

# 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

A photograph of a person's hands holding an open book, with a bright, glowing cross visible in the background. The image is part of a promotional graphic for the Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.

November 19, 2017

*Thirty-Third Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*

*Well done, my good and faithful servant.  
Since you were faithful in small matters,  
I will give you great responsibilities.  
Come, share your master's joy.*

**Matthew 25:21**

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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.

# REFLECTION FOR THE 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



In this “Parable of the Talents,” the master represents God while the servants represent His people. Interestingly, it is from this parable that we get our English word “talents.” In the parable, talents are a form of money. In fact, they are coins that each represent a rather significant amount of money.

The master entrusts his money to the care of his servants while away on a journey. He is expecting them to take good care of his resources, not squandering and also not simply sitting on it.

The first two servants, allocated with the most money, invested it and doubled the money that was given to them. But the third servant, out of an unhealthy fear of the master, did nothing with the money. He was lazy and buried it, not working to grow what was entrusted to him. As a result, the master punished him and gave his original talent to the one who had ten.

This parable illustrates what we are to do with the “talents” God has given us. In reality, everything we have has been given to us by God. We are His servants who are called to use what He has bestowed upon us for good. In essence, this parable is a call to faithful stewardship. God wants us to bear good fruit with the time, talent, and treasure. As a result of our faithfulness, He will reward us.

God gives each person different gifts for his or her intended uses. We are only asked to make full use of what we have been uniquely given and to use our talents for the benefit of the

community as a whole. The better our work, the greater our responsibility. God gives more responsibilities to those who make the best use of their God-given talents.

The lazy and the unproductive will be punished. Even the person with only one talent has something to offer to others. If he fails to do some positive good work he will lose what he has. If he tries and fails, he will meet compassion and forgiveness.

God blesses generous sharers and punishes the selfish hoarders. Those who share generously the gifts they have been given are likely to find themselves constantly and immeasurably enriched, while those who jealously and selfishly preserve, out of fear, what they have been given, will lose it. In short, the parable outlines the result of abundant, grace-filled stewardship of God's resources.

We need to trade with our talent of Christian faith. All of us in the church today have received at least one talent. We have received the gift of faith. Our responsibility as men and women of faith is not just to preserve and “keep” the faith. We need to work with it. We need to offer it to the men and women of our times. If we do not do this, we stand in danger of losing the faith just as the third servant lost his talent. The way to preserve the faith, or any other talent that God has given us, is to put it to work and make it bear fruit.

Mother Theresa of Calcutta was summoned to the court on the charges of converting children to the Catholic faith. When she stood in the court, the judge asked her if the

charges were true. She asked for a baby to be given to her. She held the baby in her arms and said, “This child I picked up from the dust bin; I don’t know to what religion this child belongs or what language it speaks... I give this child my love, my time, my care, my food... but the best thing that I have in my life is the faith in Jesus Christ. Can’t I give this child the best I have in my life?” The case was dismissed in favor of Mother Theresa.

God is a kind Father who has our eternal interests at heart. He does expect us to make the necessary sacrifices. He showed us the way at Calvary. When working for God we are really providing for our own future; his external glory and our eternal salvation are the fruits of the same labor.

He will certainly return to settle accounts—it will then be too late to make any changes. Let us be wise and make the changes now while we have time and then our books will be in order on the day of reckoning.

Let us reflect on the many gifts you have been given by God. What “talents” has He given you? How can you use those gifts to bring glory to God? As you go throughout this week, take note of the many blessings you have, thank God for them, and strive to offer them back to Him for His glory.

~Fr. Idzi



**Today's responsorial psalm is:**

***The Lord is kind and merciful, the Lord is kind and merciful;  
slow to anger, rich in kindness, the Lord is kind and merciful.***





As we celebrate Thanksgiving, I want to take the opportunity to wish each of you, and those you hold dear, a very happy and blessed holiday. May God continue to richly bless you and keep you in His Fatherly care.

