



**St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish**  
**January 21, 2024**  
**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**



The whole life of the good Christian is a

*holy longing.*

~ St. Augustine

www.shariafritz.com

**"Come after me, and I will make  
you fishers of men and women"**

**Mark 1:17**

**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)**

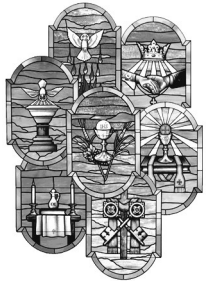
**St. Agatha Church**

**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, January 14, 2024

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

Mass Offering	\$2,528.00
GiveCentral	830.00
Kolbe House-Special	30.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$3,388.00</b>

**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, Dorothy Cobb, 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, Zenobia Fuller, Danny Gardner, Shea Gardner, Callie Gee, Pamela D. Gee, Yvonne Gibson, Patricia Graham, 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, Veronica 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, 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, Eunice Scripp, Rosa Solano, Brenda D. Taylor, Jose Teran, 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...**

In this Sunday's Scriptures, the theme of being called and how we respond to that call is presented to us. Our First Reading has good old Jonah, a reluctant prophet who has been instructed by the Lord to go to the city of Nineveh to preach repentance to the people of this pagan city. Jonah runs as far away as he can from Nineveh, finding himself on a ship in a storm-tossed sea, having a 'whale of a time,' being thrown overboard where he is eaten by a big fish. After three days, even the big fish can't stomach him and spits him out on the shore, ironically near the entrance to Nineveh.

The people of Nineveh, like those in Sodom and Gomorrah, have clearly turned a blind eye to the Lord and are participating in some very sinful and idolatrous behavior. Jonah relents and proceeds to walk the streets of Nineveh, calling for repentance of the people. Amazingly, the very first day, everything changes, the people repent and the king himself calls for a time of repentance in obedience to the Lord. Jonah is not happy about this. He doesn't think these pagan people who are not the Chosen people of Israel should be spared by the Lord.

In the Gospel, Jesus begins to assemble his apostles, the team, his homeboys, who He will instruct and form to carry on His work when He dies. The first four are fishermen. They have experience discerning where the fish are, where to cast their nets. They can read the skies, the weather, the seasons. They are hard-working, used to occasional failure, celebrate in times of 'large catches' and grateful for the opportunity to work and provide for their families and their kinspeople.

Jesus is going to call them now to read the signs of the times, to gauge people's openness to hear the Word of God, to go to emotional and spiritual depths that they have never encountered, all to become fishers of men and women. Not in the sense of capturing them like fish in a net, but instead casting the net of God's love and inviting all to be enfolded in the net of God's unconditional, love, forgiveness and mercy.

These disciples were already disposed to hear Good News and respond to it. Jonah failed to see that God's love and forgiveness was meant, not just for the Chosen people of Israel, but for everyone. He would not accept that and would not participate in it until he finally relented after his maritime adventure. Even then, Jonah was not pleased that the people of Nineveh had changed so quickly.

The question for all of us is, "How open to unquestioningly following the Lord as one of his disciples are we?" "Do we have 'conditions' for following and doing what the Lord asks of us?" or "Do we 'question with faith and a desire to understand where the Lord is calling us and asking us to do in His name?"

Our Responsorial Psalm for this Sunday is, "Teach me Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your ways, O Lord; that I may be faithful in Your sight, teach me Your ways, O Lord!" This sounds like a good mantra to begin each day... and perhaps to repeat several times during the day. The Lord longs to teach each of us, to invite each of us to be formed, each in our own uniqueness, to be the faithful disciple He longs for all of us to be.

**Gentle Peace! Fr. Larry**

Next Sunday, January 28, 2024  
 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Readings: Deuteronomy 18: 15-20  
 1 Corinthians 7:32-35  
 Mark 1: 21-28

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

01/21/24	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
01/28/24	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
02/04/24	UNITY MASS 10:00 a.m. St. Agatha	
02/11/24	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
02/18/24	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
02/25/24	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry



**FOOD PANTRY  
 &  
 RESALE SHOP - SMdeP**

**St. Martin de Porres  
 Wednesday & Thursday  
 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

**St. Agatha  
 Tuesday  
 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

**FEED THE  
 HUNGRY**

**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

**Church Staff**

Parish Secretary (SMdeP): Carol Johnson  
 Reception/Pantry (StA): Refoncia McGowan  
 Building Engineer: Roger Lozano  
 Maintenance: Andrew Griffin  
 Interim DRE: Marvin McCurry  
 Custodian: Frank Clark  
 Housekeeper SMdeP: Scarlett Evans-Perez  
 Music Director: Dennis Smith  
 Choir Director: Antonio Anderson  
 Website/ Social Media: Emily Dillon, Kevin Dillon

Prayer for the Intercession and Sainthood of  
 Fr. Augustus Tolton

O God, \* we give you thanks for your servant and priest, Father Augustus Tolton, \* who labored among us in times of contradiction,\* times that were both beautiful and paradoxical. \* His ministry helped lay the foundation for a truly Catholic gathering in faith in our time.\* We stand in the shadow of his ministry.\* May his life continue to inspire us \* and imbue us with that confidence and hope \* that will forge a new evangelization for the Church we love. Father in Heaven, \* Father Tolton's suffering service sheds light upon our sorrows; \* we see them through the prism of your Son's passion and death.\* If it be your will, O God,\* glorify your servant, Father Tolton, \* by granting the favor I now request through his intercession \* (mention your request) \* so that all may know the goodness of this priest \* whose memory looms large in the Church he loved. Complete what you have begun in us \* that we might work for the fulfillment of your kingdom.\* Not to us the glory,\* but glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, your Son\* and our Lord; \* Father, Son and Holy Spirit,\* you are our God, living and reigning forever and ever. Amen.

- Bishop Joseph N. Perry

**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, January 21, 2024**

† In Loving Memory of Ronald A. Smith  
 From Clarice Danner

† 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

