

JANUARY 17, 2021 | SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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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!!

Imagine you are standing next to some earthly figure you admire and have been following for a few years, and this person stops, points and says, "There, right there, is the lamb of God."

You might respond, "Huh? Who?"

Our Gospel this weekend has such a scenario, and the two disciples of John the Baptist knew the object of John's finger was a Person of significance. The two students got curious and soon left John's side to follow the other fellow.

His name is Jesus and he turns around and looks them in the eyes. What happens next is a question that echoes through the centuries and make us stop and look deep into our heart.

"What are you looking for?" he says. They ask a question back and then Jesus invites them to "come and see."

Now imagine the Son of God and Son of Man asking you the same probing question; a question that makes you go beyond superficialities to a much more eternal search. What's your answer? What are you truly looking for in this life?

Here is the interesting thing. The One asking the question is, at the end of the day, the Answer. Jesus asks the question and Jesus is the Answer. They followed Him and stayed with Him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon – IT WAS 4 P.M..

The time of day is significant because it was a momentous decision in their life; the decision to make Jesus the one they'd follow as their Teacher, capital T. There are really only a handful of significant moments in our entire life, and the decision to follow Jesus without reservation is one of those decisions, and, in reality, THE most important decision.

Have you had your 4 P.M. moment? If not, are you open to arriving at that moment of your life? We can't sit on the fence of indifference our entire life. We must make the choice to say YES to God or NO to God; yes to accepting Jesus'

invitation to come and see, or turning around and walking in the opposite direction.

God loves us, and will accept our decision. Love does not coerce. He sent His love. He desires we receive it. May we all reach our 4 P.M. moment and walk humbly together with the Lord in this life so that we may live happily forever with Him in the next.

Christmas Thanks

A very heartfelt THANK YOU to all those who helped make our two churches so beautiful for the Christmas season. Both churches looked wonderful and this helped our hearts be lifted high as we celebrated Holy Mass.

As I like to say often, nothing just happens by wanting it to happen or wishing it to happen. We need actual human hands and feet to do things, and this was the case with putting up our Christmas decorations and taking them down.

Members of our parish Transformation team drove this endeavor but they had help from many others who showed up to BEAUTIFY our houses of worship. Thank you to everyone involved, and thank you to all who attended Mass in person or viewed Mass online.

Also, a special thanks to Steve Kittler, our Music Director, and our parish organist Raul Duque, for providing uplifting joyful hymns that lift our hearts to our Creator. As a presider, processing in to O Come All Ye Faithful, and recessing to Joy to the World makes Mass special. Our parish is blessed, truly blessed, to have two competent musicians. May we take nothing for granted.

Name Change Realities

Once again we are running a list of five final names for our newly-united parish. A couple things need to be re-emphasized:

Feedback for the name is not a vote. It is feedback the Unification Team and

Pastor will use to prepare a final list to send to the Archbishop of Chicago. The final decision for the name change belongs to Cardinal Cupich. We sent our recommendation, and he listens to the input of his Presbyteral Council.

We had around 40 different names when all initial submissions were compiled. Not everyone's name was going to make the final five. Yes, many of the names were wonderful options for a parish. But to use a sports analogy, we can only have 5 players on the court at a time.

The invitation from the Archbishop of Chicago during this entire Renew My Church process has been to take an honest look at our spiritual life and our parish's finances and facilities. On July 1, 2020, we became a new canonical parish. Certainly, the COVID reality has presented us challenges in our first year, but we look forward to building bridges toward one another as fellow Catholics in the years to come.

The parish school is St. Symphorosa School. The decision was made to leave the school name untouched for the sake of stability and making sure this school option remains so that the Clearing area of Chicago has a Catholic School presence. Our school offers a great education while also forming the hearts of our children in the love of Christ. This school must continue well into the 21-st century. We cannot lose another Catholic school in this area.

Lastly, regardless of the official parish name change, PLEASE, understand that the two worship sites retain their original names. So, we'd have an official parish name (canonically), but St. Rene Church will be just that, and St. Symphorosa Church the same. This is church law stuff that we don't need to get too deep into, but the campus sites retain their respective names as the Parish welcomes her new title. We are ONE parish with two churches (worship sites).

Please continue to pray as we move closer to a final decision.

