



ST. SYMPHOROSA PARISH

A Family Celebrating Faith

6135 S. Austin Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60638

773-767-1523 (phone) 773-767-6135 (fax)

www.stsymphorosa.org

symphorosa@comcast.net (email)

Parish Staff

Rev. Idzi Stacherczak, Pastor
Rev. Ted Bojczuk, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Norman Trela, Retired Priest
John & Sue O'Keefe, Music Directors
Ken Hilliard, Operations Director
Magdalan Barry, Parish Secretary
Nancy Markham, Office Coordinator
Barb Grzenia, Religious Education
Coordinator
Kathy Berry, Principal
Nancy Loduca, Assistant Principal

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Friday
9:00 am—12:00 pm
1:00 pm—7:00 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am—12:00 pm

Our School

Address: 6125 S. Austin Avenue
773-585-6888

Schedule of Masses

Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am
Saturday Evening Mass: 5:00 pm

Weekdays: 8:00 am
Monday through Saturday

Holy Days:
7:30am, 9:30 am and 7:00 pm

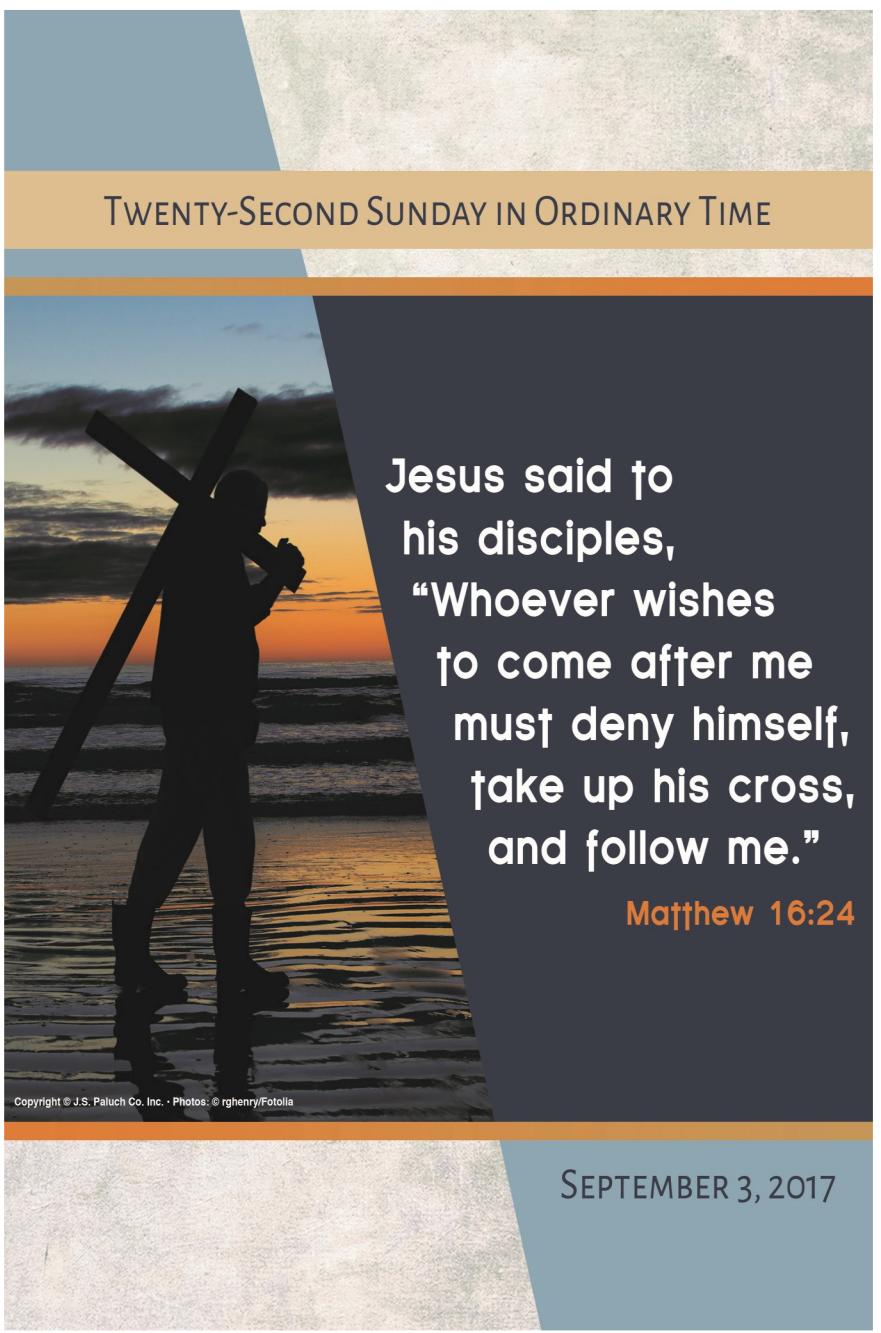
Sacrament of Penance:

