

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**The Spirit drove Jesus out
into the desert, and he
remained in the desert
for forty days, tempted by Satan.
He was among wild beasts,
and the angels ministered to him.**

Mark 1:12-13

ST. SYMPHOROSA & ST. RENE PARISH

*St. Symphorosa & St. Rene Parish Office
6135 S. Austin Ave Chicago, IL 60638
(773) 767-1523*



Fr. Bob's Weekly Blog

Welcome to the Parish of St. Symphorosa & St. Rene!!

Baseball fans love hearing the words, "Pitchers and catchers report."

This is the first sign that winter is waning, and the baseball season is just around the corner. Players report to Spring Training and use that time to "Get Back to Basics."

Fundamentals are not assumed. Even the most veteran player revisits how to throw the ball, catch the ball, hit the ball.

We too, as Catholics, have our "Get Back to Basics" season. We call this span of time Lent. Even the most seasoned veteran disciple among us takes time to answer God's first question in Sacred Scripture. In the Genesis story, after Adam and Eve indulged from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they went and hid themselves from God.

God called to the man and asked, "Where are you?"

Hmmm! That is a very good question for us as we begin our 2021 Lenten journey. Where are we?

God knew where Adam was hiding, but the Lord asks the question so that Adam will take the time to consider what has happened. He sinned, then he went and hid from God. In a sense, God wants the man to see that the relationship with God has been affected, and not for the better. And yet, God came in search of His creation. Love does such things.

Take a moment TODAY and get still, get silent. Hear God ask you the same question posed to Adam in the garden. "Where are you?"

Are we "good" with God, or have we, in some way, gone into hiding? Lent is a penitential season and is a good time to be honest with yourself

about sin.

The First Letter of John reminds us, "If we say we have no sin in us, we are deceiving ourselves and refusing to admit the truth; but if we acknowledge our sins, the God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and purify us from everything that is wrong. To say that we have never sinned is to call God a liar and to show that his word is not in us."

We can keep in mind with us these weeks of Lent the Three Paths to Holiness identified by Bishop Robert Barron, auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles and Chicago native: 1. Find your center. 2. Know you're a sinner. 3. Your life is not about you.

Perhaps we've lost sight of who is No. 1 during the past year. The Lord is Numero Uno. He is our Center. Everything else flows from that relationship. In light of that, we recognize we are wounded human beings who fall on occasion. Humility is needed to confess our sins and to get back up. Lastly, we are not the center of the universe. We are all instruments God desires to use for mission; to proclaim the good news of salvation and be attentive to the needs of our neighbor. Selfishness and Christian discipleship are like oil and water. They don't mix.

Trusting in the mercy of God, we need not hide from God in the trees of the garden. Instead, we humble ourselves in the Lord's presence, come out from hiding, confess our sins, and respond to God's question by saying, "Here I am, Lord. Send me."

Mondays During Lent

Each Monday during Lent we want

to have special time set aside for prayer.

We will be hosting a series of Holy Hours and a Taize service. Each Monday service will begin at 7 P.M. inside the St. Rene Church. Stay tuned for more specifics.

The only exception will be this year's Mission held on March 1, 2021. We welcome Fr. Connor Danstrom to the parish. He will speak to us on the importance of silence in the spiritual life, and share his witness, as well. He is a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago (ordained 2014) and is currently the chaplain for the John Paul II Catholic Center on the campus of the University of Illinois-Chicago.

The first Holy Hour will be Monday, February 22. The Holy Hour will consist of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Sacred Scripture, brief reflection, silent time for prayer, and Benediction.

Come join us and spend time with Our Savior.

Stations of the Cross

Each Friday during Lent, Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7 P.M. inside the St. Symphorosa church. This is a wonderful opportunity to walk the Via Dolorosa (Way of Suffering) with Jesus. Stations of the Cross begin Friday, February 19th.



Quote of the Week

"Whenever anything disagreeable or displeasing happens to you, remember Christ crucified and be silent."