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Robert Regan
Pastor
Rev. Matthew Compton
Associate Pastor
Rev. Ted Bojczuk
Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Peter Paurazas
Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Idzi Stacherczak
Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Norman Trela
Retired Priest

Parish Staff

Ken Hilliard
Operations Director
Steve Kittler
Music Director
Deacon Raul Duque
Parish Organist
Magdalan Barry
Irene Perconti
Administrative Assistants
Nancy Markham
Office Coordinator
Peg Siebenaler
Faith Formation
Kathy Berry
Principal
Chris Garza
Assistant Principal
Mark Schusteric
Maintenance Supervisor

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

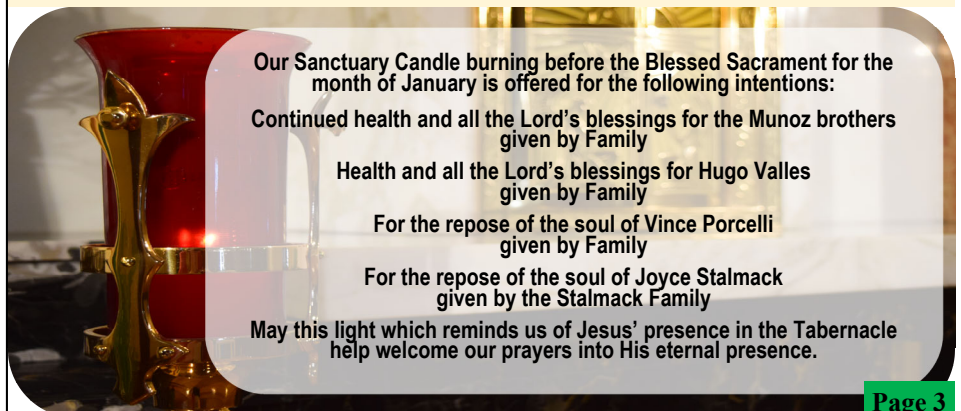
6-7pm every Tuesday (St. Symphorosa Site)
3-3:45pm every Saturday (St. Rene Site)
Offered by Appointment During the Week
Please call the Parish Office

Final Five List for New Parish Name

The following are the five final names being discerned for our newly-unified parish. We invite you to read through these five names and explanations. After prayerfully reading through them, please consider what moved your heart. What is stirring in you? With that in mind, please select **ONE** of the options and submit that choice as feedback for our Parish Unification Team.

You can email the **ONE** name to symphorosa@comcast.net, you can drop off the name in the parish office, or you can drop the name in the collection basket/box. The Unification Team looks forward to helping us bring this process to completion. There is no need to write an explanation with your **ONE** name choice. Just the one name will suffice.

1. **Two Holy Martyrs Parish** (sub-name of Symphorosa and Rene Goupil) — This option invites us to adopt a new unifying parish name while retaining the actual saint names as a sub name to the primary name of Two Holy Martyrs. Both St. Symphorosa and St. Rene Goupil are martyrs of the Church; they died for the faith. The new name of Two Holy Martyrs invites us to honor the past history all the while embracing the need to unify as one in the Clearing/Garfield Ridge community of Chicago. The name Two Holy Martyrs also serves to remind us of our present-day call to witness to the faith in a society that is distancing itself from God. The new name would invite us to not remain in the silo of our former parish but to engage the need to come together as we move deeper into the 21st century on mission for Christ.
2. **Parish of Sts. Symphorosa & Rene Goupil** — This name option simply combines the two former parish names into one unifying parish name. Both former parishes enjoyed decades of worship and service. This option seeks to retain the respective histories all the while realizing we need to meet the demands of today's reality as we prepare for the future. The caution with this name choice is that we might continue to think we are two separate parishes and act accordingly by using "Us and Them" language. As of July 1, 2020, we are ONE parish with two worship sites. The upside is that we can see the new parish name of Sts. Symphorosa and Rene Goupil as a "coming together" in Christ to serve this community in the Lord's name.
3. **St. Benezet Parish** — This saint is the patron saint of bridge building and lived between 1163 and 1184. He was a shepherd in France and after a vision, moved to build bridges with great strength. Bridge building was an important development at that time in history. Choosing this name would invite two former parishes to become one with the theme of the bridge serving to unite us in Christ. St. Benezet would also inspire us to go out to those who have drifted away — or those who are distant from God — and serve as a bridge to bring them back to God. Our ability to evangelize — to bring people to Christ — is best served by building bridges and not constructing walls that keep folks away.
4. **Divine Mercy Parish** — This name is inspired by the story of St. Faustina and her call to share the message of Jesus. The Lord spoke to her, "Today I am sending you with My mercy to the people of the whole world. I do not want to punish aching mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to my merciful heart." This new name would invite us to enflame our hearts with the mercy of Christ and bring healing to so many wounded people. One of the challenges of this name is that our neighboring parish of St. Faustina (union of the former St. Jane de Chantel and St. Camillus) shares the same story. Yes, different parish name but same story. Upside would be that we can unite to truly announce mercy to our community and our world. The new name could inspire us deeper into Divine Mercy devotion.
5. **Blessed Solanus Casey Parish** — Bernard Francis Casey was a priest in the United States who was born in Oak Grove, Wisconsin, and died in Detroit. He was known during his lifetime as a wonderworker, a man of deep faith, and as a spiritual counselor. He also ministered devoutly to the sick. Born in 1870, he died in 1957. He was beatified on November 18, 2017. We await his canonization. This is truly a modern-day saint-to-be from the Midwest. So often our saints seem remote and distant, but Blessed Solanus Casey gives us the freshness of ministry from the 20th century as we face the challenges of faith in the 21st century. He once said, "We must be faithful to the present moment or we will frustrate the plan of God for our lives." Our newly-united parish is the present.