Monday through Saturday
after 8:00 am Mass

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Jesus said to
his disciples,
“Whoever wishes
to come after me
must deny himself,
take up his cross,
and follow me.”**

Matthew 16:24



SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

REFLECTION FOR THE 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus is the teacher and the disciples are the students who have accepted the invitation to follow him. That means living out in their lives the pattern of His life. If they really want to be His followers, then they have to embrace the pain involved in His relentless program of teaching and of healing the sick and brokenhearted. They will also share the "glory".

If they choose to put their own interests first, then they will surely lose themselves. It is ultimately a question of choosing life. Peter forgets this for a while and has to be reminded to be true to what he has previously professed.

He is not very different from the rest of us. We all need to rethink our choices and to reorder our priorities from time to time if we want to find life.

September 1 was the World Day of Prayer for Creation and many churches are celebrating September 1 to October 4 (Feast of St Francis of Assisi) as a Season of Creation. At a time when life on our planet is seriously endangered, we might attend more closely to the urgent gospel challenge of living in ways that help to sustain the life of the whole Earth community

In today's second reading Saint Paul recognizes this possibility among Christians and he prescribes a remedy for it. In his letter to the Romans, having concluded a reflection on mercy, Paul says: "*Do not conform yourselves to this age but*

be transformed by the renewal of your mind" (Rom 12:2).

The gospel brings this message home when our Lord teaches His disciples that they will encounter great suffering in the course of their journey of faith and thus cannot be naïve about life. However, Jesus himself will suffer before them in order to redeem them and give them the possibility of living no longer according to the thinking of "*this age*"—"thinking not as God does, but as human beings do" (Matt 16:23). Let us learn from Jesus and let mercy triumph over the evils committed against us, never falling into the trap of cynicism.

The call to follow Jesus and His way is addressed to us and with this call comes the enabling and still-active Spirit who helps us and keeps us faithful.

Do we have a choice? Can we reject the invitation to be "ordinary prophets?" Of course we can. What is given to us today is an invitation, not a command. "Whoever wishes to come after me....Whoever wishes to save his/her life...."

Jesus wants us to be fully aware of what we are taking on. But we won't always feel the divine pat on the back for a job well done. Like Jeremiah and Jesus, we may just have to keep going, trusting the call we once heard. It is not that God isn't the source of our call and our ongoing strength. It's that we may not always feel it. God never abandoned Jeremiah and Jesus, but they

didn't always experience that presence. They had to keep speaking and acting, meeting severe opposition, all the time trusting in their call and God's presence with them.

Following Jesus is something definitive and radical. When we follow Him, we follow the total aspects of His person and life. There is no room for "pick and choose" mentality here. We cannot just say that we follow Him in His way of love, but in His way of forgiveness and His cross. This attitude will never make us His true disciples.

The gospel calls us to rethink or reflect our following of Jesus. The gospel calls for seriousness in our vocation as Christians. In our life, Christ must be always seen and this includes the cross of Christ.

