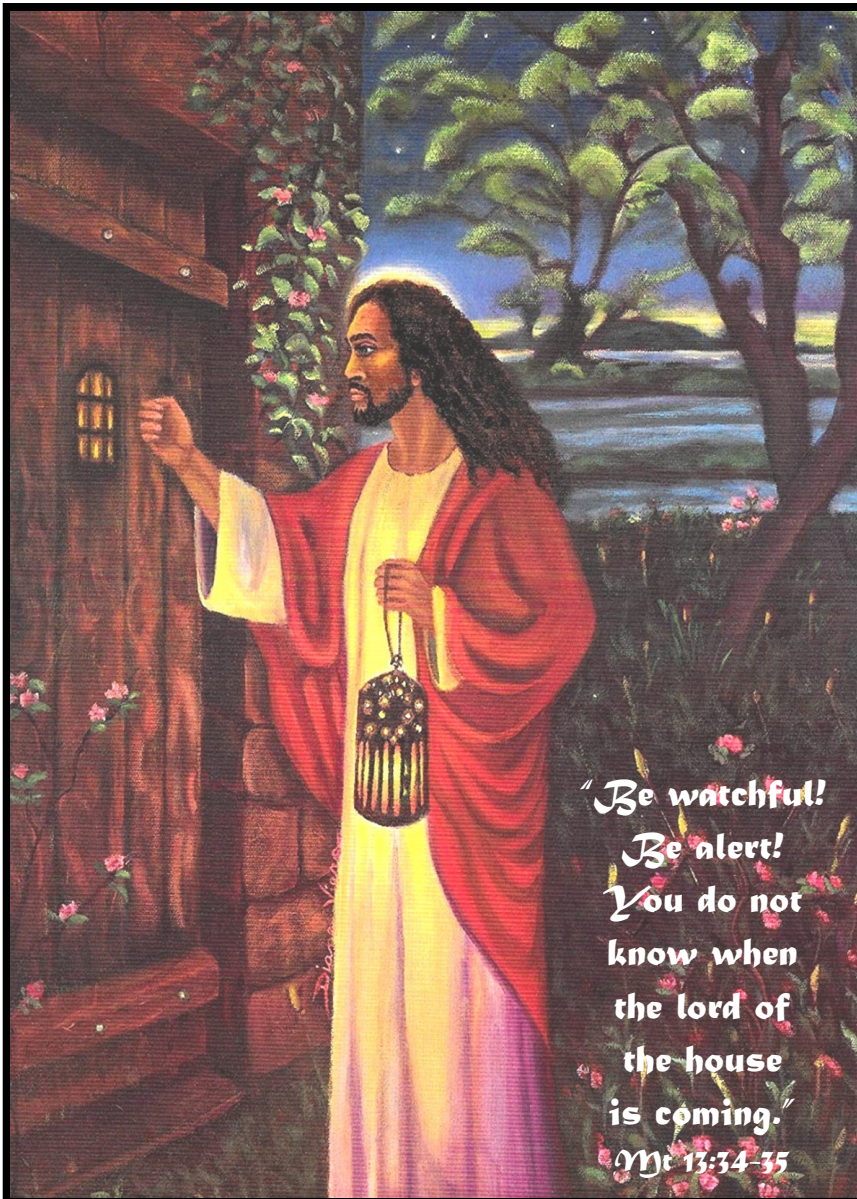




St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish
December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent



*"Be watchful!
Be alert!
You do not
know when
the lord of
the house
is coming."
Mt 13:34-35*

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

We ought to identify with Simon of Cyrene, who found himself a surprised participant in the crucifixion of Christ. This is especially true since many of us became Christians without really knowing that we were dying to our old selves so that we might live anew in Christ. We were pitched a gospel of salvation and eternal life without the corollary call to servanthood, sacrifice, and death to sin and self. Thus, it was only later in our Christian pilgrimage when we discovered, like Simon, that we were expected to be "crucified with Christ." If we take up the cross of Christ, we will lose our lives, only to discover that we have found true life in Him.

Blessed Feast Day!

St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish

Fr. Larry Dowling, Pastor
denispadre@aol.com

Fr. Thadeo Mгимба, Associate Pastor
tmгимба@archchicago.org

Deacon Couples: Rev. Mr. William & Gayle Pouncy, Rev. Mr. Greg & Carolyn Shumpert
Operations Director: Cynthia

St. Martin de Porres Church
Church of Record

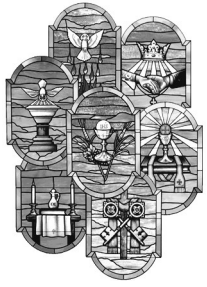
5112 W. Washington Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60644 Ph: (773) 287-0206
Office Hours Mon. - Fri 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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 26, 2023

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

Mass Offering	\$3,891.00
GiveCentral	1102.00
*Universal Offertory for October	1295.00
*Thanksgiving	265.00
*Kolbe House-Special	35.00
Total:	\$6,588.00

Thank you for your Generosity!



