

FIFTH SUNDAY

in Ordinary Time

February 7, 2021

JESUS CURED
MANY WHO WERE
SICK WITH
VARIOUS DISEASES,
AND HE DROVE OUT
MANY DEMONS.

MARK 1:34



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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!!

Fear can paralyze us, if we let it.

And peddlers of fear know that keeping you fear-filled is a way to control you. If I can create something for you to fear, I can then steer you in the direction I desire for you to go. We soon find ourselves willing to forgo freedom for a sense of security.

Benjamin Franklin knew this when he wrote, "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety."

What does Jesus have to say?

"Do not be afraid," he says more than a few times in Sacred Scripture. Or expressed differently, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God."

Let's make sure we distinguish two different uses of the word fear. When we talk about fear of the Lord, we are talking about an awe-filled fear toward the One who is the Creator or all that is. The fear we use in relation to the world is more of a scary fear; an anxiety-type fear.

The Lord wants to keep us focused on TODAY and to not get too far ahead of ourselves.

St. Francis de Sales gives us some comfort when he wrote, "Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow. The same Eternal Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day of your life. Either he will shield you from suffering or he will give you the unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then and put aside all useless thoughts, vain dreads, and anxious imaginations."

Something has become very apparent since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. More and more of our brothers and sisters live in fear of a disease. Part of this is understandable, but another part of it is not understandable. There seems to be an underlying expectation that we should all be protected from any and

suffering; and that death is an end.

This perspective will continue to be harmful to us as human persons. Is it any surprise that as fear of the Lord decreases in society, fear of worldly things increases? When more and more people begin to believe there is no God and there is no after-life, then we start to CLING to this world with all our strength.

This has never been the Christian view of the world. Our faith tradition has a context for suffering and for death. As the secular world seeks to delete our faith, they are left trying to extinguish all suffering, and we just avoid discussing death.

Jesus gives context to BOTH suffering and death. He went through both so that we need not be alone as we encounter suffering and the inevitability of death. The Lord can say to us, "Do not be afraid," because he knows the suffering in this world is temporary, and death becomes a mere transition from this life to eternal life.

Helen Keller, who was blind all her life, said, "Death is no more than passing from one room into another. But there's a difference for me, you know. Because in that other room I shall be able to see."

Having an eternal perspective based on the truth of Jesus enables us to live a hope-filled life each and every day in this world. This is reality. Do we think, on our own human power, we can suddenly create a 100-percent antiseptic society where there is no suffering and no death? No, that's insanity.

Fulton Sheen gives an excellent example between what so many today are suffering: psychosis and neurosis. "A psychotic believes that two and two make five; a neurotic believes that two and two make four, but is mad about it."

Fear of the things of this world will

paralyze us. Fear of God will bring a healthier perspective to the gift of human life, and help us keep an eye on the eternal as we look at the problems of this world.

Stay close to Jesus. Pray. Receive the Sacraments. Read Sacred Scripture. Live out the corporeal and spiritual works of mercy. These are the basics of the faith and these basics move us away from fear and closer to faith, hope and love.

Do not be afraid! How can you say that? Because Jesus says it. And Jesus is God. He knows the end of the story, and how beautiful it will be for those who love Him.

Snow and Brrrrr!!!

We have had our share of winter in 2021. Well, this is Chicago after all, and we do winter with a certain heartiness.

The snow of last weekend becomes the extreme cold of this weekend.

Allow me to make a Pastor's plea. We've taken a hit financially in our weekly collection because of the weather. Please consider playing "catch-up" or giving a little extra. In my two-and-a-half years in this area, I can count on one hand the number of times I make a money request. But while we live in the reality of God's love, we also live in the economic reality of this world.

We have to pay our employees and pay our bills. Snow removal is crazy costly.

Thank you for your continued generosity.



Quote of the Week

"Courage is knowing what not to fear."

~Plato

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Rev. Ted Bojczuk
Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Peter Paurazas
Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Idzi Stacherczak
Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Norman Trela
Retired Priest

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Peg Siebenaler
Faith Formation
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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



Looking for a way to decrease your Illinois state income tax liability? What if you could increase your state tax refund, and help fund scholarships for students of families in need to attend St. Symphorosa School?

The Invest in Kids tax credit scholarship program provides thousands of families the opportunity to secure the lifelong benefits of a Catholic education for their children.

Your contribution will help a St. Symphorosa Catholic school family breathe a little easier and provide much needed stability to a child who hopes to return to the same school for the upcoming school year.

If you have been fortunate enough to have not felt the financial strain this pandemic has caused, please consider sharing that good fortune with others by supporting the tax credit scholarship program at St. Symphorosa School.

Thanks to the generosity of several donors, between now and Feb. 28, 2021, you can triple the impact of your donation by taking advantage of a 2-for-1 matching gift (limitations apply). Contact tcs@archchicago.org or 312.534.2617 or visit archchicago.org/tcs for more information.