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

Sunday, January 17, is the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (the First Sunday in Ordinary Time was replaced by the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and Ordinary Time began on Monday, January 11). For about the next month, we will make our way through the weeks of Ordinary Time, following Christ in His public ministry, being reintroduced to the Son of God whose Nativity, Epiphany and Baptism we have recalled and prayed during the prior weeks. Wednesday, February 17, the Church will begin the great Season of Lent, succeeded by the Season of Easter, and pray the texts, which are specific to those two seasons. So, what are praying when we open our lips this Sunday, early in Ordinary Time?

In the Ordinary Form Masses, the form of Mass, which we pray at St. Symphorosa and St. Rene Goupil, in contrast to the Extraordinary Form Masses (the traditional Latin Mass/Tridentine Mass), the Collect is sweeping in its scope, recognizing God as governing all that exists and as the source of our peace: "Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on our times. Through our Lord" (*Roman Missal*, 3rd edition)

For Catholics of Anglican heritage (Personal Ordinariate), this liturgical season emphasizes that we are now in a period after the Epiphany; thus, this Sunday is called the Second Sunday after the Epiphany. In the Collect for the Divine Worship of the Mass this Sunday the prayer pairs closely with that of the Ordinary Form Mass, which is formed by the God revelation in Christ Jesus, now being revealed to the world, which traces back to His Epiphany: "Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth: mercifully hear the supplications of thy people; and grant us thy peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ thy Son" (*Divine Worship: The Missal*)

The Latin Mass maintains a precision for this liturgical time similar to that of the Personal Ordinariate, identifying the season as after the Epiphany (or Epiphanytide). For the Latin Mass, the Collect accords with the two above Collects and likely their historical source: "O almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things both in heaven and on earth: mercifully hear the prayers of Thy people, and grant us Thy peace in our time. Through our Lord...." (Translation, *The Daily Missal and Liturgical Manual*, Baronius Press, Ltd. 2007)

Across these three distinct expressions of the Church's Liturgy this Sunday, her public prayer and worship of God, she praises and petitions God with concord among her faithful, a good way for us to set forth with our Lord for another year.

~Fr. Matt Compton



**THANKS FROM THE
KNIGHTS!**

We at the St. Sym's/Rene's K of C want to thank all parishioners for their generosity this year towards our Military Box Program. The supply and postage donations enabled our group to continue our now 4 year effort to brighten the lives of our service men and women who protect us overseas.

God bless all for your support!!!



**Our stewardship is a
combined total from
the St. Rene and St.**

Symphorosa Worship Sites.

**Offerings for the weekend of
Sunday, January 10, 2021**

Contribution: \$9,395.50

Thank you for your generosity!!



