



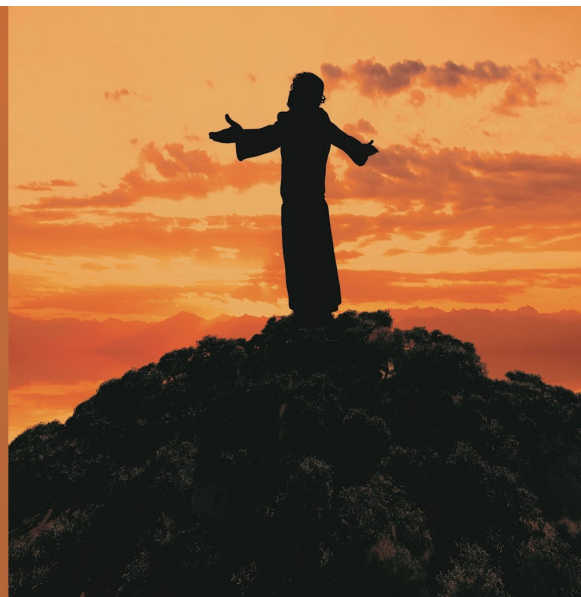
ST. SYMPHOROSA PARISH

A Family Celebrating Faith

6135 S. Austin Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60638 • 773-767-1523 • www.stsymphorosa.org

Jesus said,
“I say to you,
you are Peter,
and upon this rock
I will build my church,
and the gates of the
netherworld shall not
prevail against it.”

MATTHEW 16:18



Copyright © U.S. Paluch Co. Inc. • Photos: © Gino Santa Maria/Photolia, © Kovalenko Irfotolia

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST
27
2017

REFLECTION FOR THE 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The Gospel Reading is from Matthew (16:13-20). We have all heard this story many times, and yet, do we really get the message? In these few lines, we hear Jesus question all the Apostles, but it is Peter who gives the ultimate answer. Could we do the same?

Jesus then goes on to give Peter the "keys to the kingdom of heaven." This is a symbolic phrase. It is not "keys" literally, but rather authority. Thus, the Church is established, the Kingdom of God has begun.

Now, can you answer the question, "Why are you a Catholic?" and "Who is Jesus to YOU?" Something to think about during your Prayer Time this week!

In relation to our readings today, who is a good Catholic? The good Catholics are the ones who recognize that they are sinners and that they have to go to church to listen and understand the word and get to know it. They are practicing their faith because if they do not do this, they know they are not following Christ well. To be good Christian means more than just going to Mass once a week, although, of course, it also includes this. To be a Christian is to grow spiritually while we follow Christ honestly and humbly.

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks His disciples what people are saying about His identity. The disciples indicate that most people believe that Jesus is a prophet of Israel. Then Jesus asks His disciples who they believe that He is. Simon Peter answers, identifying Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus commends Simon Peter for this profession of faith, indicating that this insight has come from God. Because of Simon Peter's response, Jesus calls

him the "rock" upon which Jesus will build the Church. This is a word play on the name Peter, which is the Greek word for "rock." Peter is then given special authority by Jesus, a symbolic key to the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter will play an important role in the early Christian community as a spokesperson and a leader.

In our Gospel reading today, Jesus gave Peter this power to lead His Church only after Peter spoke up among all the apostles to proclaim that Jesus was "the Christ" (Greek for "Messiah"), the son of the living God." Jesus commended Peter for saying that, and indicated that it was a grace of the Father that inspired Him to do so. It was based on that profession of faith that Peter was made head of the Church.

The role of true leaders and people in authority is to serve, not to be served. That is what ministry in the original context is all about – service of others.

If we are in a position of authority (as a parent, a supervisor, a teacher, a leader), we must follow the example of Jesus and realize our responsibility is to do our best job for the GOOD of all involved. We should seek to lead by GOOD example, helping others so that they might know better what is happening for their own GOOD.

It means we have to be willing to be accountable for our own mistakes and give God the glory for the inspiration and guidance we receive. Ultimately, being an authoritative leader means being an administrator, a minister, a servant for others. It also means realizing that not only will there be an accounting of our service, there is an

even Higher Authority to whom we must give allegiance. And after all is said and done, we must voice with St. Paul the words at the end of today's second reading: "For from GOD and through GOD and for GOD are all things. To GOD be glory forever. Amen."

