



THE HOLY FAMILY



He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

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

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December 29, 2024

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



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

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

✉ msiebenaler@archchicago.org

How do I register for **FORMED**

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LOG IN TO OUR PARISH ACCOUNT AND
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- 1 Go to signup.formed.org.
- 2 Type in our parish name.
- 3 Enter your name and email.





FR. BOB'S WEEKLY BLOG

Optimism runs high right around New Year's Day.

Many folks will make a resolution as we move into the months of 2025. For some people, it will be better health and exercise, while others opt for attending to some flaw in their personality. Then there are those who want to be better with their money.

As Christians, however, we have something more than optimism when we face the future. We have HOPE. Why do we have hope? Because of the Person of Jesus, the Christ. This reminds me of the Corrie ten Boom quote. She wrote, "We can trust an unknown future to a known God."

How did God make Himself known? Certainly, through all the prophets of old, but in a final, complete way, God makes Himself known to us through the Son. Divinity enters time and space in a very concrete, tangible way in Jesus of Nazareth. We see how the manger in Bethlehem and the cross of Calvary are connected. Jesus came into this world not to live, but to die, so that we might have life in Him; eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to

condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

This is why we call Jesus the Savior. He saved us – eternally – from sin, evil, and death. For a human being to smugly say, "I don't need a savior," is to deny the reality of sin, evil, and death; all of which are realities. A statement like that is either ignorance of the Paschal Mystery of Christ, or it is ingratitude for what Christ has done for us.

As people of hope, we use the Christmas season and the new secular calendar year as an opportunity to make some spiritual resolutions so that 2025 sees us deepening our faith and growing in discipleship.

What are some spiritual resolutions? Pray daily. Participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation. Spend time regularly with Sacred Scripture. Pray the Rosary. Make use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, especially if it has been a long time, or you are living in serious sin. Live out in our lives the corporeal and spiritual works of mercy (please look them up if you don't know them, or you need a refresher). Learn more about your faith (use FORMED.org as a possible option). Read a book that helps you grow closer to God and to other people. Support our parish with time, treasure, or talent.

Why should we do any of these? Love. Love is the WHY that propels our action, and God is Love (Father, Son, Holy Spirit), and Love is Who brings us Home.

Christmas Thank You

Thank you to everyone for your generosity during the Christmas

season. Generosity comes in many forms.

Thank you to the parishioners and parish staff who helped decorate our two churches so we can enjoy the beauty of the season. This takes hours to complete. The church doesn't just decorate itself. We're very grateful for this love and effort.

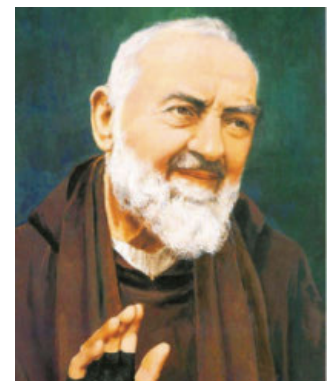
Thank you to everyone who is generous financially. Not everyone can give crazy amounts of money, but when everyone is giving something, we find ourselves able to pay salaries and bills, while also trying to save a little bit of money for emergency needs.

Thank you to anyone who donated their time or their talent for parish needs.

Thank you to everyone who has worshipped with us and prayed with us. Please, never underestimate the importance of our communal worship at Holy Mass, and our personal prayer time. This is the bread and butter of our faith.

Thank you for choosing Two Holy Martyrs Parish as your spiritual home.

Quote -- "Pray, hope and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayers." -- **St. Padre Pio**





FR. KEVIN'S GREGORIAN RANTS

As we wrap up this calendar year, I am filled with gratitude with the time I've spent so far at Two Holy Martyrs Parish. Don't worry, this isn't some letter announcing my departure or anything (all complaints can be directed to the pastor). Rather, I want to thank you for making this first assignment so fruitful. This marks the end of my first full year here, a year to learn and give of myself from January through December. I've honestly loved every moment of it, and I see no reason why that won't continue.

I haven't kept any direct stats, but there have been countless Masses said and confessions heard. It's been a joy to baptize several children, including some of the students at our parish school, to witness a number of marriages, and to celebrate a handful of quinceañeras. I've been honored to preside at many funeral Masses, wake services, and graveside committals, as well as to accompany people for anointings and last rites. Spending time teaching and hanging at our school is one of my true joys, which has even included filling in as a gym teacher for a day.

