



**St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish**  
**November 5, 2023**  
**Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**



**St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish**  
**Communion of Saints**  
**November 1, 2022 - October 31, 2023**

Esterlinda Alanis	Victor Guarino	Kim Nelson
Akura Angele Ametowoyona	Elisabeth Henry	Arlene Protho
Cheryl Anderson	Lucy M. Henry	Josie Roman
Roseanne Andrews	John Hughes	Jessie Shields
Bishop Kevin Birmingham	Frederick Jones	William J. Smith
Geneva Boston	Winifreda Nelson Kafugugu	Beverly Stingly
Ralph Boston	Kristen Lamartine	Arthur Thames
Robert L. Breeze Jr.	Linda Luise Lewis	Doris Tucker
Charles Edward Brown	Bertha Cowan Lightford	Tamara Tucker
Joseph Brown	Bishop John Manz	Roosevelt Wardlow
Earnestine Cottrell	Isabel Marquez	Darlene Westbrook
Constance Ella Covey	Karen McCall	Dorothy Mae Willett
Isabelle Cruz	Robert McGee	Leon Williams
Valerie Curry	Samson Thadei Mgimba	Willie Williams Jr.
Terrance Foster Jr.	Stanley Austin Miles Sr	Thelma Wilson
Turhan Gray	Aaron Nelson	

**St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish**

**Fr. Larry Dowling, Pastor**  
 denispadre@aol.com

**Fr. Thadeo Mgimba, Associate Pastor**  
 tmgimba@archchicago.org

**Deacon Couples: Rev. Mr. William & Gayle Pouncy, Rev. Mr. Greg & Carolyn Shumpert**

**Operations Director: Cynthia Smith cdsmith@archchicago.org**

**Website: [www.stsimonofcyrene.org](http://www.stsimonofcyrene.org)**

**St. Martin de Porres Church**  
*Church of Record*

**5112 W. Washington Boulevard**

**Chicago, IL 60644 Ph: (773) 287-0206**

**Office Hours Mon. - Fri 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Masses: Sunday: 11:00 am ; Tuesday: 9:00 am**

**Thurs: 9 am (Service w/Adoration)**

**St. Agatha Church**

**3147 W. Douglas Boulevard**

**Chicago, IL 60623 Ph: (773) 522-3050**

**Office Hours Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Masses: Sunday: 9:00 a.m.**

**Thursday 7:30 a.m.**

## Sacramental Information

**Baptism:** Please call the church office for appointment at least two months prior to date. A prep class is required. Parents should contact Dcn Pouncy.

**RCIA:** Adults Seeking Baptism and/or Making a Profession in the Catholic Christian Faith should contact Deacon Greg Shumpert.

**Marriage:** Please contact the parish office before setting your date. The Church asks that couples be parish members for at least 6 months before setting a date. Participation in Pre-Cana and a Premarital Inventory required.

**Funerals:** Please contact the parish office before going to see a Funeral Director. We will accommodate the needs of your family to help you through the loss and healing.

**Ministry to Sick and Shut-In/ Anointing of the Sick/ Home Visitation/Receiving Communion at Home:** If you or a loved one is in need of a minister from St. Agatha-St. Martin de Porres to visit for Communion, Anointing of the Sick or any other pastoral need, please contact the church office as soon as the need arises. Fr. Larry, Fr. Thad or one of the Care Ministers will gladly visit in a time of need.

**Hospital Stays:** If you or a loved one is going into the hospital, please notify the office in order that a priest or care minister can call or visit the patient and be support to the family.

### Your Stewardship of Treasure for the Mission of Jesus Christ Sunday, October 29, 2023

#### St. Simon of Cyrene at St. Agatha - St. Martin de Porres

Mass Offering - TBA

GiveCentral - TBA

Kolbe House-Special - TBA

Thank you for your Generosity!



