



St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish
December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent



"A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light."

CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2023 St. Agatha One Mass 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve December 24, 2023 St. Martin de Porres 4:00 p.m. Carols/ Pageant
5:00 p.m. Mass

Christmas Day December 25, 2023 St. Agatha 10:00 a.m. Mass

Feast of the Holy Family/ Kwanzaa Commemoration Sunday, December 31st
Regular Mass Schedule

Monday, January 1, 2024, Feast of Mary, Mother of God 10:00 a.m. St. Agatha

Sunday, January 7, 2024 Feast of Epiphany (Three Kings) Regular Mass Schedule

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.

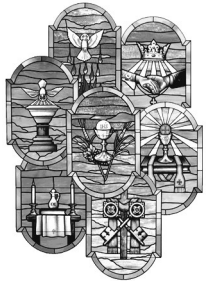
Masses: Sunday: 11:00 am; Tuesday: 9:00 am
Thurs: 9 am (Service w/Adoration)

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, December 10, 2023

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

Mass Offering	\$5,173.00
GiveCentral	820.00
*Kolbe House-Special	25.00
Total:	\$6,018.00

Thank you for your Generosity!



For whom shall we pray...

Walter Adams, Susie Aldrich, Bertha 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, Leutrice 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, 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 brothers and sisters, John the Baptist is one of my favorite characters in all the Scriptures. He is like a street preacher, calling people to sincere repentance, to turn back toward the God who created them, to be filled with the Light of God's love, and to move with an enlightened heart, mind and soul through the chaos and darkness of life, accompanying others and reflecting God's light to them, perhaps kindling the spark of the Divine in them.

The first words of our Gospel capture John's mission – and our mission – so well: “A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.” (John 1:6-8) My friends, we are all called to announce, as John tried to do, that the Kingdom of God is in the midst of us; in fact, the Kingdom of God is in us! The problem is that, during our lifetimes, other ‘kingdoms’ can take over our lives: materialism, the desire for power and control, of superiority, perhaps ‘kingdoms’ of anger, jealousy and an inability to forgive another person. The kingdom that John announces is one that will be made manifest in Jesus of Nazareth.

Whereas in the past when prophets talked about God, it was more about Spirit, a voice that only spoke to individuals God selected to share the message of His love and the call to all people, especially those blessed with resources, to share with those who do not. When Jesus comes, He IS the Love of God, the compassion and forgiveness of God, the mercy and life-giving passion of God, revealing himself to ordinary people, poor people, rich people, powerful people, men, women and children. Like the love of God, there is nowhere that Jesus will not go to help see in Him – and in themselves – the pure and ever-abiding Spirit of the God of the ages.

John the Baptist's particular mission, as he felt God had directed him, was to announce the coming of the long-awaited Messiah, the Christ, THE Anointed of God, God's only beloved Son! John took on this task because he felt the call to do this. Even from the womb of his mother Elizabeth, cousin of the Virgin Mary, he felt the presence of the Messiah he would be proclaiming in the form of womb-kicks when Elizabeth greets Mary. (Luke 1:39-45) Yet, human as he was, John, even as he was facing beheading at the hands of Herod, questioned whether Jesus was indeed the One who was the Messiah. He sends his disciples to ask Jesus. They return, recounting the many wonders Jesus has done, not in His own name, but in the name of the Father in heaven. John had to die smiling, trusting that he had fulfilled his God-given mission in the world. Hopefully. My friends, we can claim the same. But to do so requires some work, some reflection, some ‘letting go’ of our earthly distractions, and an openness to, as we pray in the Lord's Prayer, that God's name be hallowed, that is, become a real felt presence, within us, that “our kingdom go and God's kingdom com”, that ‘my will be set aside when it does not align with God's will.’ This Third Sunday of Advent is referred to as Gaudete Sunday, meaning ‘Joy Sunday’. We take a pause in our Advent journey to remind ourselves where real joy, J-O-Y, is found: in the heart of Jesus, in care for Others, and in proper care for the unique You who God created to add your unique value to the world!

Gentle Peace! Fr. Larry

Next Sunday, December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Readings: 2Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Roman 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Celebrant Mass Schedule
St. Agatha St. Martin de Porres

12/17/23 Fr. Thad Fr. Mike Knotek
12/24/23 (One Mass) 10:00am - St. A, Fr. Larry
12/24/23 Christmas Eve Mass - St. M de Porres
4:00pm Christmas Carols and Nativity Play
5:00pm Christmas Proclamation and Mass
12/25/23 (One Mass) 10:00am - St. A, Fr. Larry
12/31/23 Fr. Thad Fr. Larry



Mass Intentions for this Week
Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023



† Happy Heavenly Birthday to Jerome Dillon
From the Dillion 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

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

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
Choir Director: Antonio Anderson
Website/ Social Media: Emily Dillon, Kevin Dillon

" O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

This song, with its longing for the coming of the Savior, genuinely belongs to Advent. Its melody is based on Gregorian Chant, and its verses are all taken from the Church's "O" antiphons. These antiphons introduce the Magnificat, or Cantic of Mary, at evening prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, from December 17th through December 23rd. Each of them begins with a traditional title for Christ. Each of these traditional titles for the Messiah connects the coming of Christ with the prophetic writings of the Old Testament. The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

DECEMBER 17: O WISDOM OF OUR GOD MOST HIGH, GUIDING CREATION WITH POWER AND LOVE: COME TO TEACH US THE PATH OF KNOWLEDGE!

DECEMBER 18: O LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL, GIVER OF THE LAW TO MOSES ON SINAI: COME TO RESCUE US WITH YOUR MIGHTY POWER!

DECEMBER 19: O ROOT OF JESSE'S STEM, SIGN OF GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL HIS PEOPLE: COME TO SAVE US WITHOUT DELAY!

DECEMBER 20: O KEY OF DAVID, OPENING THE GATES OF GOD'S ETERNAL KINGDOM: COME AND FREE THE PRISONERS OF DARKNESS!

DECEMBER 21 O RADIANT DAWN, SPLENDOR OF ETERNAL LIGHT, SUN OF JUSTICE: COME AND SHINE ON THOSE WHO DWELL IN DARKNESS AND IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH.

DECEMBER 22: O KING OF ALL NATIONS AND KEystone OF THE CHURCH: COME AND SAVE MAN, WHOM YOU FORMED FROM THE DUST!

DECEMBER 23" O EMMANUEL, OUR KING AND GIVER OF LAW: COME TO SAVE US, LORD OUR GOD!