I would say that pleasure, convenience, and comfort should not be seen as an end. Although heaven has been described as "bliss", but we would compromise our discipleship. In the final analysis, life has taught us that sacrifice and pain are a means to attaining glory. *No pain, no gain!*

~Fr. Idzi



Today's responsorial psalm is:
I will praise your name, my King and my God!



Please join us on Monday, September 4, 2017 at 9:00am for a special mass in honor of Labor Day.

Please note: there will be no 8:00am mass that morning.



The 2018 Mass Book will open on Tuesday, September 5th.

The suggested donation per mass is \$10.00 or more.

Please contact the Parish Office at (773) 767-1523 with any questions.



Offerings for the weekend of August 27, 2017

Weekly Budget (Est.) 9,000.00

**Contributions: \$6,730.19
of Envelopes: 276**

**Trinity Dome Collection: \$664.00
Our Lady of Czestochowa: \$89.00**

Thank you for continued support!



August 27, 2017

**Received this week:
\$479.00**

Envelopes Entered: 92

This week's winner is envelope # 519

As a reminder, a minimum of \$5.00 is required to participate in Split the Pot.

Please Note :

Effective immediately, all Split the Pot envelopes MUST be turned into the Parish Office by Monday at 7pm to be included in the Split the Pot drawing.



Have You Ever Thought of Becoming Catholic?

Why not explore the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults? RCIA might be for you if you were never baptized; were baptized in another denomination or faith tradition or were baptized Catholic but did not receive First Communion or Confirmation.

Please prayerfully consider the RCIA Program. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please consider joining us for a meeting to learn more.

Monday, September 25, 2017

7:00pm—9:00pm

St. Symphorosa School Hall

6125 S. Austin Avenue

For more information and to let us know of your intention to join us at this first gathering, please call our parish office at 773.767.1523. Our RCIA Facilitator is Marge Garbacz.



A Special Celebration!!

The Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday, September 17, 2017 at 2:45 pm at Holy Name Cathedral, 735 N. State Street, Chicago.

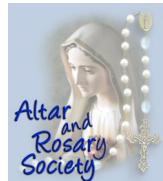
All couples married in 1967 interested in attending this celebration should call our parish office at 773.767.1523 to register. For further information, call the Marriage and Family Ministries Office for more information at 312.534.8351 or visit the website: <https://pvm.archchicago.org>.



Our Baptism classes are held in the Austin Avenue School Building at 7:00 pm. Baptisms are on Sundays at 1:00pm in Church.

MONTH	CLASS	BAPTISMS
September	No Class	9/10, 9/24
October	10/5	10/8, 10/22

Parents are required to bring their child's birth certificate to the Parish Office in order to register for a class.



The Altar & Rosary Society begins the 2017-2018 season on Sunday, September 2nd at the 9:30am mass. All members are requested to gather as a group in front of Mary's altar. A brief prayer service will follow the mass.



Anointing of the Sick Mass Sunday, September 24 3:00pm

In order to minimize lines at the door, we encourage those wishing to participate to call the Parish Office to pre-register at 773.767.1523.

Anointing of the Sick is the sacrament that is received by those who are ill or suffering. By the sacred anointing and the prayer of the priest, the whole Church commends those who are sick to Christ. The sick person receives the Holy Spirit's gifts of strength, faith, peace, and courage, and his or her suffering is united with the suffering of Christ for the building up of the Church. (Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), nos. 1520-23).

The monthly A&R Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 5th from 12:00pm—2:00pm in the Social Hall of the Parish Center. The meeting will always begin with the recitation of the rosary. The general meeting will be the year in review.

Sub sandwiches will be served. All women of the parish are invited to join us to see what the Altar & Rosary Society is all about. Hope to see you there so we can catch up with news of your summer!



St. Symphorosa Parish Religious Education Program Classes Begin September 9th!

Just a reminder for all Religious Education Students that classes begin on Saturday, September 9th! All children must be registered before classes begin.

Children may be registered in our Parish Office Monday thru Friday from 9:00am—7:00pm or on Saturday from



Thanks A Bunch..... Actually Thanks a Ton!

