

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

610-

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. - Lk 3:21-22a

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

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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

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This Sunday concludes the Christmas season as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord.

Charles Dickens wrote in A Christmas Carol, "I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The spirits of all three shall strive within me, I will not shut out the lessons that they teach."

We, too, as Christian disciples, keep the true meaning of Christmas in our heart all the year, and the true meaning of Christmas is the Gift of Jesus, the Savior of the world. The true meaning of the Nativity of the Lord is the Incarnation; the enfleshment of God in the Person of Jesus.

The intentional and unintentional secularization of Christmas has moved too many folks away from this truth. This has left the holy season being more about warm fuzzies, holly jolly, magic, and consumerism, instead of the mystery of our salvation. The Second Person of the Holy Trinity came intimately into this world not to live, but to die so that we might have life in him. This is the good news.

Jesus is the WHY of our charity. Why do we feed the hungry? Why do we care for the poor? Why do we work to shelter the homeless? Why do we

FR. BOB'S WEEKLY BLOG

tend to the sick and the suffering? All the questions point to the Answer, who is Christ, who is God, who is Love.

Allow me to thank so many of you who were exceptionally generous this Christmas season; whether it be your time, your treasure or your talent. Our annual Giving Tree was a great success. Many people in need were able to receive gifts for Christmas because of you. The Gift (Jesus) worked through you for the sake of others. That's love in action.

Allow me to also thank those who were generous to Fr. Kevin and I with cards, gifts, candy and food. It is humbling for us when we realize people care for us. Most people see their priest at Holy Mass once a week.

The priest, however, is helping people encounter God's grace in one -on-on conversations (occasionally about a difficult matter), when we do anointings of the sick, when we hear confessions, when we preside at a funeral or wedding, when we visit the school children in the classroom, etc., etc.. Although Fr. Kevin and I are both flawed, imperfect men, we also know Who we represent and Who is working in and through us as His ordained ministers, and it is humbling. Your generosity toward us is greatly appreciated.

Believe it or not, the good Lord works in and through you. Our outward generosity for others extends beyond the Christmas season. We are called to be the Lord's instruments in the here and now of this life. We do not need to travel halfway across the world to share God's love. We engage the

mission at any given moment in our sphere of influence. This sphere of influence is the 20-feet around you at any given moment. If there is a need within your sphere of influence, fill the need as best you are able.

St. Vincent de Paul wrote, "Charity is certainly greater than any rule. Moreover, all rules must lead to charity."

What amazing words of wisdom from one of our canonized saints. The English word charity comes from the Latin word caritas, which means love. When we are authentically charitable toward a fellow human being, we are, in fact, loving. The Why (Jesus) of our charity is working in and through us to help a human being in need; whether it be a family member, a fellow parishioner, a coworker, or a total stranger. Love triumphs!

Stay close to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, no matter what happens in our world; no matter how dark things might seem. Stay close to the Lord. Hold his nail-marked hand. Don't let go. He will carry us through the cross, through suffering and death, into Eternal Life. That's his promise. Do not be afraid.

Quote -- "If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." --**Mother Teresa**





FR. KEVIN'S GREGORIAN RANTS

We resume our exploration of the Nicene Creed by getting back to examining the relationship of the Father and the Son. The council Fathers really wanted to hammer home what it meant for Jesus to be the only-begotten Son who was not created by the Father, but shared with him in all things. So, we get some insight into the nature of his begetting. The Son is "God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made".

The Father shares everything with the Son except his identity as Father. He loves the Son with the fullness of a father and ensures that he is lacking in nothing. In receiving everything from the Father, the Son is able to show his own identity as Son. These are relational titles; they don't make sense without each other. The are the same in nature and essence, but distinct in relation to each other.

Light is strongly associated with the God who creates. It is God's first utterance in the book of Genesis, "Let there be light," and we hear that through those words, light came into existence. Light returns again and again in relation to God and his people, especially in the Psalms and the book of Isaiah. We just heard on Christmas, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone." [Is 9:2].

The Gospel of John picks up on the theme of light and darkness, speaking of Jesus as the true light, which gives light to all, that came into the world [Jn 1:9]. Later he speaks of himself as the "the light of the world," and that all who follow him will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. [Jn 8:12]. This light comes from the Father and is shared with the Son. There is no light that the Father has that is hidden from the Son or is not revealed by him. The Son was sent to restore this light that was originally given to creation; he is able to restore it because he has that same light as the Father.

The Creed doubles down on Jesus being "true God". The Son has the same divine nature as the Father. He is other than the Father but shares fully with the Father, and they remain as one God. Jesus is not only like God in appearance, but actually is of the same essential nature as God. By taking on a human nature, the Son did not lose or compromise any of his divinity.