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Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Peter Paurazas
Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Idzi Stacherczak
Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Norman Trela
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St. Symphorosa & St. Rene Parish Office

6135 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60638
773-767-1523 (phone)
773-767-6135 (fax)
www.stsymphorosa.org (website)
symphorosa@comcast.net (email)

Monday - Friday
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Saturday
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

St. Rene Worship Site

6949 W 63rd Place
Chicago, Illinois 60638

St. Symphorosa School

6125 S. Austin Ave
Chicago, Illinois 60638
(773) 585-6888

Sacrament of Penance

6-7pm every Tuesday (St. Symphorosa Site)
3-3:45pm every Saturday (St. Rene Site)
Offered by Appointment During the Week
Please call the Parish Office



“Enter Into the Silence”

this Lenten season by joining
Sts. Symphorosa & Rene Goupil
Parish in a weekly Holy Hour. Holy
Hour will be celebrated at St. Rene
Church every Monday (except March
1st) at 7pm throughout Lent.

Holy Hour is a wonderful
opportunity for the faithful to meet
together to pray and reflect as we all
prepare to celebrate the death and
resurrection of our Lord, Jesus
Christ. This hour will include:

- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- Scripture reading with reflection
 - Silence
 - Benediction

Menu

Fish plate \$10
2 fish, fries, coleslaw, bread & butter

Soup bowl \$5
Soup, crackers, bread & butter

Pierogi (4) \$4

Kids Plate \$5 **February 19, March 5 & 19**
PB&J, chips, fruit & juice box

Additional fish \$2 each

5pm-7pm
Carry out only!

The Sharp Center @ St. Sym's 5940 W. 62nd Street

Lenten Fish Fry

ST. SYMPHOROSA & ST. RENE
TRANSFORMATION TEAM

Our Sanctuary Candle burning before the Blessed
Sacrament for the month of February is offered for the
following intentions:

For health & all the Lord's blessings for LuAnn O'Donnell
given by Family

For health & birthday blessings for Mark Mielnicki
given by his mother, Mary Mielnicki

For all members, living & deceased, of the Soltis, Alderfer,
Abraham, Krzan, Saffell & Valestin Families
given by Pat Soltis

For the repose of the soul of Vince Porcelli
given by Family

May this light which reminds us of Jesus' presence in the
Tabernacle help welcome our prayers into His eternal
presence.



**Domine, labia mea aperies (Lord,
you will open my lips)
(Psalm 51:17)**

Differing from Advent and Easter, Lent does not begin on a Sunday but on Ash Wednesday so we are already four days into Lent before we come to the First Sunday of the season. On this First Sunday of Lent we pray in the Collect, "Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observance of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects." (*Roman Missal*, 3rd edition) Far from drab and drudge, the Church, including us, beseeches God for new or renewed gifts from His treasury during this penitential and hopeful period.

Also with the vein of optimism and paired with the humble disposition toward purification, the Collect for the Latin Mass petitions, "O God, who dost purify Thy Church by the yearly observance of Lent: grant to Thy household, that what we strive to obtain from Thee by abstinence, we may achieve by good works." (Translation, *The Daily Missal and Liturgical Manual*, Baronius Press, Ltd. 2007)

In the Mass offered by Catholics who are fully in communion with the Church but retain their Anglican heritage of liturgy, their Collect speaks eloquently of our vigorous participation with God in the new Lenten season: "O Lord, who for our sake didst fast forty days and forty nights: give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the Spirit, we may ever obey thy godly motions in righteousness and true holiness, to thy honour and glory;" (*Divine Worship: The Missal*) In this third prayer, the Church again prays with confidence in the promise of what God will accomplish for her even when the tinges of discomfort from abstinence and repentance gnaw at us.

Notice that the three Collects (and almost all of them for that matter) are spoken in a plurality, "we," "us," "our." Fr. Adrian Nocent provides us with one perspective, which further emphasizes the communal character of the prayer and our participation in the Season of Lent: "[The Christian] soon discovers that he cannot simply 'live his own Lent' but must live it along with the rest of the Church so that the sinners who have destroyed themselves because they followed an illusory light but found only darkness may regain their place in the Church. He lives Lent along with the Church in its entirety so that she may once again become truly one, shed all formalism, and regain the authentic life in Christ; so that she may grow and prove a welcoming mother to all who are looking for the true path. When the Christian acquires this new perspective, this sense of community, he will discover a new side of Lent that he perhaps never suspected," (*The Liturgical Year: Lent and Holy Week*, p. 57-58)

~Fr. Matt Compton

Join us for our

Parish Lenten Mission

on Monday, March 1, 2021
at St. Rene Goupil Church



We hope you take the opportunity to join us at 7pm on this date as we welcome our mission speaker Fr. Connor Danstrom. He is currently the chaplain of the John Paul II Center on the campus of the University of Illinois-Chicago.

