and not just because we want to impress God or try to earn his love.

Instead, we see the response to God's gifts by offering him back what he gives us so as to honor him and help the whole Church in her work to bring salvation to all. So next time at Mass, make this response to the priest with your full self!




Cub Scout Pack 4439 invites any interested families to join us as we start a new year!

All boys and girls entering kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome to register. Through Cub Scouts your child will make new friends and engage in fun, hands-on activities that promote character development, service, and leadership through outdoor activities, STEM, and more! We will have a parent meeting and introduction to scouting night at 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, September 7 in the Sharp Center for interested families. Please reach out to cubscoutpack4439@gmail.com for more information.



**Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Chicago**

*Building a Better Tomorrow for
Those in Need*

In need of help or know someone
in need of help?

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



MASS INTENTIONS

AUGUST 26th - SEPTEMBER 3rd

Saturday August 26th

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

✠ Robert Montgomery Sr. (Wife & Children)

✠ Al Beyer (Linda Dobias)

✠ Casimir & Helen Gerlick (Chiaramonte Family)

✠ Edward Gerlick (Chiaramonte Family)

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

✠ Bridget A. Collins (Barb Payne & Nancy Markham)

✠ Gerald Sears (Gregory Jackson & Family)

✠ Mary Ann Shanahan (Woulfe Family)

Sunday August 27th

07:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob

✠ Vince Porcelli (Judy Porcelli)

✠ Victor & Zeneida Narea (Vincent Narea)

✠ Lauerne Kenney (Kenney Family)

✠ Rosemary Kenney (O'Brien Family)

09:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Norm

Pro Populo (for the People of the Parish)

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

✠ Jack Orsi (Family)

✠ Rita Tomczak (Corbett Family)

✠ Bob Smith (Family)

✠ Carl & Jean Bell (Ben & Judy Shafer)

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

✠ Krystyna Lukasik (Stanley Lukasik)

✠ Judith Siwek (Family)

Praying for the Health of Ann Carey (Woulfe Family)

Monday August 28th

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

God's Blessings & Prayers for Gena Sonnenberg (Mary Kolimas)

Praying for good health for Jacqueline O'Brien (O'Brien Family)

Tuesday August 29th

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

Happy Birthday Victoria Sophia - Health & Lord's Blessings (Rosario Battung)

✠ John & Cathy Ryan (Kathy & Pat Carone)

✠ Hanora Campbell (Kathy & Pat Carone)

Wednesday August 30

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

✠ Vince Porcelli (Judy Porcelli)

Happy Birthday Raymond Sarlitto (Mary Sarlitto)

Thursday August 31st

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Norm

✠ Margaret M Nykaza (Tony & Debbie Luzzi)

Friday September 1st

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

✠ Chester Goluch (Family)

✠ Stanley Gasior (Grand Niece)

Saturday September 2nd

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

All Souls in Purgatory (Diana Schmidt)

✠ Sue Solcani (Marie Zilka)

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

✠ Vince Porcelli (Judy Porcelli)

✠ Thomas Murray (Family)

✠ Jean Bell (Linda Dobias)

✠ Anna Pucci (Family Giuseppa Mancuso)

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

✠ Tony Iuliano (Family)

Sunday September 3rd

07:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob

✠ Christian Furczon

✠ Cardyn & Dennis Page Wedding Anniversary (Mary Wassink)

Health & God's Blessings for Florence Goluch (Friend)

09:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin

Altar & Rosary Members (A&R Society)

✠ Dolores Meyers (Arlene Scaletta)

✠ Virginia Blazeniak (Pat Soltis)

✠ Thomas Herman (Joanne Tishka)

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

Pro Populo (for the People of the Parish)

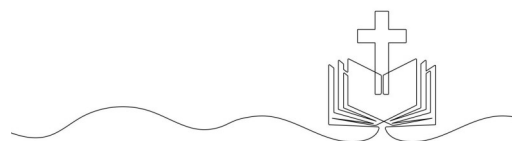
12:00 PM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin

✠ Leroy & LaVerne Condon (Family)

✠ Josephine Barajas (A&R Society)

✠ Krysstof Jedrejewski (John Jedrejewska)

Wiestawa Jedrejewska (John Jedrejewska)



Presiders are subject to change without notice.

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH | AUGUST 27, 2023



OUR SANCTUARY CANDLES

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

AUGUST

VINCE PORCELLI & MARIA PORCELLI

For the repose of their souls, given by Family.

