

JOHN THE BAPTIST APPEARED,
PREACHING IN THE DESERT OF JUDEA
AND SAYING, "REPENT,
FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND!"
MATTHEW 3:1



SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
DECEMBER 8, 2019

SAINT SYMPHOROSA PARISH

A Family Celebrating Faith
6135 S Austin Ave Chicago, IL 60638
773.767.1523 (Phone) 773.767.6135 (Fax)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Advent is a time of preparation. We prepare to celebrate Christmas when we commemorate the first coming of Christ at the Incarnation some 2,000 years ago. In that, we focus on the great and profound mystery of our faith that God became man. We also prepare for the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time. In fact, the word "Advent" means "coming." We are reminded during this season that Christ is coming back, and we look forward to that time with great anticipation and hope, while also doing our diligence to prepare well.

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. This week's Gospel according to Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced

ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: ". . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

The crowds came to John and asked him, "What then shall we do?" The

Baptist didn't mince words. He got right to the point and said what needed to be said. He advised no one to leave the world they are in; however ambiguous it may be. Rather he told those with two coats to share one with those who had none. Likewise, those with an abundance of food were to share with the hungry. Tax collectors were told to collect no more than was appointed to them. Soldiers were to rob no one by violence or by false accusation. They were to be content with their wages. What were people to do to prepare for the imminent coming of the Messiah? To be generous, just, honest, grateful and compassionate. [Lk 3:10-14].

Let us think today what are the attitudes that need changing our lives? How ready are we to welcome the Messiah. Surly we all need conversion. And conversion happens at different levels, at different times and at different paces. But let us use this Advent, this desert period if you will, as a time to examine what we need to do to prepare our hearts and minds, our bodies and souls, to welcome Jesus back into our lives.

www.loyolapress.com



Oplátky Christmas Wafers

Oplátky are available for purchase in the parish office or after all Masses in the Gathering Space of our church. Each package of oplátky contains 3 white wafers and 1 pink wafer. A \$3.00 donation per package is requested. (While supplies last)

Parish Staff

Rev. Idzi Stacherczak
Pastor

Rev. Ted Bojczuk
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Norman Trela
Retired Priest

Ken Hilliard
Operations Director

Deacon Raul Duque
Music Director

Magdalan Barry
Parish Secretary

Nancy Markham
Office Coordinator

Judy Banasiak
Religious Education
Coordinator

Kathy Berry
Principal

Chris Garza
Assistant Principal

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Friday
9:00 am—7:00 pm

Saturday
9:00 am—12:00 pm

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 - Saturday
after the 8am Mass

Parish Office

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

www.stsymphorosa.org
symphorosa@comcast.net

Parish School

6125 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60638
773-585-6888



Renew My Church Prayer

Lord Jesus, you speak to us today, as you spoke to holy men and women who have gone before us. In every age and in our own time, you call to us and say: Renew My Church.

Pour out the gift of your Holy Spirit upon us, and so enable us to hear you clearly to listen to each other attentively to imagine our future boldly to discern your direction wisely to persevere in your holy will courageously

to stay together in charity to surrender our own plans readily to embrace the greater good to hand on your gifts to future generations.

May we remain in the holy company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the apostles, and all the saints. May their example and presence inspire us with patient confidence in the work of your grace. We ask this of you who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Dear Fr. Idzi and our Parish Community:

Our 7th grade classroom needs your help! Officer Perez from the G.R.E.A.T (Gang Resistance Education and Training) program asked us to do something wonderful for our school. Our classroom decided that a new kneeler and bench was desperately needed for our Beautiful Blessed Mary that is outside the Sharp Center.



The kneeler and bench that are currently there are very old and not properly set. It would be a great thing to have these replaced with new ones or move the current one and add something sturdier. Our Blessed Mother deserves to have this gift. If we had new kneeler perhaps more parishioners would visit and pray. Our elderly might find it also easier. They can have a nice bench to sit and pray longer. Something with more support. A more inviting atmosphere always would put a smile not only on Our Blessed Mary but on all who visit her.



We kindly ask that you please help us, so we can get started on this project. We would be so grateful if our community parishioners donate to this beautiful cause. A donation table will be set up after each Mass on December 14th and 15th in the gathering space. You can also send in a donation in an envelope or drop it off at the rectory via school mail. Please mark the envelope **Bench and Kneeler Fund.**

Bench and Kneeler Fund.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Christopher Flores on behalf of the 7th grade class.



St. Symphorosa Advent Penance Service

In preparation for the Christmas season, and the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we invite all to a special Reconciliation service with private confessions being offered on **Monday, December 16th at 7pm.**



*Offerings for the weekend of
November 24, 2019*
Weekly Budget (Est.): \$9,000.00
Contributions: \$5,917.50
Envelopes: 275

Offerings for the weekend of December 1, 2019
Weekly Budget (Est.): \$9,000.00
Contributions: \$5,291.25
Envelopes: 256

Thank you for your support & generosity!



ADVENT PUZZLE FOR CHILDREN

As we began Advent this weekend, our parish children were called forward during mass to receive a puzzle piece. Each week, the children will receive an additional piece of the puzzle and, when we reach the 4th Sunday of Advent, they will have a beautiful picture of the Nativity.