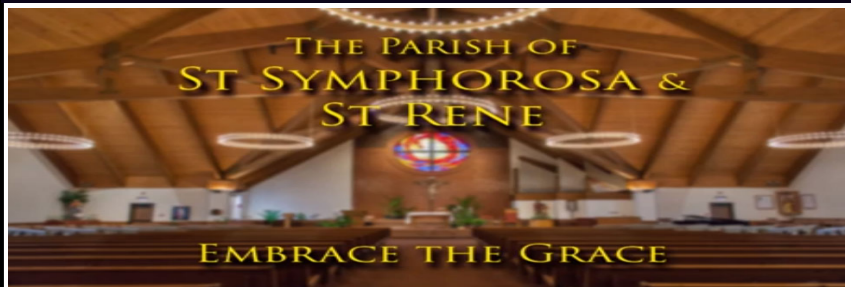
Pre-registration is highly recommended as space will be limited. You may register online or by calling the parish office at (773).767.1523.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



*We adore you, O Christ,
and we bless you.
Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the
world.*

Join us every Friday during Lent at St. Symphorosa Church at 7pm as we pray the Stations of the Cross together.



Please take a moment to sit down, watch, and/or listen to Fr. Bob's "*Embrace the Grace*" meditations every week.

Fr. Bob and Steve Kittler, our parish Music Director, began this page as a way to keep in contact with the parish and all our parishioners during the COVID stay at home order. This seven to ten minute video shares the good news with all interested persons.

Please visit the parish website at stsymphorosa.org or go directly to the YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJm6IOYVzFmLnENc-rj7jMQ> to view.



Split the Pot
February 14, 2021
Received: \$130.00

Winning envelope: #737

Reminder: A minimum of \$5.00 is required to participate.



Our stewardship is a combined total from the St. Rene and St. Symphorosa Worship Sites.

Offerings for the weekend of Sunday, February 14, 2021
Contribution: \$6,547.50

Thank you for your generosity!



WELCOME FAMILIES TO ST. SYMPHOROSA AND ST. RENE PARISH FAITH FORMATION



Faith Formation Office

Phone: (773) 767-1523 x226

Email: msiebenaler@archchicago.org

Coordinator: Peg Siebenaler

UPCOMING EVENTS

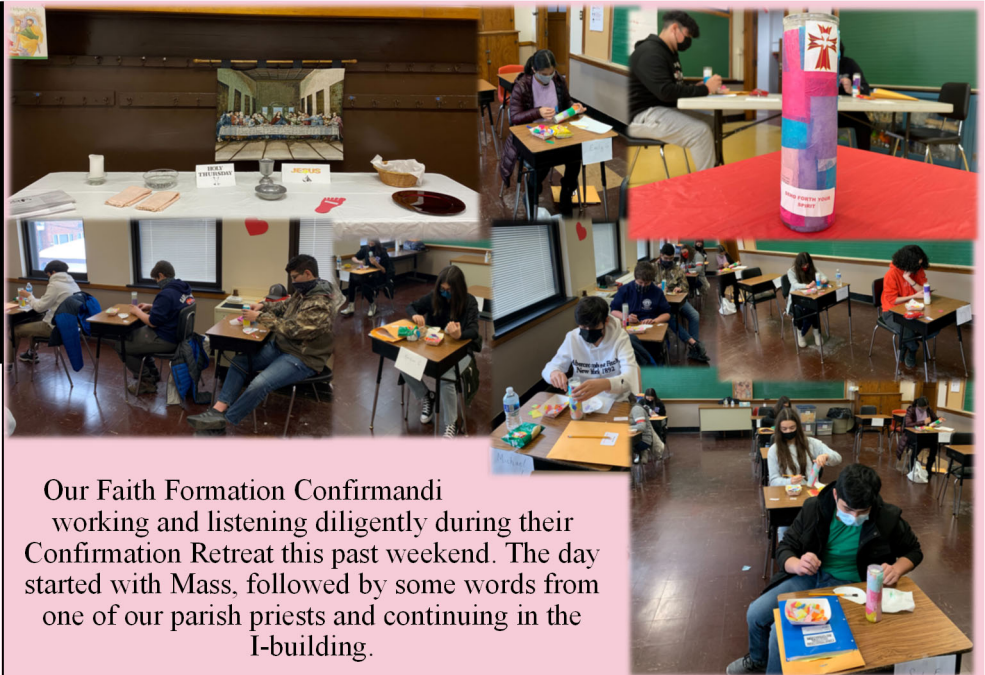
Classes resume:

