



**St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish**  
**November 19, 2023**  
**Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Blessed  
Thanksgiving  
to All !**



**'Well done, my good and faithful servant.  
Since you were faithful in small matters,  
I will give you great responsibilities.  
Come, share your master's joy.'**

**Matthew 25:23**

**Getting to Know  
Our Parish Patron  
St. Simon of Cyrene  
Feast Day: December 1st**

Simon of Cyrene was pulled from the crowd, commanded to carry the cross of Jesus. He likely felt the blood of Jesus and even touched the broken body of Christ on the day Jesus died. His unique experience likely led to him coming to faith in Jesus himself. This may have even taken place only a few weeks later at the Day of Pentecost. If so, it would explain why Matthew, Mark, and Luke mention his name, and why his two sons were mentioned. Scriptures would indicate his wife also became a Christian. Further, this would show that all four family members were Christians and well known to the Roman Christians within 25 years of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. To accomplish this feat would have required a strong faith and missionary component in the lives of Simon and his family members, one we can likewise follow in our lives today.

**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**

**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)**

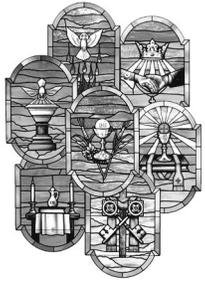
**St. Agatha Church**

**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 Den 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, November 12, 2023

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

Mass Offering	\$5,255.00
GiveCentral	940.00
*Kolbe House-Special	<u>15.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$6,210.00</b>

**Thank you for your Generosity!**



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

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 Gruszczycki, Bill Hainey, Nathaniel W. Hall, Mary Harrell, Diane Harris, Jasmine Harris, Jennifer Harris, Lejerrion Harris, Leatrice Harris, Maryann Harris, Tony Harris, Darryl Hicks, David 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, Mannette, Larry Mapp Jr., Arelys Marquez, Catherine Martin, Patrick McAnany, Melik McCloud, Latrice McGee, Zaire McNeal 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 Pledage, Queenie Randle, Elberta Raschke, Imogene Rhodes, Marvin Register, Sommer Reynolds, Aquila Rogers, Deborah Rutledge, Lorraine Sanford, Elias Scott, Eunice Scripp, Rosa Solano, Brenda D. Taylor, Clarice Thomas, 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 friends, over the past two weeks, the themes of our Sunday Scriptures have focused on humility, which creates a space where God can pour love within us and the wisdom to utilize that Divine love to the best effect. This coming Sunday's readings remind us that God offers us gifts and talents that we are called to invest in proper self-care and extravagant loving care for others. Like the three servants in Sunday's Gospel, our God is asking us to take risks to use our unique gifts to help others.

We tend to focus on the first two servants who do go out and invest the talents entrusted to them. A point of clarity here: a talent in Jesus' time was actually a large sum of money, more than most laborers of the time would earn in a lifetime. The Master was taking a great risk on them - and he was expecting them to take a risk as well. The first two servants do go out and invest and return with more. Note that the Master first praises them, but then their reward is even more responsibilities! Now wait a second! Does that mean if I use my gifts to the best of my ability that God is going to ask more of me? Do I really want more responsibility? Perhaps the better question is: "Do I want to experience God's joy in me even more?" I would hope the answer is "Yes, Lord, bring it on!"

We might understand the 3rd servant's decision to go and bury the talent given him because he feared the Master's reaction if he came back with less or, even worse, lost everything. After all, the Scripture is clear that not only is the Master demanding, but he 'harvests where he has not planted and gathers where he did not scatter seeds.'

Friends, God entrusts a great amount to you and me. Life, abilities, the gift of loving, the living breathing human beings around us, and—every so often—real and open acts of unselfish love. God gives all this free of charge, gives us our lives with all their rewards and catastrophes, and he says to us, dive in. You are my beloved! This seems wonderful. But then an awful question arises. Does God curse those who are afraid and who bury what they are given? Jesus at least seems to say so. "To everyone who has, more will be given and he/she will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he/she has will be taken away." Ouch!

For me, here is the bottom line: There is one thing I know of that will go away if it is buried, but which gets greater if you use it. Love. Think about it. If fear closes the door tightly against love, guess where the unloved one will be: in the darkness outside the door, wailing and gnashing those teeth. Without love. We are all frightened. And God always has compassion upon us. God waits for ages to see if we will accept just a bit of the love he offers; and, if we will even find just enough courage to invest some of it in other people. God is often disappointed and I'm sure he says, "Oh no, not again" when we fail. But this is the disappointment of someone who loves us very well. The message to you and me? Let love in. See what happens. You might just experience God's joy in you... and what can be more wonderful than that?"

**Gentle Peace! Fr. Larry**

**UNITY MASS Feast of St. Simon of Cyrene  
Sunday, December 3rd 10:00 a.m. SMdepP**

**Give thanks every day!**

**Next Sunday, November 26, 2023  
The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of the Universe  
Readings: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17  
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28  
Matthew 25:31-46**

**THANKSGIVING MASS**  
This Wednesday, November 22nd  
7:00 p.m.  
St. Agatha Church

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

11/19/23	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
11/22/23	Thanksgiving Mass - 7:00pm St. Agatha	
11/26/23	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
12/03/23	Unity Mass - St. Martin de Porres	
12/10/23	TBA	Fr. Thad
12/17/23	Fr. Thad	Fr. Mike Knotek

**Prepare the Way of the Lord...  
in your heart!**

**Advent is only two weeks away!**

**Join us for two events to help you  
prepare:**

- ◆ **Saturday, December 2nd, Advent  
Morning of Reflection Our Lady of  
Sorrows 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**
- ◆ **Saturday, December 9th Westside  
Reconciliation Service  
11:00 - 12:00 p.m. St. Martin de Porres**

*- Golden Age Group -*

**Food, Fellowship, Info for Seniors  
Other Activities**

**Every 3rd Monday 12:00 - 2:30 p.m.  
Monday, November 20, at St. Agatha Site  
Transportation provided for  
St. Martin Seniors  
RSVP to Ms. McGowan (773) 522-3050**

**Our Parish 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.



**Mass Intentions for this Week  
Sunday, November 19, 2023**



† **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**

**Church Staff**

**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**

**Music Director: Dennis Smith (StA / SMdeP)  
Choir Director: Antonio Anderson (StA / SMdeP)**

**Websites & Social Media Admin:  
Emily Dillon, Kevin Dillon**

**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