

# 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

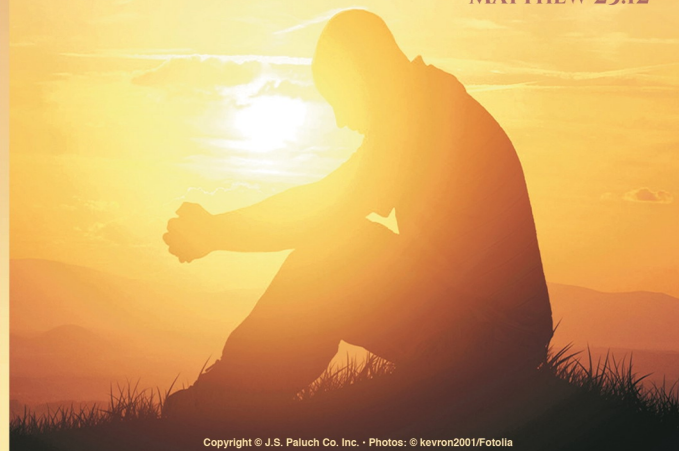
Weekdays: 8:00 am  
Monday through Saturday

Holy Days:  
7:30am, 9:30 am and 7:00 pm

NOVEMBER 5, 2017  
THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*The greatest among you  
must be your servant.  
Whoever exalt themselves  
will be humbled;  
but whoever  
humble themselves  
will be exalted.*

MATTHEW 23:12



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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 31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Today's Gospel Reading, [Mt. 23:1-12] is showing us how Jesus denounced the scribes and the Pharisees. Jesus began by stating that the scribes and the Pharisees sat on Moses' seat, this meaning that they had the authority to teach the Law. As such, the people were required to obey the Law. Jesus was not attacking the Law but the scribes and the Pharisees whose teachings were not in harmony with their practice. They did not practice what they were preaching to the others.

Jesus had two complaints: the harshness in which the scribes explained the Law to the people and the conceit and hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees. When they explained the Law, the scribes would ignore the humane interpretation of it. While they commanded others to obey the Law without any deviation from it, they themselves were not doing it. Everything they did was to be seen.

They made their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. Phylacteries were small boxes that contained parchment on which was written the text of Exodus 13:1-16, Deuteronomy 6:4-6 and 11:13-21. They fastened these to their left wrist and to their forehead in such a way so that they would hang in front of their eyes. This gave the appearance that their eyes were always set on the Laws of God. Then, on the four corners of their cloak, they wore tassels in observance of Numbers 15:38-9 as reminders of the Law. The bigger these were, the better impression it gave that they had a great devotion.

Jesus continued to condemn the scribes and Pharisees for seeking the places of honor at feasts and in the

synagogues. They loved to be greeted in the marketplaces.

Having said this, Jesus condemned them for using the titles of rabbi, father and instructor. They should not be called rabbi because they have one teacher, they being a student. No one should be called father for they have one Father in Heaven. And they are not to be called instructor for the one instructor is the Messiah.

Jesus did not condemn others from calling some people fathers. In fact, in the First Letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul referred to himself as the spiritual father of the Corinthians. *"For though you might have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers. Indeed, in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel."* [1 Cor. 4:15] Had the word father been condemned for everybody, surely, Paul would never have used it.

Jesus finished His message by saying that the greatest is the one who is the servant. Those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who are humble will be exalted. In other words, one should wait until such time as God grants him a place of honor. He should not be creating his own place of honor.

As you can see, the scribes and the Pharisees were not committed to sharing the love of God. They applied self-love! What did self-love get them? It received criticism from Jesus who is the Word of God. For us Christians to be committed to sharing the love of God, we must do the opposite of what the scribes and the Pharisees were doing.

We must be humble! We must serve others! We must not draw attention to our prayer lives in order to receive worldly praise.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." [Mt. 6:5-6]

If we practice what we preach, if we live by our beliefs, we ourselves will be the first to benefit. But we will also set a good example for others. People whose religion begins and ends with worship and ritual practices are like soldiers forever maneuvering, but never getting into action, or football players forever training but never actually playing a competitive game. Like beautiful flowers full of color but without scent, so are the well chosen words of the person who does not act accordingly.

What great prophets have said is forgotten but what heroes and saints have done is still remembered. There can be no happiness for us as long as the things we believe in are different from the things we do.

We don't have to put on an outward show, or pretend to be what we are not. All we have to do is try to be true to what we are—God's sons and daughters.