#### For whom shall we pray...

Anthony Adams, Walter Adams, Bertha Anderson, Kristina Anderson, Jewel Austin, Kyle Becnel, Hildegard Bezdicek, Hazel Bills, Diondee Brown-Whitfield, Margaret Brown, Christopher Browne, DiMarkco Chandler, Frank Clark, Sandra Coffey, William Crown, Jermaine Curtis, Natalie Davis, Tylesia Day, Shelma Dillon, Ana Garcia, Elnora Dorsey, Carter Evans, Joyce Evans, Norene Evans, Virginia Evans, Diana Foster, Hildred Fuller, Zenobia Fuller, Danny Gardner, Shea Gardner, Callie Gee, Pamela D. Gee, Yvonne Gibson, Marian Graham, Kia Gray, Stan Gruszczki, Bill Hainey, Nathaniel W. Hall, Mary Harrell, Diane Harris, Jasmine Harris, Jennifer Harris, Lejerrion Harris, Leutrice Harris, Maryann Harris, Tony Harris, Darryl Hicks, Davis Hicks, Veronica Hicks, Jacqueline Hicks, Gwendolyn Hicks, Elia Hinogosa-Cangey, Joesaya Henderson, Kesiea & Melinda, Kim Henderson, Leonard Henderson, Annetta Lewis, Jerron Johns Jr., Sr., Julius Jones, Ashanti Kelly, Jacqueline Kelly, Stanley King, Brian Lares, Jimmy Lee, Sayyid Lestrade, Anthony Lyons, Alexander Madden, Keith Mahaffey, Latoya Mahaffey, Ronnie Mahaffey, John Mannette, Larry Mapp Jr., Arelys Marquez, Catherine Martin, Patrick McAnany, Melik McCloud, Sofia McFarland, Latrice McGee, Carmella Miller, Connie Montoya, Arlene Moore, LaVita Norris, Clara Orlando, Mariano Palacios, Michael Parham, Luvenia Parker, Emma Peradas, Gordon Perry, Jan F. Peters, Sylvia Peters, Essie Pledge, Queenie Randle, Elberta Raschke, Imogene Rhodes, Marvin Register, Sommer Reynolds, Aquila Rogers, Deborah Rutledge, Lorraine Sanford, Elias Scott, Eunice Scripp, Rosa Solano, Regina Taitis Sr., Brenda D. Taylor, Clarice Thomas, Jose Torres, Michael Triplett Sr., Richard Spearman, Terri Triplett, Deano Tretter, Joseph Tretter Sr, Charese Troupe, Clarence Walker, Shirley West, Walter Whitlow, Natoya Williams, Armonie Witherspoon, Beverly Wright, Flora Yancy

**From the Desk of Fr. Larry...** My brothers and sisters, Jesus seems to be throwing some very contradictory things at us in today's Gospel. Take, for example, his remarks to the crowds regarding some of the scribes and Pharisees, particularly those who prance about in their fancy religious garments and lord it over others. He is criticizing their arrogance and lack of real respect for the Law and the Prophets, that is, giving God the highest priority – and not themselves – AND caring for the poor.

At one point he says this to the crowds: "Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven." But wait a second, Jesus! We commonly refer to the male head of household as 'father,' and of course priests are often called 'father.' I have had people refuse to call me with the title 'father' because of their literal interpretation of this passage.

Does that mean we should never refer to men as fathers? Of course not. Jesus is exaggerating this emphasis. Yes, there is only one Father in heaven, the Father of all earthly fathers. What Jesus is emphasizing is for all of us to realize that no one, absolutely no one, is equal to the Father in heaven. Sadly, many men and women who call themselves fathers and mothers are not first looking to the Father in heaven to guide them how to be good fathers and mothers on earth. Good fathers and mothers humble themselves before the Father in heaven who seeks only to instruct, form and offer them the wisdom they need to be the best parents to their children and spouses to one another. God the Father longs for us to humbly accept these gifts, to pour them into us, so that we can fulfill all our unique roles in this life.

But here's the rub, my friends. There must be room in us to allow God to pour these gifts into us. If we are caught up in ego and power and superiority over others, there is no room for God. That's why I often remind our parishioners that, as we pray the Lord's Prayer together, we perhaps need to occasionally say, "Thy kingdom come, my ego go. Thy will be done, my will become Yours." We can easily say to God, "I desire for you to be a part of my life," but be unwilling to remove some of our personal and spiritual baggage that we cling to in order for God to have room to move in.

