

DECEMBER 16, 2018 | THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

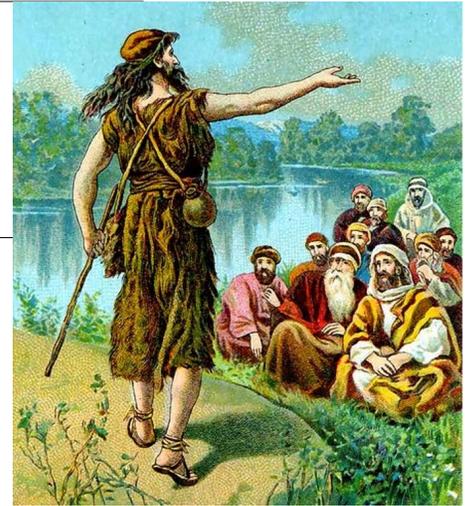
Christ will bring
JOY
to the world



ST. SYMPHOROSA PARISH

A Family Celebrating Faith

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



This Third Sunday of Advent is also called "Gaudete" Sunday or "Rejoice" Sunday. "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice!" It comes from the first word of today's Second Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians, which picks up the theme of rejoicing begun in the First: "Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!" In the reading St. Paul reminds the Corinthian community at Philippi in Greece that God is near, and urges them to be joyful and generous in their relationships with one another, to pray confidently to God, and not to be anxious about their lives, as someone has said - 'Anxiety is like a rocking chair; it gives you something to do but gets you nowhere.'

Here St. Paul is not advocating a life that does not acknowledge suffering - far from it; his own life after his conversion was marked by trial and difficulty. What he is trying to encourage is a life of faith that trusts even when 'sorely afflicted.' This is not the happiness that is jolly all the time - but a deeper happiness that isn't afraid of sadness. It is a happiness that prays in its need, trusting that in time, God's peace will re-establish itself in its heart. Such happiness is not easily won - it takes work and practice. It is accepting that hard things will happen and there will be sorrow in this life - but, ultimately God sees a bigger picture than we can and has everything in hand - including us.

In the Gospel reading of today according to St. Luke, once again, as happens so frequently during Advent, St. John the Baptist takes center stage. John preached the 'baptism of repentance,' and although he was preaching in the wilderness, news of his teaching spread far and wide and

many people sought him out. Their first question was: what does repentance mean in practice? John's advice is simple and practical - live charitably and honestly: share what you have with the needy; be fair and honest in your business dealings with others; don't be greedy. John goes on to say: "One mightier than he is about to come who will fire us up with the power of the Spirit." And there is "the joy" John the Baptist communicates to the people by preaching the Good News of the saving Messiah, who with his coming will establish justice and peace among human beings.

John was the messenger sent to prepare the world - not to save it. He was sent to begin gathering the harvest - but the one to come will winnow it and separate grain from chaff, determining who will enter the Kingdom and who will not. The grain is what has the capacity to bear fruit - the chaff will blow away - or be burnt in the fire. Those who repent and live according to the directives John lays down have the capacity to bear fruit in their own spheres. A tax-collector who does not cheat - or a soldier who does not extort will soon be marked out as different. They may suffer ridicule and be tempted by the siren voices: everyone does it. But, holding firm to their principles, will set an example of living which will influence others: what is it that these people have that causes them to behave like this? In our own day - and in our own work, the challenge remains the same: do we act as grain - or chaff?

Today, the Church calls us to rejoice, to have joy in Christ. And this we do by entering into a loving relationship with Christ and advance in our journey of faith by loving others. Through the

Scripture Readings of today, as people who are preparing for 'the parousia,' the 2nd Coming of Christ - we are given a glimpse of what that may be like. Yes, we will greet a victorious and glorious Lord - but one who comes among us and dances with us and joins in the songs of joy at our own salvation.

Excerpted from
Father Albert Lakra's Blog



We would like to apologize for a mistake in last weekend's bulletin. The Second Sunday of Advent is Love.