Each of us faces a fork in the road with each moral decision we make: the narrow road of responding in faith to what Christ calls us to do, and the wide dead end that leads to sin and death.

Christians are called to follow Christ down that narrow road to life, which will surely lead us to the Cross, but then to eternal glory. We follow that road every time we respond to God and to others with true Christ-centered love, sacrificing of ourselves for others.

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



Today's responsorial psalm is:
The Lord is my light and my salvation,
of whom should I be afraid?

St. Symphorosa Parish

6135 S. Austin

Chicago, IL 60638

(773) 767-1523

(773) 767-6135 (fax)

symphorosa@comcast.net (email)

www.stsymphorosa.org

Rev. Idzi Stacherczak, Pastor

Rev. Ted Bojczuk, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Norman Trela, Retired Priest

John & Sue O'Keefe, Music Directors

Ken Hilliard, Operations Director

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

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

Sacrament of Penance:

**Monday through Saturday
after 8:00 am Mass**

90th Anniversary Planning

Meeting—Wednesday, August 30th

As you may know, we will welcome Cardinal Cupich on Saturday, October 7th as we celebrate our 90th Anniversary. A reception will follow immediately that evening in the Sharp Center.

We are asking our parishioners and friends to consider joining us this **Wednesday, August 30th at 7:00pm** in the Social Hall of the Parish Center as we make final plans for this celebration. What a terrific chance to be part of such a wonderful celebration as we commemorate 90 years as a faith community!!

In addition, we ask that each organization send a representative to this planning meeting.

Thank you, in advance, for your participation and support of our wonderful parish! Please contact the parish office with any questions.

I look forward to seeing you on August 30th!

~Fr. Idzi



A Special Celebration!!

The Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday, September 17, 2017 at 2:45pm at Holy Name Cathedral, 735 N. State Street, Chicago.

All couples married in 1967 interested who are interested in attending this celebration should call our parish office at 773.767.1523 to register. For further information, call the Marriage and Family Ministries Office for more information at 312.534.8351 or visit the website: <https://pvm.archchicago.org>.



Mark your calendars and plan on joining us for a Lunch Cruise aboard the Odyssey.

When: Tuesday, September 5th

Cost: \$65.00 per person

Time: 9:00am departure for
Navy Pier

(Cost includes transportation and cruise)

Call Chris at 773.512.8707 for more information.



Our Parish History

The building of the first parish structure began in 1927. This structure (now called the Sharp Center) was built on the corner of 62nd Street & Mason Avenue. The building was designed to be the parish church and school as well as the convent for the Benedictine Sisters who would staff the parish. The building was dedicated in September of 1928 and the new St. Symphorosa School, under the direction of four Benedictine Sisters and Sister Bernardine, the first principal, opened for the first time to 115 students.

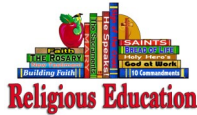
Attention All Parish Organizations

In the past, we have had situations where two or more organizations were looking to use the same room/facility at the same time. In order to avoid any such conflicts, we ask that each organization leader send us a schedule of their upcoming events and programs. We certainly understand that there are times when last minute meetings must be arranged. Please ensure that you provide us with at least one week prior notice.

In addition, we are working to ensure that our facilities remain clean and properly maintained. Moving forward, if an organization does not have a room reserved, a key will not be issued from the parish office. As a reminder, the scheduling of rooms is on a first come, first serve basis. If your first choice of rooms is not available, we will do our very best to find you suitable space when possible.

Finally, please remember that a Facility Guidelines sheet must be completed and submitted to the parish office at the conclusion of each event.

Please direct any questions to Maggie in our parish office at 773.767.1523 or via email at symphorosa@comcast.net. Thank you for your cooperation!



St. Symphorosa Parish Religious Education Program

Just what signs do you look for to help your child understand the importance of faith in their life. These buried treasures can be found by helping your child find a relationship with Jesus. How do they know Jesus? Faith is a treasure that leads us to become faithful followers of Jesus. Children need to grow in their knowledge of faith through prayer, catechesis and an understanding of who Jesus is in their life. Your child's faith is one treasure that Jesus is referring to in our Gospel. Our Religious Education Program will help your child learn about the treasures that lead them to Jesus.

This is a reminder for all parents that the registration for

the 2017-2018 year has begun. Classes begin on Saturday, September 9th.

