

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

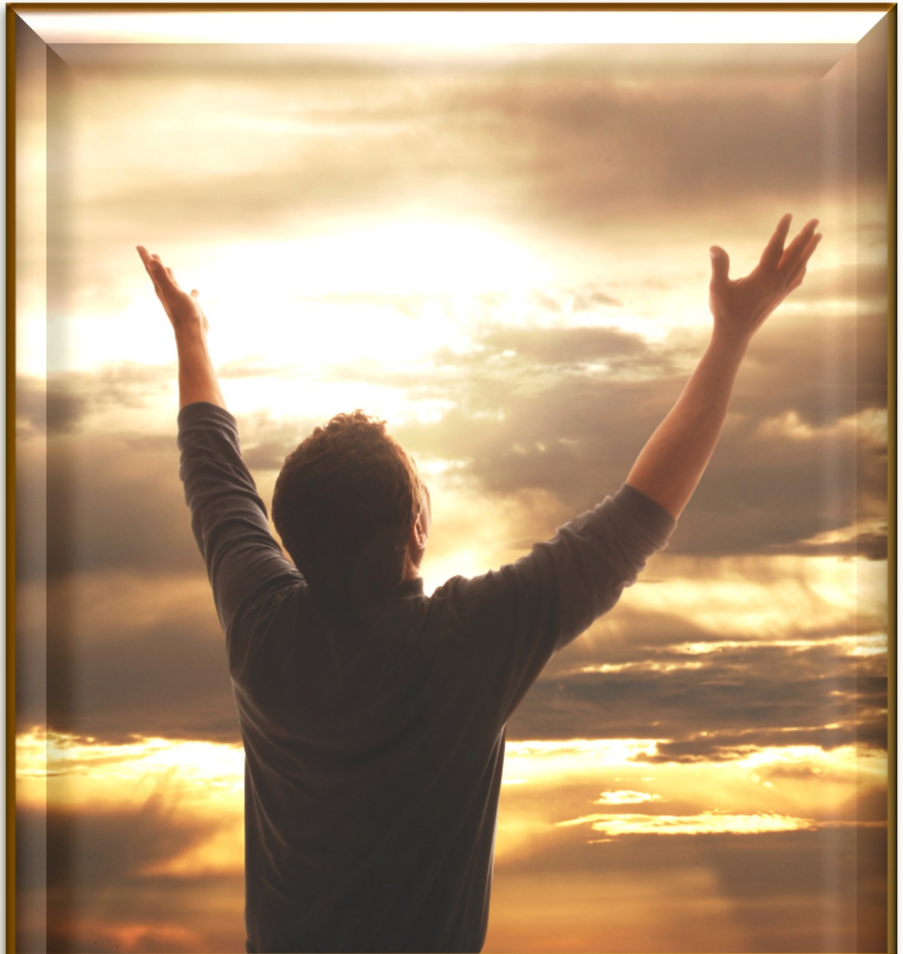
Address: 6125 S. Austin Avenue
773-585-6888

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



Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

—Matthew 25:13

November 12, 2017

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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 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Staying awake, preparedness, being vigilant and wise are the key words that lead us into the message of this Sunday. Over the next 3 Sundays, the readings will focus our attention on the final days marked by the second coming of Christ. Today's readings underline the importance of preparedness to meet the Lord at all times.

In the first reading, wisdom is described as the spirit which enables us to anticipate the unforeseen and to be prepared. We hear that "Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim". It is the fuel or the oil that keeps our lamps lit, in order to give witness wherever we are. Wisdom gives us a kind of sixth sense in our faith and hope, in order to be alert and prepared.

In the second reading, St. Paul speaks to the question raised as to what happens to those who die before the "second coming". Attitudes towards life after death varied greatly between the pagans and the Jews.

When confronted with the inevitability of death, the typical pagan response was grim despair. A famous tombstone from the classical period has this inscription, "*I was not, I became; I am not, I care not.*"

In a similar vein, the Roman poet, Horace, who died the year Christ was born, advises us *Carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero* (Enjoy today, and trust tomorrow as little as possible). This has morphed into the popular motto, "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die."

In the Jewish tradition, belief in life after death was not widely accepted until the first century before Christ. Before that, they imagined a shad-

owy existence where the dead could neither know God nor praise him.

Christian belief in life hereafter is based on the resurrection of Christ. Because of this, Paul assures them that because of Christ's death and resurrection, all who die in Christ "God will bring them with him... Then we who are alive...will be caught up with them" on the last day.