The early August SAVERS donation event was another big success. The generosity and support of St. Symphorosa parishioners resulted in contributions of more than 10,000

pounds of clothing, books, small household items, toys, etc. In fact, the Parish received such a positive response that we had to secure a second truck. Surprisingly, even the second truck did not provide enough space for all of the donations that were delivered throughout the August 5th-6th weekend.

- Clothing (soft items) - 5,684 pounds
 - Household goods (hard items) - 3,064 pounds
 - Books – 1,420 pounds
- Total = 10,168 pounds or 5.1 tons!

Funds received: \$1,475.00

Thank you again to everyone who participated....these funds will be used to repair existing HVAC systems on our campus!

Our Parish Office will be closed on Monday, September 4th in observance of the Labor Day Holiday. We will reopen at 9:00am on Tuesday, September 5th.

The Week Ahead



Monday, September 4, 2017

- Labor Day Mass - 9:00am—Church

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

- Altar & Rosary Meeting 12pm—2pm—Social Hall
- Cub Scouts 6:30pm—7:30 pm—Social Hall

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

- Parent Association Meeting—7:00pm—Stejbach Room
- St. Vincent de Paul Meeting—6:00pm—Social Hall

Thursday, September 7, 2017

- Super Club—8:00am—3:00pm— Sharp Center
- Alcoholics Anonymous—7:30pm—Lower Hall

Saturday, September 9, 2017

- Religious Education Classes Begin—9:30am—A Building
- RE Parent Meeting—9:30am—A Building

Sunday, September 10, 2017

- Boy Scouts Training —12:00pm—Lower Hall
- Patriot's Day Service—After 11:30am Mass—Msgr. Maniola Prayer Garden
- Narc Anon—6:00pm —Small Hall

9:00am—12:00pm. Please note that registration ends on September 30, 2017.

Is this a Sacramental Year for your family? First Communion preparation begins in Level 1. Confirmation preparation begins in Level 7.

It is our hope that the Religious Education provided at St. Symphorosa Parish will allow your child to become a faith filled child of God!

Questions regarding our program? Please contact Barb Grzenia in our parish office at 773.767-1523.

THE HOLY MASS—Liturgy of the Word

Our series continues in Week Three as we walk through most of the actions and gestures at Mass. Together we will explore the meaning and origins of the Sacrament that is central to who we are as Catholics. We invite you to reflect on the the liturgy and more specifically on the presence of God in our celebration at Mass.

READING OF THE GOSPEL:

- Presider:** *The Lord Be With You*
All: *And with your Spirit*
Presider: *A reading from the Holy Gospel according to _____*
All: *Glory to you, Lord.*

With these words we sign ourselves with the sign of Christ—the cross. Tracing the cross on our foreheads, lips and heart, so that these words of Christ fill my mind, be on my tongue and in my heart.

When the Word of Christ has been proclaimed, the priest/deacon shows reverence with a kiss. The priest/deacon shows reverence to symbols of Christ: book of Gospels, the Altar. We show reverence through posture: standing for the Gospel.

HOMILY:

The Liturgy of the Word continues with the homily where the priest/deacon helps us to make connections between the scripture readings and how we live out our faith. The homily helps us understand the scriptures and leads us to the Eucharist.

CREED:

After the readings and the homily, we respond to the Lord, who has spoken through Readings: we proclaim ‘I Believe’. This is the creed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER/INTERCESSIONS:

From there we actually ask God for *more* divine presence and action, which we have just heard proclaimed from the readings. And so we stand and present before him our needs and the needs of the Church, usually following a similar pattern: prayers for the church, those in authority, for the sick and the poor, finally those in our community.

Next week we will focus on the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Stay tuned.....

In honor of September 11th, Ed Tylka and the staff of Ridge Funeral Home would like to honor local first responders for their contributions to the community. All active and retired police officers, EMT's, firefighters and their families are invited to an Appreciation Cookout with food, refreshments, activities & a jumping jack.

Saturday, September 9th 12pm—4pm
Ridge Funeral Home
6620 West Archer Avenue
Rain or Shine



Please join us on Tuesday, September 12th at 7:30pm in Church as our new season begins!