~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.***





**October 29, 2017**  
**Received this week:**  
**\$ 497.00**

**Envelopes Entered: 97**

**This week's winner is envelope # 50364**

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



**Offerings for the weekend of October 29, 2017**

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

**Contributions: \$6441.67**

**# of Envelopes: 306**

**Disaster Relief Collection: \$1,331.00**

**Thank you for your generosity and continued support!**



In a special way, all of our Veteran's will be recognized during our weekend masses on November 11th & 12th. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

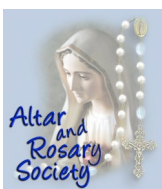
**Come Paint With Us!!!**  
**Sunday, November 12, 2017**  
**2:00pm – 4:30pm**  
**St. Symphorosa I Hall**  
**6148 S. Mason Avenue, Chicago, IL**  
*\*Cost is \$35.00 per person and includes canvas, paints, supplies and instructions. No experience necessary.*  
*\*Tickets are advanced purchase only.*

Tickets will be sold after all masses on the weekend of October 28/29 and November 4/5. Hope you can join us!



On Tuesday, December 12th, the Super Club will host their annual Christmas Party at Mayfield Banquet, 6072 S. Archer. Cost is \$27.00 per person and includes Family Style Dinner, Dessert, Open Bar and Entertainment. Payment must be made by November 9, 2017. Checks should be made payable to: St. Symphorosa Senior Club. Questions? Please contact Alberta Kwiatkowski at 708-354-1608.

The Altar & Rosary will hold a 12th annual Salad Luncheon in lieu of this month's meeting. If you bring a salad, there is no cost to you. If you don't bring a salad, the cost is \$7.00. Past luncheons have included green salad, pasta salad, cole slaw, potato salad, jello salad. There is something for everyone. The luncheon will be held in the Social Hall of the Sharp Center on Tuesday, November 7th from 12:00pm—2:00pm. Come join us for some great food and fellowship. All members of our parish are invited to attend.



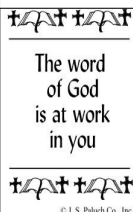
## 2017 Annual Report Summary

The St. Symphorosa Annual Report Summary, which you will find inserted into today's bulletin, was developed to share a financial picture of the Parish for the past year. While the Parish operated at a deficit of approximately \$237,000, there are many positives that are moving the Parish in a favorable direction. Likewise, the Finance Council will be sharing some of these highlights with you, during Mass.

As always, your ongoing generosity is most appreciated throughout the year. Please continue to invite and welcome family friends, and neighbors to our wonderful St. Symphorosa Church and School. Financial reports are simply measuring sticks that allow us to ensure the continuation of our real Mission. Likewise, let's all make a "non-financial" commitment to fill the pews in our Church during the coming Season of Advent and beyond.

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.



Next Sunday, November 12th, we will welcome our 6th graders and their families to the 9:30am Family Mass.



**Mark Your Calendar!**

**CAPS Beat 812 Meeting this Wednesday,**  
**November 8 at 7pm in the Social Hall**  
**(Sharp Center)**



## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Extravaganza Luncheon, Vendor and Craft Fair Sunday, November 19, 2017 Sharp Center – Social Hall

Luncheon Tickets: \$15.00 for Adults and \$14.00 for Seniors  
 Includes: Roasted Chicken, Roast Beef, Potato, Dumplings, Sauerkraut  
 Mixed Vegetables, Dessert and Coffee/Tea

Tickets will be sold after all masses on weekend of November 4/5 and 11/12.





Preschool went on an exciting field trip to Siegel's Cottonwood Farm where the children met Farmer Paul. They learned a lot about pumpkins, and went on hay rides and train rides, too. It was a lot of fun and the classes learned a lot.

In Reading, Kindergarteners continue to learn letters with their Superkids friends. They are blending sounds together and are excited to be traveling on the road to becoming readers. In Social Studies they have studied the season of autumn as well as the many wonderful ways to use apples. In Science they learned about bats and other nocturnal animals, and the moon and the astronauts. The children learned about the Church year and ordinary time in Religion class, and each time they are in Church, they gather together after Mass to notice special objects in God's House. Kindergarteners are working hard with Math word problems, making sure to notice important information, and they are learning how to decide if a problem requires addition or subtraction.

In first grade, the class is learning about Jesus and His many followers. They are practicing how to recognize patterns in text, through poems and stories from their Superkids writing program. Students have been writing sentences about connected events to improve spelling and printing skills. In Math, the children have conquered addition and subtraction strategies and are now working on counting and modeling numbers. They are learning about the Earth and its many resources in both Science and Social Studies. First graders are also very excited to start practicing for the annual Christmas play that will be coming up in December.

The second graders have been learning about Baptism and their Baptismal promises in Religion. They are learning to read with expression, make and confirm predictions, and write poetry in Language Arts. Making predictions helped them in Science when they predicted weather patterns three times a day for a week on their own weather charts. They made picture diaries in Social Studies to learn about the Earth's many landforms, and in Math the class learned place value and compared numbers to 1,000.

