



St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish
December 31, 2023
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



**Prayer for the African American
and All Families**

God of Mercy and Love we place our African American Families and all families before You today. May we be proud of our history and never forget those who paid a great price for our liberation. Bless us one by one and keep our hearts and minds fixed on higher ground. Help us to live for you and not for ourselves, and may we cherish and proclaim the gift of life.

Bless our parents, guardians and grandparents, relatives and friends. Give us the amazing grace to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Help us, as Your children, to live in such a way that the beauty and greatness of authentic love is reflected in all that we say and do. Give a healing anointing to those less fortunate, especially the motherless, the fatherless, the broken, the sick and the lonely.

Bless our departed family members and friends. May they be led into the light of Your dwelling place where we will never grow old, where we will share the fullness of redemption and shout the victory for all eternity. This we ask in the Precious Name of Jesus, our Savior and Blessed Assurance. Amen. Holy Mary, Mother of Our Families, pray for us.

St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish

Fr. Larry Dowling, Pastor
denispadre@aol.com

Fr. Thadeo Mгимba, 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.

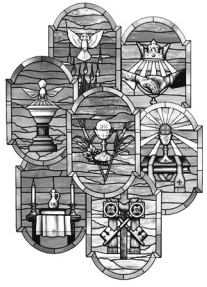
Masses: Sunday: 11:00 am; Tuesday: 9:00 am
Thurs: 9 am (Service w/Adoration)

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 24, 2023

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

Mass Offering	\$5,365.00
GiveCentral	1510.00
Christmas Collection	480.00
Online Contributions for November 2023	1990.00
*Kolbe House-Special	9.00
Total:	\$9,354.00

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, Zenobia Fuller, Danny Gardner, Shea Gardner, Callie Gee, Pamela D. Gee, Yvonne Gibson, Patricia Graham, 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

From the Desk of Fr. Larry...

I want to recommend to all of us that, as we begin the Year of Our Lord 2024, we pledge to recite every morning these words of Paul to the people of Colossae (in modern Turkey). I've adapted the reading (Col 3: 12-17) so it is spoken by you to God.

[Gracious God, this day help me to] Put on, as God's chosen one, holy and beloved... heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with others and forgiving others, if I have a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven me, so I must also do. And over all these, help me put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control my heart, the peace into which I was also called in one body, the Body of Christ. And, always, Lord, in all ways, let me be thankful. Amen!

As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family today, we celebrate all families, our extended families and the family of all humankind. At the celebration of every Mass at Simon of Cyrene, I acknowledge ALL who are with us in our celebrations. This includes the 'family' who now dwell in that great cloud of witnesses, the Communion of Saints, all Catholics and Christians throughout the world, and really all humankind.

Recall the words from Eucharistic Prayer II: Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit. Remember, Lord, Your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity. Every Mass should elicit in us a joy that we are part of the greater human family. At the same time, it should cause us some sadness and longing that more people would be present, that our church buildings were overflowing. That longing should cause us to want to go out every day and seek ways to invite others to join our family at St. Simon of Cyrene. God's greatest longing is 'that ALL may be ONE!'

We know in our world that 'holy families' take many shapes and forms. Mary and Joseph didn't start out the traditional way most families are supposed to start: engagement, marriage, children. No, it was engagement, pregnancy, then marriage. The first few years of their lives were not easy: forced to give birth in a messy stable, threatened by Herod to kill their son, fleeing as refugees to Egypt, living in a foreign land until it was safe to return to their own homeland years later.

It was Joseph and Mary's faith and family that got them through - their extended family in the village of Nazareth until Jesus was 2, then the family in Egypt who adopted them when they fled there for safety. Families take all shapes and forms. Pope Francis reminded us even recently that families of those persons who are in a committed relationship who do not fall under the traditional male-female definition still need to be blessed, to be acknowledged and affirmed in their commitment for life to be life-giving to each other and life-giving to the world. Something we are all called to do each day. Be life-giving to those closest to us and out of that shared love, be life-giving to the world.

Gentle peace and Blessed New Year! Fr. Larry

Next Sunday, January 07, 2024
The Epiphany of the Lord
Readings: Isaiah 60: 1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Celebrant Mass Schedule
St. Agatha St. Martin de Porres

12/31/23	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
01/07/24	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
01/14/24	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
01/21/24	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
01/28/24	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
02/04/24	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
02/11/24	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry



Mass Intentions for this Week
Sunday, December 31, 2023



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

Prayers for Anthony and Renae Wallin
 Caryn and Mike Kondrat, from Linda Wallin

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

**Prayers for Those Facing Domestic Violence
 and We Who Support Them**

Loving God, be with all men and women who are in doubt about their intimate relationships. Give them clarity of mind and peaceful hearts so that they can make good decisions guided by Your love. Let those who must, discern any abuse that may exist so that they can learn to care for themselves with Your help. Let those who must, acknowledge that they are harming the other, so they can learn to abhor their own behavior and come to true repentance and amendment of life. Keep us all safe in our relationships. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Compassionate God, protect the innocent children who suffer or witness violence and abuse at the hands of the ones they love. Bring them to a safe place where they can begin to heal. Restore their minds to trust and their hearts to love and their spirits to be free. Surround them with your angels. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Teaching God, we pray that You open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts to be more aware, outreaching, and supportive to people in abusive situations, so that they won't feel alone and know that someone cares. Let us love them as You have loved us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Domestic Violence Services: Catholic Charities Chicago. Community Casework and Counseling. 1800 N. Hermitage . Chicago, IL 60622 . Intake: (312) 655-7700

National Domestic Abuse Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE 1-800-799-7233