Also, the council Fathers were speaking against the beliefs of the Roman Empire. Starting with Julius Caesar, the Roman emperor was considered the son of the

gods. Inscriptions about Caeser Augustus, the emperor at the time of Christ's birth, spoke of this: "Emperor Caesar Augustus, son of god; Emperor Caesar, god from god; Emperor Caesar Augustus, savior and benefactor." Christians knew that the emperor was no son of God, because they saw him as a limited man who didn't have the true power to save. Recognizing Jesus as the "true God" meant that they pledged their lives to Christ, not the emperor. This is echoed by the centurion who witnessed Jesus' death on the cross: "Surely this man (and therefore not Caesar) is the Son of God." [Mk 15:39]

All of this might seem like overkill by the council Fathers. We might want to throw up our hands and say, "Ok, we get it, Jesus is God!" Their insistence, however, speaks to the threat widespread Arianism posed on the Christian world. Again, if Jesus is not fully God and fully man, his salvific work on the cross is for nought. We might take it for granted today, but it is thanks to those who fought for Jesus' true identity that we can so confidently affirm and trust in it today.





OUR SANCTUARY CANDLES

Burning before the Blessed Sacrament are offered for the following intentions for the month of

JANUARY

VINCE PORCELLI & MARIA PORCELLI

For the repose of their souls, 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.



Please Join Us in Praying for the Sick

Arnold Adaska Ron Kelly Guadalupe Almendarez Sharon Labiak Marlene Annerino Elena LeCompte Walter Annerino Natalie LeCompte Sharon Arends Debbie Lipien Fr. Ted Bojczuk Mary Liszka Glenn Boyle Rosemary Litwin Maxine Carey Joelee MacMaster Rich Marcello Rita Cernick John Clementi Cathy Mazeika Clarence Oleszkiewicz MaryEllen Compton Margaret Dalton Eleanor Pastorek Karen Holmes Ramon Perez Joan Juris Christine Petry

Ann Robertson Michael Roman Adan Sanchez William Serpico Katrina Sigafoose Karen Singer Manuel Soto Shirley Tloczek Fr. Norm Trela Beverly Zummerling

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 12/29: \$8,537.06 1/5: \$9,217.00

Split the Pot Winning Envelope #: 60127: \$410.00 66647: \$440.00

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





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

JANUARY

MARY FERRITER

For the repose of her soul, given by Family.

RUSS GONSOWSKI, MILLIE & RICH NEWTOFF For the repose of their souls, given by Family.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARISOL GUERRERO given by Guerrero-Arteaga Family.

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



For the week of:

January 11th - January 19th

Saturday January 11th - NO CONFESSIONS TODAY

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

廿Helen Beyer (Wes & Debbie Szumowski)

骨Bob Compton & Kim Boll (Wife & Mother)

骨Thomas Murray (Family)

♣Judy Gregory (Kolasinski Family)

Sunday January 12th

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

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

骨Claude Wiatrak (Wife Clara)

骨Helen Kut (Arlene Scaletta)

♣Joanne Thiese (Sisters & Brother)

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

骨Joseph & Josephine Dyniakoski (Family)

骨Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

⊕Joseph & Mary Negoski (Ben & Judy Shafer)

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

Lord's Blessings for Geraldine & Michael Cummins & Family

(Normoyle Family)

⊕Judy Volkman (Ron & Joan Kelly)

Monday January 13th

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil

∜Vivencio Battung & All Poor Souls in Purgatory

(Rosario Battung)

Birthday Blessings for Henry Cordova (Rosario Battung)

Tuesday January 14th

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil

All Living & Deceased Members of the John & Mary Family (Mary Kolimas)

Wednesday January 15th

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil

令Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

All Living & Deceased Members of the John & Mary Kolimas

Family (Mary Kolimas)

Thursday January 16th

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil

引esse Parra & Fidel Martinez (Almendarez Family)

♣Joseph Staszel (Barbara Anna Rendak)

Birthday Blessings to Jose L. Cruz (Family)



Friday January 17th

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil All Poor Souls in Purgatory

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Saturday January 18th

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil

Lord's Blessings for Sue Cahill & Family (Normoyle Family) Lord's Blessings for Ita & Ned McSweeney (Normoyle Family) Lord's Blessings for Ann & Patrick Keniry (Normoyle Family)

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

⊕Rick Michalowski (Gerald & Karen Sendra)

☆Mary Ann (Sheedy) Garbauski (Friends)

⊕Bernard & MaryAnn Whitehead (Family)

Sunday January 19th

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

⊕Joseph & Josephine Dyniakoski (Family)

骨Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

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

PRO POPULO

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

令Christine Newsone (Toni & Debbie Luzzi)

骨Louis "Gino" DiCrescenzo

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

All Poor Souls in Purgatory



Presiders are subject to change without notice.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



THIS IS IT! DRAWING # 2 IS TUESDAY



- A Priceless Mass in YOUR Home
 - \$500 Lottery Basket
 - Unbelievable Gift Card Basket
 - \$100 Lottery Basket
- Bonus Prize Hockey Tickets/Popcorn Basket



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS











Refreshments & food are available for purchase FREE COFFEE



ADMISSION \$20 AT THE DOOR



SUNDAY JANUARY 19th, 2025 Doors Open at 11:30am Games Begin at 1:00pm





Thank



THE KNIGHTS AND SOLDIERS THANK YOU
THIS YEARS COLLECTION FOR THE "MILITARY BOX
DRIVE" WAS ONCE AGAIN A HUGE SUCCESS. TO ALL
WHO DONATED ITEMS - OR FUNDS FOR POSTAGE YOU CAN FEEL GOOD THAT YOUR EFFORTS WILL
LAND IN THE HANDS OF OUR DEPLOYED
FRIENDS, RELATIVES AND NEIGHBORS.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL!!!

