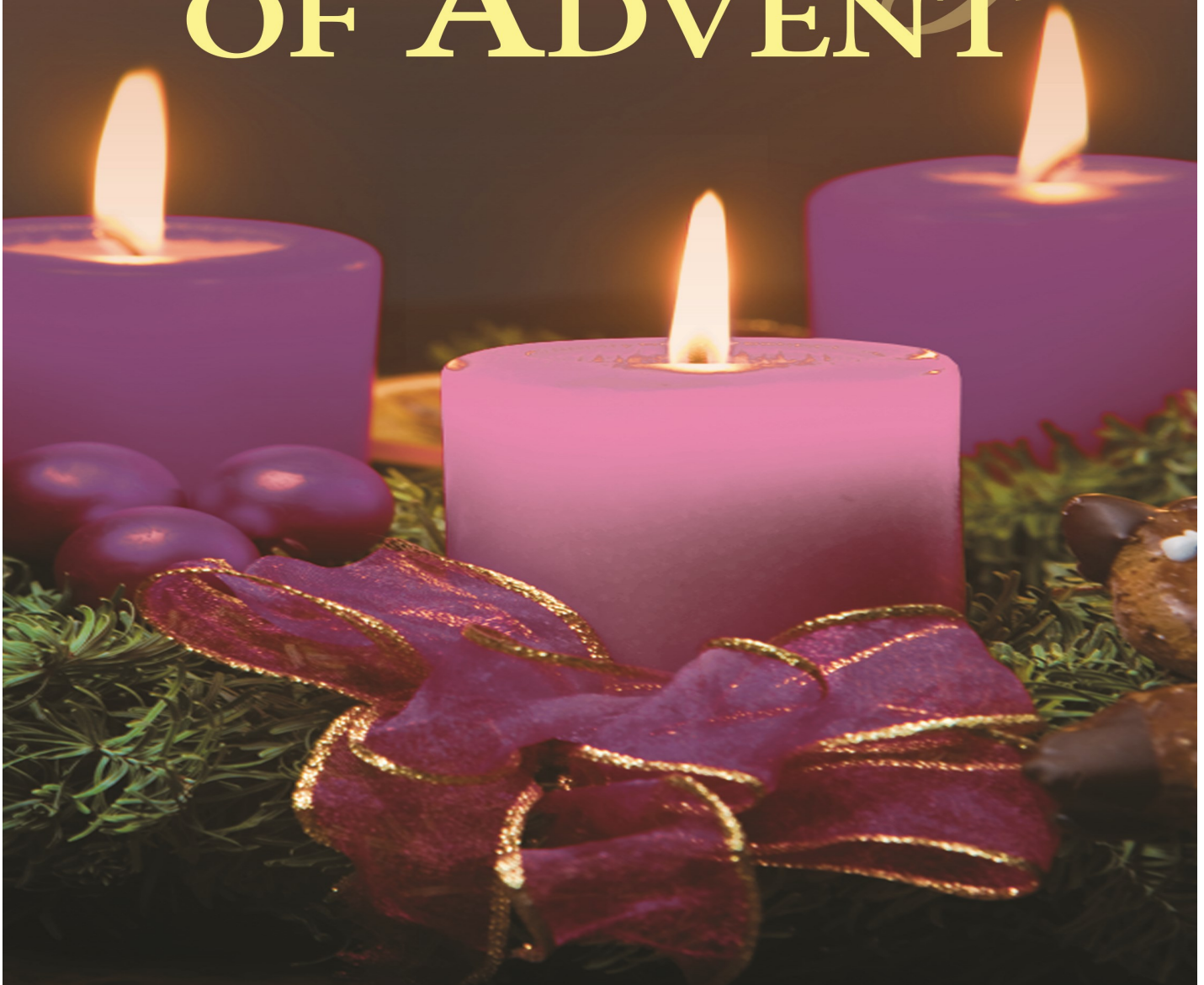


3rd Sunday OF ADVENT



December 17, 2023

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH
ST. SYMPHOROSA + ST. RENE GOUPEL