In today's Gospel, the parable of the ten bridesmaids is used as a concrete expression of wisdom that enables us to stay awake, vigilant and prepared. There is a sharp contrast between the five wise bridesmaids, who take extra oil with them for their lamps, and the foolish ones, who only take their lamps, completely unaware of a possible delay.

It can be quite easy for any of us to slip into foolishness as in the Gospel story. The main point of the parable is that through our baptism, we have received an invitation to the heavenly wedding banquet, but the arrival time of the bridegroom is hidden from us.

But why the stress on oil? Some scripture scholars tell us that the oil stands for our good deeds that shine out like light for others to see. The Master of the house locks out those foolish bridesmaids because Jesus has already warned his disciples saying, "Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord' will enter...but only the one who does the will of my Father" (Matt 7:21).

This parable is one of Jesus' teaching about good and bad servants, and the two groups are people that we probably know all too well. There are those folks who are always prepared come what may, and there are others

who are never there or never on time! You meet them at school, at work, at the airport and at Church.

We notice that the Master does not send them to hell, but scolds them. Taken this way, the parable is an invitation to conversion. Be wise! Next time come with your own oil.

Being wise in terms of Jesus means being vigilant for He will surely return and so we need to be ready. It is not a waste of time, but a time of patient waiting. So when Christ comes along with his bride the Church, he will go straight in with those prepared into the banquet hall, and the doors will be closed.

So, in summary:

1. The first reading challenges us to be wise rather than being foolish in matters of faith and morals and thus be patiently prepared.
2. Paul in the Second Reading urges us to remain in readiness for the second coming, when all who died in Christ will rise with Him on the last day.
3. The Gospel passage is a challenge to conversion and transformation in readiness for Christ; it is a challenge to be wise; to remain truly faithful till the end, making the right choices; staying awake till the Lord come.

Stay awake, be ready! We know not the day nor the hour.

~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.***

Veterans Day

Honoring All Who Served



Veteran's Day Prayer

Dear Lord,

Today we honor our veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best when they were called upon by their country.

We pray that you will bless them, Lord, for their unselfish service to preserve our country's heritage, for all of us.

Bless them abundantly for the sacrifices they made for their many contributions to America's victories.

We respect them, we thank them, we honor them, we are proud of them and we pray that you will watch over these special people and bless them with peace and happiness.

Amen.



With our 4th Annual Holiday Extravaganza next weekend, we are reaching out to our parish community to ask for volunteers to help with this event.

The following help is needed:

Saturday, November 18th 9am—11am (Carrying tables & chairs and setting up the gym for the show).

Sunday, November 19th 2:30pm—4:30pm (Break down of gym—tables and chairs carried back to their storage space).

Kitchen help is also needed on the day of the show from 10am—2pm.

If you are able to help in any of these areas, please contact the Parish Office. A member of the Parish Transformation Team will be in touch.

Thank you for your help in making this year's event a success!



Offerings for the weekend of November 5, 2017

Weekly Budget (Est.) 9,000.00

Contributions: \$7,647.38

Thank you for your generosity and continued support!



Our second collection this weekend is for our Building and Maintenance Fund.

Thank you for your generosity!



November 5, 2017

Received this week: \$ 537.00

Envelopes Entered: 99

This week's winner is envelope # 2287

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



Bulletin Deadline

With the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday, our bulletin for Sunday, November 25th must be transmitted no later than Friday, November 17th. Therefore all bulletin articles for that weekend's bulletin are due by Tuesday, November 14th.

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.



This weekend we are pleased to welcome our 6th graders and their families to the 9:30am Family Mass.



Christmas Wreaths For Sale at Holiday Extravaganza Next Week!

Our Scouts will be selling fresh evergreen Christmas wreaths next week at our 4th Annual Holiday Extravaganza on Sunday, November 19th from 10:30am—2:30pm in the Sharp Center. Be sure to stop by and pick up a fresh wreath to decorate your homes for this holiday season!

Thank you for supporting our Scouts!



The Super Club Raffle Winners for November are.....

\$100—Helen Utter

\$25—Marie Simonetti

\$50—John Ayala

\$25—Monica Wodke

Congratulations to our lucky winners!!!!