MARY & PETER SZLEMBARSKI and THERESA & MICHAEL GENOVESE

For the repose of their souls, given by Barbara Rendak.

LEE KARPINSKI

For the repose of the soul, given by Mary Trendle (sister).

RICHARD MERDA

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

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 | Rick Jutton | Ann Robertson |
| Guadalupe | John Kappel, Jr. | Fr. John Rudnik |
| Almendarez | Ron Kelly | Joseph Rudnik |
| Raeann Arends | Claudia Kwilosz | Jack Ruggiero |
| Mary Bieser | Sharon Labiak | Mary Shortall |
| Fr. Ted Bojczuk | Flavia Langan | Karen Singer |
| Maxine Carey | James Lapsansky | Pat Soltis |
| Judy Carranza | Maryann Larson | Brian Styka |
| Giovanni Carrigan | Natalie LeCompte | Sr. Christine Styka |
| Rita Cernick | Domenico Lepore | Terry Styka |
| Michael Clifford | Rose Ann Lindsay | Michael Sutkowski |
| Marilyn Crites | Rosemary Litwin | Joanne Tishka |
| Margaret Dalton | Maria Lopez | Shirley Tloczek |
| Leon Detlaf | Diane Malarick | Adele Vacchiano |
| Debbie Flint | Cathy Mazieka | Buddy Valela |
| Maria Flores | Lori McCarthy | Dan Volanti |
| Ken Fonte | Maria Montiel | Judith Webber |
| Mia Forbes | Edward Moriarty | Becky Williams |
| Nia Forbes | Clarence Oleszkiewicz | JoAnn Wolniak |
| Sue G. | Bob Pac | Beverly |
| John Garcia | Eleanor Pastorek | Zummerling |
| Geri Gestaut | Jesus Perez | |
| Florence Goluch | Juan B. Perez | |
| Karen Holmes | Maria P. Perez | |
| Heather Hradek | Maria Paz Perez | |
| Shawn Hughes | Stanley Polit | |
| Denise M. Jandura | Leticia Reyes | |
| Joan Juris | Graciela Rivas | |



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

- Dr. Bernard Slusinski
- James Marcinkowski
- Donald Halper
- Josephine Barajas
- Rufus A. Wujcik Jr.



Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH OFFERTORY 8/20: \$8,572.00

Split the Pot Winning Envelope # 63612 -\$370.00

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



**ONLINE/ELECTRONIC
DONATIONS
\$8,208.00**

July 1, 2023 to July 31, 2023

Total number of transactions:

270

Fr. Peter Parauzas HAS MOVED!

Fr. Peter has recently moved to Franciscan Village: Our Lady of Victory Convent. He has moved due to health-related issues. Fr. Peter loves visitors. Fr. Peter served as the Pastor at St. Rene Church and can now be reached at the following address:

Franciscan Village
Our Lady of Victory Convent
Attn: Rev. Peter Parauzas (rm. 156)
11400 Theresa Drive
Lemont, IL 60439

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

8/27–Sunday

◇ Family Mass | St. Symphorosa at 9AM

8/29- Tuesday

◇ Transformation Meeting | St. Symphorosa at 7PM

8/30- Wednesday

◇ Menta Open House | St. Rene Goupil at 4PM

9/01- Friday

◇ School Mass | St. Symphorosa at 11AM

◇ Girls Varsity Basketball Team | St. Symphorosa at 5:30PM

9/03–Sunday

◇ Altar & Rosary Society Mass | St. Symphorosa at 9AM

9/04- Monday

◇ PARISH OFFICE CLOSED- LABOR DAY!

9/05- Tuesday

◇ Altar & Rosary Society Meeting | St. Rene Goupil at 12PM

◇ Confirmation Commit Service | St. Rene Goupil at 6PM

◇ Knights of Columbus | St. Rene Goupil at 7PM

9/06–Wednesday

◇ School Yearbook pick up | St. Symphorosa (A-Hall) at 3-5PM

◇ St. Vincent de Paul Meeting | St. Rene Goupil at 6:30PM

9/07- Thursday

◇ Cub Scout Pack 4439 Mtg | St. Symphorosa (2nd Floor SC) at 6:30PM

◇ Weekly Gospel Reflections | St. Rene Goupil at 6:30PM

9/08- Friday

◇ School Mass | St. Symphorosa at 11AM

◇ Girl Scouts | St. Symphorosa (S-Hall) at 5:30PM

◇ Baptismal Classes | St. Rene Goupil at 6PM

9/09 Saturday & 9/10 Sunday

◇ Ad Gentes Missionary Congregation & Society | All Masses

9/10 Sunday

◇ First Responders Mass for Past or Present | St. Symphorosa at 12PM

◇ BINGO | St. Rene Goupil | *DOORS OPEN at 11:30AM - GAMES BEGIN at 1PM*

KINDLY NOTIFY THE PARISH OFFICE IF DATES FOR THESE EVENTS HAVE CHANGED.



