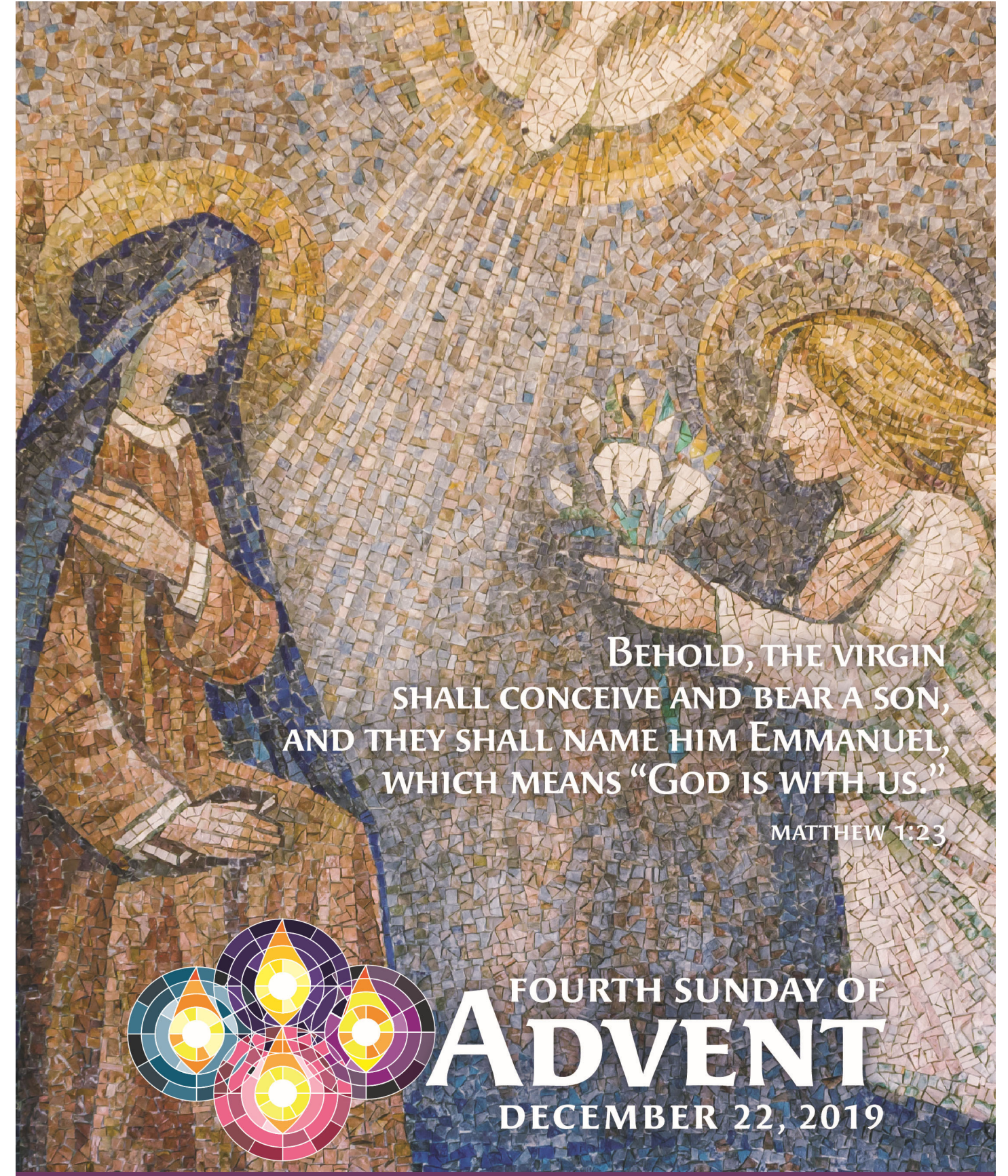
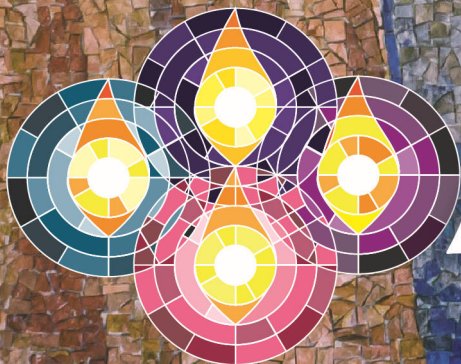


A mosaic depicting the Annunciation. The Virgin Mary is on the left, wearing a blue mantle over a brown robe, with her hands clasped in prayer. The Angel Gabriel is on the right, wearing a blue robe and holding a white lily. Both figures have golden halos. The background is a complex mosaic of gold, brown, and blue tiles.

BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN
SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON,
AND THEY SHALL NAME HIM EMMANUEL,
WHICH MEANS "GOD IS WITH US."

MATTHEW 1:23



FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
DECEMBER 22, 2019

SAINT SYMPHOROSA PARISH

A Family Celebrating Faith
6135 S Austin Ave Chicago, IL 60638
773.767.1523 (Phone) 773.767.6135 (Fax)

To My Dearest Parishioners and Friends,

As we prepare our hearts and homes for the arrival of Jesus Christ, I would like to share with you a short prayer service that traditionally takes place before the Christmas Eve Supper. May the Good Lord bless you and watch over you always.

~Fr. Idzi

PRAYER SERVICE BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS EVE SUPPER

READER: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. At this most solemn moment, let us praise God, our Father, for that holy night which we now commemorate, in which His Son, Jesus Christ, was born of the Virgin Mary. Let us relive that blessed happening as narrated in the Gospel.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE (2, 1-14)

In those days a decree was sent out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinus was governor Syria. So all went to be enrolled to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David. to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have child, and she gave birth to her firstborn Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over the flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For today in the City of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you; you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

The Gospel of the Lord

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

COMMUNAL PRAYER

READER: Christ, who came from heaven for our salvation, we now beseech: Lord, fill us with your love and peace.

ALL: Lord, fill us with your love and peace.

READER: Lord Jesus, bestow on your family the gifts of love, harmony, and peace.

ALL: Lord, fill us with your love and peace.

READER: Lord Jesus, bestow joy and happiness also on our neighbors, friends and relatives.

ALL: Lord, fill us with your love and peace.

READER: Lord Jesus, bring joy to all the abandoned, lonely, sick and unhappy people and strengthen them with the Good News of Salvation.

ALL: Lord, fill us with your love and peace.

READER: Lord Jesus, grant eternal rest to all our departed relative, acquaintances, and those near and dear to us.

ALL: Lord, fill us with your love and peace.

READER: Filled with gratitude that the Son of God became man so that we could become children of God, let us call out to God in the words of the Lord's Prayer. **Our Father . . .**

READER: Almighty, Eternal God, through the coming of your only begotten son you manifested yourself in the new light. Grant that your Son, who by being born of the virgin took upon Himself our human nature, may have us participate in the Kingdom of His Grace. Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

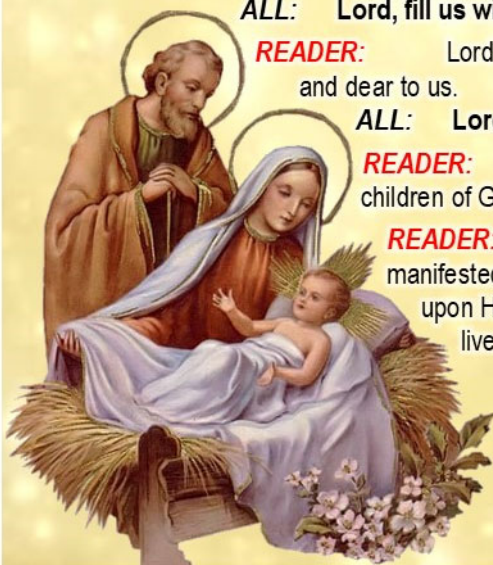
SINGING OF A CAROL: E.G. "SILENT NIGHT"

SHARING OF THE CHRISTMAS WAFER (OPŁATEK)

SINGING OF CAROLS

HANDING OUT OF PRESENTS

FINAL PRAYER: HAIL MARY



Parish Staff

Rev. Idzi Stacherczak
Pastor

Rev. Ted Bojczuk
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Norman Trela
Retired Priest

