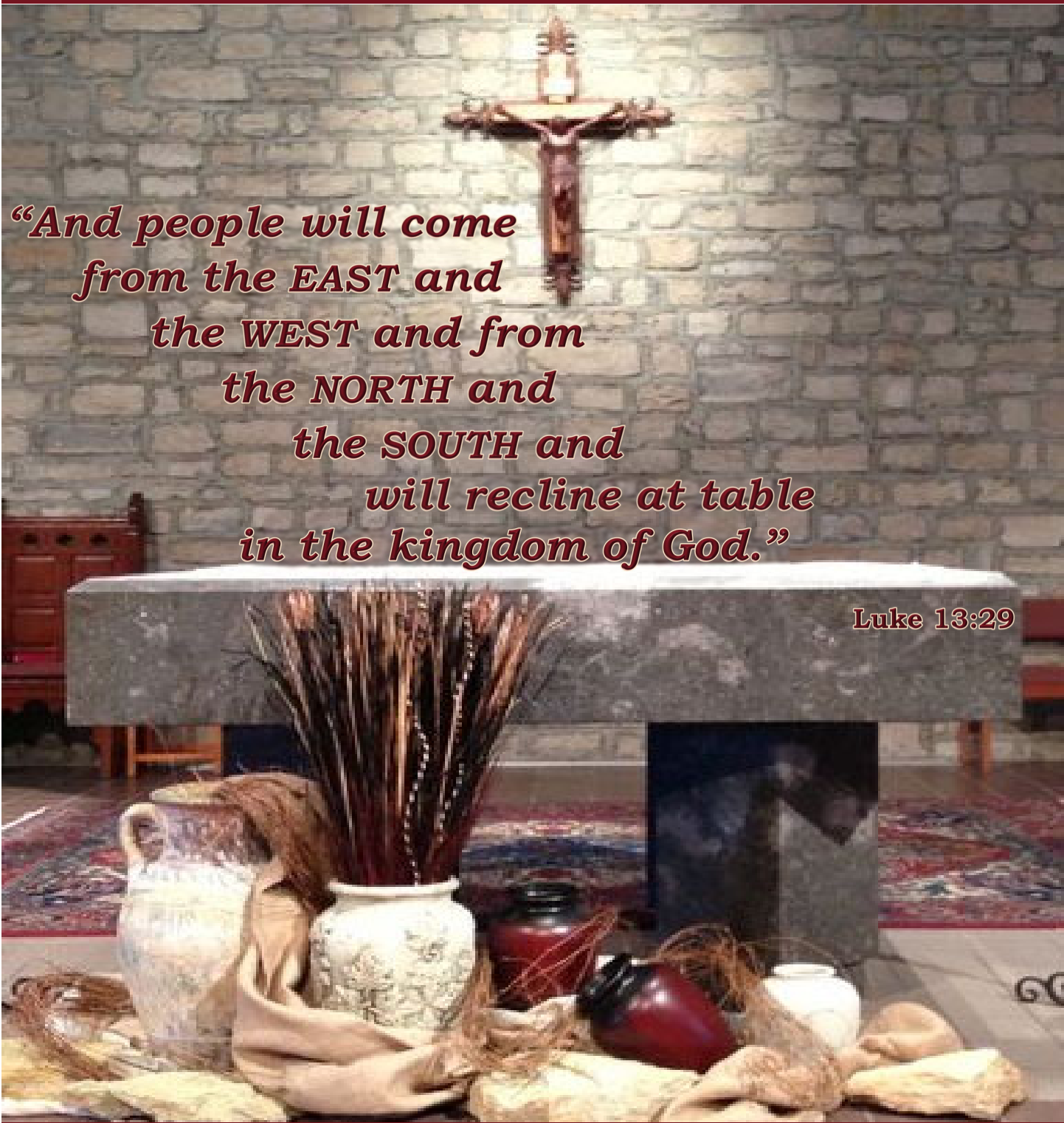


The Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

AUGUST 25, 2019



*“And people will come
from the EAST and
the WEST and from
the NORTH and
the SOUTH and
will recline at table
in the kingdom of God.”*

Luke 13:29

SAINT SYMPHOROSA PARISH

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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Who will be saved? For most of us, that means who will be in heaven? Will you or I be in heaven? These are the kinds of questions that Jesus generally dislikes. Instead, Jesus invites us to follow Him. If we trust Him and try to follow Him, then we should not be too concerned about who will be saved. Our concern is simply to trying and follow the Lord.