Parking Restrictions

It has become increasingly difficult to manage the snow removal and salting operations at the St. Symphorosa Campus parking lots, due to the unauthorized overnight parking of vehicles. In addition, the ongoing unification process of St. Symphorosa and St. Rene Parish is expected to require an increasing need to utilize all available parking spaces for parishioners who attend Mass and various parish events, as well as, daily school parking for parents, staff and employees. Please do not park in these lots when not attending a Mass or parish function. Unfortunately, vehicles that remain overnight may need to be towed, as a last resort.

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)**

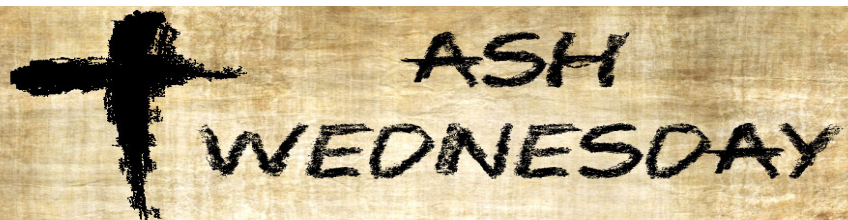
Borrowing again from Dr. Lauren Pristas, she tells us more about the general characteristics of the Collects, what we might find present in these prayers from Mass to Mass: "Although scriptural allusions abound in the collects, the classic Roman orations generally do not quote or paraphrase scripture Rather, the typical Roman collect comes from scripture more in the manner of prayer that arises in the course of *lectio divina*, the monastic practice of reading and meditating—meditating in the ancient sense of ruminating and repeating—the sacred text until the heard and meditated Word of God pierces the heart and the heart naturally, as it were, responds in prayer."

(The Collects of the Roman Missals: A Comparative Study of the Sundays in Proper Seasons before and after the Second Vatican Council, p. 213)

Dr. Pristas is describing the Collects, which the Church prays in the Extraordinary Form (Latin/Tridentine) Mass. Nonetheless, what she says of these prayers from the Latin Mass, seems, in my humble estimation, to be accurate of the Collects from the Ordinary Form Mass as well, the Mass, which we pray in our parish. The Bible is not so much quoted in the Collect as it is a formative source for the Collect. On some Sundays or feast days, the language of the Collect might be easily recognized in relation to the readings for the Mass while the Collects for the Masses on other days may be less direct and more subtle but still biblically based.

For this Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time, we pray, "Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever." (*Roman Missal*, 3rd edition) In the scriptural readings, we hear Job (7:1-4, 6-7) lamenting, almost despairing, *after* he has suffered the death of his children. In a related manner, though perhaps not limited to one's family, the Psalmist (Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6) prayerfully affirms God as the source of healing for "the dispersed" and "the brokenhearted" of Israel. Then in the Gospel (Mark 1:29-39), the "unfailing care" of God is revealed by the cure of Simon's (Peter's) mother-in-law (biological family) and extended to "many," (family of God's children) whom Jesus cures. Knowing that ultimate safety for our loved ones and ourselves exceeds our power, we call upon the Lord for this eternal blessing, which begins with "the hope of heavenly grace."

~Fr. Matt Compton



Ash Wednesday will be observed on **Wednesday, February 17th** this year. Our parish will offer Mass and prayer services at both church sites. Pre-registration for Masses and prayer services is highly recommended but not required. Visit our website at www.stsymphorosa.org or call the parish office at 773.767.1523 to pre-register.

Mass Times and Church Site

8am - St. Symphorosa Church

7pm - St. Rene Church

Paver Service with Ash Distribution

12pm - St. Rene Church

3pm & 5pm - St. Symphorosa Church



*Keeping
a Holy Lent*

**Catholic Guidelines for the
Lenten Season**

*Lent begins Wednesday,
February 17, 2021*

With the season of Lent upon us, let us remember that this season is a time for prayer, a time to devote ourselves to that prayer. Lent is a time for reading scripture, for service by giving alms and to show sacrifice through fasting. It is a time of repentance, love and forgiveness.

As a reminder the Lenten Regulations for Catholics are as follows:

- Every person, 14 years of age or older, must abstain from meat (and items made with meat) on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays of Lent.
- Every person between the age of 18 and 59 must fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Exclusions are medical necessity and pregnant and/or nursing mothers.

On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday fasting (for those 18 to 59 years) means that only one full, meatless meal is permitted. Snacks may be eaten at other meal times, but altogether should equal to less than a full meal. Liquid can be consumed anytime. Per the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, abstinence laws consider that meat comes only from animals such as chickens, cows, sheep or pigs --- all of which live on land. Birds are also considered meat.



Split the Pot
January 31, 2021
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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, January 31, 2021
Contribution: \$5,922.00

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:

- 2/13: Confirmation Retreat for all Faith Formation Lvl. 8 students**
- 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. Syms Campus. (Sat.)**

Gospel Reflections of our Confirmandi

One of my favorite stories about Jesus is "The Good Samaritan". This is my favorite story because it teaches us to be kind to others. I believe that people need to be more kind to each other.