Ken Hilliard
Operations Director

Deacon Raul Duque
Music Director

Magdalan Barry
Parish Secretary

Nancy Markham
Office Coordinator

Judy Banasiak
Religious Education
Coordinator

Kathy Berry
Principal

Chris Garza
Assistant Principal

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Friday
9:00 am—7:00 pm

Saturday
9:00 am—12:00 pm

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 - Saturday
after the 8am Mass

Parish Office

6135 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60638
773-767-1523 (phone)
773-767-6135 (fax)

www.stsymphorosa.org
symphorosa@comcast.net

Parish School

6125 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60638
773-585-6888

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24, 2019

4pm - Family Mass
10pm - Midnight Mass
Carols begin at 9:30pm

Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25, 2019

7:30am
9:30am
11:30am

**The St. Symphorosa Parish Office will be closed on
Tuesday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 25th
in observance of Christmas. The office will open at 9am on
Thursday, December 26th for regular business hours.**



St Symphorosa
Catholic School



773-585-6888

WWW.STSYMPHOROSA.ORG

Financial Aid Night

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

7:00pm-8:30pm

A Catholic education may be more affordable than you think!

Meet with representatives from St. Sym's, Big Shoulders Fund, Empower Illinois, and the Archdiocese to learn about the Tax Credit Scholarship and many other financial aid options you may qualify for!

6125 S. Austin Ave Chicago, IL 60638



**ST. SYMPHOROSA IS A FAMILY
CELEBRATING FAITH**



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

The celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, helps us to prepare for the beginning of a new year, by showering us with images of peace and joy. We pray that more of this peace and serenity, more of this calm and joy, might come into our lives and into our world during the New Year.

At this annual time of New Year's Resolutions, let's not focus our attention so much on our failures and failings that need correction, as on our faith that gives meaning to our lives and hope to our future. Try making time to pray a Novena to the Blessed Mother, or resolve to say the rosary regularly, or maybe even pray the following Memorare to Mary, Mother of God:

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

*Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother;
to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.*

*O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.
Amen.*

**Here at St. Symphorosa Parish, we will be celebrating the
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God with special Mass times:**

Tuesday, December 31, 2019 4pm
Wednesday, January 1, 2020 9:30am & 11:30am



International Christmas Sunday, January 5, 2020 12:30pm – 4:30pm Sharp Center Social Hall

Please join us on Sunday, January 5th as we gather to celebrate our Christmas traditions. You are invited to bring a special dish that is unique to your tradition to share with your fellow parishioners and friends. (Please note that it is not necessary to bring a dish in order to participate). Tea, coffee, cake and other refreshments will be included. Let us gather together to enjoy foods of different countries. (American, Polish, Italian,

Mexican, German, Irish, etc.) Good food, good company, special games and projects for children, music and a special Christmas Blessing by Fr. Idzi. In addition to sharing delicious foods, we will sing carols and look more closely at a variety of Christmas traditions and symbols. *There is no charge for this event.*

To allow us to plan accordingly, please complete the form below and return it to a member of the Transformation Team in the back of church after mass this weekend or next. These forms can also be returned to the parish office or you can email internationalchristmas2020@gmail.com with details of the dish you will bring to share that day.

Hope you can join us!

_____ Yes, I plan to attend the International Christmas Celebration on Sunday, January 5th

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

of Adults: _____ # of Children: _____

As menu cards will be printed to identify each dish and its' country of origin, we ask that you please print the name(s) of the dish(es) below:

This dish is from the following country:

Please return this completed form to the back of church, parish office or email
internationalchristmas2020@gmail.com with details.



My Dearest Parishioners:

On the very first Christmas, Jesus was born unto us, He brought to us an undying love and hope for what may come. During this Christmas season, I as well as Fr. Norm, and the entire staff of St. Symphorosa Parish, wish you a very Merry Christmas. May your days be filled with the same feeling of love that came upon this earth on that very first Christmas. May that love grow within you during this season and beyond into the New Year.

~Fr. Idzi



Renew My Church Prayer

Lord Jesus, you speak to us today, as you spoke to holy men and women who have gone before us. In every age and in our own time, you call to us and say: Renew My Church.

