



St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish
December 24 - 25, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent / CHRISTMAS



For with God
 nothing shall be
Believe impossible.
 ~Luke 1:37



CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24th 4th Sunday of Advent One Mass 10:00 a.m. St. Agatha

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

Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. St. Agatha

Sunday, December 31st, Feast of the Holy Family/ Kwanzaa

Sunday, January 7, 2024 Feast of Epiphany 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 csmith@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

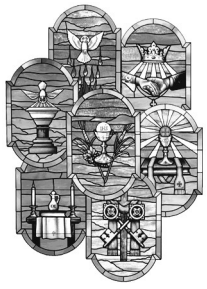
Thurs: 9 am (Service w/Adoration)

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 17, 2023

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

Mass Offering	\$4,879.00
GiveCentral	775.00
Christmas Collection	605.00
*Kolbe House-Special	107.00
*Mass Offering Adjustment from 12/10/23	80.00
Total:	\$6,446.00

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 Gruszczeni, 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



Birthing Awe and Wonder

Fr. Larry Dowling

**Good people, take heart, the time is near
Spirit groans with joyous anticipation,
For souls fully open to conceiving new life,
Hearts ever ready to birth new creation.**

**Ever life-giving source, all-nourishing abyss
Time/space in labor, Spirit's *dar a luz*.
God's wisdom, our passion, made manifest
Nothing's impossible if God so choose!**

**Seeds of new creation stir, awaiting
Fertile soil tilled with patient yearning.
Flow of grace permeates life's fragile shell,
Igniting, expanding, with great promise burning.**

**Quickening, kicking, stretching, growing.
Possessing it lightly, mother-spirit nourishes,
Knowing its time, God's time, will arrive
When life emerges, grows and flourishes.**

**Once upon a time, in the fullness of time
Jubilant song rang from the heavenly host.
For God only comes, not when we're ready,
But when we truly need our God the most.**

**Eternal utterance of the infinite Divine,
Conceived in the womb of Mary, virginal soul,
Betrothed to Joseph, humble, faithful servant,
Giving birth to the Light the prophets foretold.**

**Fragile vessel, infinite love, beauty sublime,
Cries of labor, joy of labor's release
Yield first light, first gaze, first vision
First awe, first wonder, first perfect peace.**

**Weapons of war are reduced to silence,
Past transgressions are laid to rest
At the sound of a blessed newborn babe
Nursing at his mother's breast.**

**Conflict and division are cast aside
Hatred and selfishness such moments erase
At the gaze of a father-mother, enfolding,
The fruit of their love in timeless embrace.**

**What Child is this that such wonder elicits,
In whose presence by nature all are awed?
It's every child 'twas ever born.
Each, every one, yes, you!...
beloved Child of God!**

Blessed Christmas, 2023 !

Next Sunday, December 31, 2023
Feast of the Holy Family
Readings: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
Luke 2:22-40

Celebrant Mass Schedule
St. Agatha St. Martin de Porres

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
01/7/23 Fr. Larry Fr. Thad



Mass Intentions for this Week
Sunday, December 24, 2023



- † In Loving Memory of Charlie Thomas
Forever in Our Hearts, Your Loving Family
- † In Loving Memory of Will A. Riley Sr.
From the Riley 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

St. Simon of Cyrene Prayer of Intercession

God of infinite compassion and boundless love, through the ages you call men and women, young and old, to model for us the virtues of humble strength and willing service. You have given us this noble African, St. Simon of Cyrene, as a model of such virtue, manifested in a life as a husband, father, laborer and willing servant to help bear the burdens of others. He helped bear the cross of Your Son, Our Lord, Brother and Savior, Jesus Christ, in order that Jesus might complete his journey to suffer the cross, conquering death and opening the doors of heaven to all humankind.

Through the intercession of St. Simon of Cyrene, strengthen me in my resolve to live the truth of who You created me to be, to love as only to be life-giving to others, to use my unique gifts to help bear the crosses of all innocent victims who suffer injustice inflicted by the greed, arrogance and apathy of others. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*St. Simon of Cyrene, one with Our Savior
in bearing His cross, pray for us!*

*St. Simon of Cyrene, a foundation stone of the
Christian Church in Africa, pray for us!*

*St. Simon of Cyrene, husband, father, laborer,
strength for the suffering Christ in our world,
pray for us!*

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.



*May the magic
and the wonder
of the holiday season
stay with you
throughout
the coming year*