- 2/20: Confirmation Retreat for all St. Symphorosa 8th graders**
- 2/23: Faith Formation Classes St. Rene Campus (Tues.)**
- 2/24: Faith Formation Classes St. Rene Campus. (Wed.)**
- 2/27: Faith Formation Classes St. Sym's Campus. (Sat.)
First Communion Retreat for all St. Sym's 2nd graders**
- 3/2: First Communion Retreat for all Faith Formation Lvl. 2 students**



Our First Communicant's along with their parents are invited to a Special Bread Meeting /

Communion Retreat. The retreat will take place on February 27th for St. Symphorosa 2nd graders and March 2nd for Lvl. 2 Faith Formation students. Each family will receive some bread to take home and enjoy. We will share some important information regarding the First Communion Mass and we will view a very special film "Grandma's Bread". We thank the Lord for the Eucharist and the joy it brings into our lives. Happy are we who have been called to the Lord's Table!



Our Faith Formation Confirmandi working and listening diligently during their Confirmation Retreat this past weekend. The day started with Mass, followed by some words from one of our parish priests and continuing in the I-building.

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 when they are in session. Donations can also be turned-in at the main Parish Office or dropped off in the Narthex of the Church when attending mass. 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 enter into this Holy Season of Lent. Our 2021 Confirmandi will earn service hours for their participation in this Lenten activity.



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, February 20, 2021

4:00pm *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

5:30pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Matt

Sunday, February 21, 2021

7:30am *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Matt

9:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Norm

10:30am *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

12:00pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

Monday, February 22, 2021

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Thursday, February 25, 2021

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Friday, February 26, 2021

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Saturday, February 27, 2021

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

throughout the world. (*Pelegrino Family*)

4:00pm *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

5:30pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Matt

Sunday, February 28, 2021

7:30am *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Norm

9:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

10:30am *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Matt

12:00pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

†Bernard Whitehead (*Family*)

†John J. (Jack) Gaca (*R & L Morowczynski*)

†Edward McGriff (*Art & Katie Carpenter*)

†Joseph & Mary Grace Merle (*Family*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

†Guadalupe S. Villarreal (*Daughter & Grandsons*)

First Sunday of Lent

†Vince Porcelli (*Frank & Gemma DeFrenza*)

†John Dragosetti (*Rosario Dragosetti*)

†Edward McGriff (*Mary Lou & Ray Kolasinski*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

†Rich Newtoff (*Family*)

†Lynda Sullivan (*Jas Sullivan Family*)

Health & 1st birthday blessings for Mateo A. Velazquez (*Zamudio Family*)

†Patricia Contreras (*Barb Grzenia*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

†Rita Johnson (*Donna J. Heinz*)

The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

Health and all the Lord's blessings for Segundino Erpelo (*Cleofe Erpelo*)

†Catherine Frances Connelly (*Barbara Rendak*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Andy & Maryana Bray*)

Health and safety for Daniel Sarlito (*Mary Sarlito*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Gerry Schultz*)

†Donald & Barbara Suda (*Marie Zilka*)

†Thaddeus Witkowski (*Family*)

†Pedro Alvarez (*Family*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

†Matias Almendarez (*Family*)

†Elizabeth Bojarski (*Barbara Rendak*)

†Joseph Loduca (*Nancy & Rebecca*)

†Rose Sanchez (*John & Dolores Sanchez*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Frank & Gemma DeFrenza*)

†Ann Arundel (*Loving Family*)

†Michael Genovese (*Barbara Rendak*)

†Donald J. Grisko (*Keys Family*)

†Anna, Tony, Luigi & Bruna Tomassini (*Family*)

Pray for repentance, obedience, & worship to God, Jesus & the Holy Spirit throughout the world. (*Pelegrino Family*)

†Nick Alderfer (*Pat Soltis*)

†J. Robert Saffell (*Pat Soltis*)

†Alvina Drozd (*Yakes Family*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

†Wanda Zalewski (*Linda Dobias*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Frank & Gemma DeFrenza*)

†Theresa Pudelek (*Pudelek Family*)

