



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

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

Sacrament of Penance:

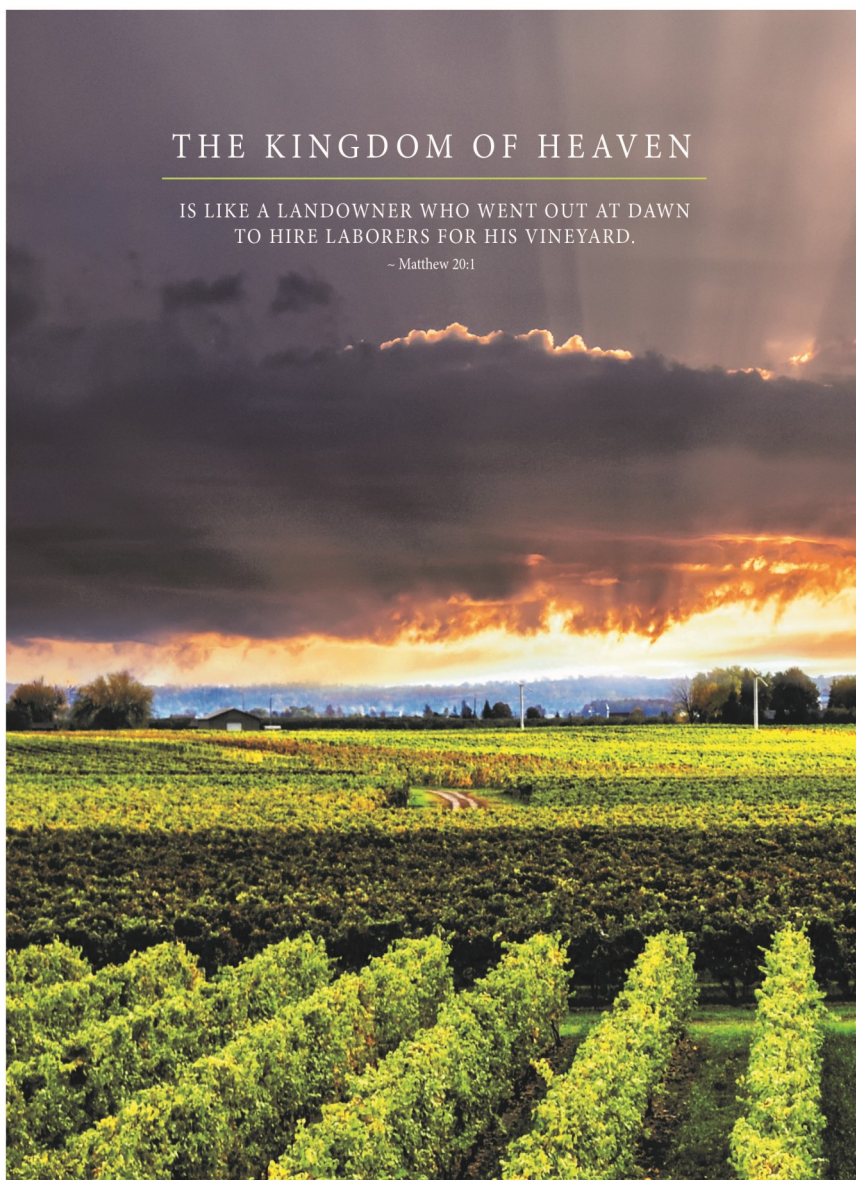
Monday through Saturday
after 8:00 am Mass

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017 | TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

IS LIKE A LANDOWNER WHO WENT OUT AT DAWN
TO HIRE LABORERS FOR HIS VINEYARD.

~ Matthew 20:1



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REFLECTION FOR THE 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways." (Isa 55:8)

In the Gospel (Mat 20:1-16a), too, we hear of the God who is very different from how we think. Jesus tells a parable about a household as a likeness for the Kingdom of Heaven.

At the beginning of the story nothing unusual occurs. At first sight we could even get the impression that the man wants to pay no more than necessary to get the job done. Only when he sees that he can't complete the day's work without more laborers, he goes out again to the market place to look for more workers.

It was also not unusual to hire workers without previously agreeing upon a set wage. He would then have to pay the minimum wage customary in the region. But, at the end of the day, he surprises everyone by paying all the workers the same wage, one denarius, a usual wage for a full day's work. We heard how the men who worked the whole day were rather annoyed that they didn't get anything more than those who had only worked a single hour.

