

FEAST OF THE  
*Presentation*  
of the Lord

©LPI



**February 2, 2025**

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



## PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Robert Regan  
PASTOR

Rev. Kevin Gregus  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Norman Trela  
RETIRED PRIEST

## PASTORS EMERITUS

Rev. Ted Bojczuk  
PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Peter Paurazas  
PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Idzi Stacherczak  
PASTOR EMERITUS

## PARISH STAFF

Ken Hilliard  
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Magdalan Koziar  
OFFICE & TUITION COORDINATOR

Irene Perconti  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT

Peg Siebenaler  
FAITH FORMATION  
COORDINATOR

David Boyle  
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Dcn. Raul Duque  
PARISH ORGANIST

Mark Schusteric  
MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Jacqueline Guerrero  
BULLETIN & GENERAL  
OFFICE ADMIN

## SCHOOL STAFF

Kathy Berry  
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Chris Garza  
ASSISTANT SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

# WELCOME TO TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH MASS SCHEDULES

## 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

### RECONCILIATION

TUESDAYS | 6 PM—7 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

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

**PLEASE REFRAIN FROM PARKING IN THE FIRE LANES**

## 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

## SCHOOL OFFICE

6125 S. Austin Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60638

☎ 773.585.6888

🌐 www.stsymsschool.org

✉ office@stsymphorosaschool.org

### MONDAY—FRIDAY

9 AM—3 PM

## FAITH FORMATION

☎ 773.767.1523 Ext: 226

✉ msiebenaler@archchicago.org

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



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

## How do I register for FORMED®

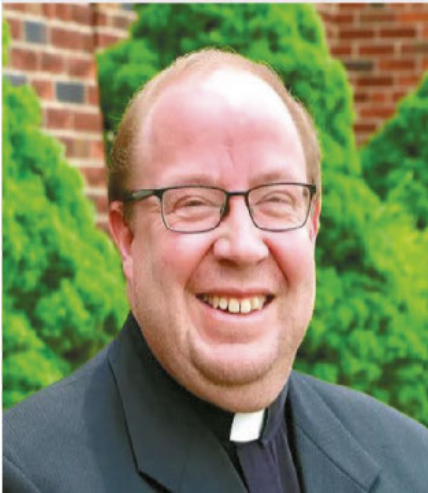
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- 1 Go to [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org).
- 2 Type in our parish name.
- 3 Enter your name and email.







# FR. BOB'S WEEKLY BLOG

One of the most illuminating titles of Jesus is "Light of the world."

We get this title directly from John's gospel (8:12). The Lord says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Light helps us see. This is true in everyday life. Try going into a dark closet and picking out your clothes for the day. What do we do? We turn the light on so we can more clearly identify our different shirts and sweaters.

This is also true in the spiritual life. The Light of Christ helps us see things more clearly, more patiently, more lovingly. An intentional disciple of the Lord sees the world and humanity differently than a person who rejects Christ or a person who has fallen into indifference to Christ.

Think of human life. Is it sacred or is it not sacred? You and I would answer that human life is sacred because of our faith. We are created by a Creator. Certainly, our mom and dad played a role in us entering this world, but the Author of life is bigger than our mom and dad. God said, "Let there be light and there was light." God also said, "Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness." (Genesis 1)

We might hear someone today claim that human life is not sacred. There is

no God, no Creator. We are the result of random chance. Therefore, we can "unalive" someone we determine is an inconvenience to us; whether that life is in the womb or in a nursing home.

We can see how the light of Christ aids us in how we see a particular issue.

Imagine how cold it would sound if a person told us that poor people don't matter. And they continued with neither the homeless and the hungry matter, and we should just forget about anyone who is in prison, or those folks who are sick. We'd be troubled by their comments, and rightly so. But why? Because we see the issue in different light. We see things with the light of Christ. Others do not, especially those choosing to live in darkness.

One of my favorite expressions is, "It's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." This wisdom has been attributed to a few people, but regardless of its author, it has been adopted and used by the Christophers.

The Christophers were founded in 1949 by Fr. James Keller. The Christophers believe that "each person has a God-given mission to fulfill; a particular job to do that has been given to no one else. Love and truth come to us through God, but these gifts are not ours to keep. By sharing them with others, each of us becomes a Christ-bearer, a 'Christopher' in the most fundamental sense of the word."