WELCOME TO TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH CHURCH SCHEDULES

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Robert Regan
PASTOR

Rev. Kevin Gregus
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Norman Trela
RETIRED PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

PASTORS EMERITUS

Rev. Ted Bojczuk
PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Peter Paurazas
PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Idzi Stacherczak
PASTOR EMERITUS

PARISH STAFF

Ken Hilliard
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
EXT. 222

Magdalan Koziar
OFFICE & TUITION COORDINATOR
EXT. 248

Irene Perconti
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT EXT. 241

Peg Siebenaler
FAITH FORMATION
COORDINATOR EXT. 226

David Boyle
MUSIC DIRECTOR EXT. 225

Dcn. Raul Duque
PARISH ORGANIST

Mark Schusteric
MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Jacqueline Guerrero
BULLETIN & GENERAL
OFFICE ADMIN EXT. 221

SCHOOL STAFF

Kathy Berry
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Chris Garza
ASSISTANT SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



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

ST. SYMPHOROSA

6135 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, IL 60638

SUNDAY MASS

9 AM | 12 PM

MONDAY — SATURDAY MASS

8 AM mass is held during:

February | April | June
August | October | December

SATURDAY VIGIL

5:30 PM

RECONCILIATION

TUESDAY | 6 PM—7 PM

All are welcome to join in praying the Rosary after 8 AM mass Monday through Saturday! Come meditate on Christ with us!

PARISH OFFICE

6135 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, IL 60638

*Located on Austin between
the school and church buildings*

☎ 773.767.1523

🌐 www.twoholymartyrs.org

✉ info@twoholymartyrs.org

MONDAY—FRIDAY

9 AM—4 PM

SATURDAY

9 AM — 12 PM

PARKING AND SAFETY REMINDER

The safety of our parish community is important and must be taken into consideration at each gathering. Should serious medical or facility issues arise unexpectedly we must be prepared. We ask that you observe parking regulations on both campus locations, churches, loading zones, etc.

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM PARKING IN THE FIRE LANES

ST. RENE GOUPIL

6949 W. 63rd Place
Chicago, IL 60638

SUNDAY MASS

7:30 AM | 10:30 AM

MONDAY — SATURDAY MASS

8 AM mass is held during:

January | March | May
July | September | November

SATURDAY VIGIL

4 PM

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS | 3 PM—3:45 PM

SCHOOL OFFICE

6125 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, IL 60638

☎ 773.585.6888

🌐 www.stsymsschool.org

✉ office@stsymphorosaschool.org

MONDAY—FRIDAY

9 AM—3 PM

FR. BOB'S WEEKLY BLOG



Our responsorial psalm for the third Sunday of Advent is Mary's Magnificat.

The Blessed Mother says, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit REJOICES in God my Savior."
May her words be our words as we journey through the weeks of Advent toward the Christmas season.

The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday. The Latin word Gaudete means rejoice. This comes to us from the Entrance Antiphon used for this Mass. In English it reads: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near."

Why should we rejoice? Fr. Bob, don't you see what's going on in the world?

Let us recall the words of Jesus. He said, "I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble but take courage. I have conquered the world." (John 16: 33).

We can rejoice because Christ has eternally conquered sin and death. Death is NOT the victor. Love is stronger than death. Yes, our physical bodies will die. This is a fact.

However, we are not just a physical body. As human beings we are body AND soul. The soul is immortal and lives on despite

the expiration of the physical body.

The promise of Christ is that one day, when all is brought to fulfillment at the end of time, we shall rise from the dead. Our immortal souls joined to a new glorified body in the new heavens and new earth. If we belong to Christ, then this is our justified reason for rejoicing, even amidst the trials and tribulations of this world.