The vine growers union might have also had a complaint against the owner. He disturbs the labor market, takes away motivation from the workers to work a full day, and thus makes it more difficult for the other winegrowers to get good work done.

But God is no finance manager. He is a lover, and wants to give to everyone who comes to him. The last workers were as needy as the first.

They needed just as much for their families as the first workers needed, and he gives them just as much.

This parable is given to us as a compliment to the promised reward for the following of Christ. Just before the parable we heard today, a young man came to Jesus and asked him what he had to do in order to gain eternal life. Jesus said, keep the commandments: you shall not kill, you shall not commit adultery, etc., and above all, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. The man answered that he had done all these and asked what he still lacked.

Thereupon, Jesus invited him to sell all he had, give it to the poor, and to follow Him. But he didn't want to do this, and went away sad. As Jesus had promised the young man treasure in heaven, Peter wanted to know what reward the disciples would receive for following Jesus. Perhaps being a bit proud that *they* had followed the call to discipleship, Peter asked: *"We have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?"* (Mat 19:27)

Jesus answered: *"You who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life"* (Mat 19:28-29). God does not let any love and service to his kingdom go unrewarded.

The parable is not about fair or unfair compensation, but it is about

generosity. At the end of the day, the landowner pays them all a day's wage as agreed. Jesus cleverly puts this twist in the parable in order to show us the sharp contrast between God's justice and human justice; between God's ways and our ways.

Today, God calls each one of us to be a generous people. We know forgiveness is hard, but we see that real generosity is even harder than forgiveness. Generosity is a fight with human nature, with what we like to call fairness, but which can often turn into an angry resentment - not resentment against injustice, but against the grace God throws around however God wants to. When it happens to us, we praise God for his grace to us and our families. When it happens to someone else, as often as not, we get out the calculator.

Finally, we all are welcome to the Kingdom of Heaven; where new comers belong; where the last are first and the excluded are included; because God's thoughts not our thoughts. God's standards are not our standards.

The readings of this Sunday, especially the Gospel, invite us to reflect on God's generous love, mercy and justice for all people without exception. That is God's standard that will be applied at the end of times. And this is the Good News of today.

~Fr. Idzi



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



**THE ST. SYMPHOROSA
STAFF &
FR. IDZI STACHERCZAK,
PASTOR**

**CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND
THE CELEBRATION OF THE**

**90TH ANNIVERSARY OF
OUR PARISH**

**Saturday, October 7, 2017
at the 5:00pm Mass**

**St. Symphorosa Catholic Church
6135 S. Austin
Chicago, IL 60638**

**Cardinal Blase Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago
will be the Principal Celebrant**

Reception immediately following in the Sharp Center Gym.

RSVP to 773-767-1523 by Friday, September 29, 2017



**Offerings for the weekend of
September 17, 2017**

Weekly Budget (Est.) 9,000.00

**Contributions: \$6,143.00
of Envelopes: 298**

Thank you for continued support!



September 17, 2017

**Received this week:
\$447.00**

Envelopes Entered: 83

**This week's winner is envelope
203**

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



**October 17, 2017
\$25.00 per person**

Includes buffet and \$10.00 on card for those earning 1,000 points on card that day. Bus leaves at 9:15am.

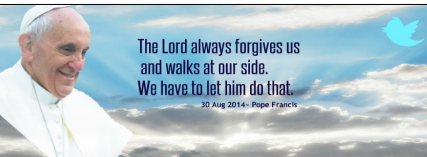
Call Chris at 773-512-8708 to reserve your spot today! Deadline to register is 10/1.



Bulletin Deadline

Please note: All articles must be submitted no later than Monday morning at 9:00am for the following week's bulletin.

Please call the parish office for more information.



Anointing of the Sick

**Anointing of the Sick Mass
This Afternoon—Sunday, September 24
3:00pm**

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).

**Southwest
Chicago PADS**



We are once again collecting new and gently used jeans for Southwest Chicago PADS on 71st & Kedzie. All donations can be dropped in the containers placed in the back of our church.

Thank you very much for your continued support. Please direct any questions to our parish office.



**Our Parish
History**

On October 4, 1967, Rev. Francis N. Maniola was appointed Administrator of St. Symphorosa Parish. Six months later, Fr. Maniola became our third pastor.

