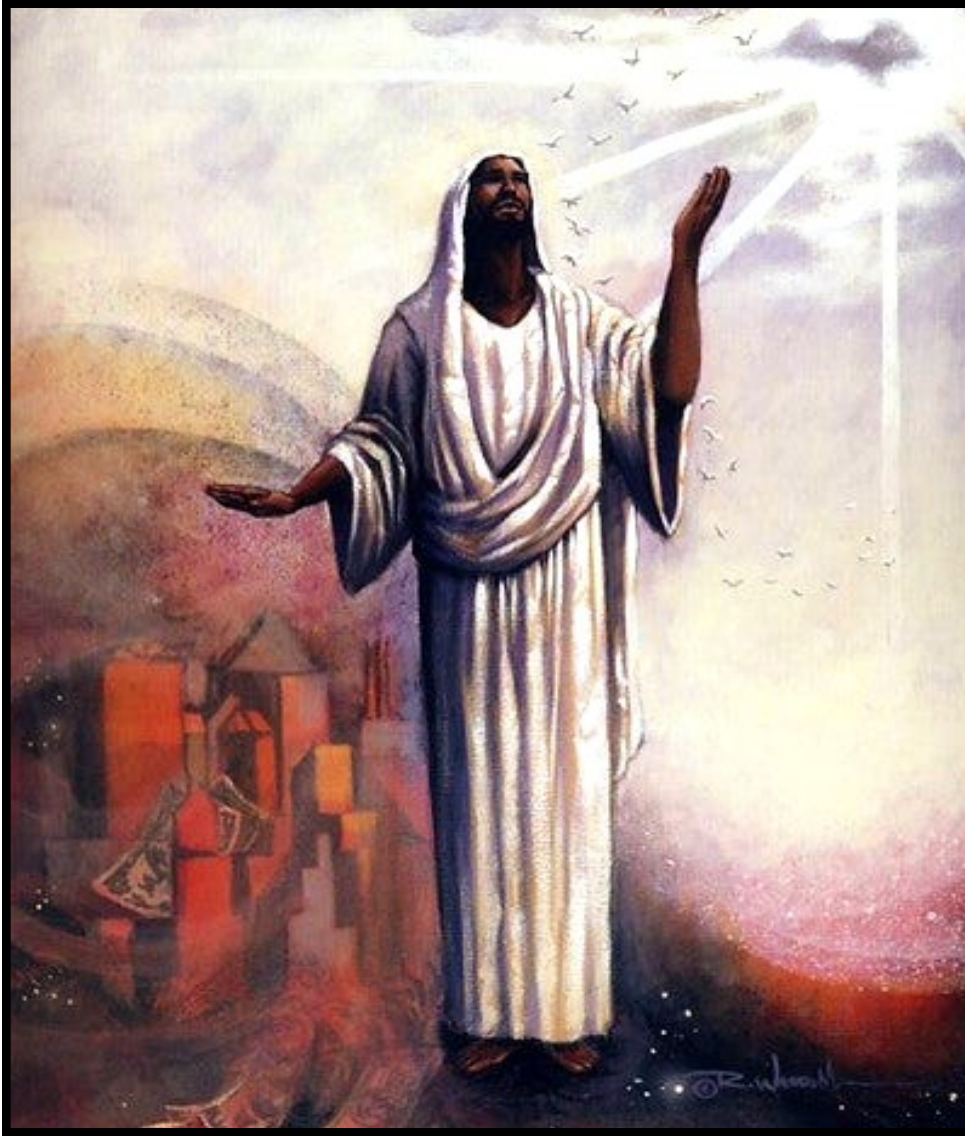




St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish
February 18, 2024
First Sunday of Lent



**The Spirit drove
Jesus out into the
desert, and he remained
in the desert for forty
days, tempted by Satan.
He was among wild
beasts, and the angels
ministered to him.**