You may register Monday through Friday from 9:00am—12:00pm and 1:00pm-7:00pm, and Saturday from 9:00am—12:00pm at our parish office.

Is this a Sacrament Preparation year for your family? If so, please remember that First Communion preparation begins in the 1st Level Program and Confirmation preparation begins in the 7th Level Program.

It is our hope that the Religious Education provided at St. Symphorosa will allow your child to build on the treasures that will prepare him or her to become a faith-filled child of God.

Please contact Barb Grzenia at 773.767.1523 with any questions.

THE HOLY MASS—Liturgy of the Word

Our series continues in Week Three as we walk through most of the actions and gestures at Mass. Together we will explore the meaning and origins of the Sacrament that is central to who we are as Catholics. We invite you to reflect on the the liturgy and more specifically on the presence of God in our celebration at Mass.

Once we have been gathered as the Body of Christ, remembered our need for God's love and mercy, and given praise to God, we enter into the Word of God. Once again the Mass of today reaches back to the earliest Christians. Our Liturgy of the Word follows the pattern of a Jewish Synagogue Service with its' procession of the Torah to a place of honor so it can be read and God's word proclaimed.

Our posture changes in response to the readings, though we remain active listeners because in the Liturgy of the Word we enter into an actual dialogue – a conversation – with God.

First Reading

In this reading, usually taken from the Old Testament, we are reminded of all the things that God has done throughout history to save us. As we remember His greatness it gives us hope. In this reading you get a "sneak preview" of the Gospel because the reading was chosen to match the "theme" of the Gospel.

Psalm

We respond to all that God has done for us, using words from the Old Testament as we sing the Responsorial Psalm. The Psalms have been called the "Church's first prayerbook." These are words that Jesus himself used in prayer. As we sing the psalm, we are responding to God's greatness using the very Word of God.

Second Reading

This reading comes from the New Testament; most often one of the epistles. These are instructional letters written by the Apostles to the earliest Christian communities, offering spiritual advice on how to live as a disciple. In these letters are advice and counsel that help us to live out our faith.

Next week.....Liturgy of the Word continues with the Alleluia, Gospel, Homily, Creed and Universal Prayer/Intercessions.



Baptism classes are held in in the Austin Avenue School Building at 7:00 pm. Baptisms are on Sundays at 1:00pm in Church.

MONTH	CLASS	BAPTISMS
September	No Class	9/10, 9/24
October	10/5	10/8, 10/22

Parents are required to bring their child's birth certificate to the Parish Office in order to register for a class.



Anointing the sick

Sunday, September 24th
3:00 Mass

More information to follow in the coming weeks.

Have You Ever Thought of Becoming Catholic?

Why not explore the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults? RCIA might be for you if you were never baptized; were baptized in another denomination or faith tradition or were baptized Catholic but did not receive First Communion or Confirmation.

Please prayerfully consider the RCIA Program. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please consider joining us for a meeting to learn more.

Monday, September 25, 2017

7:00pm—9:00pm

**St. Symphorosa School Hall
6125 S. Austin Avenue**

For more information and to let us know of your intention to join us at this first gathering, please call our parish office at 773.767.1523. Our RCIA Facilitator is Marge Garbacz.



stewardship
sharing the gifts we have been given

Offerings for the weekend of August 20, 2017

Weekly Budget (Est.) 9,000.00

Contributions: \$6,671.61

of Envelopes: 317

Feast of the Assumption

Contributions: \$1,307.00

Thank you for continued support!

'Give your hands to serve and your hearts to love.'

-Mother Teresa



Catholic Charities Free Newspaper for Seniors

Did you know Catholic Charities has a free newspaper just for senior citizens? Keenager News is published 10 times a year and is delivered to your door. This publication contains news, opinion, human interest, how-to, and travel articles, along with humor, puzzles, and recipes. Our "Readers' Corner" provides a forum for readers' own reminiscences, and poems.

To sign up to receive Keenager News, email keenager@catholiccharities.net or call (312) 655-7425.



As we prepare for our 90th Anniversary Celebration and the visit of Cardinal Cupich in October, I am personally asking for your assistance in helping to beautify our parish grounds. If you are able to help in making our parish 'shine', please contact Maggie in our Parish Office at 773-767-1523. A member of our Parish Transformation Team will be in touch with further details including dates, times and various projects where help is needed.