The first reading today, from the Prophet Isaiah, tells us that the Lord comes to save everyone, if possible. There is sometimes a great controversy about whether all people can be saved—but again, this seems to miss what Jesus' concern is. Jesus seems only concerned about whether you and I will follow Him. If someone does not follow Him, that is not for us to judge.

For some of us who are older, concern about salvation was an important motivating element in many of our lives. Today, perhaps, there is too little attention given to salvation. It really is not about salvation as an objective kind of reality. Rather, it is about being a follower of Jesus and trying to live as He invites us to live.

This is the link between the first reading and the Gospel. The challenge for you and for me is to follow the Lord, to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Perhaps in the past there was a huge emphasis put on the fear of hell—and that somewhat deformed the message of our loving Lord. Today, far too many people do not even think about a

life after this one, much less about whether there are any requirements at all to live eternal life.

Jesus seems clear in the New Testament. Today's Gospel tells us to try to use the narrow gate! Some of this language is, for sure, simply a style of speaking. Nevertheless, we know that we must strive to love God above all things, with all of our being. And we must strive to love our neighbors as ourselves. These are the teachings of Jesus. Jesus tells us that those who keep His commandments are the ones who do the will of His Father. We cannot water down the teachings of Jesus to simply trying to be a nice person! The Kingdom of Heaven is much more than that!

The Letter to Hebrews continues to urge us to accept a certain discipline in our living because such discipline is necessary to follow the Lord.

Today, then, we are invited to reflect on eternal life and what it means for us. We are invited to think about salvation and what that might mean for us. We are urged to begin to live the teachings of our Lord Jesus. Finally, we must spend some time praying about what it might mean to lose salvation and to end up in hell. None of us like to think about that but it is one of the possible endings of our life. May the Lord draw us to Himself and give us courage to walk in His ways.

christdesert.org



At the end of time, each of us will hear one of two things from God. To those who refused to give of themselves in this world, God will say, as Jesus mentions in today's Gospel, "I do not know where you come from; away from me!" To those who loved Christ, and gave of themselves following His example, God will say, "Come, O you blessed of my Father, Inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the beginning of time." We stand at that fork again today. May we follow Christ all the way home to the Father!

~Fr. Idzi



Our St. Symphorosa School had their first day of classes this week on Tuesday, August 20th. The chosen theme for this year is "*St. Sym's Superheroes*". With this in mind, and on behalf of the entire St. Symphorosa community I welcome back all of our *Superheroes* (our faculty and staff) and all of our *Superheroes in Training* (our wonderful students) for the 2019/2020 school year.

This year St. Symphorosa School will be focusing not only on their growth educationally but spiritually. They will be focusing on their Viking Virtues of respect, courage, honesty, humility, charity, forgiveness, inclusivity, kindness, peacemaking, compassion, patience and gratitude.

I would like to personally welcome everyone back to a new school year and hope that this year brings much joy, love and education into all of our students, teachers, and staff's homes.

I ask our Lord, God, to send his spirit upon our school community as they begin this new school year. May everyone help to inspire one another to live with integrity and goodness following the core values of our Catholic faith.