Someone may ask, "What is the reason for your joy?" We can respond, "It's not a what that is the source of my joy, but a Who." And that Who is Jesus, the Christ; the Messiah. Perhaps the reason is there is such lack of joy in our culture today is because we've lost sight of Christ.

Either people are indifferent to Christ, or folks simply don't believe in him; or worse, they reject him. The result is a lack of authentic joy; and the masses fill the emptiness with superficial distractions.

Danish priest and author Henri Nouwen wrote, "Joy and resentment cannot coexist."

Check your heart today. Is it filled with joy? Is it filled with resentment?

Mary's heart rejoiced in the good news of Salvation. May our hearts also rejoice.

Mass Schedule Important Notice!!!

Please take notice of the abbreviated Mass schedule for next Sunday, which is the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

There will **NOT** be a 5:30 PM Mass nor a Noon Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. There **will be** a 4 PM Mass, a 7:30 AM Mass (without music), a 9 AM

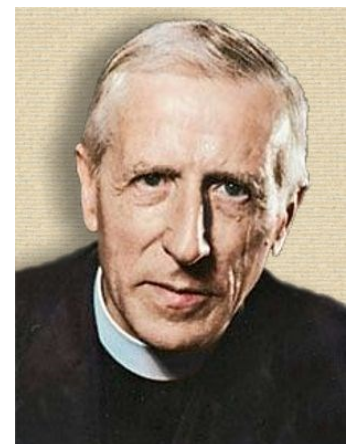
Mass, and a 10:30 AM Mass. Repeating, there will NOT be a 5:30 vigil Mass next Saturday nor will there be a Noon Mass next Sunday.

Thank you for your patience and understanding with the Mass schedule. Every seven years, the Advent season is short, and the Fourth Sunday of Advent butts up with Christmas Eve. For various reasons, which includes staffing and music, we reduce the number of Masses on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Christmas Eve begins next Sunday afternoon (Dec. 24) with the following Masses: 4PM, 6PM, 10PM, and Midnight. On Christmas morning (Dec. 25) offers the following Masses: 7:30, 9, 10:30, and Noon. We are offering eight (8) Christmas Masses.

On January 1st, which is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, we will offer a 9 AM Mass. This year, however, because it falls on a Monday, is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation.

Quote - "Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God." -- Pierre Teilhard de Chardin





FR. KEVIN'S GREGORIAN RANTS

Following a glorious procession to the ambo accompanied by the "Alleluia" and lighted candles, the priest or the deacon proclaims the Gospel. In the announcing of the good news, we hear about the life of Jesus Christ and hear him reveal to us the kingdom of heaven.

Biblical scholars (someone who has done advanced studies on the Bible, like languages and interpretive methods) have long had a difficult time determining the genre of the Gospels.

The best description is that they are ancient biographies written as a complete narrative based on eyewitness testimony. The content concerns the subject of Jesus, while each author provides a particular view of Jesus he wishes to communicate. The intended audience included various groups and individuals across the Mediterranean world interested in Jesus, probably both inside and outside the churches. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the words were also intended for any person in history who read them

It is important to note that the Gospels are not some instruction manuals for being a Christian, nor is it a list of the sayings Jesus said

or wrote. In fact, Jesus never instructed his disciples to write accounts of his life. Instead, he commanded that they go out to all the nations to baptize and teach about the life and ministry of Jesus.

The apostles started with oral proclamation and testimony, and it wasn't until 30 or 40 years after Jesus' death and resurrection that anything was written down so that it could be more widely shared.

There are four Gospels, each telling the same story and including the same people, but from different perspectives and with different emphases. Some believe that Matthew was the first written Gospel; others believe it was Mark.

All of the Gospels were written in Greek, which was the most common spoken language in the world at that time.

The Gospel of Matthew was written by the apostle Matthew, the former tax collector. He wrote to an audience primarily of Christians from a Jewish background and focused on Jesus as the Messiah in fulfillment of the prophecies of the Hebrew Scriptures.

