ST. SYMPHOROSA PARISH

A Family Celebrating Faith

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus sent out the Twelve. These twelve were selected from among Jesus' disciples and named by Mark in chapter 3. Mark notes that these twelve are also called "apostles." The word apostle means "one who is sent." The number twelve is also a symbolic number, representing the twelve tribes of Israel. By naming twelve apostles, Jesus shows his mission to be in continuity with the mission of God's people, Israel.

Jesus began to send them out in pairs. This was an important aspect of their mission – they must work together. He also gave them authority over unclean spirits. They must go among those members of the human race who control and influence what is wrong in the world. The true spirit of God will always prevent us from looking at those different from ourselves as evil-doers or wrong in some way; an "evil spirit" always works against this.

We as true disciples of Jesus are reminded of times when we too felt within ourselves a desire to "summon" a group of disciples. We wanted them to be more like us. We wanted to send them out into the world to make it more as we would like it to be. The passage is telling us that when we feel like that we are closer to the spirit of Jesus.

Jesus' instructions to the apostles are very specific. He repeats the mission that they are sent to preach and to share his authority to heal and to drive out demons. Jesus sends them in pairs, establishing his mission as a communal endeavor. Jesus also instructs them to travel lightly, without the customary food, money, and extra set of clothes. These instructions mean that the Twelve will be dependent on the hospitality of others, just as Jesus depended on others to provide for his needs.

Jesus continues to send us into the world as his disciples. But like the first disciples, we are not sent alone. Jesus has given us the community of the Church, which strengthens our life of discipleship. The Christian message can only authentically be proclaimed in and through the community of faith that is the Church. In our work with others, we build this community of faith and can invite others to share in it.

As Paul tells the Ephesians and as Paul tells us today, each one of us, every one of us, have been chosen by God.

He choose you! He choose you to be set apart from the world but still very much in it. He choose you to be spotless, not through your actions but through his forgiveness. He choose you, to be His daughter or His Son. He choose you to live with Him in love.

You are part of Gods plan, you are to play a part in his Glory. You have heard the message of Christ, a message of love, repentance and redemption. To believe in this message, is to accept Gods choice, to realize that you are special in the eyes of God, that you have been called to serve.

Our world is in need of our teaching, our love, our service. There are many out there who don't understand our Church, who have never heard in their hearts the call of Christ. There are many out there who are in need of healing, body and soul. There are many out there who need feeding, who need to be cared for, who need to be loved. Christ has built an eternal Church, towering throughout the ages, blazing with the lives of the saints, to continue His Work and His mission. Each generation passing His Church to the next. Today, you are that Church, how are you going to serve? What is Jesus asking you to do?

Finally, in order to make sure that his disciples did not lose focus of this purpose, Christ instructed them on how to go about their mission. Jesus knew the influence of materialism and that any soul taken captive by it will definitely lose focus of his mission. That was why he instructed his disciple against it. So, to succeed in the mission of Christ, we must be careful about materialism, extreme capitalism and, anything that could distract us from fulfilling God's purpose and will for choosing us. Therefore, abiding by the instructions of Jesus is a sure means of fulfilling God's purpose. Whereas, neglecting them is the easiest way of loosing focus and falling. Sadly, most of us pastors, priests and religious and of course, the people of God have lost focus of our mission by disobeying the instructions of Christ. We have become so distracted that we no longer pay attention to the main purpose of our mission and call as Christians. This is the reason we achieve little. So, we must constantly remind ourselves that God chose us for a purpose and, must strive to achieve it.

At the end of every mass we are sent to go into the world and be Jesus to everyone we meet. We are inspired by the words of scripture and strengthened by the Eucharist. Our lives are an ongoing mission of being Jesus' disciples to the world.

~Fr. Idzi

Today's Responsorial Psalm Is:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, thirsting for you, my God.
My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, thirsting for you, my God,
thirsting for you, my God.

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—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

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

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www.stsymphorosa.org
symphorosa@comcast.net

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

What's Happening??

Join our parish email list and receive weekly updates on all that's happening here at St. Symphorosa. Simply log onto http://eepurl.com/cZLtQD and sign up today!

In Celebration of the Feast of St. Symphorosa

My Dear Parishioners & Friends,

Please join as we celebrate the Feast of St. Symphorosa, our Parish Patroness, at all masses the weekend of July 21st and 22nd.

I invite you to also join us for hospitality in the Social Hall of the Sharp Center immediately following.

We hope to see you that weekend as we celebrate a very important day in the life of our parish faith community.

May God Bless St. Symphorosa Parish!

~Fr. Idzi

Ever wonder if you could sponsor the Sanctuary Candle?

Well, if so, then the opportunity to do just that is here. Beginning in August, any St. Symphorosa Parish community member can stop by the parish office and sponsor our Sanctuary Candle for an entire calendar month. More than one person or family may sponsor during the same month but no more than 3. Your sponsorship will be acknowledged, along with the intention of the lit candle, during the chosen month in the Sunday bulletin. The cost to sponsor the candle will be $40.

If you have any questions please contact the Parish Office at (773)767-1523.

Have you ever taken a walk through the Rev. Msgr. Maniola Prayer Garden, looking at the engraved bricks, and wondered how nice it would be to purchase a brick for the walkway.

