

August 20, 2017—20th Sunday in Ordinary Time



# St. Symphorosa Parish

6135 S. Austin Avenue

Chicago, IL 60638

Phone: 773-767-1523—Fax: 773-767-6135

[www.stsymphorosa.org](http://www.stsymphorosa.org)

*“A Family Celebrating Faith”*

Rev. Idzi Stacherczak, Pastor

Rev. Ted Bojczuk, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Norman Trela, Retired Priest

John & Sue O’Keefe,  
Music Directors

Ken Hilliard, Operations Director  
Magdalan Barry, Parish Secretary  
Nancy Markham,  
Office Coordinator

Barb Grzenia, Coordinator of  
Religious Education

Kathy Berry, Principal

Nancy Loduca, Assistant Principal

The foreigners who join themselves to the Lord . . .

*I will bring to my  
holy mountain . . .*

for my house shall be called a  
house of prayer for all peoples.

ISAIAH 56:6, 7

## 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:

7:30 & 9:30 am, 7:00 pm

## Sacrament of Penance:

Monday through Saturday  
after 8:00 am Mass

## 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

## School

Address: 6125 S. Austin Avenue  
773-585-6888

August 20, 2017

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office of the Archbishop  
835 North Rush Street  
Chicago, IL 60611-2030  
312.534.8239  
archchicago.org

August 20, 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

For nearly 100 years, construction has continued on the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. This “hymn in stone” has served as a beacon of our faith to the nearly 1 million who visit it each year and to the millions more who visit and work in our nation’s capital. Perhaps you have visited the Shrine yourself. Mary’s Shrine, as it is often called, is the largest Roman Catholic Church in North America and is one of the ten largest churches in the world. Yet, 97 years after the laying of its foundation stone in 1920, it remains unfinished.

This year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked our help funding the completion of the Trinity Dome, the last remaining Shrine construction project. This “Crowning Jewel” will be adorned in mosaic and will depict the Most Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Immaculate Conception, and a procession of saints who have an association with America and the Basilica. More information on this project can be found at [trinitydome.org](http://trinitydome.org) and/or [nationalshrine.org](http://nationalshrine.org).

We have agreed to do our part in making this project a success by taking up a second collection next weekend. Our goal is to raise \$600,000 to honor the Blessed Mother by completing her Shrine and signifying to all who see it that our country and its people are grateful for her many graces. Thank you in advance for your active support of this initiative.

You and your families continue to be in my prayers, and I ask that you not forget to pray for me. With every good wish I remain,



Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Card. Blase J. Cupich".

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich  
Archbishop of Chicago



## **Today’s responsorial psalm is:**

The Lord is my light and my salvation, of whom should I be afraid?



## Our Lady of Czestochowa Feast Day Mass Saturday, August 27, 2017 7:00pm

The origin of this miraculous image in Czestochowa, Poland is unknown for absolute certainty, but according to tradition the painting was a portrait of Our Lady done by St. John sometime after the Crucifixion of Our Lord and remained in the Holy Land until discovered by St. Helena of the Cross in the fourth century. The painting was taken to Constantinople, where St. Helena's son, the Emperor Constantine, erected a church for its enthronement. This image was revered by the people of the city.

During the siege by the Saracens, the invaders became frightened when the people carried the picture in a procession around the city; the infidels fled. Later, the image was threatened with burning by an evil emperor, who had a wife, Irene, who saved it and hid it from harm. The image was in that city for 500 years, until it became part of some dowries, eventually being taken to Russia to a region that later became Poland.

After the portrait became the possession of the Polish prince, St. Ladislaus in the 15th century, it was installed in his castle. Tartar invaders besieged the castle and an enemy arrow pierced Our Lady's image, inflicting a scar. Interestingly, repeated attempts to fix the image, artistically have all failed.

Tradition says that St. Ladislaus determined to save the image from repeated invasions, so he went to his birthplace, Opala, stopping for rest in Czestochowa; the image was brought nearby to Jasna Gora ["bright hill"] and placed in a small wooden church named for the Assumption. The following morning, after the picture was carefully placed in the wagon, the horses refused to move.

St. Ladislaus understood this to be a sign from Heaven that the image should stay in Czestochowa; thus he replaced the painting in the Church of the Assumption, August 26, 1382, a day still observed as the Feast Day of the painting. The Saint wished to have the holiest of men guard the painting, so he assigned the church and the monastery to the Pauline Fathers, who have devoutly protected the image for the last six hundred years.

