



**St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish**  
**January 28, 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



**AUTHORITY**  
IN  
*JESUS*  
*CHRIST*

**JESUS**  
IS THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY



**"What is this?"**  
***A new teaching with authority. Mark 1:27***

**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)**

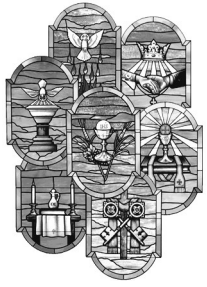
**St. Agatha Church**

**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 21, 2024

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

Mass Offering	\$3,320.00
GiveCentral	1526.00
Kolbe House-Special	174.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$5,020.00</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, Marilyn 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 Pledge, 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...**

My brothers and sisters, sadly in these times the word ‘authority’ has taken on very negative connotations. Many people have rejected any institutions that claim an authority over their physical, emotional, spiritual, or political lives. They themselves become ‘the authority’ and, even worse, look to the internet, Fox News or CNN as the ‘authority’ that forms their opinions to become, in their mind, factual information.

It’s pretty much a fact that any lie repeated over and over can easily become a believed ‘fact’ by others. It’s also true, I believe, that unless we can explain the truth in a way that the hearer can truly understand what we are saying, that it is still not the truth. Which mean we need to get to know the person we are trying to convince of the truth, how best they hear and understand things, what beliefs they already have that are so embedded in them that there needs to be a compelling argument to move them to even consider a different perspective.

Which brings us to today’s Gospel... Jesus is worshipping in the synagogue when he is approached by a man possessed with demons. Jesus casts them out of the man. The people around him are amazed that He has such power, what they describe as speaking with authority. The authority they are referring to is not just focused on Jesus Himself, but refers to something deeper: Jesus has a connection with the Spirit of God that is special. They recognize Jesus, not as the authority himself, but as deeply connected to the very Author of Life. This is exactly what Jesus wants them to witness. He doesn’t desire hero-worship. He wants people to be drawn, through Him, to the Source of that power, to the One who longs for all of us to embrace the power of Love offered us by the Author of Life. It is then, God, through each of us, who brings healing, forgiveness, reconciliation, restoration, and unconditional love to those we encounter on life’s journey.

We know all too well those who claim ultimate authority, who are above the law or beyond reproach. These are typically people who cling to power and prestige, who will do anything to stay in power and maintain or raise their prestige. Jesus presents the direct opposite of this. His Authority is exercised in humility, kindness and generosity. He knows both Who he is, but also Whose He is. There is little ego in Him because He knows His purpose is not about Him, but about others. His task, like ours, is to draw others to God and, through God, draw us to each other, each of us unique and special, each of us with a unique and special purpose in life. We know our demons. We know that Jesus can help us deal with them and free us to be fully who God created us to be.

Are we willing to let go and allow God’s love to remove those demons and fill the empty space with new possibilities of living and loving? Hopefully the answer is ‘Yes!’

**Gentle Peace! Fr. Larry**

**Next Sunday, February 4, 2024**  
**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Readings: Job 7:1-4, 6-7**  
**1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23**  
**Mark 1:29-39**

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

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
03/03/24	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad



**Mass Intentions for this Week**  
**Sunday, January 28, 2024**



- † In Loving Memory of Alex Wilson  
From Vera and Children
- † In Loving Memory of Victor Guarino  
From wife, Jean Guarino
- † Happy Heavenly Birthday to Joseph Brown  
From Yvette Henderson
- Happy Blessed Birthday to our dear Mom  
Carol Johnson from Chivon and Cinque

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**

- 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 Vocations from**  
**The Black Catholic Community**

God of Love and Life, God who invites each and every one of us to develop and share of the fullness of the unique cultural, spiritual and intellectual gifts you have given us:

+ We seek Your Sweet Spirit of Encouragement, that it might touch the hearts and minds of those men and women, youth and young adults, seeking to understand how best to serve you.

+ We ask that Your Blessed Spirit of Encouragement embolden and empower each of us to call forth leaders – or to be called forth ourselves as leaders - from the African American community: leaders in catechesis, leaders in marriage ministry, leaders in planning and leading worship, leaders in ministry with youth and young adults, leaders in study and reflection on the Holy Scriptures, deacons and deacon couples, priests and religious men and women.

+ Fill us with the conviction necessary to call forth, empower and accompany those called to formal ministry, those called to lead and accompany and empower us all in the celebration, service and growth of our beloved African American Catholic community. Make us Your instruments, Your voice, to call forth disciples, leaders, ministers to serve You through service among and with Your faithful people. We ask this through Christ, Our Brother and Lord. Amen.

**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.