In other words, each of us can be a "light-bearer" for the world, and we receive this light from the One who is the Light of the world. It makes a huge difference in how we SEE things.

Believe it or not, Lent is a little over a month away. If habitual sin or serious sin has dimmed the light of grace in your life, please begin to prepare for the sacrament of reconciliation. Confession is the way to restore grace that has been lost through sin. Only pride and the tricks of the Enemy keep us away from Confession.

A wonderful way to prepare for Confession is to do an Examination of Conscience. There are some wonderful Catholic guides online you can look up that can assist you with this examination so that you are prepared for your time in Confession. The merciful Lord awaits your arrival, and He works through His instrument, the priest. We confess our sins to Christ, and when we express our sorrow and contrition, Christ forgives our sins, and then we make sure to do the penance given by the priest.

As the children's hymn goes, "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine."

Don't curse the darkness. That's too easy. Instead, light a candle with the Light that is inside you; the Light of the world.

**Quote -- "Where there is darkness, let there be light." -- Prayer of St. Francis**





# FR. KEVIN'S GREGORIAN RANTS

Having firmly clarified and defined the divinity of Jesus Christ, the fathers at the Council of Nicaea moved to describe how he took on human nature. The Incarnation was one of the truly unique aspects of the Christian faith and while it fully revealed God to man, it caused plenty of confusion in how God could dwell in true human form among his creation. As we saw last week, there were a number of heresies that denied that this event actually happened.

The Creed is clear on both the means and the reason for the Incarnation, or the enfleshment, of God. We state, "For us men and for our salvation", as the primary end of God coming to earth. Note that the use of "men" here is for all humankind, not just for the male gender. The original Greek uses the word "anthropos", which refers to humanity, and not "andros", which would be the word for masculinity. In the choice to become incarnate, the Lord had in mind his desire that all human beings might be saved.

An interesting theological hypothetical that arose over the years: Would God the Son have come to earth if the original sin had not happened? There is no "correct" answer because it is merely a theoretical question; man

did sin and needs salvation. What is really at stake in this question is the fittingness of the Incarnation. God could have saved humanity and revealed himself in a myriad of ways, but chose to take on human nature. So, we can conclude, Incarnation was the most suitable means to accomplish the end of salvation and mankind's union with God.

St. Thomas Aquinas, whose feast day we just celebrated on January 28<sup>th</sup>, believed that the nature of man's sin didn't necessitate the Incarnation and the Passion, but that it was the best way for man to come to receive redemption and come to be unified with God. If the highest possible good for man and the glory of God is to be united to God and highest type of union is the union of God and man in Jesus, then the Incarnation would've happened regardless of man's condition.

Regardless of hypotheticals, God did choose to become man and did so through both natural and supernatural means. Naturally, Jesus was conceived in the womb of a woman, Mary, developed as any child would, and was born in the natural human way. Supernaturally, the conception was done by the Holy Spirit to a woman who had been prepared by the fullness of God's grace. In this way, Jesus became man in all things but sin, and no part of the human experience was foreign to him.

You may notice that the priest bows his head when this part of the creed is recited. In fact, all the faithful are asked and invited to

make the same gesture. This is an act of reverence and respect for the great and central mystery of the Incarnation. On the Annunciation and Christmas, this bow is replaced by a full genuflection since it is on those days that we are closest to that mystery.

In the Incarnation, God the Son loses none of his divinity nor does he fail to take on every part of humanity. That's why we call it the Incarnation and not the creation of God the Son. He who was dwelling in heaven with the Father and the Holy Spirit comes down to earth so as to redeem and save humanity from within.

Because of the great act of the Incarnation, humanity was elevated to a higher place than they had been before. It was not with angels or any other creatures that God united himself with. Plus, this union lasts forever; Jesus didn't shed his human nature when he ascended into heaven. We can be assured that humanity will always have a place within the Trinity.





**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.

**HEAVENLY BIRTHDAY FOR LINDA SULLIVAN**  
For the repose of her soul, given by Family.

**ALL DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE CALCAGNO & BLUISS FAMILIES**  
For the repose of their souls, given by Kathy Calcagno.

**SANDRA PAWLAK**  
For the repose of her soul, given by Family.

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.



If you would like to make your donation online, please visit our website at [www.twoholymartyrs.org](http://www.twoholymartyrs.org) click on the **DONATE** tab, it will direct you to make your donation.  
Thank you.