Split the Pot

January 10, 2021

Received: \$160.00

Winning envelope: #7808

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



Dates:

**November 29, 2020 to
December 31, 2020**

Transactions: 190

Amount: \$8,518.00

PRAY TO PROTECT HUMAN LIFE!

9 DAYS FOR
JANUARY 21 - 29, 2021

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years and St. Symphorosa has had a SPRED group for 20 years. Now that our two churches have become one parish, our SPRED ministry has doubled. The need for this ministry is great. And the need for volunteers is great.

Here is a testimonial from one of our SPRED Catechists:

Many Sundays I sat in church listening, watching, but mostly waiting. Waiting for something to grab my attention. keep me coming back. SPRED brought that to me. When I joined SPRED I believed I would be helping our friends but what I would come to find out was they helped me so much more. I became a part of the community within our church. A family that I could share with my family. SPRED has become a home over the last 10 years and I am forever grateful that I stood up, asked questions and said yes. - Joanna Baxter, Activity Catechist

If you are interested in learning more about SPRED in our parish or volunteering to become a catechist, please contact Ann Smolucha at ann@smolucha.com or 773.914.1900



During the month of December, the following amounts were collected for special Collections at both worship sites.

All Saints' Day	\$56
All Souls' Day	\$61
Ascension	\$5
Building & Maintenance	\$2,468
Candle Money	\$1,181
Cath. Campaign for Human Development	\$103
Catholic Charities (Mother's Day)	\$5
Christmas	\$32,147
Christmas Flowers	\$1,845
Easter	\$30
Father's Day	\$5
Good Friday	\$5
Holy Thursday	\$5
Immaculate Conception	\$1,421
Mother's Day	\$5
Parish Debt Reduction	\$528
Peter's Pence	\$6
Priest Retirement	\$1,525
Prop. of Faith/World Mission	\$5
Religious Education Assistance Program	\$383
School Support	\$272
Seminaries	\$23
Solemnity of Mary (New Year's)	\$543
Thanksgiving	\$111
Thanksgiving (Saint Vincent de Paul)	\$456
Utilities Fund	\$739

Thank you for your kindness & generosity!

What is SPRED?

SPRED (Special Religious Development) is a program which trains and guides parishes to provide faith formation to persons with developmental disabilities and/or learning problems and become integrated into parish life. St. Rene has had a SPRED group for more than 30



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:

- 1/17: **Belonging Masses for Communion Candidates**
- 1/20: **Faith Formation Classes Rene Campus. (Tues.)**
- 1/21: **Faith Formation Classes Rene Campus. (Wed.)**
- 1/23: **Faith Formation Classes Syms Campus. (Sat.)**



Belonging Service

Thank you for all the Bread donations and Thanks also to all our First Eucharist Families who participated in the Belonging Service Masses in preparation for Holy Eucharist. Our First Holy Communion Masses are scheduled to take place on May 1st and May 8th. The children should proudly wear their badges when attending Mass on Sundays.



SPIRIT DAY

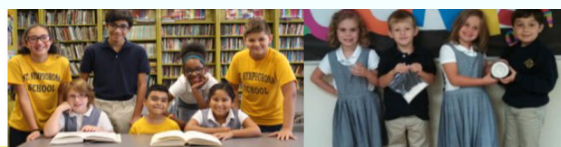
During the month of February, our Level Eight Confirmation Candidates will gather for their Pre-Confirmation Spirit Day Retreat. This special day starts at the 8:00am mass. After mass and an inspiring presentations by one of our Priests, we will proceed to the classrooms, where our Confirmandi will be engaging in activities that are prayerful, reflective, and, at the same time, fun! We invite all of our parishioners to pray for our Confirmation Candidates as they continue their journey toward the Sacrament of Confirmation.



Our level eight students, preparing for Confirmation have been assigned their "Saint Projects" (a requirement for Confirmation.) The students will select their saints to research and they will present their findings at their next in-person class in January. Many times our Confirmandi choose the Saint whose name they take as their Confirmation Name.



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Catholic Schools Week Virtual Open House

Sunday, January 31, 2021

1:00pm-2:00pm Grades PK-2nd 2:00pm-3:00pm Grades 3rd-8th

Meet our teachers, tour our school virtually, learn about financial aid, and see how St. Symphorosa will provide your child with Faith, Family, and Academic Excellence.

