



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:

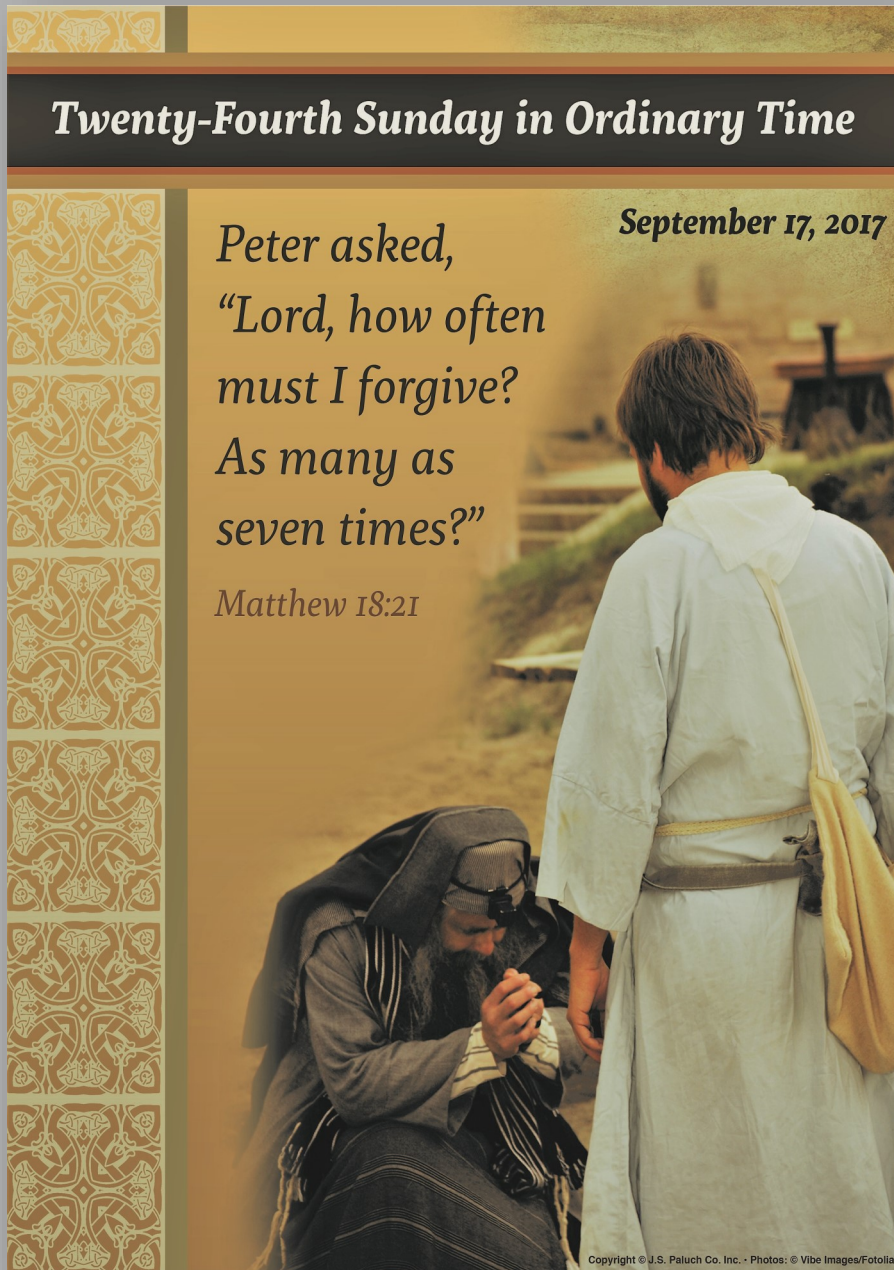
Monday through Saturday
after 8:00 am Mass

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 17, 2017

*Peter asked,
"Lord, how often
must I forgive?
As many as
seven times?"*

Matthew 18:21



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REFLECTION FOR THE 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Matt. 18:21

Do I always forgive others? This is today's challenge from our readings. Or do I forgive some who offend me and not others? Am I a person who bears grudges? How do I deal with the person who harms me or hurts my feelings?