The Gospel of Mark was written by Mark, who was a collaborator with the apostle Peter. He wrote from Rome to an audience that would be unfamiliar with Judaism and the Mideast. It is the shortest of the Gospels and has a fast-paced structure that announces that Jesus is the Messiah not despite of the cross, but because of it.

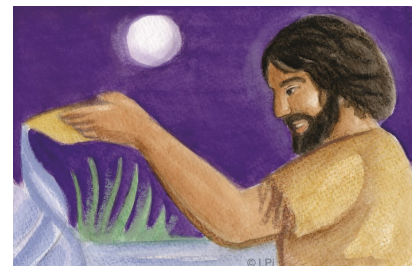
The Gospel of Luke was written by Luke, an associate of St. Paul, and

also wrote the Book of Acts. He was well-versed in both Greek philosophy and Jewish theology. He wrote to a primarily Gentile audience that God is a God for all.

Jesus comes to bring salvation to everyone, especially those at the margins. Together, Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the Synoptic Gospels because they include many of the same stories and have similar structures.

The Gospel of John is written by the apostle John, the beloved disciple, and is the most theologically dense Gospel. He explores the relationship between the Father and the Son and presents dualistic themes such as light and darkness, truth and falsehood, and the realities above and below. It has a number of discourses between Jesus, his disciples, and the Jewish leaders (the Book of Signs) and then the Last Supper discourse and his Passion (the Book of Glory), which we read on Good Friday.

Each Sunday, we listen carefully to the Gospel for what Jesus wants to reveal to us as a worshipping community and as individuals striving to be his disciples. It is the moment that Jesus speaks his words and actions directly to us before we receive him at the altar.



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 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

Join us for Eucharistic Adoration every Tuesday night at St. Symphorosa from 5:45-6:45 PM

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

More Information
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

LAST CHANCE!

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

• RAFFLE TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AFTER NOON ON MONDAY DECEMBER 18TH

- **The drawing will take place on Tuesday December 19th at 12pm (noon) in our St. Symphorosa Church. Immediately following a brief Christmas Prayer Service.**

(Note: Winners do not need to be present to win)



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



Fourth Sunday of Advent

(Please note limited Masses)

December 23, 2023

4 PM at St. Rene Church

December 24, 2023

7:30 AM at St. Rene Church

9 AM at St. Symphorosa Church

10:30 AM at St. Rene Church

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

4 PM at St. Symphorosa Church

6 PM at St. Rene Church

9:30 PM Choir Concert at St. Symphorosa Church

10 PM at St. Symphorosa Church - Choir Mass

Midnight at St. Rene Church

Christmas Day

7:30 AM at St. Rene Church

9 AM at St. Symphorosa Church

10:30 AM at St. Rene Church - Choir Mass

Noon at St. Symphorosa Church

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

January 1, 2024

9 AM Mass at St Rene Church

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)



For the week of:

DECEMBER 16th- DECEMBER 24th

Saturday December 16th

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)

Monday December 18th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob
✠Katarzyna Silacz (Family)
✠Deceased members of the O'Brien Family (O'Brien-Kenney Family)
✠In loving memory of Mat (3 Sons Restaurant)
✠Juanita Hill (Pat Soltis)

Tuesday December 19th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin
✠Angeline Mateja (Ives Family)
✠Bernard Whitehead (Family)
✠Ruben Camacho (Pat Kenney)
Praying for the recovery of Ilona Szkodon (Pat Kenney)

Wednesday December 20th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin
✠Anna & Joseph Kapanowski (Kathy Calcagno)
✠Conception Volanti (Family)
✠Lucille Branda (Barbara Grzenia)

Thursday December 21st

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob
✠Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)
✠Juanita Hill (Family)

Friday December 22nd

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Bob
✠Virginia Rich (Barbara Rendak)
✠Victoria Lesker (Diane Biondo)