~Fr. Idzi

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

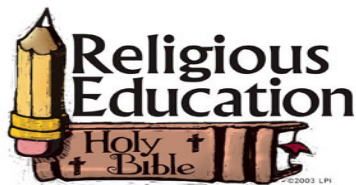
Parish Office

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

www.stsymphorosa.org
[sympborosa@comcast.net](mailto:symphorosa@comcast.net)

Parish School

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



REGISTRATION 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

The St. Symphorosa Religious Education program will be taking registrations for new and current students for the 2019-2020 school year. Registration will be available on the following dates and times in the school:

Tuesday, August 27, 2019 4pm - 7pm

Please Note: Establishing a lifelong sacramental life in Jesus Christ takes time. For this reason the Archdiocese of Chicago implemented a policy of a two year timeframe for sacramental preparation. Children looking to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation must be enrolled for two consecutive years of religious education to receive said sacrament.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact our Religious Education Coordinator, Mrs. Judy Banasiak at 773.767.1523 ext. 226.



Greetings Parishioners of St. Symphorosa:

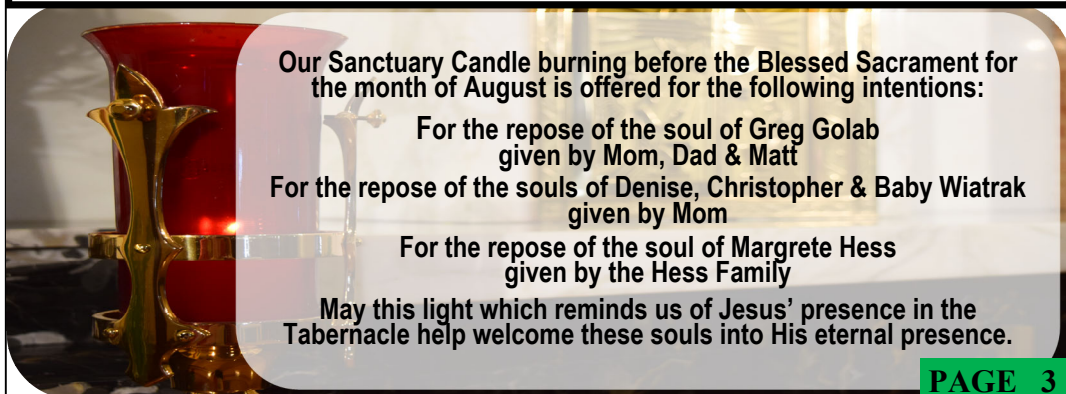
Choir season will soon be upon us and I am asking at this time for any interested parishioners who would like to become part of the choir and be part of the music ministry program as well. Choir practice takes place on Tuesday evenings from 7-9pm and is extended for an extra half hour during the Christmas and Easter seasons.

All you need to bring with you is a binder for your music, a pencil and a bottle of water to keep hydrated. All music materials such as books and music sheets will be supplied by myself and the parish. Please do not be shy if you do not know how to read music or even sing very well, all of that comes with time and practice.

Once again, I invite anyone interested in joining myself and the choir in this ministry at our first practice of the year on Tuesday, September 10th beginning at 7pm in church. I pray that the Holy Spirit will help guide you in your discernment and give you the courage to join this wonderful ministry here at St. Symphorosa Parish.

In the words of St. Augustine, *"He who sings prays twice"*. Thank you and may God bless you always and in all ways.

Deacon Raul Duque
Music Director of St. Symphorosa Parish



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

For the repose of the soul of Greg Golab
given by Mom, Dad & Matt

For the repose of the souls of Denise, Christopher & Baby Wiatrak
given by Mom

For the repose of the soul of Margrete Hess
given by the Hess Family

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

"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

Save the Date

& Please Join Our First Parish Conversation on Renew My Church

As a first step, we invite you to join parish leadership for
our first Renew My Church parish conversation on
Monday, September 16, 2019 in the School Building
located at 6125 S Austin Avenue.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Renew My Church is a faithful response to Christ's call
to renew His Church in the Archdiocese of Chicago; it is
a journey that is both spiritual (to
re-encounter Jesus Christ as disciples and parish
communities) and structural (to ensure our parishes have
adequate resources for vitality).

