



**St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish**  
**February 11, 2024**  
**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



*A leper came to Jesus and begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."*  
*Mk 1:40-41*

**LENT BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY!**

**Ash Wednesday : Mass 7:30 a.m. St. Agatha, 7:00 p.m. St. Martin de Porres  
Prayer Service with Distribution of Ashes NOON Both Sites**

**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**

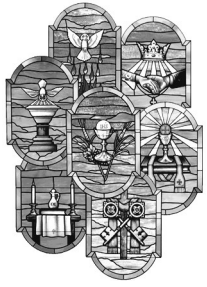
**5112 W. Washington Boulevard**  
**Chicago, IL 60644 Ph: (773) 287-0206**  
**Office Hours Mon. - Fri 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**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, February 04, 2024

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

Mass Offering	\$4,920.50
GiveCentral	1652.00
Kolbe House-Special	9.50
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 6,582.00</b>

**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, 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 friends, have you ever told someone, or maybe someone has told you, that you need 'to clean up your act'? As I was driving west on I-290 this morning, I came across a billboard inviting parents to clean up their language around their children. Sociological studies have shown that the type of language spoken in poor households is what is considered negative language, language that can affect the emotional and spiritual well-being of a child and the development of a health sense of self. This can be a consequence of poor education and the generational passing-on of abusive language and, all too often, physically abusive actions. Of course, negative language doesn't just occur in poor households. Children are affected by many forms of abuse – verbal, physical, sexual and by the physical and emotional absence of a parent.

So what does this have to do with this coming Sunday's Scriptures? Our first reading and our Gospel both focus on the disease of leprosy. During Jesus' time, people with leprosy were required to identify themselves if they approached a town or group of people by crying out 'Unclean! Unclean!' Can you imagine the humiliation of having to do this every day?

In the Gospel, Jesus cures a leper who approaches him, not only healing him of his illness, but restoring him to the community who can no longer ostracize him. My brothers and sisters, next Wednesday we will begin the Season of Lent by having our foreheads marked with a cross of ashes, symbolizing both our own mortality but also calling us, during the 40 days of Lent to be made clean – or perhaps cleaner! In reality, we are all unclean because of sin, things we do that are hurtful to others or hurtful to ourselves, or things that we don't do when we see a need to be met that we can help with.

None of us walk around crying out 'unclean!' because ALL OF US are in some way 'unclean.' Yet, as Christians, we know that we are still loved by God, despite our sinfulness, because God always has the hope that, with His help, we will take the time to 'clean up our act.'

As we prepare to enter this special season of Lent this Wednesday, we do so in humility, with an openness to be freed of those things that hinder us from pursuing and fulfilling our God-given purpose in life. Before next Wednesday, I invite us to do an inventory of what it is that we need to change for the positive in our lives. Yes, Lent is a time of letting go, that is, of fasting, but fasting then leaves an empty space to be filled with something new, something positive, something lifegiving to us and to others. Since Ash Wednesday also falls on Valentine's Day this year, it might be good to ponder the great love that God has for us and the deep longing that God has for us to accept His love, to allow it to fill us, stretch us and pour out of us to touch the lives of those who love us, who allow us to love them, and those we encounter on our daily journey who long to be touched by the love of God, whether they realize it or not.

**Gentle peace! Fr. Larry**

**Next Sunday, February 18, 2024**  
**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Readings: Genesis 9:8-15**  
**1 Peter 3:18-22**  
**Mark 1:12-15**

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

<b>02/18/24</b>	<b>Fr. Larry</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>
<b>02/25/24</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>	<b>Fr. Larry</b>
<b>03/03/24</b>	<b>Fr. Larry</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>
<b>03/10/24</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>	<b>Fr. Larry</b>
<b>03/17/24</b>	<b>Fr. Larry</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>
<b>03/24/24</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>	<b>Fr. Larry</b>
<b>03/31/24</b>	<b>Fr. Larry</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>



**ASH WEDNESDAY MASS**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

**Morning Mass 7:30 am, at St. Agatha**

**Afternoon Ash Service**  
**St. Martin de Porres & St. Agatha**  
**(12:00 noon)**

**Evening Mass 7:00 pm, at St. Martin de Porres**

**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**

**Lenten Regulations for Fasting and Abstinence**

As another Lenten journey of conversion begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and ends with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, March 28, the Catholic Church calls all Catholics to a deeper spirit of penance, fasting, almsgiving and prayer, "which express conversion in relation to oneself, to God, and to others"

To foster a greater spirit of penance, reparation for sin, to encourage self-denial, which guide us more closely in the footsteps of Christ, the Church reminds us of the following obligations of fast and abstinence during Lent, and also admonishes us all to deeper prayer and worship.

**Abstinence...** All who have celebrated their 14th birthday are bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

**Fasting...** Everyone, from the celebration of their 18th birthday to their 59th birthday, is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting means eating only one full meal each day. Two other partial meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken; but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed.

Voluntary fasting on other weekdays of Lent is highly recommended. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, neither the law of fasting nor the law of abstinence obliges. These are minimal penitential practices and should not be lightly excused. If in doubt, please consult your parish priest. Other recommended forms of fasting, as regards alcoholic drink, needless television, video games, Internet use, and social entertainment, are of true spiritual value and strongly encouraged.

**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, February 11, 2024**



**Happy Blessed Birthday to Zali Martinez**  
**From your loving Family**

We encourage our parishioners to pray for their loved ones living and deceased, by offering a Mass intention. Donation \$10