

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



SEPTEMBER

27

2020

Humbly regard others as
more important than yourselves,
each looking out not
for his own interests,
but also for those of others.

Philippians 2:3-4

ST. SYMPHOROSA & ST. RENE PARISH

*St. Symphorosa & St. Rene Parish Office
6135 S. Austin Ave Chicago, IL 60638
(773) 767-1523*

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Fr. Bob's Weekly Blog

Welcome to the Parish of St. Symphorosa & St. Rene!!

C.S. Lewis regularly hit the nail on the proverbial head when he wrote.

Here's an example: "The Church exists for nothing else but to draw people into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time."

Wow! Pretty blunt. However, Mr. Clive Staples Lewis points out the essential purpose of the Church in the world -- to sanctify us. Everything Jesus gives us in and through His Church is for the sake of holiness. We risk losing sight of this core principle when we look exclusively to the world and away from God.

Pick a hot button topic of the day. Imagine two people doing their best to have this discussion about said hot topic. One of the two persons is living a life of authentic discipleship and has a conscience formed in regular prayer and Church teaching. The other person does not believe in God and claims that issues of right and wrong are decided by the individual. Do we think they will see the hot button issue from the same perspective? Unlikely, because they are using a different lens through which to see the world we live in now.

This is why the reception of the Sacraments is so important for us as human beings. Jesus didn't leave us the seven sacraments so that we could dress up and take pictures before going out for a nice luncheon. No, he gave us the Sacraments as avenues of grace. This grace fills us with Christ's life, something we cannot do on our own. Something supernatural is taking place when the sacraments are celebrated. This is not magic, but it is a Mystery.

When a child is baptized, an indelible mark is left on his or her soul. This child has become a child of God and entered into the Christian family, all the while the stain of Original Sin is washed away. That is a WOW moment. We want to encourage everyone to have your

children baptized. Perhaps part of the growing darkness we are experiencing in the world is because we have neglected the sacraments, become indifferent to the sacraments, or simply don't believe in the sacraments. Children go unbaptized. The Eucharist is viewed as a mere symbol instead of the Body of Christ. Confession is feared or mocked, etc. etc.

Certainly, our COVID-19 restrictions have hampered our availability to receive the sacraments, and this saddens me. We were too quick to shut everything down and not find some way to still deliver the sacraments. People felt abandoned during a very scary time. If the Church isn't there for us during a dark time, then who will be? The Church did Her best to provide online options, but I am sorry, Mass through the TV screen is not the same. I remember presiding at Mass this past Pentecost Sunday, which happened to be the weekend the riots started in Chicago. As I read the Gospel that talked about the disciples hiding behind locked doors in fear, I couldn't help but realize our church doors were locked out of fear. The irony! People were scared and our doors were locked.

We cannot continue to live in fear. Time and time again in scripture we are told "Do not be afraid!" And yet how easy it is to begin to fear. We fear growing violence, hostile conversations, corrosive politics, contagious viruses and increasing godlessness. People need the Church, and we need to have our arms open to receive those who want to walk away from the daily dose of despair. People want hope, and God gives us all the hope we need in a Person -- Jesus the Christ. Stay close, stay hope filled, and stay tuned. God will deliver. He promised and God does not lie. There will be a Cross (so accept it) and there will be a Resurrection (prepare for it).

Three voices among us.

Since July 1, 2020, there have been three priests presiding at Mass between our parish's two worship sites.

There is a beauty in hearing three different voices, and three different homily styles. Fr. Norm, Fr. Matt and myself have done our best to mix up the Masses so that no one priest presides at one specific Mass. Fr. Norm is a retired priest in residence and brings a lifetime of wisdom to his preaching. Fr. Matt is a veteran of 16 years and shares his love for the liturgy. The pastor, interestingly enough, is the baby of the group, having been ordained only 5 years, but I will admit to a lifetime of learning experience on my way to the altar.

My hope is that you see this all as a gift. To have three priests in a parish today is almost a luxury. Do the people of God have favorites? Seems so, but I encourage all of us to recognize the humanity of each priest (we are wounded just like you) but also in the context of Holy Mass, to see the priest standing in the Person of Jesus Christ. Mass is prayer, not entertainment. We come to worship God and, in turn, to be sanctified. We come to Mass to get away from the ordinariness of the world, to step into the extraordinariness of the place where heaven and earth meet. This is a great gift, even if the Mass runs over an hour sometimes or the homily isn't up to you personal preference. You can tell God all about it someday.