Welcome Event
August 30th, 2023
4-7 pm

- MEET THE STAFF
- LEARN ABOUT MENTA

Menta Midway Southwest

**6340 S New England
Chicago, Illinois**

Any questions please contact: Courtney Guzik
Courtney.Guzik@menta.com
(630) 815-1707



©LPI



PATRIOTS DAY 2023

IN MEMORY OF MANY, IN
HONOR OF ALL,
THANK YOU.

— — — — —

YOUR BRAVERY AND SERVICE WILL
NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.

**JOIN US ON SEPT 10 AT OUR NOON MASS TO HONOR
OUR PAST & PRESENT FIRST RESPONDERS**

As you may know,
The Menta Education Group
is currently leasing our
**St. Rene Goupil School building at
6340 S. New England.**
Accordingly, **Two Holy Martyrs
Parish** is pleased to pass along the
following invitation to our
parishioners and neighbors.

Calling all crafters & vendors!!

*Two Holy Martyrs Parish invites you
to join our 9th annual
**Holiday Extravaganza
luncheon, craft & vendor fair***

Sponsored by the THM Transformation Committee

Sunday, November 12, 2023

10:30am–2:30pm

Sharp Center

5940 W. 62nd Street, Chgo. IL, 60638

Please contact Taura Basulto at (708) 634-6748 or
thmvendorfair@gmail.com to secure your spot!

Booth fee \$40 (no chairs)
Table fee \$45 (2 chairs)
Electricity fee \$5



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

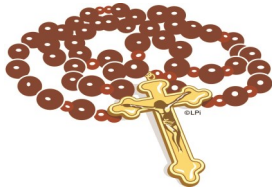


Attention all St. Symphorosa School students and Two Holy Martyrs Religious Education students:

Are you looking to participate in athletics during the 2023 - 2024 school year?

Some of the sports offered this year include: Coed soccer (grades pre-k - 3), basketball (grades 1-8), girls volleyball (grades 5-8), and Coed run club (grades 4-8) for students.

Please email athletics@stsymsschool.org for more information on how to register!



Altar and Rosary Society would like to invite you to come and join us for Mass on Sunday September 3rd at 9am at St. Symphorosa Church. On Tuesday September 5th, they will have a meeting in the Narthex at St. Rene Goupil. Meeting begins at 12pm. Please join us!



**Two Holy Martyrs Parish
is HIRING**
**Full or Part Time Year Round
Maintenance Person**

We are currently accepting resumes for Non Seasonal, Part or Full Time Maintenance Position. Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter, highlighting experience and interest to khilliard@archchicago.org

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



Super Bingo

Sunday September 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



An Invitation

Maybe you're someone who sang in a choir when you were in grade school or high school. You should consider joining the parish choir.

Or maybe you're someone who sang on stage in the theater or a garage band. You'd probably love to sing in the choir.

Or you might just be that person who's always among the first to sign up for karaoke or belting it out with the oldies station as you drive down Archer Avenue. Choir is waiting for you!

The parish choir rehearses Wednesdays 7-8:30pm at St. Symphorosa and alternates singing for the 9am and 10:30am Masses on Sundays beginning in mid-September until early June. We also serve on Christmas Eve & Day and during the Holy Week services.

New and returning members are asked to call or email by September 8 so that the correct number of choir binders and chairs can be prepared in time for the first rehearsal.

If you're interested in joining or have questions please contact :

David Boyle
773.767.1523 ext. 225
or email 2HMChoir@gmail.com



FAITH FORMATION

Important!



FAITH FORMATION CLASSES BEGIN SOON!

We are now in the process of organizing classes and recruiting Catechists, so it is important for you to send in your registration as soon as possible.

Please call Peggy in the Faith Formation Office with any questions (773) 767-1523 ext. 226.

