

# TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH

6135 S. AUSTIN AVE., CHICAGO, IL 60638 | 773.767.1523 | INFO@TWOHOLYMARTYRS.ORG

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025

# **7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

610

"Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." - Lk 6:38

#### **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 BUILETIN & GENERAL OFFICE ADMIN

#### SCHOOL STAFF

Kathy Berry SCHOÓL PRINĆIPAL

Chris Garza ASSISTANT SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

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



# **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

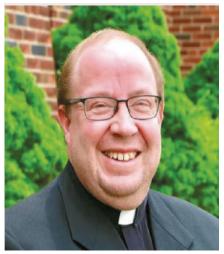
#### **FORME** How do I register for

Go to signup.formed.org.

Enter your name and email.

2

Type in our parish name.



If you were to ask someone today why God created you, what kind of response do you think you'd hear?

We might hear, "Um, I really don't know." Or we could hear, "There is no God, and life has no purpose or meaning."

Our hope is that a good many folks would echo the answer made famous in the old Baltimore Catechism, which read, "God made me to know him, love him, and to serve him in this world, and to be happy with God forever in the next."

Some people dismiss the old catechism answer as too rote and more about impersonal memorization of Church-given answers. However, the answer given in the old catechism rings true today, and not only should we commit it to memory, but we should also allow it to pierce our hearts and take up residence.

Why did God make you? God made you to know him, to love him, and to serve him in this world, and to be happy (blessed) with him in the next."

Two concrete ways to get to KNOW God better are prayer and sacred scripture reading/reflection.

Sometimes prayer becomes too much about what we have to say or more about our requests of God, when prayer should also be intimate quiet time with the Lord where we also listen to the still small voice that

# FR. BOB'S WEEKLY BLOG

reminds us of who we are and whose we are. Consider the fact that the words silent and listen consist of the same letters.

Scripture can also be intimidating. There are many folks who commit to reading the Bible. They start in Genesis chapter one and usually get as far as the Book of Numbers or Leviticus before they lose interest or get too lost and feel overwhelmed by the volume of information.

Take a step back. Start with one of the four Gospels. Choose Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, and read that specific Gospel in its entirety. As you read, allow yourself to stop and ponder on occasion when something stirs in your heart. Bring it to prayer, too. There is a reason a word, phrase or passage resonates with you. Don't just quickly move on. When you are done with one Gospel, choose and start another one until you've spent time in all four gospels. Then move on to Acts of the Apostles. There is time for the Old Testament down the road.

By getting to know Jesus better, we are getting to know God better. Jesus is the face of the Father. St. Jerome reminds us, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

As we get to know God, we find ourselves deepening our love for the One who is Love. We mature from seeing God as a Divine Dictator and more as Divine Mercy. Yes, God has established boundaries, parameters, and guardrails (Commandments) for humanity, but we should view these "house rules" the way a child begins to understand mom and dad's house rules; not arbitrary but in our best interest. "Don't touch the hot stove, Johnny."

Knowing God and loving God flows into service; faith in action. We do

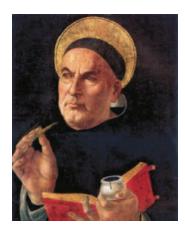
not stand idle awaiting a magical spaceship that is going to take us to heaven. No! Instead, we put love into action by serving God by serving those in need.

We pray "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." After we pray it, we then cooperate with God's grace to make it more of a reality on earth. For example, in addition to praying for an end to hunger, actively find a person who is hungry and provide a meal. That's love in action, but this love in action begins by our spending time kneeling (worshipping) in front of the One who is Love.

Our weekly communal celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is so important. Both prayer and Sacred Scripture are part of Holy Mass. We also celebrate the Eucharist which brings us closer to God and closer to one another. As we mature in discipleship, we move away from "I have to go to Mass," toward "I get to go to Mass." In turn, this moves away from fear of hell and toward love of heaven (God). All about perspective!

Why did God make you? Now you know the answer. Now we can LIVE the answer.

**Quote** -- "God's love for us is not greater in heaven than it is now." -- **St. Thomas Aquinas** 





Following his Resurrection, Jesus stuck around on earth for 40 days, appearing to many of his followers to give hope, encouragement, and final teachings. At the end of those 40 days, he gathered with his disciples on Mt. Olivet near the city of Jerusalem. He gave them the Great Commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Then, he was lifted up and taken into heaven in his Ascension.