Through Renew My Church initiatives, the Archdiocese
will re-commit our local Church to our gospel
commission to make disciples, build vital communities of
faith and inspire witness to bring the light and hope of
Christ to a world in need. These mission imperatives
guide all that we do in and through the spiritual and
structural efforts of renewal.

More information coming soon.



St. Symphorosa Altar & Rosary Society News

The Altar & Rosary Mass will be celebrated
on **Sunday, September 1, 2019 at 9:30am.**

The first meeting of the year will be held on
Tuesday, September 3, 2019 from 12-2pm in
the Social Hall of the Sharp Center. This is a
general meeting with sandwiches. There will
be a guest speaker at this meeting from the
Fire Prevention Bureau.

The Altar & Rosary Society will have a membership drive
the weekend of **Saturday, September 28** and **Sunday,
September 29** after all Masses in the back of church. All
membership dues are due by the end of September.

SAVE THE DATE: The Altar and Rosary Bake Sale will be
held on **Saturday, October 19** and **Sunday, October 20,**
after all weekend Masses in the back of church.

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH!
12PM-4PM**

**Ridge Funeral Home's
Annual**



First Responders Appreciation COOKOUT

Ed Tylka and the staff of Ridge Funeral Home
would like to invite all active and retired first
responders and their families to our Appreciation
Cookout. Join us for food & refreshments; a bounce
house, petting zoo, face painter & balloon artist for
the kids; & music by the band Legacy.

**6620 W. Archer Ave. Chicago, IL 60638
773-586-7900**



An Invitation to Join* The Roman Catholic Church

*or perhaps become fully initiated
Into the sacramental life of the Church

through the RCIA Process

If you are (or know someone who is):

- An adult who has never been baptized
- An adult who was baptized in another denomination or faith tradition
- An adult who is baptized Catholic but would like to complete his or her Sacraments of Initiation (receive the Eucharist/celebrate your First Holy Communion; celebrate your Confirmation)

This fall, our parish will begin the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process with the period of inquiry and questioning – there is no formal commitment at this time. The only requirement at this point is a desire to explore one's relationship with God through the Catholic Faith. In a supportive group setting, we will learn about the teachings of the Catholic Faith, share stories, and journey together toward greater intimacy with our God through the reception of the Sacraments.

For more information, please contact our Parish Office at
773-767-1523.



*Offerings for
the weekend of
August 18, 2019*

Weekly Budget (Est.): \$9,000.00

Contributions: \$4,432.26

Envelopes: 223

**Thank you for your support
& generosity!**



Split the Pot

August 18, 2019

Received this week:

\$275.00

Winning envelope: # 782

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



**Dates: July 15, 2019 to
August 4, 2019**

Transactions: 111

Amount: \$2,874.00



Knights of Columbus "Tootsie Roll Drive"

Please help support the fundraising efforts of the St. Rene/St. Symphorosa Knights of Columbus Council by purchasing a Tootsie Roll bank after all Masses. All proceeds benefit our parish SPRED programs.

**Saturday, September 7th &
Sunday, September 8th**

Cost is \$3 each or 2 for \$5.



First Responder Thank you Notes

As a way of showing our thanks to our first responders, we ask parishioners to write or draw a note of thanks to them. Cards will be provided in the Gathering Space the weekends of August 24/25 & 8/31, 9/1.

Notes can be placed in the provided boxes and will be handed out at our 9/11 prayer service on 9/8 after the 11:30am mass.

Please join us for a Prayer Service on Sunday, Sept 8th in church after the 11:30am mass as we remember the horrific tragedy we experienced as a nation on 9/11/01.

All first responders are asked to join us as we honor them for their service to our community.