**Thank you for your generosity!**

PARISH OFFERTORY: 1/26/25: \$9,362.00

Split the Pot Winning Envelope #: 60073: \$355.00

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

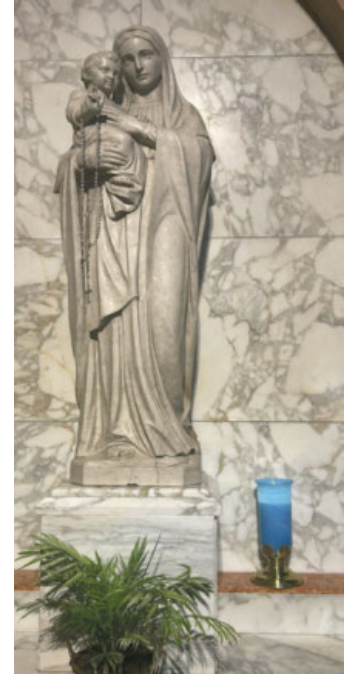


**ONLINE/ELECTRONIC DONATIONS**

**\$10,146.50**

**December 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024**

Total number of transactions:  
**300**



**OUR MARIAN CANDLES**

Lord God, with the lighting of this candle, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His mother, please hear our intentions for the month of

**FEBRUARY**

**ALL LIVING & DECEASED OF THE SOLTIS, KRZAN & PICHLER FAMILIES**  
For the repose of their souls, given by Pat Soltis.

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF ISABEL SILVA**  
given by Guerrero-Arteaga Family.

**ALL LIVING & DECEASED OF THE GARCIA, GONZALEZ & MORENO FAMILIES**  
For the repose of their souls, given by Cruz Family.

In the lighting of the Marian candles we ask for the Blessed Mother's intercession as we honor a loved one, living or



**Please Join Us in Praying for the Sick**

- |                      |                       |                    |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Arnold Adaska        | Joan Juris            | Ramon Perez        |
| Guadalupe Almendarez | Ron Kelly             | Christine Petry    |
| Marlene Annerino     | Sharon Labiak         | Ann Robertson      |
| Walter Annerino      | Elena LeCompte        | Michael Roman      |
| Sharon Arends        | Natalie LeCompte      | Adan Sanchez       |
| Fr. Ted Bojczuk      | Debbie Lipien         | William Serpico    |
| Glenn Boyle          | Mary Liszka           | Katrina Sigafoose  |
| Maxine Carey         | Rosemary Litwin       | Karen Singer       |
| Rita Cernick         | Joelee MacMaster      | Manuel Soto        |
| John Clementi        | Rich Marcello         | Shirley Tloczek    |
| MaryEllen Compton    | Cathy Mazeika         | Fr. Norm Trela     |
| Margaret Dalton      | Clarence Oleszkiewicz | Beverly Zimmerling |
| Karen Holmes         | Eleanor Pastorek      |                    |

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



# For the week of:

February 1st - February 9th



## Saturday February 1st

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

✠ Bob Compton & Kim Boll (Wife & Mother)

✠ Thomas Murray (Family)

✠ Rose Bluiss (Kathy Calcagno)

## Sunday February 2nd

7:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Bob

✠ Joseph & Josephine Dyniakoski (Family)

✠ Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

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

✠ Kara Lee Strasser (Ramazinski Family)

✠ Mo Naficy (Ramazinski Family)

✠ Ora Richardson (Ramazinski Family)

All Members Living & Deceased of the Altar & Rosary Society (A&R Society)

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

✠ John Siebenaler (Siebenaler Family)

Good Health & God's Blessings for Louise Siebenaler (Siebenaler Family)

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

**PRO POPULO**

## Monday February 3rd

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa

✠ Joseph Tomczak (Arlene Scaletta)

✠ Virginia Pieczynski (Family)

## Tuesday February 4th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa

All Poor Souls in Purgatory

## Wednesday February 5th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa

✠ Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

Birthday Blessings for Jose A. Cruz (Family)

## Thursday February 6th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa

✠ Tony Bojarski (Barbara Rendak)

## Friday February 7th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa

All Poor Souls in Purgatory

## Saturday February 8th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa

✠ Grupenhagen Family, Therese, Hermann & Max (Marie Zilka)

Health & God's Blessings for Therese Woulfe (Woulfe Family)

Health & God's Blessings for Kathleen Hynes (Woulfe Family)