Use the link below to join

<https://zoom.us/j/92625742160?pwd=enY0UWRxd1dobk1LTDMWwHc2ZUNuQT09>

Meeting ID: 926 2574 2160
Passcode: Symphorosa



6125 S. Austin Ave Chicago, IL 60638

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, January 16, 2021

4:00pm *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

5:30pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Matt

Sunday, January 17, 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. Matt

Monday, January 18, 2021

8:00am *St. Rene Church*

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

8:00am *St. Rene Church*

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

8:00am *St. Rene Church*

Thursday, January 21, 2021

8:00am *St. Rene Church*

Friday, January 22, 2021

8:00am *St. Rene Church*

Saturday, January 23, 2021

8:00am *St. Rene Church*

4:00pm *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Matt

5:30pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

Sunday, January 24, 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

†Matias Almendarez (*Altar & Rosary Society*)

†Jesse Parra & Fidel Martinez (*Almendarez Family*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Maryann Porcelli & son Vince*)

†Joan Brown (*St. Vincent de Paul*)

†John Gaca (*Sears Family*)

†Edward McGriff (*Sears Family*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

Health & all the Lord's blessings for Arlene Scaletta (*Mary Kolimas*)

†Dorothy Bogumil (*Nancy & George Groszek*)

†Edward McGriff (*Michael Woulfe*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

†Rich & Millie Newtoff (*Family*)

†Dominic Capperelli (*Wojcik Family*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Larry & Paulette Powaga*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

†Elaine Hilliard (*Fr. Idzi Stacherczak*)

†Patricia Schumacher (*Denise Guardino & Tim Baker*)

†John & Irene Simonelic (*John Simonelic Family*)

Health & all the Lord's blessings for Alvin Varquez, Jr.

(*Albino Varquez & Family*)

†Jack Gaca (*Arlene Scaletta*)

†Elaine Mentlewick (*Ray Wagner*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Gerry Schultz*)

Special Intention (*Barb Grzenia*)

†Dominic Capparelli (*Nancy Chiara*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

†Joseph Slowinski (*Daughter & Families*)

†Dominic Capparelli (*Cello Family*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

Saint Agnes, Martyr

†Larry Carruth (*Morandi Family*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

†Greg Gasior (*Lorraine DeLauriea*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

God first in all families, schools & governments throughout the world.

(*Pelegrino Family*)

†Louise Gomez (*Rose Zielinski*)

†Bernadette Lewandowski (*Dennis & Nancy Koziol*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

†Bernard Whitehead (*Family*)

†Rita Cernick (*The Crowley Family*)

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

†Clare Kostantarus (*Art & Katie Carpenter*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

†Angela Blasucci (*Lucille Nykiel*)

†Rosa Cicchino (*Rosa Rodriguez*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

†Joyce Stalmack (*Stalmack Family*)

†Claude Wiatrak (*Wife Clara*)

†William A Kappel, Jr. (*Margaret Kappel*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

†Vincent Salamendo (*Terri & Dan Domarsky*)

†Anthony Sanfratello (*Mom, Dad & Brother*)

†Jack Gaca (*St. Symphorosa Super Club*)

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
Raeanne 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
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
Coltyn Schmidt
Kristyn Schmidt
Marge Schmidt
Judith Siwek
Elliana Sterk
Brian Styka
Sr. Christine Styka
Terry Styka
Melinda Svastisalee
Michael Tallon
Sandra Tallon
Mary Thorpe
Scott Tloczek
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.



"If you can't fly, then run.
If you can't run, then walk.
If you can't walk, then crawl, but
whatever you do you have to keep
moving forward."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Parish Office will be closed on
Monday, January 18th in observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The office will reopen on Tuesday,
January 19th at 9am for
regular office hours.

Let us pray...

Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let
perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of
the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest
in peace. Amen.

Norma DeStefano
Noreen Hedderman



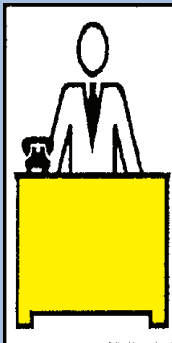
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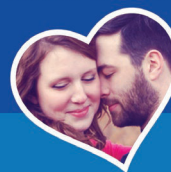
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