Pour out the gift of your Holy Spirit upon us, and so enable us

to hear you clearly
to listen to each other attentively
to imagine our future boldly
to discern your direction wisely
to persevere in your holy will courageously

to stay together in charity
to surrender our own plans readily
to embrace the greater good
to hand on your gifts to future generations.

May we remain in the holy company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the apostles, and all the saints. May their example and presence inspire us with patient confidence in the work of your grace. We ask this of you who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.



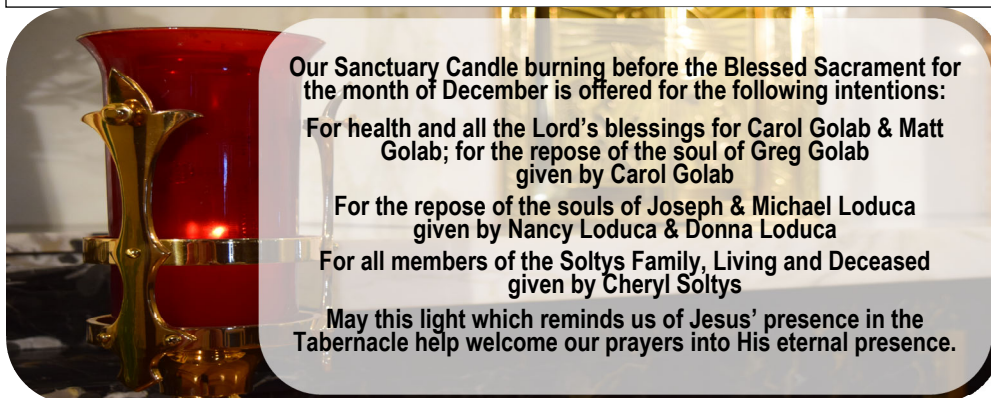
Matching Gift Opportunity for Tax Credit Scholarship Donations

Through the generous support of a group of donors Empower Illinois will once again be able to offer the 2-for-1 matching gift program for tax credit scholarship donations. These donations will apply for the next school year (2020/2021). All matching funding will be available for donations made through the Empower Illinois scholarship granting organization between December 1, 2019 and February 29, 2020. You can designate your donation to any of the 160 elementary schools operated by the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The program will end when all matching fund have been depleted or on February 29, 2020. Donors who would like to receive the tax credit for their 2019 taxes should begin the process before December 16, 2019 to be sure they have enough time to make their gift by December 31, 2019.

For more information, please contact the archdiocese's Tax Credit Scholarship Office at tcs@archchicago.org or 312.534.2617.

Example: A taxpayer donates \$2,000 to Empower Illinois through the match program. The taxpayer will be eligible to claim a \$1,500 tax credit when he/she files their previous year's taxes. The donation creates \$6,000 in scholarship support (after the \$4,000 match). For the net cost (\$2,000 donation less the \$1,500 tax credit), this donor will provide a student with a \$6,000 scholarship to attend a Catholic school of his/her choice.



Our Sanctuary Candle burning before the Blessed Sacrament for the month of December is offered for the following intentions:

For health and all the Lord's blessings for Carol Golab & Matt Golab; for the repose of the soul of Greg Golab given by Carol Golab

For the repose of the souls of Joseph & Michael Loduca given by Nancy Loduca & Donna Loduca

For all members of the Soltys Family, Living and Deceased given by Cheryl Soltys

May this light which reminds us of Jesus' presence in the Tabernacle help welcome our prayers into His eternal presence.



Due to an early bulletin submission date the Stewardship and Split the Pot info for this weekend will be listed in the December 29th bulletin.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 21, 2019

Saint Peter Canisius, Priest

- 5:00pm †Theresa Pudelek (*Pudelek Family*)
 †Georgianna & Frank Richards (*Family*)
 †Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)
 †Mary Pat O'Connor (*Tim & Pat Sage*)

Sunday, December 22, 2019

- 7:30am †Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)
 9:30am †Adele Hojdik (*Hojdik Family*)
 †Rita Mae Sullivan & Marge Novak (*James Sullivan Family*)
 †George "Al" Heinz (*Family*)
 11:30am †Ellen, Jack, John O'Leary & Lillian Byrne (*Byrne Family*)
 †Angeline Mateja (*Steve & Sally Ives*)
 †Helen Synal (*Family*)