✠ Patricia Geraghty (Monica Normoyle)

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

**PRO POPULO**

## Sunday February 9th

7:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil | Presider: Fr. Kevin

✠ Joseph & Josephine Dyniakoski (Family)

✠ Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

Health & God's Blessings for Nancy Shotas (Steve Chavos)

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

✠ Claude Wiatrak (Wife Clara)

✠ Joseph Wodarczyk (Barbara Rendak)

Health & God's Blessings for Rhian McGrath (Murphy Family)

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

✠ Louis (Gino) DiCrescenzo

✠ Mercedes Valentin & Deceased Family (Family)

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

✠ Bob, John & Bobby Soltis (Soltis Family)

✠ Nick, Mickey & Mirian (Soltis Family)

✠ Michael Lynch (Cathy & Pat Carone)



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

Marilyn Henry

Robert Hilbruner



*Presiders are subject to change without notice.*

TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH | February 2, 2025

# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 2024 TAX STATEMENT

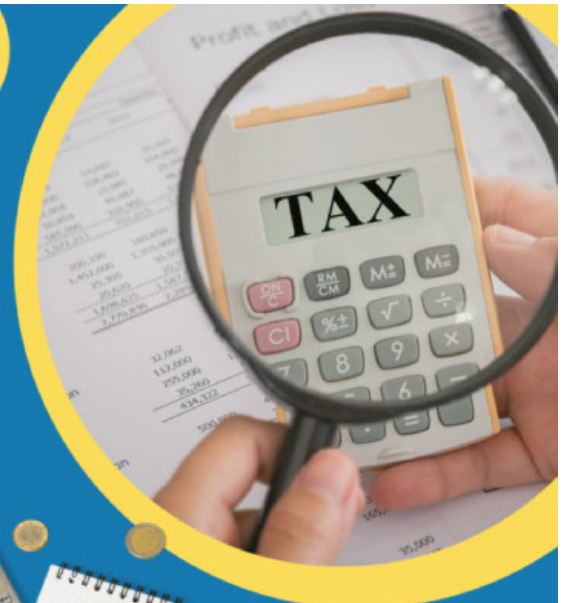
If you would like a statement of your contributions for 2024, please visit our parish website at [www.twoholymartyrs.org](http://www.twoholymartyrs.org) to submit your request or call the parish office at 773.767.1523.

The statement can be emailed to you or it can be picked up in person with a photo ID .

Thank you.

773.767.1523

info@twoholymartyrs.org



### Two Holy Martyrs Parish

Fish Dinner  
Cheese Quesadillas  
Pierogi  
Homemade Potato Pancakes  
Homemade Soup  
Kids Plate



March 7 & 21  
April 4  
5PM-7PM  
Dine in/Carry out  
Raffle Baskets  
Family Fun

In the Sharp Center Social Hall on the St. Sym's Campus  
Sponsored by the THM Transformation Committee



Split-the-pot

Two Holy Martyrs Presents

Pull tabs



# Mardi Gras Bingo



\$20 admission at the door

6148 S. Mason Street, Chgo IL 60638  
in the I Hall on the St. Symphorosa Campus

Sunday March 2

DOORS OPEN AT 12:30 GAMES BEGIN AT 1:30

Chili, tamales, hot dogs, chili dogs, nachos, chips & beverages available for purchase

PRESENTED BY THE THM TRANSFORMATION COMMITTEE

\$1800 in prizes!





# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



## CASINO Fundraising Night

**SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 8, 2025**  
**6:30PM - 11:00PM**  
 ST. SYMPHOROSA SCHOOL I-HALL  
 6148 S MASON AVE CHICAGO, IL 60638

ENJOY A NIGHT OF GAMING, MUSIC, 50/50 RAFFLES, FOOD & DRINKS!  
 NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. BLACKJACK, CRAPS & ROULETTE TABLES AVAILABLE.  
 ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT ST. SYMPHOROSA SCHOOL STUDENTS NEEDS.  
 ALL GAMING IS TO WIN PRIZES.  
 NO CASH PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED AT THIS EVENT.