May God grant special blessings to the young people within our parish community!

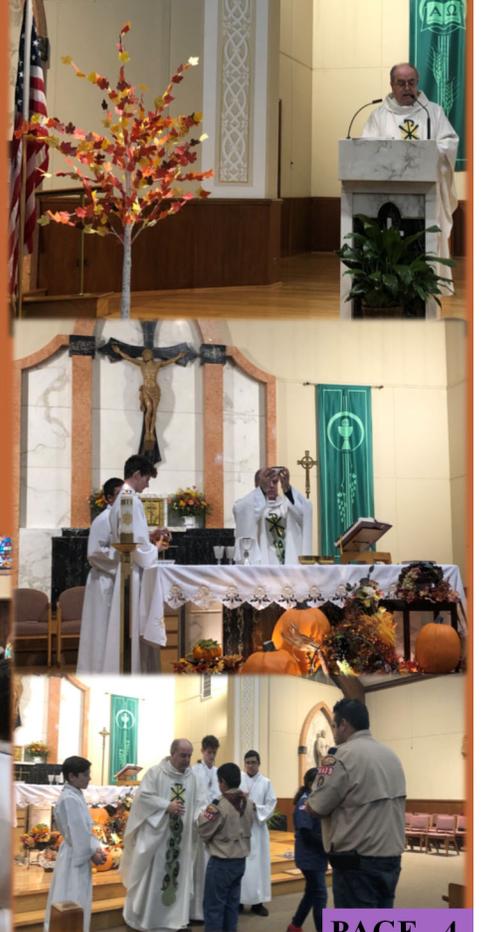
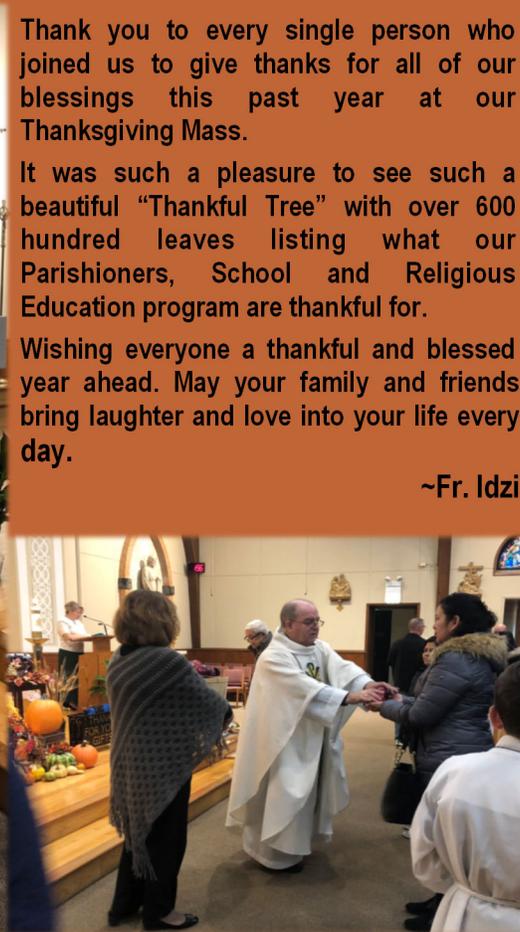
Thanksgiving Day 2019

Thank you to every single person who joined us to give thanks for all of our blessings this past year at our Thanksgiving Mass.

It was such a pleasure to see such a beautiful "Thankful Tree" with over 600 hundred leaves listing what our Parishioners, School and Religious Education program are thankful for.

Wishing everyone a thankful and blessed year ahead. May your family and friends bring laughter and love into your life every day.

~Fr. Idzi



St. Symphorosa Parish Cook Book

We are proud to announce that our Parish Cookbooks will once again be available for purchase this year. For \$10.00, these books are filled with wonderful family recipes as well as photos and a recap of our 92-year history as a faith community. Books can be purchased on the weekends of November 30/December 1; December 7/8 & December 14/15.



St. Symphorosa Parish

Our parish Christmas Cards may be purchased after all masses on the weekends of November 30th/December 1st; December 7th/8th and December 14th/15th or in our parish office during regular business hours. The cost is \$10.00 for a packet of 10 cards.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

"Patroness of all the Americas"

Join us on **Thursday, December 12th** as we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mass will be celebrated at 8am and 7pm.

As a part of our celebration and appreciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary we invite everyone to bring roses to place in baskets before the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



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www.stsymsschool.org



Split the Pot

November 24, 2019

Received this week: \$320

Winning envelope: #1325

December 1, 2019

Received this week: \$320

Winning envelope: #828

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



During the month of November, the following amounts were collected for special Collections.

All Saints' Day	\$1,447
All Souls' Day	\$949
Building & Maintenance	\$1,852
Candle Money	\$1,500.35
Cath. Campaign for Human Development	\$1,024.05
Immaculate Conception	\$5
Parish Debt Reduction	\$632
Thanksgiving/St. Vincent de Paul	\$1,646
School Support	\$199
Sharing Parish (Maternity BVM)	\$395
World Mission Sunday	\$60

Thank you for your kindness & generosity!