In Religion, the third graders have been studying when and how the Church began. They are also exhibiting model Christian behavior by what they say and do, and generously made placemats to give to the residents in a nursing home. During Math, the class has been practicing graphing skills by making and analyzing different styles of graphs.

The fourth grade is learning how they can be better disciples of God, and they are learning about sin and the negative effects it has on their lives and the lives of others. Also, the class is working on organizing their writing to include strong topic sentences, descriptive supporting details and interesting closing sentences.

Fifth graders are praying a decade of the rosary every day, and they are learning more about Baptism in Religion. In Reading the class is com-

paring different texts by theme, setting, conflict and solution. The children have memorized the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution and are learning about diversity in Social Studies. They are working on analyzing different types of nouns in English as well as presenting their own short stories to the rest of the class. Math brings division by one and two digits, graphing, estimating and problem solving. During Science the class has wrapped up the plant unit and now looks forward to studying weather. Note taking will be the focus during the next few chapters.

In sixth grade English class, the students have finished their first writing unit and they created different narrative papers based on notes taken about their lives. Their Science work continues to be on cells, as the class learns the phases of mitosis. During Math they are multiplying and dividing decimals, rational numbers, expressions, equations, and multiplying and dividing fractions. India is the destination for Social Studies, as the class studies the culture to better understand how the people live. Sixth graders are examining the two Biblical stories of Creation in Religion, and they are evaluating the author's tone and the mood that is created in a literature selection during Reading class.

The students in seventh grade have been focusing on informational text during English class, and working with their interactive notebooks to gain a better understanding about the different parts of the text. They are studying "The Prayer of St Francis" in Religion by looking closely at the words and their meaning, and they are discussing the mystery of the Trinity. During Reading the class has been immersed in the book The Outsiders, and they are making text to text connections as well as text to self connections. In Social Studies they began the study of the 13 colonies, and they are enjoying learning about point and nonpoint pollution sources in Science. In Math the seventh grade is studying multiplication and division of rational numbers, expressions, equations, and unit rates.

In Eighth grade English, the students are working with punctuation and its importance in writing. They finished their first writing unit of narrative writing and worked on analyzing the Aspire rubric. They have finished the Bacteria Unit in Science and will continue on to Ecology after a brief dip into the Plant chapter. The class read the book Nightjohn in Social Studies and then watched the movie in order to compare and contrast the two versions; from the reader's point of view and the director's point of view. In Math, the eighth grade is studying proportional relationships, rate of change, slope, analyzing patterns, radicals and integer exponents, and they have been busy during their stock market class. In Reading, the class is also reading The Outsiders to prepare for an upcoming activity day at DeLaSalle High School. They are analyzing many different literary elements in the novel. In Religion the class is learning about the obligations and challenges of God's Commandments, Holy Days of Obligation, and the many titles given to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The class is eagerly preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation by choosing their Confirmation name.



Our Second Collection next weekend is for our Parish Building & Maintenance Fund!  
Thank you for your generosity!!

A special word of thanks to those parishioners who answered our request for spring flower bulbs. We are so pleased to announce that over 400 bulbs were donated and have been planted around our parish campus.

Spring time will be very beautiful and special thanks to your kind generosity!

God Bless You!

~Fr. Idzi

  
*Thank you*

As we prepare for this year's Giving Tree Project, we are once again asking for volunteers to assist in putting together the ornaments. Volunteers are asked to attach a ribbon and label to the ornament.

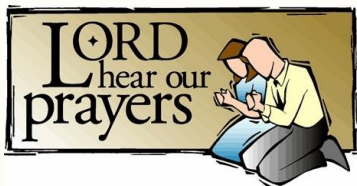


If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact the Parish Office at 773-767-1523 or Mary Lou Kolasinski at [kolasinski@aol.com](mailto:kolasinski@aol.com). The packet of supplies will be available for pick up in the Rectory on Friday, November 10, 2017.

All completed ornaments should be returned to the rectory by Wednesday, November 15, 2017.

Thank you for your help!





A great way to pray is to look for God's presence in your life. More than 400 years ago St. Ignatius Loyola encouraged prayer-filled mindfulness by proposing what has been called the Daily Examen. The Examen is a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God's presence and to discern his direction for us. Try this version of St. Ignatius's prayer.

**1. Become aware of God's presence.** Look back on the events of the day in the company of the Holy Spirit. The day may seem confusing to you—a blur, a jumble, a muddle. Ask God to bring clarity and understanding.

**2. Review the day with gratitude.** Gratitude is the foundation of our relationship with God. Walk through your day in the presence of God and note its joys and delights. Focus on the day's gifts. Look at the work you did, the people you interacted with. What did you receive from these people? What did you give them? Pay attention to small things—the food you ate, the sights you saw, and other seemingly small pleasures. God is in the details.

