



St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish
February 4, 2024
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



For though I am free with respect to all,

1 Corinthians 9.19

I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them.



Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. Mark 1:30

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

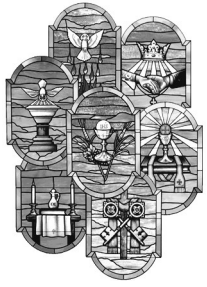
5112 W. Washington Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60644 Ph: (773) 287-0206
Office Hours Mon. - Fri 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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 28, 2024

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

Mass Offering	\$4,379.00
GiveCentral	1068.00
Kolbe House-Special	<u>17.00</u>
Total:	\$5,464.00

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, 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...

There has been much debate recently about the men, women and children seeking asylum in the United States, fleeing the extreme violence from drug cartels and gangs, and extreme poverty. These are mostly parents, families who are seeking to rebuild their lives in a welcoming and safe place where they can survive and hopefully thrive. The men – husbands and fathers – have expressed to me their desire not to depend on the government or others for assistance – they truly want to work, make a living, raise their families and be a part of a community. Many have left much behind – homes, cars, jobs. They only want the opportunity to reestablish their family in a safe and welcoming place.

Which brings us to the beginning of the Gospel. Jesus visits the home of Simon Peter where Simon's mother-in-law is ill. What is Jesus' motivation to cure her? Is it just because she's ill and related to Peter? I suspect that for Jesus it is more than that. This is a woman who loves to entertain and offer hospitality to visitors. He doesn't sense any bitterness because of her illness. Jesus senses only this desire in her to do what she enjoys and thus cures her illness. Her response is to immediately get up and wait on her guests. The woman is made whole in body, mind and spirit!

Contrast this with our first reading from the Book of Job. Job has lost everything! He is bitter and angry with God. With so much prosperity in his life suddenly taken from him, Job is totally devastated and blames God. Going back to the example of those seeking asylum, the reaction from some in the Black community has been strong "Why are we suddenly helping 'those people' and not taking care of our own?" "Why isn't the government giving us 6 months of free rent?" I will not debate the general neglect of the poor in our country. I can't remember the last time I heard the phrase 'caring for the poor' in any political campaign. The focus is, in often fancy rhetoric, on the shrinking middle class; but then, in reality, the results benefit mostly the wealthy.

We live in a society where many people are dependent on government assistance. This both deprives those individuals and families of any sense of self-worth and assures the continuation of systemic racism. Those in power love to see Black and brown people pointing fingers at each other. It is a way for them to continue their abusive policies that negatively affect both communities. Jesus wants each of us to claim our dignity and sense of self-respect and self-worth. He also wants us to recognize how precious we are to God, that God longs for each and all of us to pursue and realize our full potential as human beings.

The question is: Do we value ourselves AND do we value each other? 'Value' does not mean what we can do for each other, but instead what we can be for one another. Peter's mother-in-law wanted to be the giving, hospitable person she knew herself to be, what she took joy in. Jesus helps her to do this by curing her. And Jesus can do the same for us. But first we need to claim our sense of self-worth, our preciousness in the eyes of God, and our life purpose, God's purpose for us. Once we do so, God will make a way for us to fulfill that purpose. Will there be setbacks? Of course! But perhaps the joy we have accumulated throughout the years of fulfilling that purpose will, with the grace of God, get us through the difficult times.

Gentle Peace! Fr. Larry

Next Sunday, February 11, 2024
 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Readings: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46
 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1
 Mark 1:40-45

Celebrant Mass Schedule
St. Agatha St. Martin de Porres

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



**ST. SIMON OF CYRENE
 GRADY ANDERSON AUXILIARY**

**MARDI
 GRAS**

**2/10/2024
 7 PM - 12 AM**

Featuring- The Llorens Review

**PURCELL HALL
 4300 W. WASHINGTON BLVD.
 CHICAGO, IL**

*Prayer for the Intercession
 of St. Agatha*

*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
 faith, hope and love. You have
 given us St. Agatha of Sicily as a model of
 such virtue.
 She centered her life in You and
 You gave her
 the strength and resilience
 to endure abuse and torture
 at the hands of those in power.
 Through the intercession of
 St. Agatha, virgin and martyr, strengthen
 my resolve to live into the fullness of who
 you created me to be, to be your life-giving
 love to others, to speak your truth, and to
 oppose those forces that would diminish or
 destroy the beauty
 ever-present and ever-emerging
 in me, in others and
 in your glorious creation.
 I ask this through Christ,
 my brother and Savior. Amen.*

**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

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.

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



**Mass Intentions for this Week
 Sunday, February 04, 2024**



† In Loving Memory or Eddie L. Davis
 From the Davis Family
 † Happy Heavenly Birthday to our Dear Mom
 Bobbie Hicks, From the Hicks Family
 Happy Blessed Birthday to Russell Hicks
 From the Hicks Family

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