Second Sunday of Advent: The Sunday of Love

Jesus shows us God's perfect love. He is God's perfect love in human form. Those who believe in him and live in him, live in love. Love transforms and perfects all things. It never ends.



Third Sunday of Advent: The Sunday of Joy

Our Joy is in God and in his Son, Jesus Christ. Joy is a gift from God. It overtakes and fills us when we remember what God has done and what he has promised to do.



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 December is in the Service of the Transmission of Faith

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

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

Parish Office

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

www.stsymphorosa.org
symphorosa@comcast.net

Parish School

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



*Oplatki
Christmas
Wafers*

Oplatki are available for purchase in the Parish Office or after all Masses in the Gathering Space of our church. Each package of oplatki contains 3 white wafers and 1 pink wafer. A \$3.00 donation per package is requested.

(While supplies last)

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24, 2018

4pm - Family Mass
10pm - Midnight Mass
Carols begin at 9:30pm

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25, 2018

7:30am
9:30am
11:30am



**St. Symphorosa Advent
Penance Service**

In preparation for the Christmas season, and the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we invite all to a special Reconciliation service being offered on

**Monday, December 17, 2018
at 7pm.**



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

For all the Living and Deceased Members of the Tomczak, Merda and Scaletta Families given by Arlene Scaletta

For health and all the Lord's blessings for Donna Lauritzen given by the Wodke, Lauritzen and Toczylowski Families

For the repose of the soul of Tom Bogumil given by Dorothy Bogumil and Family



NOVEMBER SCHOOL NEWS



7th & 8th Grade

Seventh and eighth grade students were luck enough to attend Holy Fire this year. This is an all-day spiritual retreat for middle school students led by the Archdiocese of Chicago. The students had an opportunity to hear bands perform, witness the monstrance up close, and share their faith with 5,000 other students from around the Midwest.



Third graders had fun playing their board games as a reward for good behavior.



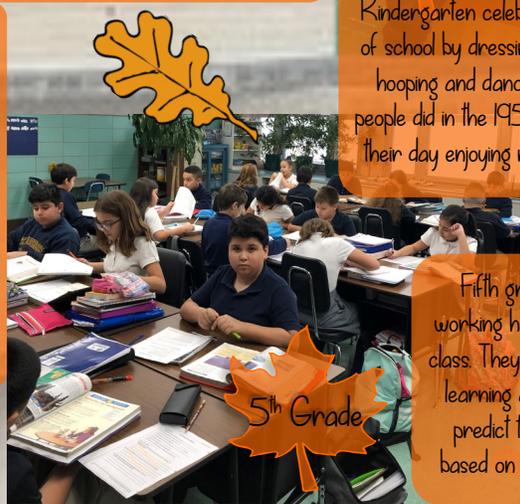
In Preschool we are preparing for Jesus' Birthday!!! We learned that Mary and Joseph prepared for his birth also by making a crib and clothes for baby Jesus! Thank you Mrs. Pettenon for reading to us about Christmas!



Kindergarten celebrated 50 days of school by dressing, bowling, hula hooping and dancing just as the people did in the 1950s. They ended their day enjoying root beer floats.



Second graders practicing fluency and comprehension skills with their Superkids Book Club novel.



Fifth graders are working hard in science class. They are currently learning about how to predict the weather based on air pressure.



Azaylia Ferrer is our first grade Student of the Week. Here she proudly shows off her colorful turkey addition facts.



Fourth graders joined the third graders in Literature Circles to discuss various novels.



Sixth grade art projects

**SECOND ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, JANUARY 5TH
6:00PM–10:00PM
SHARP CENTER SOCIAL HALL**



Christmas is the most celebrated holiday in the world. Individuals on every continent celebrate it and more than one hundred countries officially recognize Christmas. A country's Christmas celebration may vary according to that country's traditions. Many traditions and symbols of Christmas are common to many countries.

No matter which country's traditions are in practice, the spirit of the season remains the same. The expression of joy and hope is constant, as is the desire to share and give others from one's own plenty.