Thank God for the gift of the Eucharist, and please, pray for more faith-filled young men to answer God's call. We also want to pray for young men and women to discern a call to religious life. Now is the time for us to step up and bring the light of Christ into the darkness. God is still calling. Will young men and women listen to His call? Pray that they say YES!



Quote of the Week

"Faith is the vaccine against the dis-ease that ails our society."

~Unknown

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Robert Regan
Pastor

Rev. Matthew Compton
Associate Pastor

Rev. Ted Bojczuk
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Peter Paurazas
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Idzi Stacherczak
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Norman Trela
Retired Priest

Parish Staff

Ken Hilliard
Operations Director

Karen Hoogland
Business Manager

Steve Kittler
Music Director

Deacon Raul Duque
Parish Organist

Magdalan Barry
Irene Perconti
Administrative Assistants

Nancy Markham
Office Coordinator

Peg Siebenaler
Faith Formation

Kathy Berry
Principal

Chris Garza
Assistant Principal

Stanley Silacz
Mark Schusteric
Maintenance Supervisors

St. Symphorosa & St. Rene Parish Office

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

symphorosa@comcast.net (email)

Monday - Friday
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Saturday
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

St. Rene Worship Site

6949 W 63rd Place
Chicago, Illinois 60638

St. Symphorosa School

6125 S. Austin Ave
Chicago, Illinois 60638
(773) 585-6888

Sacrament of Penance

3:15-3:45pm every Saturday (St. Rene Site)
Offered by Appointment During the Week
Please call the Parish Office



Reopening Team In-Person Training

Our Reopening Team is offering the opportunity to complete the online training live, in-person, at St. Symphorosa on October 12, 2020. The training session will be held at 7pm in the Sharp Center (5940 W 62nd St.). This is a great opportunity to meet the team leaders, ask questions and share any concerns you may have.

All attendees must register by calling the parish office at (773) 767.1523. Social distancing guidelines will be followed during this meeting and masks are required in the building. Please contact Maggie (773.767.1523 ext. 221) in the parish office with any questions.



The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our most vulnerable neighbors across the country.

We are grateful for Vincentians' generous understanding, care, and partnership as you continue the Society's mission to feed, clothe, house, and heal friends in need.

As a trusted nonprofit organization, St. Vincent de Paul already serves those most likely to be hurt by the current economic crisis. Your continued support will transform the lives of those facing financial devastation.

Thank you for your donations in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box within our parish. Your continued support and generosity helps our St. Vincent de Paul Society help those in need within our community.



St. Symphorosa - St. Rene Altar and Rosary Society News

We invite all members to come celebrate Mass together on **Sunday, October 4th, 2020** at the **9am** Mass at the St. Symphorosa Worship Site.

The Altar and Rosary meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 6, 2020** from **12:30-2pm** in the **Sharp Center**, located at 5940 W 62nd St. The month of October Honors the Blessed Mother with the title of our Lady of the Rosary and we will honor her at our meeting.

St. Symphorosa - St. Rene Parish presents.....

Blessing of Animals

Sunday, October 4th
St. Rene Campus

Located at the corner of
New England Ave and 64th St.

**1:30pm - Prayer Service &
General Blessing**

**1:40pm - 2:15pm
Individual Blessing**



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

For the repose of the souls of Elizabeth & William Bojarski
given by Barb Rendak

For the repose of the souls of the John Densa Family
given by Daughter and Sister, Rosemary Litwin

For the repose of the souls of John W., John T.,
& Bernice M. Comise
given by John W. Comise

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



Do You Play a Musical Instrument, and Would You Like to Play Your Music in Church?

If you are a student at St. Symphorosa School, or are an RE Student at St. Symphorosa & St. Rene Parish, and play any instrument, I would like to teach you the music of our faith, and then use this music in the worship of our God at Mass. The experience of worshiping through music is a lasting gift that will stay with you into adulthood. As you enhance your musical skills and learn our music traditions, you will build courage to present your talents to the entire church.

Parents, whatever your children learn through music will have a significant impact on their beliefs, values, and perceptions for life. Think about what your children are hearing on a daily basis. What are they hearing about the world they live in, and the God who created it? By the time your children are 18, they have an estimated 10,000 songs in their heads. You can ensure that a good portion of those tunes honor Jesus and change hearts and lives.

Music is celebrated as one of the gifts that God gives to us. Playing an instrument at Mass is an expression of praise to God. Encourage your child to take advantage of this opportunity. If you are interested, talk to your teacher, contact me at Church, or talk to me after any Mass. I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Steve Kittler
Director of Music



St. Symphorosa & St. Rene Parish
invites you to a



Saturday, October 3, 2020
5:30pm – 7:30pm
5940 West 62nd Street

Fish Dinner \$10.00
Kids Meal \$5.00
Pierogi 4 for \$4.00



Our stewardship is a combined total
from the St. Rene and St. Symphorosa
Worship Sites.