Whether you can volunteer one hour or ten, your help would be greatly appreciated and is very valuable to us!

~Fr. Idzi

Remember, Celebrate, Believe

Join us on Sunday,
September 10th after the
11:30am mass for a
special Memorial Service
in the Msgr. Maniola
Prayer Garden as we
reflect & remember.



Backpack Blessing as a New School Year Begins!

Our Parish School children gathered this past Tuesday, on their first day of school, for a prayer service and special blessing of their backpacks by Fr. Idzi.



May God bless our children and teachers for a wonderful year ahead!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps 149: 1b-6a, 9b; Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8; Ps 139:1-6; Mk 6:17-29
Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-12ab; Mt 23:27-32
Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 90:3-5a, 12-14, 17; Mt 24:42-51
Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1, 2b, 5-6, 10-12; Mt 25:1-13
Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Mt 25:14-30
Sunday: Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63:2-6, 8-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

Back to School Prayer



Dear God,

Thank you for our students. As they begin this school year, help them to use the talents and gifts you've given them to do their very best.

May they listen to their teachers with respect and open-minds. Help them to be honest and to always seek the truth. Help them to be kind to everyone at school, and to serve others as they would like to be served.

Help them to make good friends and be a good friend to someone in need. Lastly, help them to remember that You're always with them and that You'll never leave their side.

May they love You and follow You with all their hearts, soul and strength. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!

*"God loves each of us as if there
were only one of us"*

-St. Augustine



Date:
August 20, 2017
Received this week:
\$467.00
Envelopes Entered:
90

This week's winner is envelope #5054

**As a reminder, a minimum of \$5.00 is
required to participate in Split the Pot.**

Please Note The Following Change:
Effective immediately, all Split the Pot
envelopes **MUST** be turned into the
Parish Office by **Monday at 7:00pm**
to be included in the
Split the Pot drawing.



We Remember and Celebrate

Mass Intentions

Monday, August 28, 2017

8:00 am † John Kolimas—Mary & Family
† Mary Kohudic—The Szot Family

Tuesday, August 29, 2017

8:00am † Stanley, Stanley R., Joanne Swiatkowski—Darlene & Jim
† Robert Rodriguez—Inez Rodriguez

Wednesday, August 30, 2017

8:00am † Frances Flees—Arlene Scaletta
† For the Good Health of Arlene Scaletta—Mary

Thursday, August 31, 2017

8:00 am † Bob Kolimas—Mary

Friday, September 1, 2017

8:00 am † Michael and James Gurgone—Family
Health & Blessings for Fr. Idzi on his Name's Day—
Maria Kowalska and the Koziar Family

Saturday, September 2, 2017

8:00 am † For Good Health of Arlene Scaletta
5:00pm † Clara DeAngelis—Claire Maron
† Mary Caddigan—Clair Maron
† John Scheveck—Tara and John Scheveck
† Robert Franco—Family
Health of Santiago Torres, Maria Alcala, and Evert Tan Family

Sunday, September 3, 2017—22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 am † Martin Welzen—Dorothy Bogumil
9:30am † John Dragosetti—Rosaria
† John Karbacz—36th Anniversary of Death—Daughters
† John Mielnicki—Family
11:30 am † Laurette and Ted Krusinski—Nancy and Douglas Janda
† Richard Montwill—Edward Lifeza

Please
Pray
for...



Rae Ann Arends, Donna R. Azzaline, Toni Bartz, Virginia Blazeniak, Dorothy Bogumil, Fr. Ted Bojczuk, Colleen Brown, 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, Pat Doyle, Kaye Fenlon, 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 Koubba, Patricia Kubik, Mark Kukulski, James Lapsansky, Chris & Donna Lauritzen, Virginia Macias, Lu Mackey, Ed Mallo, 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, Stephen Sears, Dorothy Sniezewski, Marilyn Sobczak, John Stachon, Michael Straube, James Suchy, Chalida Svastisalee, Loretta A. Thomas, Jim & Mary Thorpe, Joan Witcher, Steve Wojcik, Pamela Wojdyla, Larry & Marianne Wysocki, and Michelle



Pray
For Our Troops

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands, protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

WEDDING BANNS



I—John Ryan and Kristin Benson

I—Michael Altobelli and Amanda Iulano



**Holy
Father
Monthly
Intention**

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 Artists.

That artists of our time, through their ingenuity, may help everyone discover the beauty of creation.

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 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