LOSS Program for Children & Youth

The Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) Program for Children and Youth continues to meet with bereaved children and adolescents who have lost a loved one to suicide. This specialized grief support program provides individual counseling and group support for child and teen survivors. Counseling is offered in various **Chicagoland** locations. The program has no cost and is always tailored to fit the child and family's grief support needs. For more information, or to do an intake, contact (312) 655-7284.

E-Giving Update

\$3,527.00 was donated through E-Giving from October 2—22, 2017.

Thank you for your generosity & support!

HOLY DAY OFFERINGS

All Saint's Day

\$1,244.00

Envelopes Entered: 124

All Soul's Day

\$753.50

Envelopes Entered: 65

Thank you for your support!



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.



"COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS"

Little Company of Mary Hospital offers comfort to those mourning the death of a loved. Join us on November 15 at 6:00 pm at the hospital on the first floor, North Pavilion meeting room N1703 as Father Jim Heneghan, Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish presents "Coping With the Holidays".

For more information and to register call 708 229 5480. Take time to listen, to enjoy and to benefit from the wisdom and care that can help you navigate this difficult time of the year.



Partnering With You in the Investment of a Lifetime

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 7 p.m.

For over 115 years, Nazareth has been committed to providing scholarship opportunities and financial assistance to families in need in order to offset the cost of tuition.

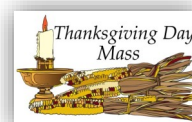
On Tuesday, November 14, Nazareth's administration, business office and current parents will discuss the scholarships, awards, financial aid and third party opportunities that can assist with Catholic high school tuition. The presentation will include current information on the new Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program.

After the presentation, representatives from Nazareth will be available to answer questions. We hope this effort will encourage Catholic families to keep their students in Catholic high schools.

Parents of 6th, 7th and 8th grade students are invited to attend.

Nazareth Academy Romano Theatre (please use west entrance)

1209 W. Ogden, La Grange Park
RSVP to Mrs. Kristen Stojetz at 708.387.8505 or kstojetz@nazarethacademy.com



**Thursday, November 23, 2017
9:00 Mass**

Thanksgiving Day is a very special time to remember the blessings we have received from God, so that we can be a more thankful people every day. The reasons for having grateful hearts make up a long litany: the gift of life itself, faith in a God who loves us and is very near to us, good health, loving family, caring friends, opportunities to serve, food on our tables, roofs over our heads. Yes, we have our times of doubt, our aches and pains, our family conflicts, and our economic struggles. In spite of all these challenges, we are incredibly blessed! Hope you will join us for this special Thanksgiving celebration!



Check out our new parish website @
www.stsymphorosa.org

Lots of great info to keep you up to date.

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



St. Laurence High School Open House

Sunday, November 19

10:00am—12:00pm

Please contact the school for more information at 708-458-6900, x 252.

PRAYER
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Parish Book of Remembrance

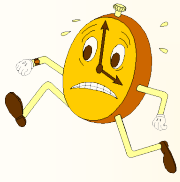
Throughout the month of November, we invite you to write the names of your loved ones, who have gone before us to their eternal reward, in our Parish Book of Remembrance.

These special people whom we hold dear will be remembered in a special way throughout the month here at St. Symphorosa.



Church Etiquette: Some Things You Should Know While in Church

In the Catholic Church, there are a lot of customs and traditions that are important parts of our worship. Some are cultural; some are pious customs. Some are essential; some are not. From time-to-time, we need to address some of these various etiquette issues to inform our communities how we can best understand each other and work together to worship the all-holy Trinity.



ENTERING THE CHURCH (LATE): The time to arrive at church is **before** the service starts, but for some unknown reason, it has become the custom—or rather the bad habit—for some to come to church late. If you arrive after the Divine Liturgy begins, please remember to enter the church **quietly** and observe what is happening.

LEAVING BEFORE DISMISSAL: Leaving church before the Dismissal—besides being rude—**deprives us of a blessing.** Worship has a beginning (“In the name of the Father...”) and an end (“Go in peace...”). To leave immediately after Communion is to treat church like a fast food restaurant where we come and go as we please. We live in a fast-paced world where we seem to be hurrying from place to place. But in God’s presence, we need to make every attempt to fight this pressure to move on to the next thing on the day’s agenda. We deprive ourselves of blessings by not being still and participating in God’s holiness.



CELLPHONES: Please remember to **turn off your cellphones** and other electronic devices you may have with you **before** you enter our church to avoid interrupting the church service. Surely you don’t want all eyes on you when your phone rings and you have no choice but to silence it.

