

ST. SYMPHOROSA PARISH



A Family Celebrating Faith

6135 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60638
773-767-1523 (phone) | 773-767-6135 (fax)

Parish Staff

Rev. Idzi Stacherczak, Pastor
Rev. Ted Bojczuk, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Norman Trela, Retired Priest
Ken Hilliard, Operations Director
John & Sue O'Keefe, Music Directors
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

FOURTH SUNDAY

OF
Advent

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me
according to your word.

Luke 1:38



DECEMBER 24, 2017

New Parishioners: Welcome to our Parish! We are so happy to have you join us.

Sacrament of Penance: Monday through Saturday after 8:00 am Mass

Sacrament of the Sick and Communion Calls: Please contact our Parish Office to make arrangements.

Sacrament of Baptism: Second & Fourth Sunday at 1:00pm in Church. Parent Preparation Session: First Thursday of every other Month at 7:00pm. Please contact Maggie in our Parish Office for assistance.

Marriages: Arrangements must be made at least 6 months prior to the proposed date of your wedding. Please contact Maggie in our Parish Office for assistance.

Today is Born Our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord!



My Dear Parishioners and Friends,
As we celebrate Christmas, we are filled with joy and consolation knowing that all that we have hoped for has been fulfilled in the person of the Christ Child.

In the midst of all of our current challenges and concerns, the love of God the Father is made manifest to us in the wonderful gift of His Son, Jesus. With the angels in Bethlehem, our faith moves us to sing: "Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth!"

We recognize that true peace on earth flows from our recognition and praise of God in our lives. Christ came on earth to reveal an extraordinary message, the message of love, joy and happiness. Christ asks us to have love for one another, to be reconciled to one another, to accept one another.

Christmas provides a unique opportunity each year for us all to refocus. Not only are we reminded of the awe-inspiring, world-changing, life-altering gift that is Jesus; but we are also reminded of our need for this Jesus to heal us in our brokenness. That is indeed why he came, wasn't it? To bring peace between God and man.

Each of us has been entrusted with a special gift, a sacred responsibility: to show others how the mystery of God is among us.

There are so many details that surround the celebration of Christmas that it is easy to miss the meaning. Christmas is not about the parties, the presents or the poinsettias. It's not about the food or the festivities. It's not the greenery, garland, Christmas cards, credit cards, tinsel or carols. Christmas is solely about God. Christmas is about God fulfilling His promises, saving His people, coming to us — as one of us — in Jesus. The truth can be so easily missed: Christmas is nothing but Jesus. And if Jesus is not in Christmas, then Christmas is nothing at all!



The miracle of Christmas is that God chose to become man. Jesus was born in an ordinary stable, not in a temple or royal palace. Being born in such a place is God's way of showing that Christ comes to us in all sorts of human conditions. No matter what we've done or haven't done, God comes to be with us in Jesus Christ where we are in life, and out of His great love for all humanity.

As we gather to celebrate Christmas with those we love, my hope is that we can humble ourselves enough to truly worship the Christ Child in the manger scene and acknowledge Him for who He truly is.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, bless you, your families and loved ones at this blessed time of hope and grace. May Mary, the Mother of the Child Jesus and our Mother, watch over you and our beloved St. Symphorosa Parish always.

With profound gratitude for your generous help, support and love throughout the past year, on behalf of Fr. Norman Trela and the entire Parish Staff of St. Symphorosa Parish, I send you, your families and guests warm wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Holy and Healthy New Year!

Gratefully in the Christ Child,
~Fr. Idzi Stacherczak, Pastor



Today's Responsorial Psalm Is:
Remember Your Mercies, O Lord

St. Symphorosa Parish would like to congratulate the following students on their exemplary studies and achieving the Honor Roll for the 1st quarter of the school year.

D DELA SALLE INSTITUTE
 Alexa Acevedo
 Bryan Doyle
 Antonio Fernandez
 Jacob Lopez
 Kristen Nagel
 Samantha Rangel
 Xavier Vicenteno
 George Witowski

N Nazareth Academy

Hannah Carroll
 Riley Falvey
 Matthew Gutierrez
 Mia Leano
 Jalen Lopez
 Julian Lopez
 Elijah Moscinski
 David Quintana
 Laila Rodriguez
 Noemi Rodriguez
 Emily Rybski
 Catherine Sajdak
 Zachary Spain

A very special recognition to the following students for being named Illinois State Scholars.

Samantha Spain
 Kathleen Wilkison
 Veronica Belanski
 Marist
 Marist
 St. Laurence

M MOTHER MCAULEY Liberal Arts High School
 Gabriella Cabral
 Carolina Correa
 Kate Fischer

Congratulations!