Having survived two attacks upon it, Our Lady's image was next imperiled by the Hussites, followers of the heretic priest, John Hus from Prague. The Hussites did not accept papal authority as coming from Christ and taught that mortal sin deprived an office holder of his position, among other heresies. Hus had been influenced by John Wyclif and became infected with his errors. Hus was tried and condemned at Constance in 1415. The Hussites successfully stormed the Pauline monastery in 1430, plundering the sanctuary. Among the items stolen was the image. After putting it in their wagon, the Hussites went a little ways but then the horses refused to go any further. Recalling the former incident that was so similar, the heretics threw the portrait down to the ground, which shattered the image into three pieces. One of the plunderers drew his sword and slashed the image twice, causing two deep gashes; while attempting a third gash, he was overcome with a writhing agony and died.

The two slashes on the cheek of the Blessed Virgin, together with the one on the throat, not readily visible in our copy, have always reappeared after artistic attempts to fix them. The portrait again faced danger in 1655 by a Swedish horde of 12,000, which confronted the 300 men guarding the image. The band of 300 routed the 12,000 and the following year, the Holy Virgin was acclaimed Queen of Poland.

In September 14, 1920, when the Russian army assembled at the River Vistula, in preparation for invading Warsaw, the Polish people prayed to Our

Lady. the next day was the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. The Russians quickly withdrew after the image appeared in the clouds over Warsaw. In Polish history, this is known as the Miracle of Vistula.

During the Nazi occupation of Poland in World War II, Hitler order all religious pilgrimages stopped. In a demonstration of love for Our Lady and their confidence in her protection, a half million Poles went to the sanctuary in defiance of Hitler's orders. Following the liberation of Poland in 1945, a million and a half people expressed their gratitude to the Madonna by praying before this miraculous image.

Twenty-eight years after the Russian's first attempt at capturing the city, they successfully took control of Warsaw and the entire nation in 1948. That year more than 800,000 brave Poles made a pilgrimage to the sanctuary at Czestochowa on the Feast of the Assumption, one of the three Feast days of the image; the pilgrims had to pass by the Communist soldiers who patrolled the streets.

Today, the Polish people continue to honor their beloved portrait of the Madonna and Child, especially on August 26, the day reserved by St. Ladislaus. Because of the dark pigment on Our Lady's face and hands, the image is affectionately called the "Black Madonna," most beautifully prefigured in the Bible, in the Canticle of Canticles, "I am black but beautiful." The pigmentation is ascribed primarily to age and the need to keep it hidden for long periods of time in places where the only light was from candles, which colored the painting with smoke.

Papal recognition of the miraculous image was made by Pope Clement XI in 1717. The crown given to the image was used in the first official coronation of the painting, which was stolen in 1909.

Pope Pius X replaced it with a gold one encrusted with jewels.

### SAVE THE DATE

**COMING  
UP**

### 90th Anniversary Planning Meeting— Wednesday, August 30th

As you may know, we will welcome Cardinal Cupich on Saturday, October 7th as we celebrate our 90th Anniversary. A reception will follow immediately that evening in the Sharp Center.

We are asking our parishioners and friends to consider joining us on **Wednesday, August 30th at 7:00pm** in the Social Hall of the Parish

Center as we make final plans for this celebration. What a terrific chance to be part of such a wonderful celebration as we commemorate 90 years as a faith community!!

In addition, we ask that each organization send a representative to this planning meeting.

Thank you, in advance, for your participation and support of our wonderful parish!

~Fr. Idzi

### Stewardship of Treasure

**Offerings for the weekend  
of August 13, 2017**

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

**Contributions: \$7,531.92  
# of Envelopes: 265**

**Thank you for your  
continued support!**

### ODYSSEY

Mark your calendars and plan on joining us for a Lunch Cruise aboard the Odyssey.

When? Tuesday, September 5th

Cost? \$65.00 per person

Time: 9:00am departure for Navy Pier  
(Cost includes transportation and cruise)

Call Chris at 773.512.8707 for more info.

### Our Parish History

St. Symphorosa and Her Seven Sons Parish was officially established on June 19, 1927.

Rev. J. Leo Sharp, our first pastor, chose the name for our parish because of his deep devotion to his own mother. Fr. Sharp wanted the parish to be named after a

saint who exemplified Christian motherhood.

Fr. Sharp felt that the parish he had just established should honor this mother-saint, who led her family in faithfulness to Christ.



## Have You Ever Thought of Becoming Catholic?

## Why not explore the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults?

RCIA may be for you if:

- ◆ You were never baptized
- ◆ You were baptized in another denomination or faith tradition
- ◆ You were baptized Catholic but did not receive First Communion or Confirmation

***Come and see!***

RCIA begins with a period of inquiry—a time to learn and ask questions. The only requirement is a desire to explore one's relationship to God and through the Catholic faith. No firm commitment to join the Church is needed at this time. One might wish to come for one of the following reasons:

- I definitely want to become Catholic
- I might want to become Catholic
- I'm just looking—not sure at this time.