On behalf of Fr. Norm and our Parish Staff, Happy Thanksgiving!

~Fr. Idzi

### A Thanksgiving Prayer

Loving God,  
We turn our hearts to you on this day for  
giving thanks, mindful of your many gifts.  
For each one, we are grateful.  
For each one, we are blessed.  
For each one we are opened to the abundance  
of your love.  
May this Thanksgiving Day offer a reminder  
to be generous with others, as you are  
with us.  
We praise You.  
We rejoice in You.  
We give you thanks.  
Amen.



As our new Liturgical Year begins on the 1st Sunday of Advent, we are seeking volunteers to assist us with the removal of our current Breaking Bread Books from the pews in church and replacing them with the 2018 edition.

If you are able to join us, we will gather in church after the 8:00am mass on Saturday, December 2, 2017.

Thank you in advance for your support!



### Christmas Giving Tree

Our Parish Giving Tree is up and filled with many ornaments that will benefit the following organizations:

**BLUE:** Our Parish St. Vincent de Paul Society  
**WHITE:** Casa Catalina  
**GREEN:** PADS  
**YELLOW:** Veteran's at Hines Hospital  
**PINK:** Veteran's at Manteno

Please consider taking an ornament or two to make someone's Christmas brighter this year. Thank you!

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



## Catholic High School Entrance Exam

The Catholic High School Entrance Exam will be administered on **Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 8 a.m.**

Students may register for the test beginning on November 18, 2017. Consult the Catholic high school where the student wishes to enroll for the 2018/19 school year for information on the registration process. The entrance exam fee is \$25 payable either by cash or check to the school administering the exam.

For more information, visit: [schools.archchicago.org](http://schools.archchicago.org)



Offerings for the weekend of **November 12, 2017**

Weekly Budget (Est.) **9,000.00**

Contributions: **\$ 7,135.52**

# of Envelopes: **303**

Thank you for your generosity and continued support!



Last weekend, we received **\$1,392.55** in contributions to our **Building & Maintenance Fund**. Thank you for your support!

## Thank You For Your Support & Generosity

As you have probably noticed, the exterior of our Church has been undergoing a bit of a facelift for the past three weeks. Accordingly, the north wall of the Church has now been tuck-pointed.

What does that mean? Over the years, masonry (brick work) wears away and is damaged by the constant pounding of wind, rain, snow, salt, temperature changes, etc. As a result, the mortar joints become weak and moisture begins to flow into the interior of a building. Such has been the case here at St. Symphorosa. While most of our buildings are in need of some degree of tuck-pointing, the north wall of the Church, which protects the Altar, was the most critical.

This project was relatively expensive and cost approximately \$30,000. However, the really good news here was that our Parish identified this need a few years ago. Therefore, St. Symphorosa was able to use a portion of our existing TTWCI campaign funds for this project. (In case you are wondering, there was approximately \$62,000 in the TTWCI fund before this project began.) Thankfully, additional TTWCI funds contribute to flow into our restricted account on a monthly basis. These ongoing contributions will allow for further parish improvements, as we move forward.

Again, this critical improvement was necessary and would not have been possible, without your ongoing financial support. Please know how appreciative our parish is for all of the generous Offertory donations and continued financial sacrifice to support the "To Teach Who Christ Is" campaign!

~Ken Hilliard  
Operations Director







The St. Symphorosa Parish Transformation Team is very excited to announce the rollout of a new email communication tool for our parish family and neighbors.

Here's how it works:

- Each week, an email will be sent out providing detailed information on parish events and upcoming programs;
- Emails will be sent only to those who subscribe to this email communication tool. Subscribers can opt out at any time – there is no obligation to participate;
- Subscriber email information will not be given to any other sources. This data remains confidential.

If you are interested in subscribing and receiving these email updates, please log onto <http://eepurl.com/cZLtQD>. You will be asked to enter your email address, first and last name and birthday. It's that easy!