Monday, December 23, 2019

Saint John of Kanty, Priest

- 8:00am Health & all the Lord's Blessings for the Rich Family
 (*Virginia Rich*)
 †Lerma Magbanua Coronado (*St. Vincent de Paul Society*)

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

Christmas Eve

- 8:00am Health and Birthday Blessings for Caitlyn Battung
 (*Rosario Battung*)
 †Phil Scaletta (*Arlene Scaletta*)
 †Josephine Bugajsky (*Lorraine DeLauriea*)
 †Rosa Cicchino (*Rosa Rodriguez*)
 4:00pm Family Mass-For All Parishioners, Living and Deceased (49)
 10:00pm Midnight Mass-For All Parishioners, Living and Deceased (50)

Wednesday, December 25, 2019

The Nativity of the Lord

- 7:30am For All Parishioners, Living and Deceased (51)
 9:30am For All Parishioners, Living and Deceased (52)
 11:30am For All Parishioners, Living and Deceased (53)

Thursday, December 26, 2019

St. Stephen, the First Martyr

- 8:00am †Bob & John Kolimas (*Mary Kolimas*)
 †Chuck DeLauriea (*Lorraine DeLauriea*)

Friday, December 27, 2019

Saint John, Apostle

- 8:00am †Walter Marciniak (*Family*)

Saturday, December 28, 2019

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

- 8:00am For all Parishioners, Living and Deceased (54)
 5:00pm †Walter Labno (*Wife & Family*)
 †Greg Golab (*Mom & Dad*)
 †Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

Sunday, December 29, 2019

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

- 7:30am †Roberto Rodriguez (*Inez Rodriguez*)
 †Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)
 9:30am For all the members of the Gurgone, Cortese, and
 Palmera Families, Living and Deceased (*Family*)
 †Roy R. Moscato (*Kathy Calcagno*)
 †Lauren Vitrano (*Family*)
 †George "Al" Heinz (*Family*)
 11:30am For all Parishioners, Living and Deceased (55)



*There are in the end three things that last:
 Faith, Hope, and Love, and the greatest of
 these is LOVE.*

Ignatius Battiato
 Mary Bieser
 Dorothy Bogumil
 Fr. Ted Bojczuk
 Pat Carmody
 Michael Clifford
 Norma De Stefano
 Chris Doherty
 Juan Figueroa
 Carol Golab
 Carol Gress
 Suzann Gunter
 Kathy Haars
 Megan High
 Dawn Hoyt
 Heather Hradek
 Denise M. Jandura
 Rich S. Jandura
 Joan Juris
 Lee Karpinski
 Dennis Kline
 Walter Kokoszka, Sr.
 Claudia Kwilosz
 Norman Kwilosz
 James Lapsansky
 Donna Lauritzen
 Domenico Lepore

Debbie Lipien
 John Martini
 Lou Mackey
 Kathleen McAuliffe
 Thomas Minnich
 Christine Mosqueda
 Genevieve Nagle
 Florence Panzarella
 Baby Alexander J Pentz
 Gi Gi Picciolini
 Marilyn Polit
 Marie Pratt
 Ann Robertson
 Edward Robertson
 Fr. John Rudnik
 Joseph Rudnik
 Gloria Schillings
 Collyn Schmidt
 Kristyn Schmidt
 Joseph Serpico
 Chalida Svatisalee
 Terry Styka
 Mary Thorpe
 George Trendle
 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 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 Dobbyn, US Army
 Sgt. John Flores, IL National Guard
 Staff Sgt. Andrew Gaca, USAF

Sgt. Michael Hough, US Army
 Anthony Johanievicz, 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 Sabeske, US Army
 Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Stuhlmacher
 1LT Zachary White, IL Army NG



In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus will be named Emmanuel, which means
 "God is with us." The mystery of the birth of Jesus is supremely a mystery of love.
 May each Christmas find us more and more like him: more humble, more holy,
 more happy and more full of God.

**You gifts to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul helped those who are poor and
 suffering to find Emmanuel and they also came to know that "God is with us."**

St. Vincent de Paul phone number: (773) 682-3342

New Parishioners: Welcome to our Parish! We are so
 happy to have you join us.

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 6:00pm. 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.