Saturday December 23rd

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin
✠Joe Kasper (Marie Zilka)
Praying for the health of Liz Dolton
04:00 PM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob
✠Vince Porcelli (wife Judy)
✠Edward Cieslewski (Family)
✠Joseph Kasper (Dina Gnat)
✠Ed Cieslewski (Toni Ptak)
✠Frances Szumowski (Wes & Debbie Szumowski)
✠Tony Iuliano (Family)
✠Rosa Cicchino (mother)
✠Alicia Gaffney (mother)

Sunday December 24th

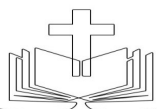
7:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob
9:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin
10:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob

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



Presiders are subject to change without notice.





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.



**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!



Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH OFFERTORY 12/10: \$8,805.00

Split the Pot Winning Envelope # 63875 \$410.00

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

- Francis Glab
- Robert Adair
- Roseann Mallary
- Gregory Mendoza
- Rosa Rodriguez
- Diana Marleau




ONLINE/ELECTRONIC DONATIONS

\$15,889.00

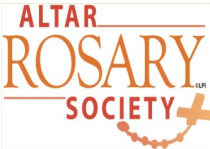
October 1, 2023 to November 30, 2023

Total number of transactions:
517



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**.

An Exelon Company



A&R Society would like to share a few pictures from their Christmas Party that took place on December 5th and would like to thank everyone that attended the event. THANK YOU!



FAITH FORMATION



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

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.

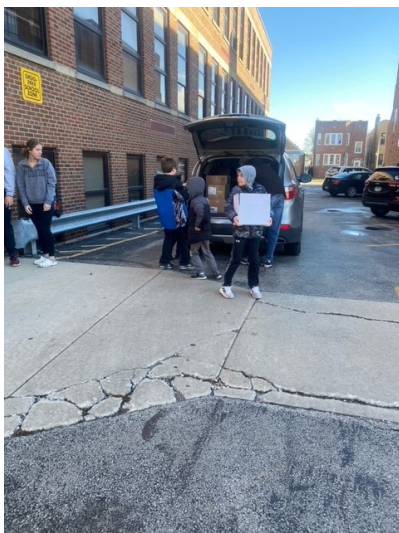
12/25: MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

The Fifth-Grade Family Mass will be held On Sunday, December 17th 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 17th at 9:00am at St. Symphorosa Church.

During this season of giving, we express our sincere appreciation to all our families who generously donated an abundance of Food to the St. Blasé Food Pantry. We are thankful for the blessing you are to our Parish! As our Food Drive comes to a close, we would like to say THANK YOU for remembering the less fortunate this Holiday Season!

Pictured Below:

Our Parish Boy Scout Troop helped load, deliver and un-load all the Food Donations!



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 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

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

(GRADES PK-2ND)

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

(GRADES 3RD-8TH)



Ms. Baisa's PreK Thanksgiving program.



Mrs. Horne's Preschool Thanksgiving program.



Third Grade leads petitions at Mass.



Fourth Grade leads the All Saint's Day Mass.



Kindergarten celebrated 50 days of school and dressed up in 50's style clothes.



First grade working to show all things they have to be thankful for!



Grade Five is thankful for many things.



Sixth Grade Religion art project.



Second grade Mrs. Augustine's class, sharing Dia De Los Muertos/Day of the Dead Traditions eating tamales.



Ms. Bazan's Second grade has been interacting with their spelling in many fun ways.



Seventh Grade celebrating the Feast of St. Rene.



Eighth Grade learning about the stock market.

CALL 773.585.6888 OR EMAIL RBDEN@STSYMPHOROSASCHOOL.ORG TO SCHEDULE A TOUR!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS! CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK OPEN HOUSE Sunday, January 28, 2024 10:30am-1:30pm

CALL 773.585.6888 OR EMAIL RBDEN@STSYMPHOROSASCHOOL.ORG TO SCHEDULE A TOUR!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS! CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK OPEN HOUSE Sunday, January 28, 2024 10:30am-1:30pm