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

For health and all the Lord's blessings for Carol Golab & Matt Golab; for the repose of the soul of Greg Golab given by Carol Golab

For the repose of the souls of Joseph & Michael Loduca given by Nancy Loduca & Donna Loduca

For all members of the Soltys Family, Living and Deceased given by Cheryl Soltys

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

Mass Intentions for the Week



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

Saturday, December 7, 2019

Saint Ambrose, Bishop

8:00am For all Parishioners, Living & Deceased (45)
5:00pm †Nick Bouzious (*Janina*)
†James Suchy (*John Buda*)
†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

Sunday, December 8, 2019

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30am †Claude Wiatrak (*Wife-Clara*)
†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)
†Waltar Marciniak (*Family*)
†Ray Oracki (*Barb Grzenia*)
9:30am †Adalbert Kouba (*Father-George Kouba*)
†Margaret Pratl (*Gerald Sears Family*)
†Antoinette Kloppman (*Kolasinski Family*)
†Michael A. Gurgone (*Family*)
†James Thorpe (*Family*)
†George "Al" Heinz (*Family*)
†Paulina & Alojzy Jablonski (*Jablonski Family*)
11:30am †Colette Nowakowski (*Silva Family*)
†Laverne Slowinski (*Daughters & Families*)

Monday, December 9, 2019

8:00am †Anna Maria Vazquez (*Olga Pecina & Family*)

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

8:00am †Richard Montwill (*Loving Family*)
†Joanne Bergl (*Lorraine DeLauriea*)
†Fe Battung & all the poor soul's in Purgatory (*Rosario Battung*)

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

8:00am †Charles DeLauriea (*Betty Magda*)

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00am †Dolores A Grisko (*Family*)
†Mary DeCoursey (*Sage Family*)
7:00pm For all Parishioners, Living & Deceased (46)

Friday, December 13, 2019

Saint Lucy

8:00am Health & all the Lord's Blessings for Nancy & Johnnie Gomez on their 5th Wedding Anniversary (*Family*)
†Chuck DeLauriea (*Anna Sliwa*)
†Agnieszka Miodunka (*Family*)

Saturday, December 14, 2019

Saint John of the Cross, Priest

8:00am †Christopher & Colton Miller (*Joanne & Ed McGriff*)
5:00pm †Colette "Cookie" Findysz (*Family*)
†John & Irene Simonelic (*John Simonelic Family*)
†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)
†Beatrice Lucio (*Family*)
†Angelo Geraci (*Hernandez Family*)
†Frances Cascio (*Hernandez Family*)

Sunday, December 15, 2019

7:30am †Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)
9:30am †John Dragosetti, George, Maria & Dominic Velcich (*Rosario Dragosetti*)
†James Thorpe (*Family*)
†George "Al" Heinz (*Family*)
11:30am †Josephine Salta (*Family*)
†Barbara Corless (*Silva Family*)

Ignatius Battiato
Mary Bieser
Dorothy Bogumil
Fr. Ted Bojczuk
Pat Carmody
Michael Clifford
Norma De Stefano
Chris Doherty
Juan Figueroa
Carol Golab
Carol Gress
Suzann Gunter
Kathy Haars
Megan High
Dawn Hoyt
Heather Hradek
Denise M. Jandura
Rich S. Jandura
Joan Juris
Lee Karpinski
Dennis Kline
Walter Kokoszka, Sr.
Claudia Kwilosz
Norman Kwilosz
James Lapsansky
Donna Lauritzen

Domenico Lepore
Debbie Lipien
John Martini
Lou Mackey
Kathleen McAuliffe
Thomas Minnich
Christine Mosqueda
Genevieve Nagle
Florence Panzarella
Baby Alexander J Pentz
Gi Gi Picciolini
Marie Pratt
Ann Robertson
Edward Robertson
Fr. John Rudnik
Joseph Rudnik
Gloria Schillings
Coltyn Schmidt
Kristyn Schmidt
Joseph Serpico
Chalida Svatisalee
Terry Styka
Mary Thorpe
George Trendle
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 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
Corpsman Nicholas J. Cundari-USN
Captain Kevin Dobbyn, 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. Konie, USMC
Lance Corp. Tim Lisenko, USMC
Trevor Lutz, US Army
Corporal Zachary Maderak, USMC
Private Joseph M. Mikutis, USMC
Pvt 1st Class Daniel Morales, US Army
SPC Alex Ramos
Staff Sgt. Abel Sandoval, USMC
WO-1 Richard Sabeske, US Army
Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Stuhlmacher
1LT Zachary White, IL Army NG



In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that the good news can be seen, touched, felt and heard through the lives of God's people. We are now charged to take up the ministry of Jesus', but we can't just ask people to take our word for it; our actions must speak for us.

Since Christmas is a time of love and gift giving, please share in Jesus' ministry by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who are poor can know the good news of Jesus.

St. Vincent de Paul phone number: (773) 682-3342

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

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 6:00pm. 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.