Questions? Contact our parish office and a member of our Transformation Team will be in touch.

6th Grade Family Mass  
Sunday, November 13th  
9:30am Mass



**St. Symphorosa presents**

**Santa's Open House**

**Sunday, December 10, 2017**  
**12:30pm-2:30pm**

Meet and take photos with Santa, enjoy holiday treats, arts and crafts, plus much more!

Tour our school, meet our teachers, our principal, and learn more about St. Sym's!

St. Symphorosa School  
6125 S. Austin Avenue Chicago, IL 60638 773-585-8888

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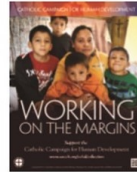


#### Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)

*"Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow." —Isaiah 1:17*

CCHD empowers the poor by funding organizations that:

- Equip residents to address violence in their neighborhoods
- Secure protections for vulnerable workers
- Defend the rights of seniors, immigrants, and those with disabilities



Please support the CCHD collection on November 18 & 19

To learn more and donate online, visit [www.CCHDchicago.org](http://www.CCHDchicago.org)

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

3525 South Lake Park Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60653

312.534.3891 | [eyoung@archchicago.org](mailto:eyoung@archchicago.org)



**Last weekend, \$363 was generously donated for the Propagation of the Faith Collection. Thank you for your generous support!**



**November 12, 2017**

**Received this week: \$ 446.00**

**Envelopes Entered: 86**

**This week's winner is envelope # 1316**

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

## TRIBUTE TO VETERAN'S DAY

Last weekend, we honored all Veterans in a special way at mass. Each Veteran received a prayer card and US flag lapel pin as a symbol of thanks from our parish community for their service to our country.

We thank all Veterans for their selfless dedication to defending our freedom whenever asked, in every generation. "Freedom Is Not Free" and many Veterans have paid the price to ensure our continued freedom as a nation.

May God continue to bless all of our Veterans in a special way and May God Bless the United States of America!





## ALTAR & ROSARY SALAD LUNCHEON.....DELICIOUS!

On Tuesday, November 7, 2017, the Altar & Rosary Society hosted their annual Salad Luncheon with 40 people in attendance!

In addition to the great variety of food, there was great conversation, some good laughs and a special visit by Fr. Idzi who taught all in attendance a very special song. Dziękuję Fr. Idzi!

Take a peek at some of the pictures of this very enjoyable afternoon!



St. Symphorosa Parish presents....

## 4th Annual Holiday Extravaganza

Luncheon, Craft & Vendor Fair

Sunday, November 19, 2017

Free Admission! 10:30am – 2:30pm

Sharp Center

62<sup>nd</sup> Street & Mason Avenue



### Check Out Our Many Vendors & Crafters:

Belinda's Treasure Chest  
Brian's Creations  
Bitty Bows & Bitable Beads  
Catherine's Quilts & Pillows  
Crafty Nightshade  
Creative Crafters  
Donna's Over Door Dresses  
Fleece for Everyone  
Gold Canyon Candles  
Gourmet Creations  
Cookie Cookie  
Ivy's Artesian Glass  
Jewelry by Nadine  
Katello's Creations  
Leigh's Crafty Outlet  
LipSense Cosmetics

LulaRoe Clothing  
Mary Kay Cosmetics  
Norwex  
Olivia's Crafts  
Ornamentally Yours  
Paparazzi Jewelry  
Pampered Chef  
Real Time Pain Relief  
Rosemary's Treasures  
Scentsy  
Scouts Fresh Wreaths  
Tastefully Simple  
Thirty One  
Tupperware  
Usborne Books  
Woodland Apothecary  
Young Living Essential Oils  
and more.....

## Painting Party A Success!

On Sunday, November 12th, 33 of our parishioners and friends gathered for the 2nd Annual Painting Party. A great time was had by all. In addition to the painting, the group enjoyed split the pot, great raffles and delicious treats.