Only God can give us the grace to forgive all others, those who have harmed us in any way at all. God calls us to immediate and complete forgiveness of others. God is so clear in today's readings: if you do not forgive, how can you possibly ask forgiveness?

Today, we received a very clear message from the Lord God through the readings of the Holy Bible. We were told to forgive others of all their trespasses against us. And, our forgiveness should not be just once or twice, but seventy times seven. That does not mean that if we forgive every day for 490 days, then our share of forgiveness has been completed. The seventy times seven means ongoing forgiveness, day after day, week after week, years after years, this being done without counting.

When we do not forgive someone, it is because we are passing judgment on that person. Jesus commanded us not to judge others so that we will not be judged. For by the measure that we judge others, by refusing to forgive them of their trespasses, that same measure will be used against us when our time of judgment arrives. [Mt. 7:1-2]

So how can we perfectly forgive someone without judging? It is by completely forgetting the offenses that

were committed by the person. It is by forgiving as a holy child of God, forgiving as God would forgive. In His holiness, God promised, "None of the sins that they have committed shall be remembered against them; they have done what is lawful and right, they shall surely live." (Ezek. 33:16) God shall no longer remember the sins of the sinner who does what is right. He forgives those who trespassed against Him without counting, without looking back, without ever mentioning the trespass again, as if it never happened. That is holy forgiveness.

We know the story of the older brother within the story of the prodigal son. The older brother really resents his younger brother. The younger brother goes off and wastes all of his inheritance and then comes home and is received with incredible kindness and love by His father. This is truly injustice! And yet it is how God wants us to live: judge not and you will not be judged!

How do I treat the person who harms me? Jesus gives us the story of the servant who could not pay his debt. None of us can repay our debt to the Lord. Should God then put us in prison and torture us? Instead he forgives us our debts and asks us to forgive others.

All of us who have sinned can understand the debt that we owe to the Lord. The more we see that debt, the more we can understand that we must forgive others. So much of our spiritual literature is focused on this type of forgiveness: look at the beam in your own eye before you try to take out the small piece of straw in the eye of your brother!

Forgiveness is not easy, whether one is asking for it or one is giving it. To admit wrongdoing is not easy. We would rather gloss over our sins. Or we deny them and blame somebody else.

For most of us, the issues surrounding forgiveness and reconciliation are very complicated, delicate, difficult, and even exhausting. Reconciliation is the very work of God shared with us in the Gospel! One of the fundamental, essential, necessary activities of the Church is to announce salvation through the forgiveness of sin. To neglect or to avoid the work of reconciliation or to opt out of reconciling is to actively reject the Gospel.

We have much for which to be thankful. We do live for the Lord, not for ourselves as individuals when we allow God's gratitude and forgiveness to work in and through us. We are all in need of forgiveness and life is too short for grudges. Someday, we will die and our body decay. Indeed, it is wise to give up hate, anger and revenge and abide by the Lord's commands concerning love of neighbor. And this is the Good News of today.

Let us live for God and live God's forgiveness every day—from our hearts!

~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 10, 2017**

Weekly Budget (Est.) 9,000.00

**Contributions: \$6,617.10
of Envelopes: 300**

Thank you for continued support!



September 10, 2017

**Received this week:
\$469.00**

**Envelopes Entered:
This week's winner is envelope
#3308**

**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.

**BUILDING & MAINTENANCE FUND
September 10, 2017**

\$1,340.08

Thank you for your generosity!

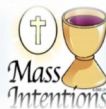


**Pet Blessing
Sunday, October 1st
1:00pm—2:00pm
Church Parking Lot**

Thank you!

As we prepare for our 90th Anniversary Celebration in less than one month, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank the following organizations for their generous donations to help offset the cost of this event:

Super Club	\$500.00
Athletic Association	\$500.00
Women's Spirituality Group	\$300.00



Our 2018 Mass Book is now open. The suggested donation per mass is \$10.00 or more. Weekday and weekend mass intentions are available for those who would like their intentions remembered at Mass. Intentions are available for those who have died or through a Spiritual bouquet for someone who is living.