For more information, contact Sue or John by calling the parish office.



As we prepare for our 90th Anniversary Celebration and the visit of Cardinal Cupich in October, I am personally asking for your assistance in helping to beautify our parish grounds. If you are able to help in making our parish 'shine', please contact Maggie in our Parish Office at 773-767-1523. A member of our Parish Transformation Team will be in touch with further details including dates, times and various projects where help is needed.

Whether you can volunteer one hour or ten, your help would be greatly appreciated and is very valuable to us!

-Fr. Idzi

**Remember, Celebrate,
Believe**
**Join us next Sunday,
September 10th after the
11:30am mass for a
special Memorial Service
in the Msgr. Maniola
Prayer Garden as we
reflect & remember .**



Our Parish History

The early years in the history of St. Symphorosa Parish were very difficult. The United States was in the middle of the Great Depression and money was very tight. Fr. Sharp was forced to sell a portion of the Parish land the Archdiocese had originally purchased in order to keep the parish operating.

The five Benedictine Sisters ministered amongst the needy families of the neighborhood and distributed clothing they had collected from the more affluent people of the north side of Chicago.

Next Week.....Fr. Harte our second pastor is installed in 1943.

**Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only
be achieved by understanding.**

-Albert Einstein

In Thanksgiving to God and the People of St. Symphorosa



Three weeks ago, as the community of St. Symphorosa Parish, we witnessed the beautiful ceremony as I was installed as your seventh pastor. This event gave me the opportunity to be grateful first of all to our Heavenly Father for His inspiration and guidance on this new path in my life. I pray that the Holy Spirit will give me all the gifts which are necessary to accomplish my pastoral duties.

I am very grateful also for those great people who helped me organize and prepare this uplifting ceremony and celebration. My thanks go to **Mr. Zbigniew Kurowski, Owner of Pulaski Polish Deli and Bakery** for his donation of the delicious food for the reception. I hope that you enjoyed this food given from the heart of Mr. Kurowski.

Thank you to my friends, Teresa & Richard Koziar, Maria Kowalska and Monika Kowalski, and Maria & Casey Czochara for the donation of the beautiful flowers arrangements and decorations in our church, their help in preparing the sandwiches as well as their help during the reception.

Our parish grounds also needed cleaning and beautification before this event and for the great job I would like to say thank you to Ed & Barbara Pudelek, Larry Wisniewski, Nancy Bayo and Bernadette & Monica Wodke. Thanks to members of the **Parish Transformation & Liturgy Team** (Barb Grzenia, Maggie Barry, Monica Wodke, Mary Lou & Ray Kolasinski, Arlene Wilus, Linda & Dennis Kline, Dawn Gasior, Sue Gasior, Barb Pudelek, Jeannine Lascola, Ceil Kucinsky, Lara Hess, Larry Wisniewski, Bernadette Wodke, Nancy Bayo, Kathy Calcagno, Arlene Scaletta and Tina Ewalt) for their time, help and ideas in the preparation of the reception. Thank you to those who prepared the liturgy: Liturgy Team, Parish Choir, Knights of Columbus, Polish Highlanders, Readers, Servers, and Ushers.

I would like to thank, from the bottom of my heart, all guests from **St. Bruno and St. Priscilla** parishes. It was very meaningful to me that on this day you were very close and prayed along with the parishioners of St. Symphorosa for the bright future of our parish community.

And last but not least, I would like to thank the wonderful parishioners of **St. Symphorosa** for your prayers and support as I begin my pastorate among you. I always thank God for you and pray that together we can continue to do more and more for the good of this parish and the good of God's Kingdom.

May God bless all of you and keep you in His Fatherly care.