Join us for Bible Study on  
Thursdays at 7:00pm in the Rectory  
Conference Room.

All are welcome to attend. Please call Barb at the  
Parish Office for more details.



### THANKSGIVING DAY MASS

THURSDAY,  
NOVEMBER 23, 2017  
9:00AM

*"The Lord has done  
great things for us,  
and we are filled  
with joy."  
Psalm 126:3*



Every year, as is our tradition here at St. Symphorosa, our Parish, School and Religious Education community will once again host a Food Drive to benefit Casa Catalina.

Non-perishable food items may be brought to church this week-end through Thanksgiving Day and placed in the boxes in the back of our church.

Thank you for your support and generosity!



## We Remember and Celebrate

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Monday, November 20, 2017

8:00 am †Julia Trela—Friends  
†Robert Neumann—Ray Zielin

#### Tuesday, November 21, 2017—Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00am Joseph Vallar—Jim & Darlene  
Filomela Stavola—Tony, Son-in-Law  
†Thomas Markham—Wife  
†Patricia Doyle—Arlene Scaletta  
†Bob Kolimas—Love, Mom

#### Wednesday, November 22, 2017—St. Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr

8:00am For All Parishioners (29)

#### Thursday, November 23, 2017— St. Clement I; St. Columban; Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro; Thanksgiving Day

9:00 am †Joseph & Evelyn Gall—Family  
†Robert Neumann—May Carbo  
†Helen Hermanowicz—Groszek Family  
†Deceased Members of Jeziora, McGriff & Sendzik Families—Families  
†Bob Reiser (Birthday)- Barbara Reiser  
†Norman DeFranco—The Partners of Dr. John DeFranco

#### Friday, November 24, 2017—St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest and Companions, Martyrs

8:00 am For All Parishioners (30)

#### Saturday, November 25, 2017—St. Catherine of Alexandria, Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 am Good Health for Arlene Scaletta—Mary Kolimas  
5:00pm †Greg Golab—Mom  
Debbie Flint—Family (Birthday)  
Encarnacion Villarreal—Daughter & Grandsons  
†Angeline Mateja—Family  
†Joe & Richard Lapsansky—Family  
†Stephen Sears—Arlene Scaletta  
†Walter Pastorek—Eleanor

#### Sunday, November 26, 2017—Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

7:30 am †Kathy Arvetis—Husband  
†Janet Molnar—Family  
†Deceased Members of Dybicz Family—Wolniak Family  
9:30 am †Edmund Mallo—Rita Lane  
†Edmund Mallo—The Kawa Family  
†Jacob Ferriter—St. Symphorosa Transformation Team  
11:30am †Elmer Janda—Harriet Janda  
†James Novak, Jr. —Family  
†Richard Montwill—Art, Bess & Diane Smagala  
†Elizabeth Marcello—Marcello Family  
Health of Mary Quinlan—Normoyle Family



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 & Richard Jandura, Carol Kennelly, Jean Kibler, Adalbert Kouba, Patricia Kubik, Mark Kukulski, Claudia Kwilosz, James Lapsansky, Donna Lauritzen, Virginia Macias, Lu Mackey, Anna Marie Matkey, 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, Carmen Ruiz, Ben Sajdak, William Schrimpl, Dorothy Sniezewski, Marilyn Sobczak, Special Intention, John Stachon, Michael Straube, Terry Styka & Family, James Suchy, Chalida Svastisalee, Loretta A. Thomas, Jim & Mary Thorpe, Joan Witcher, Chester Wodarczyk, Steve Wojcik, Pamela Wojdyla, Larry & Marianne Wysocki, and 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 Dobbryn, 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



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 November is for Christians in Asia.

*That Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.*

### Welcome!

Please extend a warm  
welcome to

**Lorena Gonzalez &  
children, Jacob and  
Julian Nieves**

the newest members of our  
St. Symphorosa Parish Faith  
Community.  
May God Bless You!