Second Sunday of Lent

†Dominic Capparelli (*Yakes Family*)

†Helen Cermak (*Zamudio Family*)

†Raul Quinones Meza (*Zamudio Family*)

†Jose Manuel Ramirez (*Zamudio Family*)

†Norma DeStefano (*St. Symphorosa Super Club*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Frank & Gemma DeFrenza*)

†Genevieve Siergiej (*Nancy & George Graszek*)

†Jack Orsi (*Family*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

†Ann Miller (*Lorraine DeLauriea*)

Weekend Presider subject to change without notice



There are in the end three things that last: Faith, Hope, and Love, and the greatest of these is

Martin Adelsbach
Judy Adelsbach
Larry Adkins
Mary Adkins
Guadalupe Almendarez
Raeann Arends
Kim Argies
JoAnn Baade
Ignatius Battiatto
Carl Bell
Mary Bieser
Fr. Ted Bojczuk
Lydia Brown
Kathy Calcagno
Gina Camp
Pat Carmody
Judy Carranza
Dominic Ciampaglia
Margaret Ciampaglia
Michael Clifford
Marilyn Crites
Chris Doherty
Randy Etapa
Juan Figueroa
Maria Flores
Janet Funk
Mitchell Gallas
Geri Gestaut
Carol Gress
Suzann Gunter
Kathy Haars
Catherine Hier
Megan High
Robert Hilbruner
Heather Hradek
Larry Holmes
Deacon Tom Hyde
Denise M. Jandura
Rich S. Jandura
Joan Juris
Pete Kats
Lee Karpinski
Dennis Kline
Claudia Kwilosz
Norman Kwilosz
James Lapsansky
Maryann Larson
Donna Lauritzen
Domenico Lepore

Rose Ann Lindsay
Debbie Lipien
Maria Lopez
Diane Malarick
Maria & Martinez Family
John Martini
Marge Masunas
Lori McCarthy
Tina McGleam
Thomas Minnich
Christine Mosqueda
Genevieve Nagle
William Nita
Carol Oles
Florence Panzarella
Eleanor Pastorek
Baby Alexander J Pentz
Gi Gi Piccolini
Rochelle Piegari
Marie Pratt
Ann Robertson
Edward Robertson
Fr. John Rudnik
Joseph Rudnik
Colyn Schmidt
Kristyn Schmidt
Marge Schmidt
Judith Siwek
Elliana Sterk
Brian Styka
Sr. Christine Styka
Terry Styka
Melinda Svastisalee
Michael Tallon
Sandra Tallon
Mary Thorpe
Shirley Tloczek
George Trendle
Hector Hugo Valles
Judith Webber
Joan Wilhelmy
Richard Zaleski
Emily Zambrano
John Zappavigna
Barb Ziegler
Michelle

Due to privacy laws, names may only be added to our prayer list by immediate family. Please let us know when to remove a name.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Sgt. Jaime A. Acosta, USMC
Sgt. Ted Barfelmey
CS-1 Joel Battung
1st Sgt. Chas. Berglund, USMC
Sgt. Naveen Bobba, USMC
Sgt. Arthur A. Boruch, National Guard
Hospitalman Blythe A. Cisneros, USN
Airman Carlos Cisneros, USAF
Sgt. Frank Cisneros, USMC
Corpsman Nicholas J. Cundari-USN
Captain Kevin Dabbyn, US Army
Sgt. John Flores, IL National Guard
Staff Sgt. Andrew Gaca, USAF
Sgt. Michael Hough, US Army

Anthony Johanievicz, US Navy
Corporal Noah M. Kanie, USMC
Lance Corp. Tim Lisenko, USMC
Trevor Lutz, US Army
Corporal Zachary Maderak, USMC
Private Joseph M. Mikutis, USMC
Pvt1st Class Daniel Morales, US Army
SPC Alex Ramos
Staff Sgt. Abel Sandoval, USMC
WO-1 Richard Sabeske, US Army
Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Stuhlmacher
LCpl. Justin R. Thorpe, USMC
1LT Zachary White, IL Army NG



The faithful all around the world are invited to join with Pope Francis for his special intention. Won't you join in? The intention for the month of February is for a Violence Against Women.

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.



Flood Brothers

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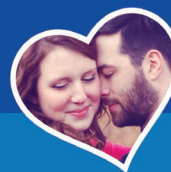
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