**TICKET COST: \$45**

TICKET INCLUDES: \$100 CASINO PLAYING CHIPS,  
 ONE COMPLIMENTARY BEVERAGE (BEER, WINE OR SODA)  
 ADDITIONAL DRINKS & FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

TICKETS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT THE RECTORY

OR

SCAN THE QR\* CODE BELOW

\*CONVENIENCE FEE APPLIES - \$1.25 PER TICKET



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To give online: [annualcatholicappeal.com](http://annualcatholicappeal.com)




## SUPER BINGO




St. Rene Goupil Campus  
 6340 S. New England Ave.  
 Chicago, IL 60638

Refreshments & food are available for purchase  
**FREE COFFEE**

ADMISSION \$20 at the door


**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16TH, 2025**  
**DOORS OPEN AT 11:30AM**  
**GAMES BEGIN AT 1:00PM**

Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 17th for

## Presidents' Day

The Parish Office will return to normal business hours on Tuesday, February 18th at 9am-4pm.





# PARISH FAITH FORMATION



## SPIRIT DAY RETREAT

On February 23rd, our Confirmation Candidates from our Faith Formation Program 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.

"God is so powerful because he created the Earth, people, animals, the sun and the moon. He makes plans for all his people. He heals us and has us go through certain situations for a reason."

Jocelyn M.  
Confirmation Candidate

## Upcoming Events:

- 2/04:** Faith Formation Tuesday Class @ St. Syms Campus.
- 2/08:** Faith Formation Saturday Class @ St. Syms Campus.
- 2/18:** Faith Formation Tuesday Class @ St. Syms Campus.
- 2/22:** Faith Formation Saturday Class @ St. Syms Campus.
- 2/23:** Eighth Grade Family Mass. and Confirmation Retreat.



## 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.

## STUDENTS TAKE ANOTHER STEP TOWARD FIRST COMMUNION

This past weekend, our students preparing for Communion and their parents, participated a Communion Retreat. This celebration is another step forward in their preparation for First Communion. They had the opportunity to taste the unconsecrated hosts and share in conversation with their parents on what their First Holy Communion was like back when they received this sacrament.

Families shared some bread and juice, and we viewed the movie, "Grandma's Bread". The celebration of First Eucharist is scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 3rd.





# PARISH SCHOOL NEWS

## *Seas the Day at St. Symphorosa School*

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK CELEBRATION

We began Catholic Schools Week with a beautiful Mass, highlighted by student participation & attended by our dedicated teachers, school families and THM parishioners. Following the Mass, the school Open House was a fantastic success! Many families joined us to tour the school, enjoy refreshments and share in the fellowship. A special highlight was the appearance of Captain Jack Sparrow, who brought excitement and smiles to the day with photos and a treasure hunt adventure throughout the classrooms.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this celebration so memorable. Your presence and support truly reflect the welcoming spirit of St. Symphorosa School!



Catholic Schools  
United in Faith and Community



**2025-2026 SCHOOL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**  
Secure your child's spot today. Stop by the school office or email [marketing@stsymsschool.org](mailto:marketing@stsymsschool.org) for the application to register.



**"JOIN US" SCHOLARSHIP**  
Amazing opportunity for our Faith Formation families.  
Contact us for more information!



For more information or to schedule a tour, email [marketing@stsymsschool.org](mailto:marketing@stsymsschool.org)

**FOLLOW US**

Stay connected with St. Symphorosa Catholic School!  
Visit our website at [www.stsymsschool.org](http://www.stsymsschool.org) and follow us on Facebook & Instagram for the latest updates on school news, events and more!





# Eucharistic Adoration



Come spend intimate time with The Lord in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Tuesday

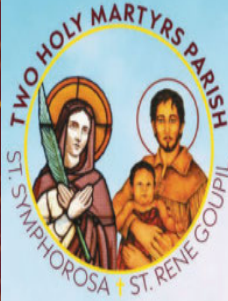
Exposition  
5:45pm

Confession  
6-7:00pm

Benediction  
7:00pm



at Two Holy Martyrs Parish - St. Symphorosa Church



## CHURCH OPEN FOR PRAYER

Beginning Monday,  
February 3, 2025  
our St. Symphorosa Church will  
be open for Private Prayer from  
9am until 4pm

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\*\$100 Visa gift card. Minimum value is \$100. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company reserves, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both participating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must own a home 10' tall or higher able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months, and all current and former Company customers. Offer may not be extended, transferred, substituted, assigned, or otherwise subject to change without notice prior to 12/31/25. Offer not available in the states of CA, HI, WA and OR. Expires 12/31/25.

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Two Holy Martyrs, Chicago, IL B 4C 01-4065  
TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH | February 2, 2025



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