

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

-610-

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." - Jn 2:1-3

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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One of the challenges in our current culture is the 24/7 news cycle.

Unless we intentionally unplug and distance ourselves from the TV, radio, computer, or smart phone, the "news" is coming at us all day long. News we need. News we don't need. We live in an age of information overload and saturation.

The prolonged overconsumption of news and media can rattle our soul and steal our peace. We are bombarded with "News Alert," and "Breaking Story." Day after day, week after week, month after month, and this begins to wear us down. This agitates our soul.

We find ourselves despairing of the world we live in and losing hope. The people in the news ratings game are seldom concerned with the wellness of your soul and your spiritual life. The primary concern of the "news" business today is ratings and revenue. It's about clicks and getting more eyeballs on a story for advertising reasons, and less about getting the truth of a story to the people.

We certainly cannot check out as

## FR. BOB'S WEEKLY BLOG

informed citizens. We need to be informed about important matters. What we can do is balance the news of the day with the Good News, which is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We live with a newspaper in one hand and the Holy Bible in the other. We hold in tension this world and eternal life.

Mary, the Blessed Mother, serves as a model for us in times of trouble. In our gospel this Sunday, the Wedding at Cana, the hosts ran out of wine. This would have been a huge embarrassment for the family. Mary intervenes and turns to Jesus. She instructs the servers by saying, "Do whatever he tells you." These are Mary's last recorded words in sacred scripture. She points to her Son and says, "Do whatever he tells you."

This is wonderful advice from our spiritual mother. Her role is always to direct us to the One who is able to change water into wine. She models for us humility and trust, even during times when it might seem as if all hell has broken loose.

It's not a coincidence that Jesus' first miracle took place during a humble wedding. For he is the Bridegroom who has come to wed heaven and earth; divinity and humanity. He is the Mediator, and he desires to marry our hearts to his Sacred Heart.

Divine love will not force itself. Love makes the offer and waits for our response; waits for our "I do." What is our response to Love? Can we confidently say, "I do," or are do we hesitate with, "Um, not yet."

The One who changes water into wine desires to change our minds and hearts, and the good Lord does this with the power of the Gospel and the truth of the Paschal Mystery. The word Gospel means good news or glad tidings. The good news of Jesus reminds us that Love is stronger than death, and that Love went to the cross to eternally conquer sin, evil, and death. Yes, this is the Gospel truth we're invited to keep in mind amidst the bad news that comes our way in this world. Knowing this, we can maintain a healthy balance that nurtures hope when dark forces tempt us toward despair.

Our hope is not in a what, but a Who. Who is our hope? Christ. Let's do what he tells us.

**Quote** -- "There is no love without hope, no hope without love, and neither love nor hope without faith." -- **St. Augustine** 





We've come to one of the key words in the Nicene Creed, one towards which we have been building in our examination of the relationship between the Father and the Son. Remember, the Arians argued that Son was not divine, or at least not fully divine, and was created by the Father. The Council Fathers fought this with phrases like "only-begotten" and "God from God". In order to hammer home the equal divinity of the Father and the Son, they turned to the world of Greek philosophy to explain the relationship.

They used the Greek term "homoousios", which we translate in English as consubstantial. It's a fancy word, but it has deep meaning. It means "one in being" or "of the same substance". To understand this, we'll need to dive briefly into metaphysics, which dates back to the time of Plato and Aristotle and looks into the truths beyond the material world.

The substance of a things is its truest essence, the fundamental core of a thing. It is anything that exists in and of itself. If you change the substance, it becomes something else entirely. This is opposed to an object's accidents, or the properties of an object. These are categories like size, color,

## FR. KEVIN'S GREGORIAN RANTS

quality, location, or action.
A t-shirt is a t-shirt; its substance is t-shirtness. If I dye it a new color, or place it in the washing machine, or apply a logo, it still remains a t-shirt. Something like color can't exist without a substance to apply it to. However, two t-shirts next to each other have different substances; this t-shirt is not that t-shirt, although they are united in having the nature of a t-shirt.

So, when we say something has the same substance as another, they share the same central nature and essence. The Son has the same substance as the Father, which is supreme divinity. Both are co-equal and co-eternal.

The inclusion of homoousios was novel for the Council of Nicaea. It had not been a term previously attributed to Trinity, which had primarily been described by Biblical language. It wasn't customary to use philosophical terms, but it was not completely out of the question. Members of the early Church, including St. Paul, would have been exposed to Greek philosophy and many of them used it in developing their theology. It was included because of the clarity of the term in the effort to rule out any suggestion that the Son was created from nothing.

Many have and continue to object to the use of philosophy and reason in religious discourse. The theologian Tertullian famously said, "What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?" He objected to using secular and non-religious terms and ideas to explain theological concepts. However, the majority of

the Church Fathers understood that truth is truth. If a philosophical term or notion explained some known truth, then it was from God because he is truth itself.

Theologians throughout the ages have continued to use philosophy and other fields, such as science and art, to bring clarity to understanding the mysteries of God. As we've discussed, it will always remain analogous because our language can never properly describe the fullness of divinity. While we remain based in scripture and revelation, Christians are able to borrow terms that help explain what we know to be true about God. There is no need to be afraid on non-religious terms and ideas; we can be open to adopt terms like the Council Fathers did.