SUNDAY DRESS: Remember the time when people put on their “Sunday best” to go to Church? In fact, dress clothes were often referred to as Sunday clothes. In all areas of our lives, **we should offer Christ our best.** And the same is true of our dress. We should offer Christ our “Sunday best”, **not our everyday, common or beach wear.** And we should dress **modestly**, not in a flashy way that would bring attention to ourselves. Our dress should always be becoming of a Christian—especially at church.



TALKING DURING CHURCH: Isn’t it great to come to church and see friends and family members? **But please wait until after Mass or in the parking lot** to say “hi” to them. It just isn’t appropriate to greet people and have a conversation with them during the services. Besides being disrespectful towards God, it is rude towards the other people in the church who are trying to worship. Talk to God while in church through your **prayers, hymns, and thanksgiving**, and to your friends in the hall **afterwards.**

We thank all parishioners and guests alike, for respecting and following these guidelines.

4th Annual Holiday Extravaganza Luncheon, Craft & Vendor Fair Sunday, November 19, 2017 10:30am—2:30pm Sharp Center



It’s that time of year again.....hope you can join us for some great shopping, food and fun as we kick off the Holiday Season with this annual St. Symphorosa Parish Tradition.

This year’s luncheon features a delicious fare of roasted chicken, roast beef, potatoes, dumplings, sauerkraut, mixed vegetables, desert and coffee or tea. Luncheon tickets are advance purchase only and are \$15 for adults and \$14 for seniors. Tickets can be purchased after mass this weekend or at the rectory through Tuesday, November 14, 2017.

Our Craft & Vendor Fair features a little something for everyone! Admission is free.

Check out some of our great crafters and vendors:

Belinda’s Treasure Chest
Brian’s Creations
Bitty Bows & Bitable Beads
Catherine’s Quilts & Pillows
Crafty Nightshade
Creative Crafters
Donna’s Oven 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 many more.....

We hope you can join us and bring a friend or two!



Last weekend, as a member of our Parish Finance Council provided an update, we heard of the importance of volunteers within our faith community. I would like to take the opportunity to thank each of our faithful parishioners who gives selflessly of their time and talent in so many ways here at St

Symphorosa. May God continue to bless you as you answer His call and continue His great work within this faith community.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities here in our parish, please take a moment to see me after Mass or call our parish office for further details.

~Fr. Idzi



We Remember and Celebrate

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 13, 2017—St. Francis Xavier Cabrini

8:00 am Albina Strzelec—Barbara Anna Rendak
Stanley Michalec—Soltis Family
Marilyn Stygar—Family
†Marion (Moe) Felske—Ramazinski (James)

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

8:00am † Geri Norbut—Family

Wednesday, November 15, 2017—St. Albert the Great

8:00am † Stanley Swiatkowski—Darlene & Jim

Thursday, November 16, 2017—St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Gertrude

8:00 am †Ann & Tom Ciukaj—Family
Roy C. Solofra, Sr.—Solofra Family

Friday, November 17, 2017—St. Elizabeth of Hungary

8:00 am Ann Kopyszka—Soltis Family

Saturday, November 18, 2017—The Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss. Peter & Paul; St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 am For All Parishioners (28)
5:00pm Walter Labno—Wife & Family
† Greg Golab—Mom
Lucille Cantu—Sister & Nephews
† Janet Molnar—Family
† Pat Doyle—Joanne Tishka

Sunday, November 19, 2017—33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 am † Claude Wiatrak—Wiatrak Family
† Celeste Bybee—Kendall Family
† Blanche Marcukaitis—Family
† Donald & Margaret Mazurkiewicz—Sandra &
Bruce Paprzyca
† Julian and Irene Paprzyca —Sandra & Bruce Paprzyca
9:30 am Anna Rendak—Barbara Ann Rendak
11:30am † Gregg Gasior—St. Symphorosa Parish
† Richard Montwill—Art, Bess & Diane Smagala



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 Sniewski, 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 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



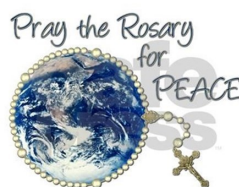
**Congratulations to our new baptized and welcome
into St. Symphorosa and the Body of Christ!**

Avery Katherine Hervieux
Child of Christopher Hervieux & Amy Wend



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.



**Join us Monday evenings
in Church from
6:00pm—7:30pm**