**3. Pay attention to your emotions.** One of St. Ignatius's great insights was that we detect the presence of the Spirit of God in the movements

of our emotions. Reflect on the feelings you experienced during the day. Boredom? Elation? Resentment? Compassion? Anger? Confidence? What is God saying through these feelings?

God will most likely show you some ways that you fell short. Make note of these sins and faults. But look deeply for other implications. Does a feeling of frustration perhaps mean that God wants you consider a new direction in some area of your work? Are you concerned about a friend? Perhaps you should reach out to her in some way.

**4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.** Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you to something during the day that God thinks is particularly important. It may involve a feeling—positive or negative. It may be a significant encounter with another person or a vivid moment of pleasure or peace. Or it may be something that seems rather insignificant. Look at it. Pray about it. Allow the prayer to arise spontaneously from your heart—whether intercession, praise, repentance, or gratitude.

**5. Look toward tomorrow.** Ask God to give you light for tomorrow's challenges. Pay attention to the feelings that surface as you survey what's coming up. Are you doubtful? Cheerful? Apprehensive? Full of delighted anticipation? Allow these feelings to turn into prayer. Seek God's guidance. Ask him for help and understanding. Pray for hope.

St. Ignatius encouraged people to talk to Jesus like a friend. End the Daily Examen with a conversation with Jesus. Ask forgiveness for your sins. Ask for his protection and help. Ask for his wisdom about the questions you have and the problems you face. Do all this in the spirit of gratitude. Your life is a gift, and it is adorned with gifts from God. End the Daily Examen with the Our Father.

*Thank you!*

Please join me in thanking our Scouts for their help in "sprucing up" our church by cleaning the pews and the floors. Gentlemen, we truly appreciate your hard work and efforts in keeping our parish church clean!

~Fr. Idzi



With our 4th Annual Holiday Extravaganza only two weeks away, 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!



Check out our new parish website @ [stsymphorosa.org](http://stsymphorosa.org)

Lots of great info to keep you up to date.

There's never a teardrop that God doesn't see.

He knows when a sparrow falls from a tree.

There's never a moment when God doesn't care;

Never a time when He won't hear our prayer.





## We Remember and Celebrate

### Mass Intentions

#### Monday, November 6, 2017

8:00 am For All Parishioners (27)

#### Tuesday, November 7, 2017

8:00am † Kathy Arvetis—Husband  
† In Memory of Val Pikus  
Health of Leona Altman—Arlene Scaletta  
Health for Eileen & Terry Styka—Sister Christine

#### Wednesday, November 8, 2017

8:00am † John & Irene Simonelli—Simonelli Family  
† Karol Marlec—Daughter  
† Joanna Marlec—Daughter

#### Thursday, November 9, 2017—The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

8:00 am † Robert Neumann—May Carbo

#### Friday, November 10, 2017—St. Leo the Great

8:00 am † Charlotte Wentz—Barbara Sukalo

#### Saturday, November 11, 2017—St. Martin of Tours; Veterans Day

8:00 am Helen Lis—Bill Travers  
Paula Silva—Dad  
Ed Wozniak—Barb Grzenia  
1:00pm Wedding: Charlene Wisniewski & Peter Cortez  
3:00pm Wedding: Lauren Dyrcon & Joshua Haluska  
5:00pm Joseph Slowinski, Daniel Gasior, Sr. & Ryan Wilson—,  
Slowinski & Gasior Families  
Tom & Margaret DeRose—Doherty Family  
† Janet Molnar—Family  
Malgorzata Stoch—Janina Stoch (Mom)  
† Albert J. Gress—Family

#### Sunday, November 12, 2017—32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 am Urban & Connie Zielinski—Clara Wiatrak  
† Blanche Marcukaitis—Family  
† Karol Michalak—Niece  
† Josephine Michalak—Niece  
9:30 am † Carmela Melone—Frank Mondia & Family  
† Bertha Alvarado—Garza Family  
† Miguel Alvarado—Garza Family  
11:30am † Richard Montwill—Art, Bess & Diane Smagala  
† May Budz—Barbara Rendak  
† Felix Maysonet, Sr.—Garza Family  
1:00pm Baptisms



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, Ben Sajdak, William Schrimpl, Dorothy Sniezewski, 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  
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 Johaniwicz, 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



### Wedding Banns

III-Charlene Wisniewski & Peter Cortez

III-Lauren Dyrcon & Joshua Haluska

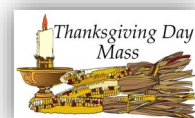
*Let us pray.....*

*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.*

*In loving memory*



**Elizabeth "Betty" Lachtara**  
**Guadalupe De La Cruz**  
**Edmund Mallo**



### 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!