The later councils helped to further clarify the full extent of what homoousios entailed but the concerns that it wasn't scriptural did not last long. It provided a major step in explaining the mystery of the Trinity in which three divine persons share one substance and essence as God. The key is to avoid the Trinitarian heresies, which we'll cover next time.





#### **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

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Beverly Zummerling



#### Thank you for your generosity!

**PARISH OFFERTORY:** 1/12/25: \$10,845.50

Split the Pot Winning Envelope #: 63388: \$365.00

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 18th - January 26th

#### Saturday January 18th

#### Sunday January 19th

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 PRO POPULO

10:30 AM | St. Rene Goupil| Presider: Fr. Bob| Choir & Jeanette Prati (McNamara Family) & Christine Newsone (Toni & Debbie Luzzi)

**12:00 PM** | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin All Poor Souls in Purgatory 
⊕Joseph Slowinski (Daughters & Families)

#### Monday January 20th

令Louis "Gino" DiCrescenzo

**08:00 AM** | St. Rene Goupil ⊕Gene Koszka (Pat Soltis & Family) Health and the Lord's Blessings for Julia Marie O'Shea & Andy O'Shea (Julie McTernin)

#### Tuesday January 21st

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

#### Wednesday January 22nd

**08:00 AM** | St. Rene Goupil ⊕Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)
Birthday Blessings for Laura Sarlitto (Mary Sarlitto)
⊕Ronnie Giron (Giron Family)

Thursday January 23rd 08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil Priest Vocations



Friday January 24th 08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil Peace for Daniel Sarlitto

#### Saturday January 25th

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil 육Richard Zilka (wife Marie) 육Janet Heitz (Marie Zilka) 육Theresa Tulik (Marge Tulik)

#### Sunday January 26th



## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



CONGRATULATIONS to all of the winners in our Holiday Double Draw Raffle Fundraiser.

### The 13 winning tickets are as follows:



Drawing #1 on December 17th

1st Choice: Mary L. Kolasinski #00362 2nd Choice: Maureen Meneghetti #01848 3rd Choice: Michelle Hilliard #01107 4th Choice: Josie Pulido #00289 5th Choice: Erin Kolasinski #01020 6th Choice: Jean Piotrowski #00264



Drawing #2 on January 14th

1st Choice Thomas Glab #00839 2nd Choice: Christopher Juttin #01792 3rd Choice: Cheryl Newtoff #01726 4th Choice: Dr. Kathy Berry #00186 5th Choice: Tina Ewalt #03032 6th Choice: Kim Zaja #00115

Bonus Prize Added: Thomas Glab #00474

#### Recap

1,519 raffle tickets were sold generating total revenue of \$11,475 plus over \$1,000 in cash donations to the parish.

Thank you to our volunteers who did a great job selling tickets. Thank you to all of our vendors who made donations to the prize lists. Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets and helped make this fundraiser a success!

**Note:** In the coming week, we will feature a list of all the donors so that we can all patronize them throughout the year for their consideration and support!

# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



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)
- 4. Email a copy of your Baptismal certificate to adultconfirmation@archchicago.org
- 5. Registration closes February 21, 2025 at 6 p.m.
- 6. 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:**

**1/19:** 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.

1/26: 2nd Year Conf. students should attend the 9am mass. A Conf. class follows the Mass in the I-Hall 10am until 11am.

2/04: Faith Formation Tuesday Class @ St. Syms Campus.

2/08: Faith Formation Saturday Class @ St. Syms Campus.



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** 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.



#### **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.



The Confirmation students who will be Confirmed on March 16, 2025, are asked to attend the **9:00am Mass on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at St. Symphorosa Church.** 

A Confirmation Class follows this Mass ... the class will be held in the I-Hall, 10am until 11am. Students are asked to bring non-perishable Lunch items to be used for our next Port Lunch Event.

(Ex. Apples/oranges, granola bars, breakfast bars, individual bags of chips or cookies, etc. A donation box will be available in the Narthex.) We look forward to welcoming All our Confirmation students on January  $26^{th}$  at 9am.

## PARISH SCHOOL NEWS

## Seas the Day at St. Symphorosa School

#### EXPLORE WHAT MAKES OUR SCHOOL A TREASURE!

We are excited to invite all families to our CSW Open House, an event where we showcase all the wonderful things St. Symphorosa School has to offer! Visit the classrooms, meet our amazing teachers, stay for refreshments & fellowship. Join us to experience the warmth of our school community-a place where faith, learning & kindness come together.

## ST.SYMPHOROSASCHOOL Catholic Schools Week OPEN HOUSE

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









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

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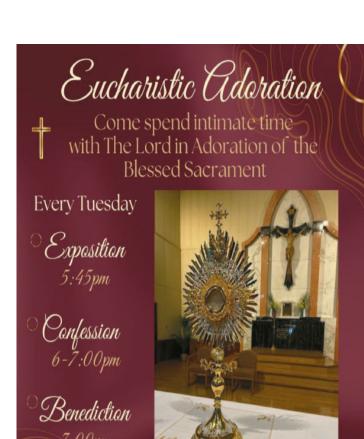
Ahoy! Come aboard the school for an adventure! Snap a photo with Captain Jack, embark on an exciting treasure hunt & meet the crew! SAVE THE DATE! February 8, 2025 Casino Night all proceeds will benefit the students



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

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