Then we get to the last part of the Gospel: "Those who humble themselves will be exalted." Again, we might say, "now wait again, Jesus! If I humble myself, then how am I exalted?" We might translate Jesus' words better this way: If we humble ourselves to recognize and embrace God's compassionate sovereignty in our lives, then we – God and us – are exalted, not in a superior way, but in a way that requires us to engage others to embrace this incredible life-giving relationship with God. The month of November is a time the church invites us to remember those loved ones taught us in the ways of faith, who humbly offered their lives to the Father Who, in turn, helped them to be the best father, mother, grandparent, child or friend that they could be. We trust that they now dwell in eternal love with the Father, Son and Spirit and are present to us, especially in our weekly celebrations of the Mass. **Gentle peace! Fr. Larry**

**Next Sunday, November 12, 2023**  
**Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Readings: Wisdom 6:12-16**  
**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**  
**Matthew 25:1-13**

**Celebrant Mass Schedule**  
**St. Agatha                      St. Martin de Porres**

11/12/23	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
11/19/23	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
11/26/23	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
12/03/23	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
12/10/23	Fr. Thad	Fr. Thad
12/17/23	Fr. Thad	Fr. Thad



**Mass Intentions for this Week**  
**Sunday, November 5, 2023**



- † In Honor of St. Martin de Porres  
from the Villalba Family
- † Prayers of the Souls of the Legionary Dead  
and All the World, from Legion of Mary
- † In Loving Memory of Mary Lee Shaw  
from the Boone Family
- † In Loving Memory of Victor Guarino  
from wife, Jean Guarino

We encourage our parishioners to pray for their loved ones.  
 living and deceased, by offering a Mass intention. Donation \$10

**Religious Education and Formation Classes**  
 St. Martin De Porres site at 10:00am.Sundays.  
 Register by calling the parish office.. To receive  
 First Holy Communion or Confirmation, children  
 must complete two years of Religious Education.

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**RCIA classes for adults** wishing to become  
 Catholic or are Catholic and have not been  
 confirmed can register by calling the Parish Office  
 and talk with Fr, Larry or Fr. Thad..

**St. Martin de Porres Credit Union**  
**Located in Purcell Hall**  
 4300 W. Washington Blvd. - 773-626-0776  
 Open Saturdays:10:30a.m.-1:30p.m.

**Purcell Hall Rental Information**  
 Contact the Parish Office  
**Charitable Hands Ministry**  
 Deacon William Pouncy and Liz Becnel  
 Call Deacon Pouncy (312) 841-3974

**St. Simon of Cyrene Prayer of  
 Intercession**



God of infinite compassion and boundless love, through the ages you call men and women, young and old, to model for us the virtues of humble strength and willing service. You have given us this noble African, St. Simon of Cyrene, as a model of such virtue, manifested in a life as a husband, father, laborer and willing servant to help bear the burdens of others. Simon helped bear the cross of Your Son, Our Lord, Brother and Savior, Jesus Christ, in order that Jesus might complete his journey to suffer the cross, conquering death and opening the doors of heaven to all humankind. Through the intercession of St. Simon of Cyrene, strengthen me in my resolve to live the truth of who You created me to be, to love as only to be life-giving to others, to use my unique gifts to help bear the crosses of all innocent victims who suffer injustice inflicted by the greed, arrogance and apathy of others. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*St. Simon of Cyrene, one with Our Savior  
 in bearing His cross, pray for us!*  
*St. Simon of Cyrene, a foundation stone of the  
 Christian Church in Africa, pray for us!*  
*pray for us!*

**Our Vision...**

Rooted in and propelled by the love of Jesus Christ, we, the people of St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish, one Parish Family with ministry sites at St. Agatha & St. Martin de Porres Churches, profess a life-giving, all-embracing faith, fostering full participation in worship that nourishes us to care for one another and extend our lived faith, relentless hope and life-giving love to our Westside Communities.

**Church Staff**

**Music Director:**  
**Dennis Smith (StA / SMdeP)**

**Reception/Pantry (StA):**  
**Refoncia McGowan**

**Parish Secretary (SMdeP): Carol Johnson**

**Building Engineer: Roger Lozano**

**Maintenance: Andrew Griffin**

**Interim DRE: Marvin McCurry**

**Custodian: Frank Clark**

**Housekeeper SMdeP: Scarlett Evans-Perez**

**Websites & Social Media Admin:**

**Emily Dillon, Kevin Dillon**