There are two common questions when it comes to the Ascension of Christ: 1) Where exactly did Jesus go when he ascended, and 2) Why did Jesus have to leave?

When we think of Jesus ascending, we might imagine him blasting through outer space like Superman, zooming towards a place beyond the stars. Of course, this isn't what or where heaven is. It's hard to describe a "where" for heaven because it is outside of our known created space and time. We shouldn't take that to mean heaven isn't a place and is instead some mass communal projection in our minds. Heaven is where God is; we

# FR. KEVIN'S GREGORIAN RANTS

are in heaven when we are fully unified with the Holy Trinity. We say that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father. Again, we shouldn't think of heaven as a giant palace with the Father sitting on a massive throne. Remember our discussion of symbolic and analogical language. We are limited by words even if God is not. The right hand of the King was the place of greatest honor. We see it most often referenced in the Psalms to show intimacy, closeness, possession, authority, honor, and power.

From that "position", Christ remains as King and Lord forever having redeemed mankind from within. This means that a person with a human nature is at the Father's right hand. He didn't shed his humanity as a part of the Ascension. In the Ascension, he completes his exitus-redditus, the setting out and returning to dwell with the Father forever. At the right hand, Jesus is not subordinate to the Father but shares equally in power and judgment.

So then, why did Jesus have to ascend at all? Wouldn't it have been better for him to stay on earth and run the Church in person? In answering questions like this, we can be assured that whatever Jesus did was the most fitting for our ongoing salvation. Amidst the many ways it could have gone, our all-knowing and all-loving God would not have done it in a way that was lacking or not ideal.

Jesus spoke in the Gospel of John that it was necessary for him to leave so that the Holy Spirit could be sent as our advocate. This meant the indwelling presence of God could spread and not be spatially bound. Yes, Jesus was divine, but in his humanity, he was bound to a single

space at once. There would be much clamoring and confusion as to who was closest to Jesus and therefore had authority. By ascending, the authority of Christ as King of the universe and head of the Church could be fully demonstrated.

There were plenty of people who heard and witnessed what Jesus did, yet still ignored him. That's to say that seeing Jesus in person is no guarantee that you would choose to follow him. Many had the chance and chose to remain in their own ways. Christianity is more than just seeing and believing, but in submitting the entirety of our lives to be in relationship with the Creator and Savior of the universe.

It's tempting to think our faith would be easier if Jesus had just stayed. In handing over his presence and authority to the Church, it guaranteed the involvement of all of its members. The life of Christ passed into the Church so that the Great Commission could be fulfilled and all would have the opportunity to hear the Gospel. He gave us the mark to aim at – don't resign yourself to remain on earth, but follow him in the Church so as to be united with him eternally in heaven.





#### **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.



ONLINE/ELECTRONIC DONATIONS

\$8,283.38

January 1, 2025 to January 31, 2025

Total number of transactions: **256** 

#### 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 Rosemary Litwin Karen Singer Maxine Carey Joelee MacMaster Manuel Soto Rita Cernick John Clementi Rich Marcello Shirley Tloczek MaryEllen Compton Cathy Mazeika Fr. Norm Trela Margaret Dalton Clarence Oleszkiewicz Beverly Zummerling Karen Holmes Eleanor Pastorek





#### **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.

## ALL LIVING & DECEASED OF THE KOUNTIS, BARA & KUDWA FAMILIES

For the repose of their souls, given by Dee.

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



### Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH OFFERTORY: 02/16/25: \$7,647.60

Split the Pot Winning Envelope #: 65036: \$346.00

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



If you would like to make your donation online, please visit our website at www.twoholymartyrs.org click on the DONATE tab, it will direct you to make your donation.