Our Faith Formation Program offers classes for students in grades 1 – 8. Including Sacramental Classes...

designed to get students “caught-up” and prepared to receive the Sacraments.

Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings, from 6:00 – 7:30pm.

&

Classes will also be offered on Saturday mornings from 9:00am until 10:30am.

This year all our Faith Formation Classes will be held at our St. Symphorosa Campus.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

9/5: Confirmation Commitment Service.
St. Rene Church 6pm.

9/9: Faith Formation First Saturday
Class @ St. SYM'S Campus.

9/12: Faith Formation First Tuesday Class
@ St. SYM'S Campus.

9/16: Confirmation Commitment Service.
St. Sym's Church 11:30am.

9/17: Catechetical Sunday
9am Mass @ St. Sym's. Church.

9/23: Faith Formation Classes Saturday,
St. SYM'S Campus.

9/24: Welcome Back Family Mass.
St. Rene Church, 10:30am.

9/26: Faith Formation Classes Tuesday,
St. SYM'S Campus.



PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION

Our Faith Formation Students preparing for Confirmation, along with their parents, are scheduled to participate in a Commitment Service, in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. During the upcoming year these students will seek service opportunities to help them grow in discipleship as they serve those in need. We invite you to please remember them in your prayers during this time of preparation.

Conclusion of our Summer Program....

Our Communion Prep students bringing all their Prayers & Special intentions to the Table of the Lord.



PARISH SCHOOL NEWS



ST. SYMPHOROSA SCHOOL NEWS



ST. SYMS TEAM WELCOMES NEW FAMILIES!

OUR TEAM DELIVERED ST. SYMS WELCOME BAGS AND YARD SIGNS TO ALL OF OUR NEW FAMILIES! IT WAS SO GREAT MEETING SO MANY EXCITED FAMILIES READY TO START SCHOOL AT ST. SYMS!

SCHOLARSHIPS STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2023-2024!

CALL 773.585.6888 OR EMAIL RBDANDEN@STSYMPHOROSASCHOOL.ORG TO SCHEDULE A TOUR!

Save the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program

Families of Two Holy Martyrs Parish and St. Symphorosa School. I am writing on behalf of the school to ask for your help. This school year we had 41 students who will benefit from a Tax Credit Scholarship for the 23-24 school year. This opportunity is very important for the health and growth of our school. Recently there have been misconceptions shared about the scholarship so I want to be sure I am sharing the facts and requesting your assistance.

Keep the Tax Credit Scholarship for Kids!

The Tax Credit Scholarship Program, made possible by the Illinois Invest in Kids Act, provides need-based scholarships to Illinois K-12 students and their families. Without this program, many hardworking families may not have the ability to select the school of their choice due to financial constraints.

This valuable program provides opportunities to kids and relieves financial burdens for the families that need it most. We can secure the future of this critical resource for families by getting the program extended.

Basics about the program:

Individuals and corporations can donate to scholarship granting organizations (SGOs), like Big Shoulders Fund, and receive a credit on their state income taxes. The SGOs then award scholarships to students in need who want to attend a qualified non-public school of their choice.

Benefits of the program:

Since the Tax Credit Scholarship Program began in 2017, hundreds of thousands of students have applied for the scholarship statewide. Thousands of students receive the scholarship annually, helping families make the best education decision for their children. Since the program began in 2018, Big Shoulders Fund has awarded over \$72 million in tax credit scholarships and Empower Illinois has also awarded millions in scholarship funding.

Why we need your help:

The Tax Credit Scholarship Program is currently slated to end at the end of 2023, and we need your help to extend this deadline and keep this option available to families. This program has helped tens of thousands of deserving students and families across the state and eliminating this program will take away a critical component of making school options more expansive and affordable. While securing an extension to the sunset date would be a win, ultimately, we are advocating to remove the sunset date to ensure this program can continue giving opportunities to the students who need it most.

Take Action Now:

Please email, call, and tweet your state lawmakers using the link asking them to continue the Tax Credit Scholarship Program by removing the sunset provision. You can use the template already included or add your personal story. <https://p2a.co/az27xdx>

This is an extremely worthwhile program for our students. It enables families who have financial need to choose and have the means to attend our school, where students are known and loved. Our goal is for St. Symphorosa School to be the Catholic elementary school of choice in the Midway area, delivering academic excellence and forming Disciples of Christ who love and serve.

Thank you for your support and assisting us in realizing this goal.

With Gratitude
Dr. Kathy Berry EdD
Principal