Mark 1: 12-13



**Westside Catholic Lenten
Reconciliation Service**

**Thursday, February 22
7:00 p.m.
St. Martin de Porres
Church**

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)

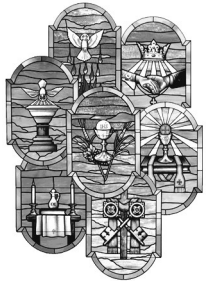
St. Agatha Church

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, February 11, 2024

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

Mass Offering	\$6,050.20
GiveCentral	915.00
Kolbe House-Special	2.00
Total:	\$6,967.20

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, the first Sunday of every Lenten Season draws us into the desert with Jesus, where he fasts for forty days and overcomes 3 major temptations by the devil who promises us status above others, power over others and abject adoration from others. This year, the year where we draw most of our Gospels from Mark, is the shortest account of Jesus' temptation expressed in just two sentences: *The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. Mark 1: 12-13*

We may ask why Mark is so brief in his account. After Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan, he is compelled by the spirit to journey to the desert. Keep in mind that he has just had this incredible encounter with His cousin John who has been, for years, announcing the coming of the Messiah. It had to be incredible for these two men to face each other, bonded by blood family, but even more bound together by God's plan for the redemption of all humankind! This encounter had profound meaning, Jesus the Messiah, 'the "One Who is to come,"' who is now present in flesh, blood and spirit. In time, meeting John the Baptist and Prophet, the last prophet of the Bible, who has been preaching the two great calls of all the prophets: To repent from idolatry and turn back to God, AND to care for the poor and the needy... in the words of the Old Testament, to care for 'the widow and the orphan,' in Old Testament times symbolic of those who were seen as of little or no value in society. *Note that widows are mentioned 80 times and orphans, or fatherless children are mentioned 44 times.*

Remember also that Jesus has heard the voice from the sky affirming Him as God's beloved Son. After 30 years of growing, learning, maturing, being loved, and nurtured by his parents, Jesus is ready to begin His formal ministry, yet still feels the need, after John has essentially passed the baton of ministry to Him, to go away, fast, and empty himself of all ego and temptation. But then He must allow the Father to fill Him with the grace and power necessary to reveal to others the human/ divine manifestation of God's mercy, forgiveness, and love in the world... and in essence to show everyone that we all have the capacity to do this if we are open to accept and embrace the fullness of God's love in our lives.

Every Lent we are invited to do what Jesus did, to enter into 40 days of prayer, emptying ourselves by willingly fasting from those things that hinder us from fully offering our time, talent and treasure to others, and allowing God to then fill us with the grace and power to extend God's love to others in acts of self-denial and genuine care for the material, emotional and spiritual needs of others. NOW is the time to listen to that same voice of God that spoke to the crowd at Jesus' baptism: You are my beloved Son or Daughter. Claim it! Embrace it! And now, my beloved, go out and humbly and generously LIVE IT!

Gentle peace! Fr. Larry

Next Sunday, February 25, 2024
 Second Sunday of Lent
 Readings: Genesis 22:1-2, 10-13, 15-18
 Romans 8:31b-34
 Mark 9:2-10

Celebrant Mass Schedule
St. Agatha St. Martin de Porres

02/18/24	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
02/25/24	Fr. Tom Walsh	Fr. Larry
03/03/24	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
03/10/24	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
03/17/24	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
03/24/24	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
03/31/24	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad

- Golden Age Group -

Food, Fellowship, Info for Seniors, Other Activities
 Every 3rd Monday 12:00 - 2:30 p.m.
 Monday, February 19, at St. Agatha Site
 Transportation provided for St. Martin Seniors
 RSVP to Ms. McGowan (773) 522-3050



Women's Faith Sharing

Wednesday, February 21, 10:00am - 11:00am
 Call-in (267) 807.9533 / Code 38656#

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 18, 2024



† In Loving Memory of Lucy Henry
 From the Henry Family

Ever increasing Prayer for Happiness, Love, Peace and Joy
 From Saul Arellano and Family

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