Well, now is your chance. We are going to be accepting orders for engraved bricks to be placed in the Rev. Msgr. Maniola Prayer Garden this coming fall. As of this week order forms can be picked up in the Rectory Office, the gathering space of Church, or orders can be made directly online at our site:

http://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/symsbricks

The site allows you to purchase the brick using a debit or credit card through Paypal as a guest or with your Paypal account.

Bricks are being offered in 4x8 and 8x8 sizes. There is also the option to purchase a souvenir brick (an exact miniature replica and only in red, like a paperweight, of your purchased brick). Please notate your order form if you would like to purchase a charcoal brick to be placed in the First Responders Memorial area.

Please contact Maggie in the Rectory Office at (773) 767-1523 ext. 221 with any questions you may have. Thank you for your purchase, support and donation. It is always greatly appreciated.

Over the past few weeks, members of our Parish Transformation Team have worked tirelessly to beautify the grounds around our Church, Rectory and Sharp Center. Weeds were pulled, bushes trimmed, flowers planted and mulch spread in the flower beds.

I would personally like to thank the following individuals for their dedication and effort: Nancy Bayo, Mary Lou Kolasinski, Ray Kolasinski, Ceil Kucinsky, Jeannine Lascola, Arlene Wilus, Larry Wisniewski, Bernadette Wodke and Monica Wodke.

Thank you once again and may God bless you with all good things!

~Fr. Idzi

Split the Pot

July 1, 2018
Received this week: $405

July 1, 2018 winning envelope # 1400

July 8, 2018
Received this week: $431

July 8, 2018 winning envelope # 3207

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

Stewardship

Offerings for the weekend of July 1, 2018

Weekly Budget (Est.): $9,000.00

Contributions: $6,979.25
Envelopes: 285

Offerings for the weekend of July 8, 2018

Weekly Budget (Est.): $9,000.00

Contributions: $5,575.40
Envelopes: 285

Thank you for your support & generosity!

5th Annual Holiday Extravaganza

Sunday, November 18, 2018
10:30am – 2:30pm
Sharp Center

Interested in participating as a Vendor or Crafter for this year's show?

Email symshe2018@yahoo.com to request an application.

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 July is for Priests and their Pastoral Ministry.

That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, July 16, 2018
8:00am Health & Blessings for Hellen Mallo—Family

Tuesday, July 17, 2018
8:00am †Robert Montgomery, Sr.—Wife
†Marian Tisonczyk—Ilona Szkodon

Wednesday, July 18, 2018
Saint Camillus de Lellis, Priest
8:00am †John Kolimas—Wife & Family

Thursday, July 19, 2018
8:00am †Melinda Mackey (3rd Anniversary)—Nancy Markham

Friday, July 20, 2018
Saint Apollinaris, Bishop Martyr
8:00am †Michael Camerano—Wife
†Maria Gawełda—Ilona Szkodon
†Edward Toczylowski—Bernadette & Monica Wodke

Saturday, July 21, 2018
Saint Lawrence of Brindisi
8:00am †Carolyn Pysac—Family
5:00pm †Greg Golab—Mom & Matt
†Baldomero Gonzales, Jr.—Wife & Sons
†Beverlie Bailey—The Lane Family

Sunday, July 22, 2018
7:30am †Claude Wiatrak—Wife Clara
†Nick Bouzios—Janina
†Robert Huber—Mary Gleeson
†Robert J. Ketchen, Sr.—Family
9:30am †Renata Domalik (10yr Anniversary)
—Family Kisielewski
†Bożena Kisielewski—Family Kisielewski
Health & Blessing for Richard Koziar—Arlene Scaletta
11:30am †Mary Rafacz—Ida Marie Renard

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.

Prayer Tree

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

Dorothy Bogumil
Fr. Ted Bojczuk
Pat Carmody
Michael Clifford
Charles DeLauriea
Chris Doherty
Carol Golab
Kathy Haars
Erica Heilmann
Heather Hradek
Denise M. Jandura
Rich S. Jandura
Lee Karpinski
Jean Kibler
Claudia Kwilosz
Norman Kwilosz
James Lapsansky
Marie Lapsansky
Donna Lauritzen
Michael Loduca
John Martini
Lou Mackey
Christine Mosqueda
Genevieve Nagle
Helen Naughton
Joe Paciga
Baby Alexander J Pentz
Gi Gi Picciolini
Ann Robertson
Fr. John Rudnik
Joseph Rudnik
Ben Sajdak
Marie Simonetti
James Suchy
Chalida Svatisalee
Eileen Styka
Terry Styka
Michelle

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
Pvt1st Class Daniel Morales, US Army
SPC Alex Ramos
Staff Sgt. Abel Sandoval, USMC
Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Stuhlmacher
1LT Zachary White, IL Army NG

† St. Vincent de Paul Society of Neighbors helping neighbors®

In the Gospel today we see how Jesus sent his Apostles out two by two. From the beginning of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, members visit in pairs "two by two", those who are poor and needy in their homes. It is there, in the family setting, that Vincentians listen, offer humble advice, and render assistance.

Have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

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

Funeral Choir

We are looking for volunteers interested in joining our small funeral choir. This choir sings at funeral and memorial services we have in our church.

Any and all interested parties can reach out to John O'Keefe after weekend masses or call the Parish Office.