I'm not one for big, sweeping resolutions for the new year.

Instead, I want to continue to grow what has already begun. We have a great group for OCIA that is preparing for full reception into the Church with the sacraments of initiation. We are all learning how to use FORMED.org to help form and teach outside of the traditional settings. Both Fr. Bob and I have some plans for talk series on the liturgy, prayer, and other areas of Church doctrine. I want to continue to expand our liturgical ministries, especially our altar servers.

If there's anything I really want to improve on, it's getting to better know parishioners and families outside of the normal church things. One of the best ways that I know of is to make myself available for house blessings and dinners. I hope this doesn't sound too forward, but I'd love nothing more than to join a family or two for dinner after giving the house a thorough dousing of blessings and holy water. We've been very appreciative to those who have brought over dinner on Tuesday nights. Conversation over food and drink does wonders to help me get to know you, your families, and your particular needs.

I've also greatly enjoyed these weekly columns and the opportunity to share about the depths and sources of our beautiful Catholic faith. I've gotten lots of positive feedback about them, so thank you! (Sidenote: always feel free and comfortable with offering any feedback, positive or constructive). Once we wrap up the Nicene Creed, I'd like to take dives into

some of our devotional practices, some important Church documents, and some book and movie recommendations. If there's anything you'd like to see, please let me know.

I look forward to continuing to grow with you. You all play a major role in constantly confirming that God called me to the right vocation. You've provided, and will continue to provide, many different lenses through which I can look on my theological studies and ministry, lenses that will continue to guide my own study (yes, priests still read after leaving seminary) and my future interactions with you all. Fr. Bob is an excellent pastor and a great mentor, but we would both agree that nothing can compare with the formation that comes from guiding you as our flock. There is a deep hunger for God here at THM. Do not let this die out or be satisfied with lesser goods.

Now, it's time for us all to take a well-deserved deep breath and a rest from the busyness of this blessed season. Merry Christmas and continued blessings in this new year of our Lord, 2025!





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.

PHIL SCALETTA

For the repose of his soul, given by wife, Arlene Scaletta.

SULLIVAN, PRENDERGAST, ALVAREZ FAMILIES

For the repose of their souls, given by Family.

MICHAEL NOWAKOWSKI

For the repose of his soul, given by parents Joe & Josie Pulido.

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.



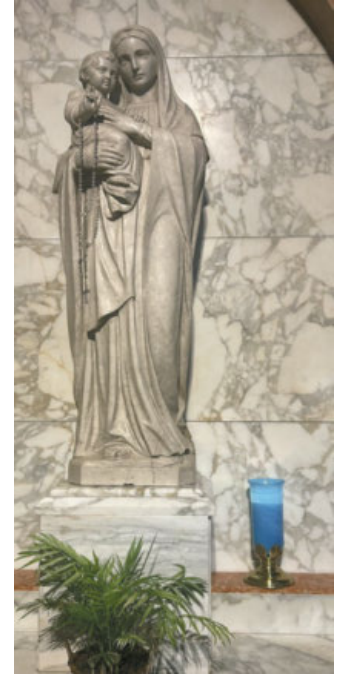
Please Join Us in Praying for the Sick

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

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



Due to an early deadline, contribution information will be printed on the next bulletin.



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

DECEMBER

ALL LIVING & DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE SPECK & PULIDO FAMILIES

For the repose of their souls, given by Joe & Josie Pulido.

VICTOR & ZENEIDA NAREA

For the repose of their souls, given by Vincent Narea.

ALL LIVING & DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE LECOMPTE, GLAUBKE, BYCZEK, & HIGGINS FAMILIES

given with Love.

PAT, DAN, KELLI & TONY

For the repose of their souls, given by 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.

Thank you once again to the parishioners of Two Holy Martyrs parish who donated gifts to our Advent Giving Tree Project. We were able to send many gifts to PADS Homeless Shelter, Hines Veterans Hospital, Manteno Veterans Home and Illinois Veterans Home, as well as gift cards to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Catholic Charities to assist them in their work with needy families. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

A special thank you to the Pacino family for their continued help in delivering the gifts to the charities.