We are very excited to announce that our 90th Anniversary Parish

Cookbooks have arrived and will be sold in the back of church this weekend. In addition, they will be available for purchase in our Parish Office. The cost is \$10.00 per book. Please consider supporting this effort by purchasing a cookbook!

Christmas Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve, December 24, 2017

4:00pm (Family Mass)
 10:00pm (Carols begin at 9:30pm)

Christmas Day, December 25, 2017

7:30am
 9:30am
 11:30am



On Saturday, December 2nd, 12 volunteers answered our call for help to replace our Breaking Bread Books in preparation for the new liturgical year.

Thank you and God Bless You for your hard work and dedication to our parish!

~Fr. Idzi



and the winners are...

Our December Super Club Raffle winners are

Jeanine Schumacker—\$25
 Dolly Renaud—\$25
 Margaret DeRose—\$25
 John O'Keefe—\$100

Congratulations to you all!!

I would like to extend a very special Thank You to the Super Club for the \$500 holiday donation given to St. Symphorosa Parish.

~Fr. Idzi



Offerings for the weekend of December 17, 2017

Weekly Budget (Est.) 9,000.00

Contributions: \$6,989.21

Envelopes: 290

Offerings for the Christmas Flowers: \$2,077.00

Thank you for your support & generosity!



December 17, 2017

Received this week: \$ 443.00

This week's winner is envelope # 2549

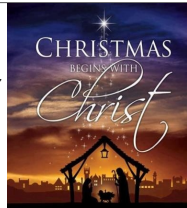
Reminder: A minimum of \$5.00 is required to participate.



Dates: Nov. 13 to Dec. 3, 2017

Transactions: 144

Amount: \$2,792.00



OPLATKI CHRISTMAS WAFERS

Oplatki is \$3.00 per package which includes three white and one pink wafer.

This year, in addition to being sold in our parish office, Oplatki will also be sold after all of the masses in the Gathering Space beginning in the First Week of Advent.

Please see our December 3rd bulletin for Fr. Idzi's special article on the History & Tradition of Oplatki.





INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30TH
6:00PM– 10:00PM**

Christmas is the most celebrated holiday in the world. Individuals on every continent celebrate it and more than one hundred countries officially recognize Christmas. A country's Christmas celebration may vary according to that country's traditions. That being said, many traditions and symbols of Christmas are common to many countries.

No matter which country's traditions are in practice, the spirit of the season remains the same. The expression of joy and hope is constant, as is the desire to share and give others from one's own plenty.

On Saturday December 30th, we will gather as a faith community to celebrate our Christmas traditions. This celebration gives us the opportunity to get to know each of our St. Symphorosa brothers and sisters and to gather as one St. Symphorosa Parish Family during this Christmas Season. You are invited to bring a special dish that is unique to your tradition to share with your fellow parishioners and friends. Tea, coffee, cake and other refreshments will be included. Let us gather together to enjoy foods of different countries. (American, Polish, Italian, Mexican, German, Irish, etc.) Good food, good company, music and a special Christmas Blessing by Fr. Idzi. It is not necessary to bring a dish in order to participate. In addition to sharing delicious foods, we will gather to sing carols and look more closely at a variety of Christmas traditions and symbols. There is no charge for this event.

To allow us to plan accordingly, please complete the form below and return it to a member of the Transformation Team in the back of church after mass this weekend or next. These forms can also be returned to the parish office or you can email mwodke@yahoo.com with details of the dish you will bring to share that evening.

Hope you can join us!



Yes, I am planning to attend the International Christmas Celebration on Saturday, December 30th and will bring the following dish(es) to share with members of our Parish Family:

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE #: _____

As menu cards will be printed to identify each dish and its' country of origin, we ask that you please print the name of each dish below:

This dish is from the following country: _____

Please return this completed form to the back of church, parish office or email mwodke@yahoo.com with details.

Thank You!



I would like to thank the ladies who helped make the angel ornaments for our annual Advent Giving Tree Project. Great appreciation goes to these women who took time in their busy day to make our ornaments this year: Sharon Arends, Nancy Bayo, Janine Brzezicki, Lor Broderick, Linda Bruno, Kathy Crowley, Sally Englund, Mary Gonzales, Joan Hamann, Rita Lane, Karen Mrozek, Joanne Shope, Pam Sobeske, Mary Ann Szot, and Bernadette Wodke. The project was made easier because of their generous efforts.

A special thank you goes to Greg, Kathy, and Laura Pacino who have sorted and delivered the gifts for well over 20 years. Their work is truly appreciated.

And a huge thank you to all of our parishioners who donated gifts to our project. We were able to send over 1,000 gifts to the five charitable agencies to assist them in their work with veterans and needy families. St. Symphorosa is truly a Family Celebrating Faith!