On Saturday, January 5th, we will gather as a faith community to celebrate our Christmas traditions. This celebration gives us the opportunity to get to know each of our St. Symphorosa brothers and sisters and to gather as one St. Symphorosa Parish Family during this Christmas Season. You are invited to bring a special dish that is unique to your tradition to share with your fellow parishioners and friends. Tea, coffee, cake and other refreshments will be included. Let us gather together to enjoy foods of different countries. (American, Polish, Italian, Mexican, German, Irish, etc.) Good food, good company, music and a special Christmas Blessing by Fr. Idzi. It is not necessary to bring a dish in order to participate. In addition to sharing delicious foods, we will gather to sing carols and look more closely at a variety of Christmas traditions and symbols. There is no charge for this event.

To allow us to plan accordingly, please complete the form below and return it to a member of the Transformation Team in the back of church after mass this weekend or next. These forms can also be returned to the parish office or you can email symsinternationalchristmas2018@gmail.com with details of the dish you will bring to share that evening.

Hope you can join us!



_____ **Yes, I plan to attend the International Christmas Celebration on Saturday, January 5th & will bring the following dish(es) to share with members of our Parish Family:**

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

As menu cards will be printed to identify each dish and its' country of origin, we ask that you please print the name of each dish below:

This dish is from the following country:

Please return this completed form to the back of church, parish office or email symsinternationalchristmas2018@gmail.com with details.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 17, 2018

8:00am For all the Poor Souls in Purgatory (*Bernadette Simpson*)
7:00pm Parish Reconciliation Service

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

8:00am †John Kolimas (*Arlene Scaletta*)
†Gregg Gasior (*Wife & Family*)

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

8:00am Health and all the Lord's Blessings for Barbara Kuebler
(*Mom*)
†Bob Kolimas (*Mom & Family*)

Thursday, December 20, 2018

8:00am †John Shimkus (*Barbara Rendak*)

Friday, December 21, 2018

St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

8:00am †For all Parishioners (50)

Saturday, December 22, 2018

8:00am †Robert Soltis (*Kathy Hynes*)
5:00pm †Adele Hojdik (*Family*)
†Theresa Pudelek (*Pudelek Family*)
†Greg Golab (*Mom & Matt*)

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30am †Robert J. Ketchen, Sr. (*Family*)
†Claude Wiatrak (*Wife Clara*)
†Robert Soltis (*Slivka Family*)
9:30am For All Parishioners (51)
11:30am †Ellen, John, Jack O'Leary & Lillian Byrne
(*The Byrne Family*)



Offerings for the weekend of December 9, 2018
Weekly Budget (Est.): \$9,000.00

Contributions: \$6,625.30
Envelopes: 283

Thank you for your support & generosity!



Dates: November 5 to
November 25, 2018

Transactions: 126
Amount: \$2,768.00



December 9, 2018
Received this week: \$340.00
Winning envelope: # 1525
Reminder: A minimum of \$5.00 is
required to participate.

Advent
the coming of our Savior



*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
Geri Gestaut
Suzann Gunter
Kathy Haars
Megan High
Dawn Hoyt
Heather Hradek
Denise M. Jandura
Rich S. Jandura
Lee Karpinski
Dennis Kline
Claudia Kwilosz
Norman Kwilosz
James Lapsansky
Donna Lauritzen
Domenico Lepore
John Martini
Lou Mackey
Lori McCarthy

Kathleen McAuliffe
Thomas Minnich
Christine Mosqueda
Genevieve Nagle
Marge Novak
Joe Paciga
Baby Alexander J Pentz
Gi Gi Picciolini
Marie Pratt
Ann Robertson
Fr. John Rudnik
Joseph Rudnik
Ben Sajdak
Coltyn Schmidt
Kristyn Schmidt
Marie Simonetti
James Suchy
Chalida Svatisalee
Terry Styka
James Thorpe
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
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
SRA Andrew Gaca, USAF
SMSGT Joseph Gaca, USAF
Sgt. Michael Hough, US Army
Anthony Johanievicz, 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 Stuhmacher
1LT Zachary White, IL Army NG



In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise..."

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please share your abundance by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

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

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.



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.

Patricia Doyle