We Remember and Celebrate



Mass Intentions

Monday, September 4, 2017—Labor Day

9:00 am † John & Josephine Bugajsky—Chuck & Lorraine DeLauriea
Good Health for Usha Risha—Mary

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

8:00am † Rose Valler—Jim and Darlene

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

8:00am † Frank Pirtz—Jim and Darlene
† Geri Norbut—Family

Thursday, September 7, 2017

8:00 am † Father of Sophia Kowal—Dave Dantzer
† Frank Strzelec—Barbara and Anna Rendak
George and Ruth Simon—60th Wedding Anniversary

Friday, September 8, 2017—The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 am † Laverne Slowinski—Daughters and Families
† John M. Neumann Jr.—Son
† Robert John Neumann—Diana Schmidt

Saturday, September 9, 2017—St. Peter Claver

8:00 am For Health & Blessings for Gloria Engel—Karen Engel
5:00pm † Ray Hojdik—Family
† Theresa Pudelek—Family
† Felix & Victoria Synoga—Family

Sunday, September 10, 2017—23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 am † Art & Dorothy Temple—Shilney Family
9:30am † Kathy Fonte—Family
† Tom Markham—Kawa Family
† Joseph Lipien—Machules Family
11:30 am † Richard Montwill—Edward Ligeza
† Bob Reiser—Barbara Reiser
1:00pm Baptisms



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them O Lord. And
Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.

Helen Soltys
Maryann Whitehead



Congratulations to our newly baptized and welcome into St. Symphorosa and the Body of Christ!

Emily Fran Mielzynski
Child of Jason & Vanessa

Ariana Santana
Child of Ivan Santana & Nicole Marie Quintero

Quinn Thomas Depetro
Child of Christopher & Kerry Lynn

Nicholas Angel Vasquez
Child of Nicholas Vasquez & Martha Guzman



Rae Ann Arends, Donna R. Azzaline, Toni Bartz, Virginia Blazeniak, Dorothy Bogumil, Fr. Ted Bojczuk, Maynard Buckley, Michelle Calamino, Pat Carmody, Hannah Carroll, Michael Clifford, Chris Doherty, Carol Ann Corcoran, Donal Corcoran, Manuel Coronado, Patricia Crotty, Chuck DeLauriea, Art DePesa, Pat Doyle, Kaye Fenlon, Gary Forbort, John Gaca, Ken Gattas, Bernard

A. Gercius, Nincy Giron, Carol Golab, Gary Gorlen, Karen Gricus, Kathy Guzman, Erica Heilmann, Heather Hradek, Joe Infantino, Denise & Richard Jandura, Carol Kennelly, Jean Kibler, Adalbert Kouba, Patricia Kubik, Mark Kukulski, James Lapsansky, Donna Lauritzen, Virginia Macias, Lu Mackey, Ed Mallo, John Martini, Lori McCarthy, Gen Nagle, Helen Naughton, Marge Novak, Joe Paciga, David Paul, Katherine Pecoraro, Baby Alexander Joseph Pentz, Carolyn M. Py-sac, Lu Rackey, Sister Mary Rita, Ann Robertson, John A. Rosenthal, Larry Rosenstiehl, Fr. John Rudnik, Ben Sajdak, William Schrimpl, Stephen Sears, Dorothy Sniezewski, Marilyn Sobcjak, John Stachon, Michael Straube, James Suchy, Chalida Svastisalee, Loretta A. Thomas, Jim & Mary Thorpe, Joan Witcher, Steve Wojcik, Pamela Wojdyla, Larry & Marianne Wysocki, and Michelle



WEDDING BANNS
II—John Ryan and Kristen Benson

II—Michael Altobelli and Amanda Iuliano



Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands, protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

Sgt. Jaime A. Acosta, USMC

Sgt. Ted Bartelme

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

Captain Kevin Dobbyn, US Army

Sgt. John Flores, IL National Guard

SRA Andrew Gaca, USAF

SMSGT Joseph Gaca, USAF

Sgt. Michael Hough, US Army

Anthony Johaniewicz, US Navy

Lance Corp. Tim Lisenko, USMC

Trevor Lutz, US Army

Corporal Zachary Maderak, USMC

Pvt. 1st Class Daniel Morales, US Army

SPC Alex Ramos

Staff Sgt. Abel Sandoval, USMC

Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Stuhlmacher