# For the week of:

## February 22nd - March 2nd

#### Saturday February 22nd

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

⊕Ronnie Giron (Giron Family)

⊕Bernard & Maryann Whitehead (Family)

♣Dolores Michalski (Gorniak Family)

中Ronald Koziol (Family)

#### Sunday February 23rd

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

令Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

骨Paulino Villarreal, Sr. (Family)

9:00 AM | St. Symphorosa | Presider: Fr. Kevin | Choir PRO POPULO

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

骨Rosa Munoz (Giron Family)

骨James Wilkins (Mary Wassink)

骨Flora Sferrino (Karen Walsh)

Health & God's Blessings for Florence Wilkins (Mary Wassink)

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

骨Tadeusz Dana (Daughter Ela & Family)

⊕Bernadette Simpson (Barbara Rendak)

骨Paulino Villarreal, Sr. (Family)

#### Monday February 24th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa

Birthday and the Lord's Blessings for Alex Tulik (Marge Tulik) Birthday and the Lord's Blessings for Ashley Battung (Rosario Battung)

(Nosario Batturig)

₱Mitch Kostka (Pat Soltis & Family)

骨Paulino Villarreal, Sr. (Family)

#### Tuesday February 25th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa

Birthday Blessings for Mariel Battung (Rosario Battung)

令Elizabeth Bojarski (Barbara Rendak)

⊕Joseph Loduca (Family)

#### Wednesday February 26th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa

∜Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

₱15th Anniversary for Donald Grisko (Family)



### Thursday February 27th

**08:00 AM** | St. Symphorosa

令Nick Alderfer (Grandma Pat)

#### Friday February 28th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa

Peace for Daniel Sarlitto

#### Saturday March 1st

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil

⊕William Bulster (Marie Zilka)

Birthday Blessings for Corazon Santiago (Rosario Battung)

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

 ⊕Bob Compton & Kim Boll (Wife & Mother)

♣Richard & Lorraine Gorniak (Your Children)

骨Frances Szumowski (Wes & Debbie Szumowski)

骨Patricia "Trish" Hickey (Markham Family)

#### Sunday March 2nd

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

⊕Joseph & Josephine Dyniakoski (Family)

骨Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

육Al Beyer (Cieslewski Family)

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

⊕Joseph Loduca (Family)

All Members Living & Deceased of the Altar & Rosary Society

(A&R Society)

**骨Mary Ann McNamara (Arlene Scaletta)** 

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

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

& John & Cathy Ryan (Cathy & Pat Carone)

⊕Guadalupe Villarreal (Daughter & Grandsons)



Join us **Sunday March 2, 2025 for Mass at 9am** at our St. Symphorosa worship site.

You are welcome to join us on **Tuesday March 4, 2025** for our first meeting of the year, you can also join us for pie and ice cream social and BINGO at the **St. Rene narthex at 12pm (noon).** 

**SEE YOU THERE!!** 

# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



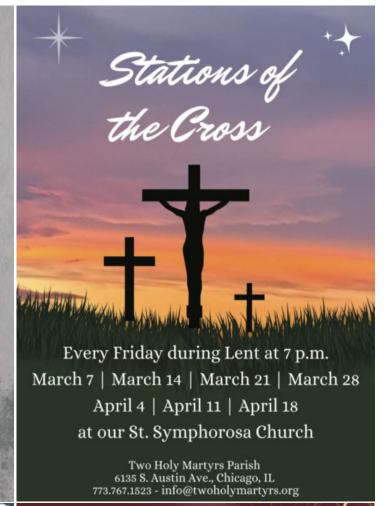
**HOLY MASS & SERVICES** 

MARCH 5, 2025

8am Mass - St. Rene Goupil 11am School Mass - St. Symphorosa

Noon Service - St. Rene Goupil 3:30pm Service - St. Symphorosa 4:30pm Service - St. Rene Goupil 5:30pm Service - St. Symphorosa

7pm Mass - St. Symphorosa





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2025 Annual Catholic Appeal

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#### To mail:

835 North Rush Street Chicago, IL 60611



To give online:

annualcatholicappeal.com

# 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 Z:00pm



at Two Holy Martyrs Parish - St. Symphorosa Church

# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS







doors open at 11:30am Games Begin at 1:00pm

ATTENTION MEN OF TWO HOLY MARTYRS

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OUR GROUP MEETS THE FIRST TUESDAY NIGHT OF EACH MONTH USUALLY DOING SOMETHING WORTHWHILE.
WE'VE BEEN KNOWN TO GO OUT FOR "REFRESHMENTS"
POST MEETING.