For whom shall we pray...

Walter Adams, Susie Aldrich, Bertha Anderson, Jewel Austin, Kyle Becnel, Hildegarde 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 Hailey, Nathaniel W. Hall, Mary Harrell, Diane Harris, Jasmine Harris, Jennifer Harris, Lejerrion Harris, Leatrice Harris, Maryann Harris, Tony Harris, Darryl Hicks, Veronica Hicks, Gwendolyn Hicks, Elia Hinogosa-Cangey, Joesaya Henderson, Kesica & 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, Cinque Muhammad, Yashua Muhammad, Daniel Muhammad, 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, 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, ponder this phrase for a moment: “If there were nothing worth waiting for, patience would be silly.” Let me repeat this: “If there were nothing worth waiting for, patience would be silly.” We all know the advantage of patience. It gives us time to think, to ponder, recalculate, to plan. What if your wife told you she just found out she was pregnant and was going to have the baby the next day? Ridiculous, huh? Nature itself gives us time to nurture the seeds of new life and prepare for its full and healthy birth into the world. Fathers who say they can’t wait until the baby is born are speaking out of excitement and anticipation. They know the process cannot be hurried, that all good things must come in their own time. Otherwise, as in the case of a child in the womb, premature birth can result in a need for extreme medical care at best and death at worst.

In a world where instant gratification is an encouraged pursuit, taking the time to assess the difference between what we want and what we really need can serve us and others well. On a macro level, has any country been attacked by an enemy and not immediately wanted to rush to revenge and retaliation, often a rush-to-war that ends up taking far more innocent lives than it would if time were taken to consider strategies and the possibilities for peaceful solutions. After all, the only ones who really benefit from war these days are the military industrial complex and politicians seeking to pad their pockets and be seen as standing on the side of justice, at the same time refusing to talk about real peace. Within every war lie the roots of the next war. Any reasonable person can see this unfolding right now in Israel and Gaza – no winners except the arms dealers, the military complex and short-sighted political leaders.

So what the heck does this have to do with our celebration of this First Sunday of Advent? The Scriptures today call us to a spirit of hopeful waiting, a season the universal church offers us, amid the crazy and frenzied pace of the commercialized holiday season, to take the time to sit, reflect, pray, listen, to invite the Lord to free us from obstacles that prevent Him from planting the seeds of new life, new possibilities, new ways of thinking and doing things, new ways of sharing our unique gifts to give life to the Lord’s vision for our families, friends, neighborhoods and parish.

We think Advent is about preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth into history, when it is really about Christ’s longing to take greater root in us, to be open to deepen our relationship with Him, to be willing, like Mary, for Him to conceive in us the seeds of new possibilities of living and loving.

Sisters and brothers, this requires us to be patient, to s-l-o-w down, to be open, to be vulnerable, to be waiting, and to believe that God has something that He is asking you to be open to that will be life-giving to you and others. My prayer is that each of us will take the time to s-l-o-w down as Advent begins, to resist the reckless rush of the world, to take advantage of what the Church offers during this season. After all, for us as Catholic Christians, Christmas is not a day, but a season that lasts from December 25th all the way to January 8th and the Baptism of the Lord.

Gentle Peace! Fr. Larry

TODAY!!!
UNITY MASS Feast of St. Simon of Cyrene
Immediately following 10:00am Service
St. Martin de Porres

Next Sunday, December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent
Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

Celebrant Mass Schedule		
	St. Agatha	St. Martin de Porres
12/03/23	Unity Mass - St. Martin de Porres	
12/10/23	Fr. Tom Walsh	Fr. Thad
12/17/23	Fr. Thad	Fr. Mike Knotek
12/24/23 (One Mass)	10:00am - St. Agatha, Fr. Larry	
12/24/23	Christmas Eve Mass - St. Martin de Porres	
	4:00pm Christmas Carols and Nativity Play	
	5:00pm Christmas Proclamation and Mass	
12/25/23 (One Mass)	10:00am - St. Agatha, Fr. Larry	
12/31/23	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry

- Please Mark Your Calendar -
Week of December 3, 2023

"Legion of Mary"
Monday, December 4, 7:00pm - St. Martin

"Dream Builders Community"
Fellowship Dinner - St. Agatha
Monday, December 4, 6pm-8pm

"Liturgy Committee"
Monday, December 4, 6:00pm, St. Martin

***"Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Of the Blessed Virgin Mary"***
Mass: Friday, December 8, 10:00am, St. Martin

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

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



Advent

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

**Saturday, December 9th Westside
Reconciliation Service
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
St. Martin de Porres**

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, December 3, 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