Offerings for the weekend of: Sunday, September 20, 2020
Contribution: \$6,820.00

Thank you for your generosity!



Split the Pot
September 20, 2020
Received this week: \$140.00
Winning envelope: #7074

*Last week's winning envelope was inadvertently omitted.
Our winner last week was envelope #3309*

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



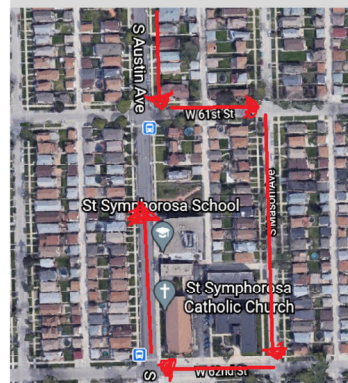
ST. SYMPHOROSA ROCKSTARS HONOR OUR FIRST RESPONDERS ON THE FEAST DAY OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL



**Who: First Responders
that live and work in
our community**

**When: Tuesday,
September 29th
between 10:15-10:45am**

**What: Drive along the
route pictured so that
our students can say
thank you!**



Dates: August 17, 2020 to
September 6, 2020

Transactions: 126 Amount: \$4,212.00

*The grass withers, the flower
wilt, but the word of our God
stands forever. (Isa 40:8)*



WELCOME FAMILIES TO ST. SYMPHOROSA AND ST. RENE PARISH FAITH FORMATION



Faith Formation Office
Phone: (773) 767-1523 x226
Email: msiebenaler@archchicago.org
Coordinator: Peg Siebenaler

PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION

Our level seven and level eight students, along with their parents, will participate in a Commitment Service in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. During the upcoming year these students will seek service opportunities to help them grow in discipleship as they serve those in need. We invite you to please remember them in your prayers during this time of preparation.



FIRST RECONCILIATION PARENT MEETING

During this month of October, our Second Grade parents from the Faith Formation Program and St. Symphorosa Catholic School will gather for a special meeting in preparation for their child's celebration of First Reconciliation which takes place in December.

We initially prepare our children for this sacrament as we teach them about right and wrong. And way before they understand what sin is, we teach them to say "I'm sorry" when they have done wrong or have hurt someone. Once again, we emphasize that parents are the first and primary catechists of their children, using "teachable moments" to help their children grow in faith.

The focus of the Parent Gathering will be to honor your role as parents and assist you in that role.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9/29 Faith Formation Classes Begin - St. Rene (Tues.)
- 9/30 Faith Formation Classes Begin - St. Rene (Wed.)
- 10/4 Pet Blessing
St. Rene Campus - 1:30pm



**October is
the month of
the Holy
Rosary.**



Confirmation Parent/ Student/Sponsor Meeting

We will welcome our Confirmandi, their parents and sponsors to a Confirmation Preparation meeting. (Date TBA) Our own Pastor, Fr. Robert Regan will be the Presenter. We happily anticipate his time with us because we know he will encourage our Confirmation candidates to share the good news of Jesus by their witness to Gospel values and their care for those in need. Please remember to include the Confirmation Candidates, their parents, and their sponsors in your prayers.

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Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, September 26, 2020 *Saint Cosmas; Saint Damian*

4:00pm *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Matt

5:30pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Norm

†Eliza Gose & Maria Luna (*Almendarez Family*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

†Gary Nagle (*Nagle Family*)

†Georgianna Richards (*Family*)

Sunday, September 27, 2020

7:30am *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Matt

9:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

†Jill Szkapiak (*Micaela Zamudio*)

†Robert Traynor (*Phyllis Traynor*)

†Carolyn Madej (*Dad Ray*)

†Mary Lou Markese (*Rose Gurgone*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

†Frances (Paco) Calderon (*Family*)

†Christopher Gallas (*Marie Zilka*)

†Catherine Bartuch Morrell (*Family*)

†Jack Orsi (*Gloria & John Bodoki*)

†John Dragosetti (*Rosario Dragosetti*)

†Daniel Woulfe (*Woulfe Family*)

Monday, September 28, 2020 *Saint Wenceslaus; Saint Lawrence Ruiz*

8:00am *St. Rene Church*

Health & speedy surgery recovery for Arlene Wilus (*Bible Study Group*)

†Fred Borowski (*Geri Tomaselli*)