CHECK US OUT....

CONTACT: JERRY 773.485.0146 DARRIN 773.418.3060

# PARISH FAITH FORMATION

## **Upcoming Events:**

2/22: Faith Formation

Saturday Class @ St. Syms Campus.

2/23: Eighth Grade Family Mass.

and

Confirmation Retreat.

**3/04:** Faith Formation

Tuesday Class @ St. Syms Campus. Reconciliation for Confirmation students.

**3/08:** Faith Formation

Saturday Class @ St. Syms Campus. Reconciliation for Confirmation students.

March 12 & 13: Confirmation

Practices, 6pm at St. Rene Church.

March 16:

CONFIRMATION DAY!



### **LENTEN OUTREACH**

Our Faith Formation students invite all of our parishioners to participate in our Lenten Outreach project. All levels will be donating Children's Easter Basket items for the local shelters and agencies we service. Donations can be brought to our Faith Formation classes, to the Main Parish Office on Austin Ave. or dropped off in the Narthex when attending Mass.

Please note, we can always use empty

Please note, we can always use empty
Easter Baskets and the cellophane bags to
wrap the baskets, after we fill them. For
more information, feel free to call the Faith
Formation Office. God be with you and your
dear families as we journey through this
Holy Season of Lent. Our 2025 Confirmandi
are invited to take part in assembling the
Easter Baskets and earn service hours for
their upcoming Confirmation.



### 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.



### Confirmation

On **Sunday, March 16**<sup>th</sup> we will Celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Rene Church. There will be a **Mass at 12:00pm and a Mass at 4:00pm**. Eighty students from our Faith Formation Program and from St. Symphorosa School will be Confirmed by the Most Reverend, Bishop Bartosic, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago. The students have worked very hard at preparing for this special day and we ask that you remember them, their sponsors, and parents in your prayers. *Practice for this sacrament will take place at St. Rene Church on Wednesday, March 12*<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. And another practice will take place on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. The Confirmation Candidate and Sponsor need to attend the practice in which they were assigned. If, for some important reason, the Sponsor is unable to attend, the student must be accompanied by a parent.



### **RECONCILIATION BEFORE CONFIRMATION**

As the Confirmation Candidates prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation they will first participate in the sacrament of Reconciliation with their classmates on Tuesday, March 4th and Saturday, March 8th, during their regularly scheduled classes. These students continue to work hard on their journey toward the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation, which is scheduled to take place on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

We ask that you remember them, their sponsors, and parents in your prayers.

# PARISH SCHOOL NEWS

# Seas the Day at St. Symphorosa School

8TH GRADE PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION: A SPECIAL CHURCH TOUR Fr. Kevin guided the 8th grade class on an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of St. Symphorosa Church, helping them deepen their understanding of Mass & the Gifts of the Holy Spirit ahead of their Confirmation.







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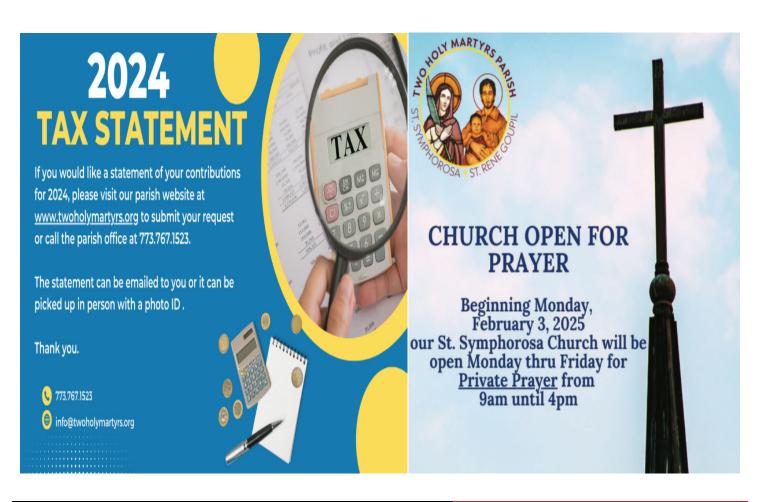






For more information or to schedule a tour, email marketing@stsymsschool.org Stay connected with St. Symphorosa Catholic School!

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