~Mary Lou Kolasinski



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In 1223, just two years before his death, Saint Francis of Assisi set up a living crèche, a replica of the manger in Bethlehem at the birth of Jesus. He preached and prayed before the scene. His biographer, Thomas of Celano, says that in that moment Francis was “overwhelmed with love and filled with wonderful happiness.” His contemplation of Jesus, the Word made flesh, drew him to experience the depth of God’s love.

We live in a troubled world beset by wars, violence, injustice, broken relationships, and illness. Beyond that, we do believe and are convinced that God loves us and walks with us in Jesus, his Son. As we know, God will heal us and our broken world and bring us into the fullness of life. It is my hope that when you pray before the mystery of the Incarnate Word, as Saint Francis prayed, you will be renewed in hope and confidence and be “overwhelmed with love and filled with wonderful happiness.”

May God bless you with a renewal of faith, hope, and love as we celebrate the birth of the Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Card. Blase J. Cupich

ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO



*Christmas 2017
Cardinal's letter to the Faithful
Archdiocese of Chicago*

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 25, 2017

The Nativity of the Lord

7:30am For All Parishioners (37)

9:30am For All Parishioners (38)

11:30am For All Parishioners (39)

Tuesday, December 26, 2017

St. Stephen, The First Martyr

8:00 am For All Parishioners (40)

Wednesday, December 27, 2017

Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

8:00 am †Gregg Gasior—Lorraine & Chuck DeLauriea

Thursday, December 28, 2017

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:00 am †Robert Franco—Family

Friday, December 29, 2017

Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

8:00 am †Roy R. Moscato—Kathy Calcagno

†Charles Burnham—Bill Travers

†Roberto Rodriguez—Inez Rodriguez

†Lauren Vitrano—Markham Family

Saturday, December 30, 2017

8:00 am †Kathy Arvetis—Husband

†Arlene Totos—Carol Gress

5:00 pm †Walter Labno—Wife & Family

†Greg Golab—Mom

†Stanley & Antoinette Saletnik—Marie & Family

3:00pm Wedding—Jennifer Biamonte & Michael Keating

Sunday, December 31, 2017

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:30 am †Adalbert Kouba—Friends of Super Club

9:30 am Special Intentions—Gurgone Family

11:30am †Richard Montwill—Loving Family

†John and Cathy Ryan—Pat and Cathy Carone

†Carmella Schultz—Kathleen McAuliffe

†Ramon Perez (3rd Anniversary)—Family



Wedding Banns

III-Jennifer Biamonte & Michael Keating

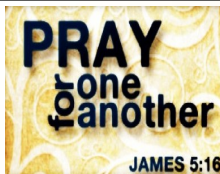
In loving memory



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.

Michael Straube



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
Kaye Fenlon
Kay Franco
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 Jandura
Richard Jandura
Carol Kennelly
Jean Kibler
Patricia Kubik
Mark Kukulski
Claudia Kwilosz
Norman Kwilosz
James Lapsansky
Donna Lauritzen
Michael Loduca
Virginia Macias
Lu Mackey
Anna Marie Matkey
John Martini
Lori McCarthy
Gen Nagle
Helen Naughton
Marge Novak
Joe Paciga

David Paul
Baby Alexander J Pentz
Carmen Ramirez
Sister Mary Rita
Ann Robertson
John A. Rosenthal
Larry Rosenstiehl
Fr. John Rudnik
Ben Sajdak
William Schrimpl
Marilyn Sobczak
Special Intention
John Stachon
Terry Styka & Family
James Suchy
Chalida Svastisalee
Loretta A. Thomas
Jim Thorpe
Mary Thorpe
Joan Witcher
Chester Wodarczyk
Steve Wojcik
Pamela Wojdyla
Larry Wysocki
Marianne Wysocki
Michelle

For the freedom that we all enjoy...Our thanks go to the men and women serving in all branches of the military. We Salute you! May God continue to bless you and keep you safe from harm. Amen.

Sgt. Jaime A. Acosta, USMC
Sgt. Ted Bartelmey
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 Dobbyn, US Army
Sgt. John Flores, IL National Guard
SRA Andrew Gaca, USAF
SMSGT Joseph Gaca, USAF
Sgt. Michael Hough, US Army
Anthony Johaniwicz, US Navy
Lance Corp. Tim Lisenko, USMC
Trevor Lutz, US Army
Corporal Zachary Maderak, USMC
Pvt1 st Class Daniel Morales, US Army
SPC Alex Ramos
Staff Sgt. Abel Sandoval, USMC
Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Stuhlmacher
1LT Zachary White, IL Army NG

Annual Christmas House Blessing

As we enter this very special time of year, if you would like your house blessed as part of your Family Christmas tradition, please contact our parish office at 773-767-1523 to schedule a suitable date & time.