†John Shimkus (*Barbara Rendak*)

†Robert Traynor - 2nd Anniversary of his passing (*Wife, Phyllis Traynor*)

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 *Saint Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael, Archangels*

8:00am *St. Rene Church*

†Anna & Michael Krzan (*Soltis Family*)

†Roberto Rodriguez (*Ines Rodriguez*)

Wednesday, September 30, 2020 *Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

8:00am *St. Rene Church*

†Richard Zilka (*Marie Zilka*)

Thursday, October 1, 2020

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus

Thank you to the most Sacred Heart of Jesus for favors granted for my husband - Edward Robertson (*Ann Robertson*)

†Anthony Barone (*Bianchi Family*)

†Catherine O'Brien (*Family*)

Friday, October 2, 2020

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

The Holy Guardian Angels

†Mildred Denwood (*Capparelli Family*)

Saturday, October 3, 2020

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Health & all the Lord's blessings for St. Symphorosa & St. Rene Parishioners, Living & Deceased

†Phyllis Traynor (*Family*)

4:00pm *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

5:30pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

Health & all the Lord's blessings for Mike and Peggy Murphy on their 50th Wedding Anniversary (*Family*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

Presider: Fr. Matt

Sunday, October 4, 2020

7:30am *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

9:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Norm

†Jill Szkapiak (*Micaela Zamudio*)

†Nancy Halper (*Maryann Werr*)

†Dorothy Madej (*Husband Ray*)

†Agnes Shilney (*Mary Shilney*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

†Charles Parillo (*Rose Gurgone*)

Health & all the Lord's blessings for Raymond Fendler (*Mary Wassink & Julie Kowal*)

†Vincent Salamendo (*Terri & Dan Domarsky*)

†Raymond Sutkowski (*Sutkowski Family*)

†Joseph Pavlik, Jr. (*Barbara Rendak*)

10:30am *St. Rene Church*

†Presider: Fr. Matt

12:00pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

Weekend Presider subject to change without notice



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

Martin Adelsbach
Judy Adelsbach
Larry Adkins
Guadalupe Almendarez
Kim Argires
Ignatius Battiato
Elizabeth Bedran
Carl Bell
Mary Bieser
Fr. Ted Bojczuk
Lydia Brown
Joanne Bukowiecki
Gina Camp
Pat Carmody
Judy Carranza
Dominic Ciampaglia
Margaret Ciampaglia
Michael Clifford
Marilyn Crites
Norma De Stefano
Chris Doherty
Juan Figueroa
Mitchell Gallas
Geri Gestaut
Carol Gress
Suzann Gunter
Kathy Haars
Catherine Hier
Megan High
Robert Hilbruner
Heather Hradek
Denise M. Jandura
Rich S. Jandura
Joan Juris
Pete Kats
Lee Karpinski
Dennis Kline
Walter Kokoszka, Sr.
Claudia Kwilosz
Norman Kwilosz
James Lapsansky
Maryann Larson
Donna Lauritzen

Domenico Lepore
Rose Ann Lindsay
Debbie Lipien
Maria & Martinez Family
John Martini
Marge Masunas
Lori McCarthy
Ed McGriff
Thomas Minnich
Christine Mosqueda
Genevieve Nagle
William Nita
Carol Oles
Florence Panzarella
Eleanor Pastorek
Baby Alexander J Pentz
Gi Gi Piccolini
Rochelle Piegari
Marie Pratt
Ann Robertson
Edward Robertson
Fr. John Rudnik
Joseph Rudnik
Coltyn Schmidt
Kristyn Schmidt
Marge Schmidt
Judith Siwek
Elliana Sterk
Brian Styka
Sr. Christine Styka
Terry Styka
Michael Tallon
Sandra Tallon
Mary Thorpe
Scott Tloczek
Shirley Tloczek
George Trendle
Judith Webber
Joan Wilhelmy
Richard Zaleski
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 Bartelme
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 Johaniewicz, US Navy
Corporal Noah M. Kanie, 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 Stuhlmecher
LCpl. Justin R. Thorpe, USMC
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 September is for Respect for the Planet's Resources. We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.

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.

Millie Gatto

Michael Soja, Sr.



Flood Brothers

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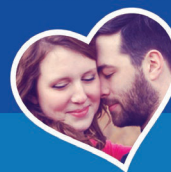
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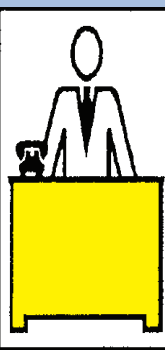
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