Please call or stop by our Parish Office at (773) 767-1523 for more information.



As we prepare for our upcoming 90th Anniversary Celebration, we invite you to participate in our final planning meeting this Wednesday, September 20th at 7:00pm in the Social Hall of the Sharp Center. This celebration requires a great deal of planning and many volunteers to ensure a successful event. We certainly appreciate any and all help you can provide

Please contact the Parish Office with questions. Thank you for your continued support!

~Fr. Idzi

Our Second Collection next weekend will be to support Seminary Education.

Thank you for your support.

Please continue to pray for vocations.



PATRIOT'S DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE

Immediately following the 11:30am mass last Sunday, many gathered in the Msgr. Maniola Prayer Garden for a Patriot's Day Memorial Service to mark the 16th Anniversary of 9/11.

We would like to extend a special thank you to those First Responders who were in attendance for this service. Words cannot describe how thankful we are for the dedication of these men and women who protect us and keep us safe. May God continue to bless you and keep you in his Fatherly care.

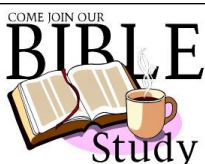


St. Vincent de Paul	\$200.00
Altar & Rosary Society	\$100.00

May God bless you always for your generous heart and dedication to our parish community!

If any member of our parish family would like to make a special donation towards this parish celebration, your gift would be greatly appreciated.

~Fr. Idzi



**Thursday,
September 21
7:00pm
Rector's Conf.
Room**

St. Symphorosa Parish Religious Education Program

Our Religious Education Classes began last Saturday, September 9th!

Children may be registered 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.



WELCOME

We proudly welcome
Jose & Sara Zambrano
to our St. Symphorosa Parish Faith Community



Have You Ever Thought of Becoming Catholic?

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.

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 & 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.

St. Symphorosa to host VIRTUS Training

St. Symphorosa will host a VIRTUS training session on Tuesday, September 26th from 7:00pm-10:00pm in the A-Hall. To register, please log onto www.virtusonline.org. No walk ins will be accepted.

VIRTUS is a program created by the National Catholic Risk Retention Group in the US with a "Protecting God's Children" component.

VIRTUS focuses on educating teachers, parents, and other adults who interact with children and provide them with information to help prevent abuse. This takes place in an "awareness session" led by a trained facilitator. The awareness session consists of videos, worksheets and discussions.

Please contact the parish office with questions.



Today, the Church **celebrates Catechetical Sunday**. The 2017 theme is "Living as Missionary Disciples." Today, our teachers and catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. We recognize and thank them for their commitment and dedication to our young people and parish family. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each of us plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

DEADLINE

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.



Thank You!

Please join in extending a special thanks to Daria Degrassi for her frequent generous donations of flowers that adorn our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph Statues in church. Your donation is very much appreciated!

~Fr. Idzi



Anointing of the Sick

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).

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

The First Mass in our parish was celebrated at the home of John Collopy, 6147 S. Mason Avenue on June 18, 1927. The first Sunday Masses were held at the Clearing Town Hall on Sunday, June 19, 1927 at 8am and 10am. Sunday Masses continued in this temporary location, attended by a body of 90 adult parishioners and their children. Weekday Masses were offered in a funeral home on the southeast corner of 63rd Place & Central Avenue.



Clearing Townhall on 63rd Street

THE HOLY MASS—Liturgy of the Eucharist

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.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist follows another ancient Jewish tradition, the Passover Meal. In the Passover Meal prayers are said to remind the people of God's love and mercy, and where food is blessed and shared.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

This is the prayer that unites ALL Christians, the prayer that Christ gave us. Before we share in the Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation, we recognize that our daily bread comes from God.

SIGN OF PEACE:

In this ritual sharing of Christ's peace we use the first words of Jesus after the resurrection. 'Peace be with you'. Once we have received Christ's peace (not just a kind greeting) then we are prepared to receive the fullness of Christ in the Eucharist.