ADULT CONFIRMATION
Spring 2025

The Adult Confirmation Process of the Archdiocese of Chicago is a pre-sacramental program for adults (18 and older) who have already received the Catholic sacrament of Baptism and First Holy Communion and are seeking to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Adults who have not received the Catholic sacraments of Baptism and First Holy Communion should contact their local parish to join the OCIA process.

The Adult Confirmation sessions are offered on Zoom in English and Spanish (Flyer).

Preparation Class Dates

Wednesdays: March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16, 30, May 7, 21. | 7 - 9 p.m.

English Adult Confirmation Mass

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 | 7 p.m. Queen of All Saints Basilica 6280 North Sauganash Avenue, Chicago, IL 60646

Registration Process

- 1. Registration opens on December 9, 2024
- 2. Register here or by scanning the QR code
- 3. Pay \$75 fee (due at the time of registration)
- Email a copy of your Baptismal certificate to adultconfirmation@archchicago.org
- 5. Registration closes February 21, 2025 at 6 p.m.
- You will receive the Zoom meeting link the week classes start

For more information, please **visit our website**. For questions, please email

adultconfirmation@archchicago.org, or call 312.534.8351



PARISH FAITH FORMATION



Upcoming Events:

1/18: First Communion Bread Meeting.

1/19: Belonging Mass for First Communion Students.

1/21: Faith Formation Tuesday Class @ St. Syms Campus.

1/25: Faith Formation
Saturday Class
@ St. Syms Campus.
&
First Communion

Bread Meeting.



On January 18 and January 25,

our First Communion Candidates along with their parents are invited to a Special Communion Bread Meeting/Retreat.

As part of this celebration, we will pray together, tell stories about our Holy Communion Masses from the past and partake in the sharing of bread with one another. Important information regarding the actual Communion Ceremony will be discussed.

Parents are welcome to ask any questions they may have concerning this momentous occasion.

In addition, at the very end of our retreat everyone will have the opportunity to view the film "Grandma's Bread".

(The movie, "Grandma's Bread" deals with the very sensitive issue of the death of a grandparent. Therefore, if you decide you and your child need to skip this movie, you have that option.)

We are looking forward to seeing all our First Communion families at the Bread Meeting Celebration!

Thank You God for the Eucharist, and the joy it brings into our lives. Happy are we who have been called to the Lord's Table!



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** <u>twoholymartyrs.org</u>

(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.



BELONGING SERVICE

On Sunday, January 19, at both the 9:00am. Mass, and the 10:30am Mass, our Faith Formation Students and Second Graders from St. Symphorosa School preparing for Holy Communion will be received as candidates for First Eucharist.

The candidates are invited to bring a loaf of sandwich bread to Mass.

The bread symbolizes Jesus, The Bread of Life.

All the bread will be donated to our local food pantry.



PRAYER REMINDER

Our Eighth-Grade students from St. Symphorosa School along with all our level eight students in our Faith Formation Program will celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation on March 16th at St. Rene Church. Also, our St. Symphorosa Second-Grade students and all our level two Faith Formation Students will receive Jesus in the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the First Time on May 3rd at St. Symphorosa Church.

We invite you to please prayerfully remember all of these young people, that they will remain faithful disciples of Jesus.

PARISH SCHOOL NEWS

Seas the Day at St. Symphorosa School

ST. SYMPHOROSA **SCHOOL** Catholic Schools Week

January 26, 2025 | 10:00am-1:00pm



We believe all things are possible with God our students are known and loved small class sizes - caring teachers & staff rigorous academics - faith based education STEM studio - after school clubs - athletics affordable before & after school care



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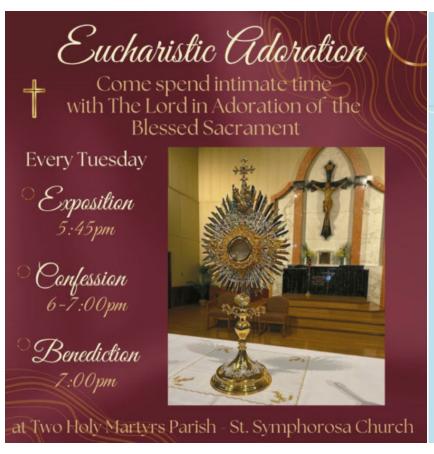
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For more information or to schedule a tour, email marketing@stsymsschool.org Stay connected with St. Symphorosa Catholic School!

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