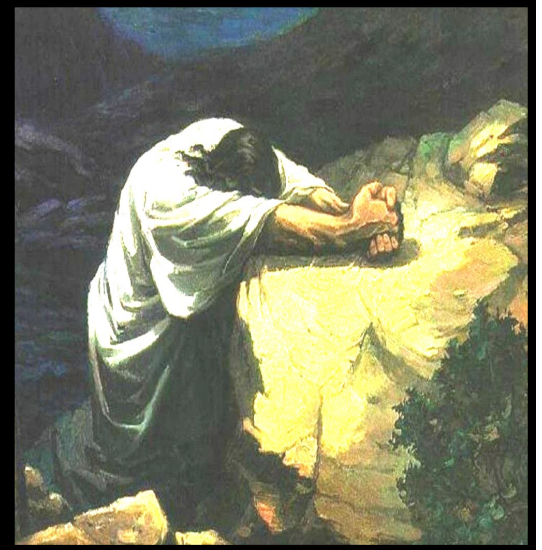




St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish
March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Lent



"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit."

Jn 12:24



***** Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion/
St. Agatha 9:00 a.m. St. Martin de Porres 11:00 a.m.**
***** Holy Thursday of the Lord's Supper
St. Martin de Porres 7:00 p.m.**
***** Good Friday of the Lord's Passion
St. Martin de Porres 7:00 p.m.**
***** Holy Saturday at the Easter Vigil
in the Holy Night of Easter 7:30 p.m. St. Agatha**

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)

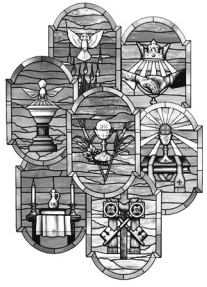
St. Agatha Church

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, March 10, 2024

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

Mass Offering	\$6750.50
GiveCentral	1461.19
Kolbe House-Special	25.00
Total:	\$8,236.69

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, Leutrice Harris, Tony Harris, Darryl Hicks, Veronica Hicks, Gwendolyn Hicks, Elia Hinogosa-Cangey, Joesaya Henderson, Kesiea & Melinda, Kim Henderson, Leonard Henderson, Jerron Johns Jr., Joyce Ann Johnson, Sr., Julius Jones, Corine Jourdan, Ashanti Kelly, Jacqueline Kelly, Stanley King, Brian Lares, Jimmy Lee, Sayyid Lestrade, Anthony Lyons, Alexander Madden, Mannette, Larry Mapp Jr., Arellys 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 Pledage, Queenie Randle, Elberta Raschke, Marvin Register, Sommer Reynolds, Ed Ricks, Aquila Rogers, Deborah Rutledge, Lorraine Sanford, Eunice Scripp, Lazaro Alexandeer Singh, Rosa Solano, Candace Span, 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

From the Desk of Fr. Larry...

I love this reflection from Fr. John Foley, SJ. ...

“A tiny grain plants itself deep within the soil. It is tucked into complete darkness. It is fearless, comforted by the tough, safe shell that is its home. It belongs there, and knows it. In quiet. In growth. Home.

Then the shell-shelter turns tight and invading and painful.

The growing seed’s former peace is replaced by shock. Its earlier great protector is now opposing it, holding it back. Crushing it. Then, suddenly, as if planned from all eternity, the protecting shell cracks right open, letting in the outside. “Wait, wait, I need you,” shouts the seed.

Nothing doing. The shelter is going to pieces! Moisture trickles in, and bits of dank, cold soil. Anything and everything can now wriggle right into the heart of what was a quiet, pure place. The seed goes crazy.

But it copes somehow, wildly extending a new, thin arm outward, then slithering out its whole self. “Steady by jerks,” it says, through the cracks in its shell. It had to get out of there, so it dares its way into the rough, cold mud. How foolish and how shaming. Stay where safety is, you fool! *

But the transforming tiny self seems to take on a new life. Is this its new home now? Buried in the slippery soil? Ok, it moves with caution.

Too much is in its path, including a huge, unyielding rock. A jagged, rough, uncaring rock, heedless of tiny green shoots. And so the story ends.

But not yet. The former seed appears to have will power. It is seeking something—urging itself toward some pressing objective, rooting its way by intuition. Along the under-edge of the rock it goes, brutally, fearfully and with rending pain. After what seems like years it achieves the far under-edge of the gnarly rock and, guess what.

It starts upward again.

Now there are hard clods it has to press through, and plenty of pebbles. The higher it goes, the more dry the surrounding soil. Finally, the top crust. But it too forbids penetration. It is an ultimate, intractable, stupefying barrier. And so the story ends.

Except for one voice from deep within. Push, push, it murmurs. I am with you.

Now just a thinnest lesion in the tough crust. With a certainty that might have been written on its heart, this vine-to-be squeezes through and gets to the place it was meant to be all along. In a haven of light and warmth, bathed in the sun’s astonishing rays. It is now a plant and it relaxes and stretches and yawns in the wafting breezes of Spring.

This is just like our own journey, isn’t it? Of course, dark mud can take a chokehold on our life. But, Jesus says, do not worry, child, trust me. “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit”” (*John 12:24*) My friends, dying to self is difficult. Yet the only way we grown in the Christian life is difficult, presenting many challenges in offering the fullness of our gifts without ego and other forces resisting that necessary growth. At the heart of those seeds within us is the ever-present voice and presence of God always offering us support in our spiritual, emotional and physical growth.

Gentle peace! Fr. Larry

Next Sunday, March 24, 2024
Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
 Readings: Isiah 50:4-7
 Philippians 2:6-11
 Mark 14:1

Celebrant Mass Schedule
St. Agatha St. Martin de Porres

03/17/24	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
03/24/24	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
03/31/24	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
04/07/24	Fr. Larry	TBA
04/14/24	TBA	Fr. Larry
04/21/24	Fr. Larry	TBA

- Golden Age Group -

Food, Fellowship, Info for Seniors, Other Activities
 Every 3rd Monday 12:00 - 2:30 p.m.
 Monday, March 18, at St. Agatha Site
 Transportation provided for St. Martin Seniors
 RSVP to Ms. McGowan (773) 522-3050

- Mark Your Calendar -

St. Martin de Porres Parish Federal Credit Union
 Annual Meeting
 Sunday, April 14, 2024
 Immediately following Mass
 at Kipp's School Lower Hall - All are Welcome!

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: TBA
 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

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.

ST. SIMON OF CYRENE
MEN'S GROUP
PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Come start your day with a cup of Inspiration & Fellowship!



Saturday,
April 13, 2024
7:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Tickets \$10.00

Purchase tickets from any Men's Group member!
 All proceeds benefit the church!

Purcell Hall
4300 W. Washington Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60624



PANCAKES
SAUSAGE
BACON
EGGS
JUICE
COFFEE



Mass Intentions for this Week
Sunday, March 10, 2024



Prayers of Healing for Jody Wormet
 From Sr. Marilyn Derr

Happy Blessed Birthday to Eva Rollinson
 From the Cottrell, Clark and Ellison Family

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