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**  
7:00am - 9:00am

**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.



Please join in extending a warm St. Symphorosa welcome to the newest members of our faith community!

Jason, Katie & Isaiah Smith

Vanessa Arreloa-Gutierrez,  
Adrian & Mateo Gutierrez

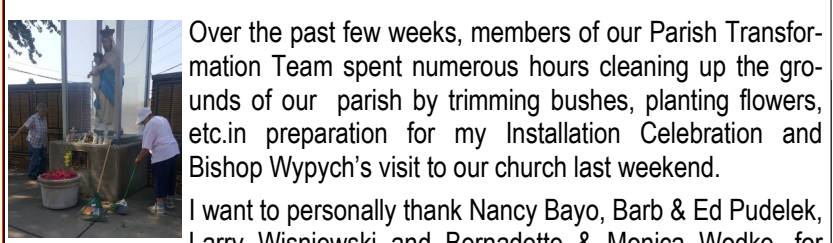



<p><b>The Good News &amp; Religious Education Program</b></p>	<p>You may register Monday through Friday from 9:00am—12:00pm and 1:00pm–7:00pm, and Saturday from 9:00am—</p>
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Just what signs do you look for to help your child understand the importance of faith in their life. These buried treasures can be found by helping your child find a relationship with Jesus. How do they know Jesus? Faith is a treasure that leads us to become faithful followers of Jesus. Children need to grow in their knowledge of faith through prayer, catechesis and an understanding of who Jesus is in their life. Your child's faith is one treasure that Jesus is referring to in our Gospel. Our Religious Education Program will help your child learn about the treasures that lead them to Jesus.

This is a reminder for all parents that the registration for the 2017-2018 year has begun. Classes begin on Saturday, September 9th.

**Thank You....Thank You....Thank You!**



 Early Wisniewski and Bernadette & Monica Wouke, for their effort. It has been noticed by so many and I truly appreciate all of your hard work!



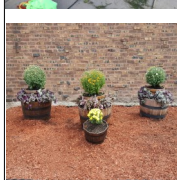
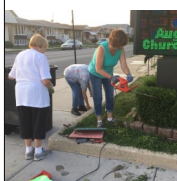
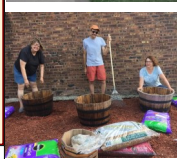
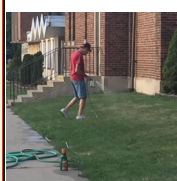
I would like to extend a special note of thanks to Barb and Ed Pudelek for their generous donation of the beautiful garden outside of the Sharp Center! If you haven't had the chance to see it, please be sure to take a peek!

As we prepare for our 90th Anniversary Celebration and the visit of Cardinal Cupich in October, I am personally asking for your assistance in helping to beautify our parish grounds. If you are interested in helping to continue to make 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!

Once again, thank you to our Transformation Team for all of your hard work!

~Fr. Idzi



## THE HOLY MASS

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

### GREETING & THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

When each one of us was baptized, we were signed with the cross of Jesus Christ. In that moment, the Church *claimed* us for Christ—we belong to Him. As we are gathered for Mass, the very first thing we do is, once again, mark ourselves with the sign of Christ's cross, reminding us of *whose we are* and to *whom we belong*. This also reminds us that the Mass, though it has many parts, is one great prayer! All the different pieces help to form this one most perfect prayer that we, as Catholics, have.

### PENITENTIAL ACT

We have transitioned from everyday life to the Sacred Liturgy through procession and song, a kiss and the Sign of the Cross. As we begin, we recognize our sinfulness and our need for and our dependence on, the mercy and forgiveness of God.

### GLORIA

After we have remembered God's mercy and forgiveness given to us in Christ, the only appropriate response is to praise God. We do that in the Gloria which follows. This ancient hymn comes from the song of the angels at the birth of Jesus.

The Introductory Rite concludes with the Opening Prayer, or the Collect. Here the priest gathers all our prayers....notice the priests hands and how he holds and lifts the prayers of the whole Church. All of our prayers are gathered together and joined with the prayer of the Church around the world. Every nation and in every language the same words are said.

The Introductory Rite gives us the time and preparation so that we have the right stance for participating in the Eucharist.

Next week, we will focus on the Liturgy of the Word.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jgs 2:11-19; Ps 106:34-37, 39-40, 43ab, 44;  
Mt 19:16-22  
Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a; Ps 85:9, 11-14;  
Mt 19:23-30  
Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15; Ps 21:2-7; Mt 20:1-16  
Thursday: Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18;  
Jn 1:45-51  
Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Ps 146:5-10;  
Mt 22:34-40  
Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17;  
Ps 128:1b-5;  
Mt 23:1-12  
Sunday: Is 22:19-23; Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8;  
Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20



### A Special Celebration!!

The Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday, September 17, 2017 at 2:45pm at Holy Name Cathedral, 735 N. State Street, Chicago.