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, August 26, 2019

Our Lady of Czestochowa

8:00am †Mary Szlembariski (*Barbara Rendak*)
†Robert Montgomery, Sr. (*Wife & Children*)

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Saint Monica

8:00am †Philip Scaletta (*Arlene Scaletta*)

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

Saint Augustine, Bishop

8:00am Health and all the Lord's blessings Arlene Wilus
(*Mary Shilney*)

Thursday, August 29, 2019

The Passion of St. John the Baptist

8:00am Health and Birthday blessings on her 1st Birthday for
Victoria Sophia Battung (*Rosario Battung*)
†Roberto Rodriguez (*Inez Rodriguez*)

Friday, August 30, 2019

8:00am Health and Birthday Blessings for Jack Ruby
(*Mary Kolimas*)

Saturday, August 31, 2019

8:00am Health and all the Lord's blessings for Jack Ruby
(*Fr. Idzi*)

5:00pm †Colette "Cookie" Findysz (*Mary Kruzel*)
†Ann Marie Senase (*Senase Family*)
†James Senase, Jr. (*Senase Family*)

Sunday, September 1, 2019

7:30am †Tom Markham (*Mary Shilney*)
9:30am †John Mielnicki (*Family*)
†Jim Thorpe (*Joanne Tishka*)
†Nanette H. Thompson (*Esther & Vanessa Garza*)
†Dr. Gene I. Ridley (*Esther & Vanessa Garza*)
11:30am Health and Birthday blessings for Janina Mroczkowska
†Jim Thorpe (*Sue Gasior*)
†Tim Hurley - Uncle of Melanie DalPonte (*Judy Payne*)



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

Ignatius Battiato
Dorothy Bogumil
Fr. Ted Bojczuk
Pat Carmody
Michael Clifford
Florence Comiso
Chris Doherty
Juan Figueroa
Geri Gestaut
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
Antoinette Kloppman
Walter Kokoszka, Sr.
Claudia Kwilosz
Norman Kwilosz
James Lapsansky

Donna Lauritzen
Domenico Lepore
John Martini
Lou Mackey
Lori McCarthy
Kathleen McAuliffe
Thomas Minnich
Christine Mosqueda
Genevieve Nagle
Ray Oracki
Baby Alexander J Pentz
Gi Gi Picciolini
Marie Pratt
Ann Robertson
Edward Robertson
Fr. John Rudnik
Joseph Rudnik
Gloria Schillings
Coltyn Schmidt
Kristyn Schmidt
Chalida Svatisalee
Terry Styka
Mary Thorpe
Nancy Webb
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	Staff Sgt. Andrew Gaca, USAF
Sgt. Ted Bartelmey	Sgt. Michael Hough, US Army
CS-1 Joel Battung	Anthony Johaniewicz, US Navy
1st Sgt. Chas. Berglund, USMC	Lance Corp. Tim Lisenko, USMC
Sgt. Naveen Bobba, USMC	Trevor Lutz, US Army
Sgt. Arthur A. Boruch, National Guard	Corporal Zachary Maderak, USMC
Hospitalman Blythe A. Cisneros, USN	Pvt1st Class Daniel Morales, US Army
Airman Carlos Cisneros, USAF	SPC Alex Ramos
Sgt. Frank Cisneros, USMC	Staff Sgt. Abel Sandoval, USMC
Corpsman Nicholas J. Cundari-USN	WO-1 Richard Sobeske, US Army
Captain Kevin Dobbyn, US Army	Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Stuhlmacher
Sgt. John Flores, IL National Guard	1LT Zachary White, IL Army NG



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 Families,
Schools of Human Growth.

That families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly "schools of true human growth."



In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us to "strive to enter through the narrow gate." Our call to be disciples and to follow Jesus demands that we learn to live for the sake of others.

Thank you for your gift to the Society to assist those suffering in poverty within our community.

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

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

Kyle McHugh, a Saint Symphorosa graduate and member of Boy Scout Troop #1439, is currently working on his Eagle Scout project. He is collecting new school supplies (folder, notebooks, crayons, pencils, pens, paper, backpacks, etc.) that will be donated to a CPS elementary school. A box will be located in the back of Church for donations. Thank you very much for your support.



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 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.