For the week of:

December 28th - January 5th



Saturday December 28th

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

Sunday December 29th

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

✠Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)
✠Joseph & Josephine Dyniakoski (Family)
✠Victor & Zeneida Narea (Vincent Narea)
Heavenly Birthday for George Nowak
(Wes & Debbie Szumowski)

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

✠Roy Moscato (Kathy Calcagno)
✠Jeanette Prati (McNamara Family)
✠Ginger Britschgi (Art & Katie Carpenter)
✠Rose Kisielowski (Rita Lane)

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

✠Jack Orsi (Family)

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

✠Lauren Vitrano (Mom & Amanda)
✠Theresa Berger (St Vincent DePaul Society)
✠Virginia Pieczynski (Family)

Monday December 30th

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa

✠Kathy Arvetis (Husband)
✠Walter Labno (Family & Friends)
Prayers for Health of Baby Kal Lawrence (Siebenaler Family)

Tuesday December 31st

08:00 AM | St. Symphorosa
NO INTENTIONS

Wednesday January 1st

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil
NO INTENTIONS

Thursday January 2nd

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil

✠George Nowak (Wes & Debbie Szumowski)
✠Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)
✠Virginia Pieczynski (Family)
✠Virginia Blazeniak (Arlene Scaletta)
Thanksgiving Mass (Rosario Battung)
✠Manuel Alvarez & All Poor Souls in Purgatory
(Rosario Battung)

Friday January 3rd

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil

✠Jeanette Prati (McNamara Family)
Prayers for the health of Baby Kal Lawrence
(Siebenaler Family)
Heavenly Birthday for Donald Grisko (Family)
✠Linda Miller (John Garcia)

Saturday January 4th

08:00 AM | St. Rene Goupil

Prayers for Health of Baby Kal Lawrence (Siebenaler Family)
✠Penny Uram (Barbara Anna Rendak)
✠Richard Jovanovich (Family)
Birthday & God's Blessings for Erin Jacobson (Marge Tulik)
Good Health & God's Blessings for Denise Gilda (Family)

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

Sunday January 5th

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

✠Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)
✠Joseph & Josephine Dyniakoski (Family)

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

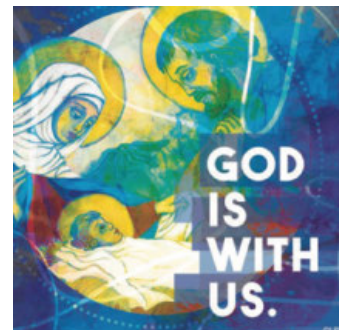
✠Bernard Murphy (Margaret Scanlon)
✠Michael Lynch (Kolasinski Family)
✠Jeanette Prati (McNamara Family)
All Members Living & Deceased of the Altar & Rosary Society
(Altar & Rosary Society)

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

✠Joanne Bukowiecki (Dan & Patti)
✠Ramon Perez on his 10th Anniversary (Family)
✠Elisa Aranda (Almendarez Family)
✠Anthony Sanfratello (Mother Gina Sanfratello)

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

Blessings for Patsy & Michael Geraghty (Normoyle Family)
Blessings for Maire & T.J. Talty & Family (Normoyle Family)
✠Nancy Janda (Linda & Greg Kujawa)



Presiders are subject to change without notice.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holiday Riches Double Draw Raffle Tickets
Only \$10 each and 3 for \$25...Bonus 15 for \$100

JUST ADDED... 7th prize for
Drawing # 2 -
Prize Basket Donated by
RAINCOAT ROOFING including 8
wolves tickets, Popcorn machine...
PLUS
BIGGER PRIZES

Home Mass

65" Smart TV

2 Nights Galena Resort Home Rental

Massive \$500 Lottery Basket

Large Basket filled w/Gift Cards

\$100 Lottery Basket

STILL TIME TO BUY ANOTHER TICKET!!