In the story, a man traveling, is shown kindness by a complete stranger. Without the stranger's kindness the man would have died. Being kind goes a long way. Being kind is a life choice. Being kind can make the world a better place. Being a good person can help others in need. By being a good person you stay on the Right side of God.

Choosing to Do good, you can Do Every Day! You never know when Judgement Day comes.

I'm looking forward to My Confirmation. As a baby, I was Baptized...By being Confirmed, this will strengthen my belief in God and the Truth.

Amber W. (2021 Confirmand)



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.



Soon our First Communicant's along with their parents are invited to a Special Bread Meeting / Communion Retreat. 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!



Jesus Projects

This year, our students in level Seven are focusing on the person of Jesus in the Gospels. These students will be using some creative art form to depict a Jesus story of their choice. The projects will be on display in the Narthex, for viewing by our parish community during the month of March (at both campuses).



THE WEDDING FEAST AT CANA



A bride and groom had invited Mary, Jesus and the disciples to their Wedding. At the wedding the wine began to run low. There were no other wine bottles that were saved either. Mary then asked her son Jesus to help....

Mary said, "Do whatever he tells you to do."

Jesus said, please fill these water jugs to the brim with water. They did as Jesus asked.

Jesus transformed the water into wine...delivering his Glory.

By: Ellie M.



Jesus cured many who were sick



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Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, February 6, 2021

4:00pm *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

5:30pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Matt

Sunday, February 7, 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

Monday, February 8, 2021

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Thursday, February 11, 2021

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Friday, February 12, 2021

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Saturday, February 13, 2021

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

4:00pm *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Matt

5:30pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

Sunday, February 14, 2021

7:30am *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

9:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Norm

10:30am *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

12:00pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Matt

Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

†Lorraine Gorniak (Family)

†Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

†Brian Ulrich (Kim Kazmierczak)

Health & all the Lord's blessings for Pat Carmody (Kathleen Ross)

Health & all the Lord's blessings for Maria & Carlos Montes (Mary Kolimas)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (Hohm Family)

†Vince Porcelli (Vito & Annette Gramegna)

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

†Vince Porcelli (Vito & Annette Gramegna)

†Norma DeStefano (Altar & Rosary Society)

†Virginia Fondakowski (Arlene Scaletta)

†Rita Johnson (Altar & Rosary Society)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (Hohm Family)

†Therese & Herman Grupenhagen (Marie Zilka)

†Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

Health & all the Lord's blessings for Janet Funk (Teresa & Richard Koziar)

†Edward McGriff (Arlene Scaletta)

Health & all the Lord's blessings for Manal O'Donnell (Family)

†Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

Health & all the Lord's blessings for Emily Sarlitta (Mary Sarlitta)

†Edward Feddor, Sr. - 10th Anniversary of Passing (Theresa & Family)

†James Suchy (Family)

†Michelle Valestin (Pat Soltis)

†Josephine Wodarczyk (Barbara Rendak)

Saint Scholastica

†Lillian Jurek (Lorraine DeLauriea)

†Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

†Sophie Budz (Barbara Rendak)

†Vince Porcelli (Vito & Annette Gramegna)

†Monica Erpelo (Cleofe Erpelo)

†Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

†Mary Suchy (Family)

Health & all the Lord's blessings for Pat Carmody (Sister Kathleen Ross)

†J. Robert Saffell (Pat Soltis)

†Therese Tulik (Marge Tulik)

†Valentina & Felix Almendarez & Filomena Luna (Almendarez Family)

†Joann Kukulka (Mamma)

†Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

†Francis Joseph Grabowski (Nancy & George Ziomek)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (Hohm Family)

†Mildred L. Pignatiello (Kolasinski Family)

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

†Vince Porcelli (Vito & Annette Gramegna)

†Ann Calcagno (Kathy Calcagno)

†John Kolimas (Mary Kolimas)

†Ed McGriff (Linda & Rich Ciucci)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (Hohm Family)

†Marilyn Polit (Karen & Allen Crosser)

†Liz Madia (Lorraine DeLauriea)

†Vince Porcelli (Wife Judy)

†John & Irene Simonelic (Simonelic Family)

†Charles DeLauriea (Lorraine DeLauriea)

†Elaine Hilliard (Teresa & Richard Koziar)

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
Raean Arends
Kim Argires
JoAnn Baade
Ignatius Battiato
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
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.

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 Dabbyn, US Army
Sgt. John Flores, IL National Guard
Staff Sgt. Andrew Gaca, USAF
Sgt. Michael Hough, US Army

Anthony Johaniewicz, 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 Sobeske, US Army
Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Stuhlmacher
LCpl. Justin R. Thorpe, USMC
1LT Zachary White, IL Army NG

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.

Delia Donnellan

Evelyn Rampick



Flood Brothers

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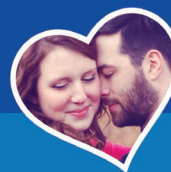
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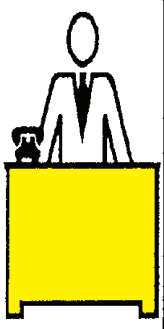
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