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All: And with your Spirit.
Presider: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

COMMUNION RITE:

Once more, we enter a procession. All processions are outward, physical symbols of inward and spiritual realities. Each one of us, in our own faith lives, is on a procession. Our whole life is one great procession—one great journey—to Heaven and to the Father. So now, as we move forward to receive Holy Communion, we are more than simply 'in line'. We are in another procession which is a symbol of our pilgrimage to the Heavenly Banquet!

As we reach the priest or extraordinary minister, we are presented with the Eucharist in the very simplest of words: 'The Body of Christ'. The most awesome mystery, the very presence of Christ Jesus, given for our lives, and for the life of the world, demands a response from each one of us. And so we respond, 'Amen', another Hebrew word which means 'Yes' or 'So be it'.

Similarly, we are presented with the chalice with the words, 'The Blood of Christ', and again we respond with a strong 'Amen'.

The Eucharist the spiritual and sacramental nourishment for our life journey! As the Lord fed His chosen people with manna from heaven, so too does he feed us with this Bread from Heaven. As the two disciples in Emmaus recognized the presence of the Lord in the breaking of the bread, so too do we recognize the presence of Christ in our midst, feeding us with His very Body and Blood.

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



Within the past few weeks, we have asked for volunteers to help in the clean up and beautification of our parish grounds in preparation for our 90th Anniversary Celebration! I am so proud and pleased to thank the following individuals who worked so hard to transform the Msgr. Maniola Prayer Garden: Larry Wisniewski, Ceil Kucinsky, Sr. Christine, Bernadette Wodke, Nancy Bayo, Mary Lou & Ray Kolasinski, Dennis and Linda Kline, Dawn Gasior, Jeannine Lascola, Mary Ann Szot, Caroline Miskell, Monica Wodke and our very own Cub Scouts, their leaders and parents.

If you are interested and able to help with future projects over the next few weeks, please contact the parish office. A member of our Parish Transformation Team will be in touch with more details.

thank you!

~Fr. Idzi



We Remember and Celebrate

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 18, 2017

8:00 am † Irene Niemczyk—Family
 † Eugene Uram—Barbara Ann Rendak
 † Air Force Birthday—Bill Travers
 † Marcellus & Rose DeLauriea—Charles & Lorraine DeLauriea

Tuesday, September 19, 2017—St. Januarius

8:00am † John M. Neumann, Jr.—Wife
 † Robert Neumann—Ray Zielin
 † Bob Kolimas—Mary & Family

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

8:00am † John Dybas—Ives Family
 † Bill Pratt—Marie Pratt
 † Joseph Lipien—Nancy & Quinn Markham

Thursday, September 21, 2017—St. Matthew

8:00 am For All Parishioners (18)

Friday, September 22, 2017

8:00 am † William Bojarski—Barbara Ann Rendak
 † John Soltis—Soltis Family

Saturday, September 23, 2017—St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

8:00 am For All Parishioners (19)
 1:00pm Wedding: Kristen Benson & John Ryan
 3:00pm Wedding: Amanda Iuliano & Michael Altobelli
 5:00pm † Greg Golab—Mom
 † John Pognant (1st Anniversary) - Mary Lou Barry
 † William Devitt—Don & Joann Kruse

Sunday, September 24, 2017—25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 am † Claude Wiatrak—Clara Wiatrak
 † Carolyn Madez—Dad Ray
 † Celeste Bybee—Kendall Family
 † Nick Bouzios—Janina
 9:30am † Alice Kouba—Family
 † Audrey Pronobis—Kathy Calcagno
 † Father of Sophia Kowal—Dave Dantzer
 † Eugene Rosner—Rosner Children
 11:30 am † Elmer Janda—Harriet
 † Gregg Gasior—St. Symphorosa Parish
 † Richard Montwill—Edward Ligeza
 1:00pm Baptisms
 3:00pm Anointing of the Sick Mass



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

**Hailey Marie & Ashley Olivia Kuchyt
Children of Richard & Lisa**

**Jillian Catherine Clarke
Child of Brian Jr. & Jennifer**

**Dahlia Noelle Jones-Ferrell
Child of Deonte Jones-Ferrell & Mirella Yanez**

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 Sniezewski, Marilyn Sobojak, 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 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**



WEDDING BANNS

I—Edward Baley & Michelle Lee