Under Fr Maniola's direction, the parish continued to grow and develop. At the same time, throughout the entire Catholic world, changes in the way Catholics celebrated the Mass were being brought about by the bishops who were gathered in Rome for a great gathering known as the Second Vatican Council. Responding to changes in Catholic parishes that were mandated by the bishops of the Second Vatican Council, Fr. Maniola led the establishment of new groups and liturgical ministries at St. Symphorosa.

Fr. Maniola continued to service our parish as Pastor until 1981. He became Pastor Emeritus and continued to minister to the people of St. Symphorosa for many years. Msgr. Maniola passed into eternal life on December 6, 2013 at the age of 100.



Sunday, October 15th @ 1pm

**welcome
HOME**

This weekend, we are excited to welcome members of the **St. Symphorosa Class of 1977** as they celebrate their 40th Anniversary and Class Reunion by their attendance at our 5:00pm mass followed by dinner at Mama Luigi's.

Welcome Home! May God Bless You!



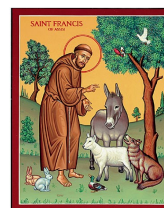
St. Symphorosa Parish Religious Education Program

Registration is still being accepted in our Parish Office Monday thru Friday from 9:00am—7:00pm or on Saturday from 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.



Pet Blessing
Sunday, October 1st
1:00pm—2:00pm
Church Parking Lot

Plan on attending this annual tradition here at St. Symphorosa as we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

In addition, we are excited to announce that, back by "popular" demand, Fido to Go, Chicago's premier gourmet Food Truck will join us again this year.

Hope you can join us!

THANK

YOU
*Your generosity
made a difference*

**Hurricane Harvey Relief Effort
Second Collection
Sunday, September 17, 2017**

\$1,588.23 was collected

*Thank you very much for your
generosity. May God Bless You!*



**FAMILY FUN
NIGHT!**

Save the date and plan on coming out to show your support on Thursday, September 28th from 3pm—9pm at Dulce V (6140 S. Archer).

Enjoy some delicious frozen yogurt and help support our parish school. Dulce V will donate a portion of their sales back to our school. Proceeds raised will help support our school's marketing efforts.

We hope to see you there!!!



**Attention 1987
St. Sym's Vikings
Football Players**

We would like to honor you at this year's Homecoming Games! Please join us on Sunday, October 1st to celebrate the 30 year anniversary of your Championship Season!

For more info, contact Tim McHugh at 773-577-9119 or tmcq99@comcast.net



Our Second Collection next weekend will be to support the Comboni Fathers Missionary.

FAMILY FEST RESULTS ARE IN.....

While the final pennies are being counted and the last invoices are being paid.....it's time to take a breath and celebrate!

The 2017 St. Symphorosa Parish Family Fest resulted in a profit to the Parish of \$113,000!

That's almost \$20,000 better than last year's great event!

As always, there are countless "Thank You's" that need to be shared with our Committee Members, Fest Volunteers, Staff Members, Faculty, Priests, Sponsors, Vendors, neighbors and visitors. In addition, don't forget to thank the Man upstairs, as all of our prayers for good weather were once again answered!

This event IS the main fundraiser for our Parish, requiring hundreds of individuals and thousands of man-hours! So, kick back, relax and enjoy the moment.....then get ready as Family Fest 2018 is right around the corner. If you have new ideas, please let us know as the planning process has already begun!

Mark your calendars for July 12, 13, 14 and 15, 2018.....it will be another awesome Fest!

~Ken Hilliard
Operations Director



THE HOLY MASS—Concluding Rites

Our series continues 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 liturgy and more specifically on the presence of God in our celebration at Mass.

When all received Communion, the Priest prays a prayer of thanks, which brings the Liturgy of the Eucharist to a close.

Blessing and Sending

Once we received Holy Communion, there is very little for us to do before we are sent out to take the Eucharist—in so many different ways—out into the world.

Remember, the Mass is one great Prayer. Just as we began it by marking ourselves with the cross of Christ, so now, at the conclusion of the Mass, we do the same. This time, we mark ourselves as we receive the Final Blessing.

The final part of the Mass, the Concluding Rite, is actually the shortest part! It consists of a blessing and a dismissal — a sending out. We have what we need: The Eucharist. Now we are charged to *be* Eucharist in every other part of our lives—in our family life, our work life, in our neighborhood life. We are sent to *be* the Body of Christ in the Word.

'Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.'

'Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.'

You can't miss the mission we are given.

All: Thanks be to God.



Feast of St. Michael the Archangel Friday, September 29, 2017 8:00am Mass

All First Responders are invited to join our school children for a special mass as we honor the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel. Our Parish School and Faith Community appreciate all you do to keep us safe and want to acknowledge and thank you for your hard work and dedication!

We hope you will join us for this very special mass!



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
October	10/5	10/8, 10/22
November	No Class	11/12, 11/26

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



As we prepare for our 90th Anniversary Celebration and the visit of Cardinal Cupich in October, I am personally asking for your help 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!



HOMEcoming 2017
Sunday, October 1, 2017
9:30am Athletic Mass
Parade to Hale Park
immediately following!



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.

ALTAR & ROSARY NEWS.....

The Altar & Rosary Society will hold its' Membership Drive on Saturday, September 23 and Sunday, September 24 in the Gathering Space after all of the masses. All women of our parish community are invited to join. We have monthly meetings, with recitation of the rosary. We are all involved in several things around the parish. Twice a year, we hold a bake sale to benefit our church. We also hold a Salad Luncheon in November. Please consider joining us!

The Altar & Rosary Society will gather as a group at the 9:30am mass on Sunday, October 1st. Please sit in the pews in front of Mary's Altar. A brief prayer service will follow mass.

Tuesday, October 3 from 12:00pm—2:00pm, our General Meeting will take place in the Social Hall of the Sharp Center.

Some advance info for all: Our Bake Sale will take place on October 21 and 22 after all of the masses. November 7th we will hold our salad luncheon.

Please consider joining us! We would love to welcome you!



We Remember and Celebrate

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 25, 2017

8:00 am † Angeline Mateja—Frank & Donna Siwek
† Bill Pratt—Marie Pratt

Tuesday, September 26, 2017—Saints Cosmas and St. Damian

8:00am † Geri Norbut—Family
† Joseph & Evelyn Gall—Family

Wednesday, September 27, 2017—St Vincent de Paul

8:00am † Stephen Sears—Patricia Dore

Thursday, September 28, 2017— St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions

8:00 am † Theresa Genovese—Barbara Anna Rendak
† Max Budz—Barbara Rendak

Friday, September 29, 2017—Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

8:00 am † Roberto Rodriguez—Inez Rodriguez
† Michael Kompanowski—Elaine McCarthy
† Michael McCarthy—Elaine McCarthy

Saturday, September 30, 2017—St. Jerome

8:00 am For All Parishioners (20)
3:00pm Quinceañera—Alexa Acevedo
5:00pm † Greg Golab—Mom
† Eugene Malaniuk—Steve & Sally Ives
† Minnie Geraci—Hernandez Family
† Jackie Soverino—Hernandez Family

Sunday, October 1, 2017—26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 am † Stephen Sears—Hynes Family
9:30am † John Dragosetti—Rosaria
† Vincent Salamando—Terri & Don Domarsky
† Helen Hermanowicz—Groszek Family
† Kazimiera & John Karbarz—Daughters & their Families
11:30 am † Laurette & Ted Krasinski—Nancy & Douglas Janda
† Richard Montwill—Carol Gress & Family
† Veronica M. Devereux—Lourdes Almazan
† James D. Gerage—Lourdes Almazan
1:00pm St. Francis Pet Blessing

Please
Pray
for...



Rae Ann Arends, Donna R. Azzaline, Baby AJ, 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. Pysac, Lu Rackey, Sister Mary Rita, Ann Robertson, John A. Rosenthal, Larry Rosenstiehl, Fr. John Rudnik, Ben Sajdak, William Schrimpl, Dorothy Sniewski, Marilyn Sobczak, John Stachon, Michael Straube, James Suchy, Chalida Svastisalee, Loretta A. Thomas, Jim & Mary Thorpe, Joan Witcher, Chester Wodarczyk, Steve Wojcik, Pamela Wojdyla, Larry & Marianne Wysocki, and Michelle



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 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

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 Johanievicz, 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

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.*

Dennis Patrick Clifford

In loving memory



The faithful all around the world are invited to join with Pope Francis' for his special intention.

Won't you join in? The intention for the month of September is for Parishes.

That our parishes, animated by a missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.



WEDDING BANNES

II—Edward Baley & Michelle Lee