



**St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish**  
**November 12, 2023**  
**Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**



*" Dream awake  
 Keep watch asleep  
 Live while dying  
 Know yourself already resurrected."*

*"Threatened with Resurrection," Julia Esquivel*

**Getting to Know  
 Our Parish Patron  
 St. Simon of Cyrene**  
**Feast Day: December 1st**  
 African laborer, husband,  
 father from Cyrene in  
 Northern Africa who was  
 drafted by Roman soldiers to  
 help Jesus carry the  
 crossbeam upon which He  
 would be crucified. He had  
 two sons mentioned in the  
 Gospel of Mark, from which  
 we can interpret that at least  
 the sons were members of  
 Mark's Christian community  
 who were able to relate the  
 story of their father after his  
 death. There are many  
 legends about Simon. One  
 interesting fact: He was  
 portrayed by Sidney Poitier  
 in the movie *The Greatest  
 Story Ever Told*.

**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*

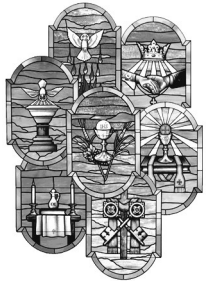
5112 W. Washington Boulevard  
 Chicago, IL 60644 Ph: (773) 287-0206  
 Office Hours Mon. - Fri 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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, October 29 & November 5, 2023

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

Mass Offering - October 29	\$3,307.00
GiveCentral - October 29	825.00
Mass Offering - November 5	7845.00
GiveCentral - November 5	907.00
*Kolbe House-Special Oct. 29 & Nov 5	74.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$12,958.00</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, 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...**

I love the beautiful imagery regarding Wisdom as a person and, yes, as a woman! Reflect for a moment on this passage from the Book of Wisdom: “Resplendent and unfading is wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known in anticipation of their desire; Whoever watches for her at dawn shall not be disappointed, for they will find her sitting by his gate. For taking thought of wisdom is the perfection of prudence, and whoever for her sake keeps vigil shall quickly be free from care; because she makes her own rounds, seeking those worthy of her, and graciously appears to them in the ways, and meets them with all solicitude.” Beautiful, isn’t it?

Wisdom is a virtue that I ask for every day of my life as I seek to minister to the People of God, minister with the People of God and be ministered-to by the People of God. Not unlike our Scripture theme from last week focused on the virtue of humility, seeking wisdom requires humility, an openness to willingly receive her, with the intent only to best use that wisdom to honor and fully share the gifts God has given me.

Our Gospel recounts the parable of the 5 virgins who had their lanterns filled with oil in anticipation of the bridegroom’s arrival- and the 5 whose oil was running out. We can get caught up focused on the lanterns, not realizing that the lanterns really are the internal light shining in each of the 5 virgins who were prepared. Remember: virgins are those yet to bear life and bear fruit from an openness to joining themselves to the Bridegroom Jesus Christ.

The virgins whose oil is running out are those who have not stayed open to receiving the Bridegroom in their lives. Their excitement has faded. They have not stayed vigilant in keeping themselves open to the new life that the Bridegroom will offer them. This story is often referred to as the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. Wisdom requires an openness, an active waiting, a preparedness to receive Her when She comes... and She most assuredly will come.

There is a great sadness to the story in the end. The 5 foolish virgins are too late. The Bridegroom has come and the doors to access Him are now closed. Not only that, the response from the Bridegroom also seems pretty harsh and final: 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' The Good News for us is that Jesus offers us the opportunity every single day, in every moment, to use our gifts to their greatest potential. Our ‘lamps’ are filled with the fuel of the Scriptures, the strength of Christ found in receiving His Sacred Body and Blood, in the assurance of the support and prayers of a faith-filled and faithful parish family. They are fueled by faith, hope and love, by a spirit of kindness, humility and generosity. The Bridegroom offers us all the fuel we need to keep our lamps burning and ready to receive His invitation to enter the banquet of life with all its joys and challenges. There is no reason why true disciples of Jesus should not be prepared, for He offers us so much to keep our lamps lit and all our senses open to receive him in the poor, the suffering, the refugee, immigrant and asylum seeker, in the homeless, in each other who walk this journey as One family joined to Mother Church and Her bridegroom, Jesus Christ!


**Gentle Peace! Fr. Larry**

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

**Next Sunday, November 19, 2023  
Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Readings: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6  
Matthew 25:14-30**

**Celebrant Mass Schedule**

	<b>St. Agatha</b>	<b>St. Martin de Porres</b>
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. Larry	Fr. Thad
12/17/23	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
12/24/23	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad




**Mass Intentions for this Week**  
**Sunday, November 12, 2023**

† In Loving Memory of Victor Guarino  
from wife, Jean Guarino

**Happy Blessed Birthday!**  
**Barbara Caridad Marquez**

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

A Slave to True Freedom in God's Love  
*(a prayer in the spirit of  
Blessed Augustus Tolton)*

**Gracious God, God of Moses,  
of Harriet Tubman, God of salvation  
found in Jesus Christ:**

In true freedom you call me daily,  
in each moment, in every breath,  
to surrender to the transformative  
and empowering gift of Your all-  
embracing, ever life-giving love.

Lord, release me from  
my enslavement  
to ego, to the need for control,  
to unforgiveness and hatred,  
to apathy and indifference,  
to prestige and power-over,  
to prejudice, racism, and sexism,  
to fear of speaking truth to power.

Center me, ground me, root me  
in humble and generous  
servanthood to Your gracious will.  
Send me forth to minister where I am  
needed; and, when I find myself  
wanting, allow me to humbly invite  
and accept the ministry of others.

May my every word,  
my every action this day  
be worthy of Your blessing.  
Loving God, let it be so! Amen!

*Fr. Larry Dowling*

**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**