Poinsettia in Memoriam 2024

Parishioners have donated the beautiful poinsettias on the altar in memory of loved ones

All Deceased Members of the Drozd & Yake Families
All Deceased Members of the Ferriter & Kolasinski Families
All Deceased Members of the Karpinski Family
All Deceased Members of the Loduca & Lance Families
All Deceased Members of the Nych & Ptak Families
All Deceased Members of the Svientek & Knutel Families
All Deceased Members of the Trendle Family
All Deceased Members of the Valentin Family
All Deceased Members of the Zaja & Hrizak Families
In Loving Memory of Alice, Helen and Virgie
In Loving Memory of Alvarez Family
In Loving Memory of Bert Rendak
In Loving Memory of Carmen & Walter Flores
In Loving Memory of Carol Kochan
In Loving Memory of Chris & Janice Salach
In Loving Memory of Darlene Gudim
In Loving Memory of David Walsh
In Loving Memory of Edward & David Feddor
In Loving Memory of Edward & Valeria Konstanty
In Loving Memory of Edward Cieslewski
In Loving Memory of Elizabeth Bojarski
In Loving Memory of Frank G. Krzan
In Loving Memory of Gaca Family
In Loving Memory of George Nowak
In Loving Memory of Guadalupe & Lucio Gonzalez
In Loving Memory of Jack & Christine Doherty
In Loving Memory of Jack Orsi
In Loving Memory of Janet Bourret
In Loving Memory of Clare D'Angelis, Marge & Tom Tassone
and Fred Vacchiano
In Loving Memory of DeRose, Carbone, Fendo & Curry
Families
In Loving Memory of Joan Brown
In Loving Memory of Joann Kukulka and Larry Piotrowski
In Loving Memory of John and Hortense Higareda
In Loving Memory of John F. Soltis
In Loving Memory of John Zientko
In Loving Memory of Joseph & Stella Tomczak
In Loving Memory of Judith Siwek
In Loving Memory of Konieczny Family
In Loving Memory of Leon & Helen Soltys
In Loving Memory of Loretta Pozniak
In Loving Memory of Marion & Therese
In Loving Memory of Mary Molisius
In Loving Memory of Michelle Valestin
In Loving Memory of Mike & Josephine Nych
In Loving Memory of Nick Alderfer
In Loving Memory of Novak Family
In Loving Memory of Phil Scaletta
In Loving Memory of Prendergast Family
In Loving Memory of Richard Merda
In Loving Memory of Robert & Elaine Hilliard
In Loving Memory of Robert D. Soltis
In Loving Memory of Robert Montgomery Sr.
In Loving Memory of Robert T. Soltis
In Loving Memory of Shioukry Khazen
In Loving Memory of Sullivan Family
In Loving Memory of Tony Bojarski
In Loving Memory of Valerie Sekerka
In Loving Memory of Walter & Frances Szumowski
In Loving Memory of Wedad Khazen
In Loving Memory of William Bojarski



PARISH FAITH FORMATION



Upcoming Events:

- 1/1:** HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- 1/7:** Faith Formation Tuesday Class @ St. Syms Campus.
- 1/11:** Faith Formation Saturday Class @ St. Syms Campus.
- 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.



New Year's greetings and blessings from the Faith Formation Team ... May you and those you love walk in peace, beauty, and joyful hope this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year!



NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Another year is dawning
With the chance to start anew.
May I be kinder, wiser, Lord,
In all I say and do.

Not so caught up in selfish gain
That I would fail to see
The things in life that mean the most
Cost not a fancy fee.

The warm, kind word that I can give,
The outstretched hand to help,
The prayers I pray for those in need-
More precious these than wealth.

I know not what may lie ahead
Of laughter or of tears:
I only need to know each day
That You are walking near.

I'm thankful for this brand new year
As now I humbly pray,
My hand secure in Yours, dear Lord,
Each step along the way.



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!



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.



PARISH SCHOOL NEWS



Seas the Day at St. Sym's School



What an amazing turnout for Santa's Open House! Many families joined us to celebrate the season and discover the spirit of St. Symphorosa School. Guests enjoyed hot cocoa & cookies, photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus and fellowship.



ST. SYMPHOROSA
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
OF TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH

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Holiday Mass Times

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

DECEMBER 31 (VIGIL MASS)
4:00 PM @ ST. SYMPHOROSA CHURCH

JANUARY 1, 2025
9:00 AM @ ST. RENE GOUPIL CHURCH

Parish Office will be closed for
New Years Holiday
December 31st, January 1st & 2nd.

Office will be back for business on
Friday, January 3rd at 9am

THANK YOU

Special THANK YOU to:

Tamaleria Lupita

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Acapulco Bakery

6044 W. 63rd St.

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and many more that made
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Our Lady of Guadalupe



Two Holy Martyrs Parish



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