Couples married in 1967 interested in attending this celebration should call our parish office at 773.767.1523 to register. For further information, call the Marriage and Family Ministries Office at 312.534.8351 or visit the website: <https://pvm.archchicago.org>.

Jesus' two-fold nature  
Human and Divine

Two extended fingers  
symbolize the twofold  
nature of Jesus: **human**  
and **divine** nature.

The Holy Trinity:  
Father, Son  
and Holy Spirit

Three bent fingers  
symbolizes the Persons of the Holy  
Trinity (Father, Son & Holy Spirit)

## COME JOIN THE FUN!!!

Four Winds Casino  
August 22, 2017  
\$35.00 per person  
Bus leaves at  
9:00am sharp!



Need more info?

Contact Chris at 773.512.8708

Help keep our database up to date by sending us any changes in address, telephone number, email or name. Call Maggie in our parish office at 773.767.1523

### Split the Pot

**Date: August 13, 2017**

**Received this week: \$399.00**


**Envelopes Entered: 77**

**This week's winner is env. # 7007**



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

**Please Note The Following Change:**  
Effective immediately, all Split the Pot envelopes **MUST** be turned into the Parish Office by **Monday at 7:00pm** to be included in the Split the Pot drawing.

 Baptism classes are held in in the Austin Avenue School Building at 7:00 pm. Baptisms are on Sundays at 1:00pm in Church.

MONTH	CLASS	BAPTISMS
September	No Class	9/10, 9/24
October	10/5	10/8, 10/22

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



**Building &  
Maintenance Fund  
Collection**

**Date: August 13, 2017**  
**Received This week: \$980.00**  
**Envelopes Entered: 85**



## We Remember and Celebrate

### Mass Intentions

#### Monday, August 21, 2017 –St. Pius X

8:00 am † Helen Bojczuk—Friends  
† Benedict Oberc—Family

#### Tuesday, August 22, 2017

##### The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00am † Joseph M. Farimella—Tony, Father  
† Judy Wiggins—Arlene Scaletta

#### Wednesday, August 23, 2017—St. Rose of Lima

8:00 am † Christopher Wiatrak (30 Years)- Mom  
† Wesley Kupiec—Wife & Children  
Arlene Scaletta (Good Health/All Needs)— Mary Kolimas

#### Thursday, August 24, 2017—St. Bartholomew

8:00 am † Max Budz—Barbara Rendak

#### Friday, August 25, 2017– St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz

8:00 am † Pedro Alvarez—Wife  
† Angeline Mateja—Waclaw & Kasia Berdysz  
† David Kloppman—School Famil of St. Symphorosa  
† Paul Kosiba—Family

#### Saturday, August 26, 2017– Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 am † Mary Szienbanski—Barbara Ann Rendak  
5:00 pm † Greg Golab—Matt—Mom & Garza Family  
† Robert Montgomery, Sr.—Wife & Children  
† Marilyn Stygar—Family

#### Sunday, August 27, 2017—21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 am † Celeste Bybee—Kendall Family  
9:30am † Conlon Family—Julia Henry  
† Margaret Walsh—Ray & Mary Lou Kolasinski  
11:30 am † Elmer Janda—Harriet  
† Richard Montwill—Peter Kallas  
† Mary Jean Doran—Barb & Tim Sukalo  
1:00pm Baptisms

Please  
Pray  
for...



Rae Ann Arends, Donna R. Azzaline, Toni Bartz, Virginia Blazeniak, Dorothy Bogumil, Fr. Ted Bojczuk, Colleen Brown, 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, Chris & Donna Lauritzen, Virginia Macias, Lu Mackey, Ed Mallo, John Martini, Lori McCarthy, Gen Nagle, Helen Naughton, Marge Novak, Joe Paciga, David Paul, Katherine Pecoraro, Gunner (Baby) Pratscher, Carolyn M. Pysac, Lu Rackey, Sister Mary Rita, Ann Robertson, John A. Rosenthal, Larry Rosenstiehl, Fr. John Rudnik, Ben Sajdak, William Schrimpl, Stephen Sears, Dorothy Snieszewski, Marilyn Sobczak, Michael Straube, James Suchy, Chalida Svastisalee, Loretta A. Thomas, Jim & Mary Thorpe, Joan Witcher, Steve Wojcik, Pamela Wojdyla, Larry & Marianne Wysocki, and Michelle



Pray  
For Our Troops

**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.**

### 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.*

*Grazia Vigneri  
Geno Muscolino, Sr.*

*In loving memory*



### Holy Father Monthly Intention

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 August is for Artists.

*That artists of our time, through their ingenuity, may help everyone discover the beauty of*

**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**