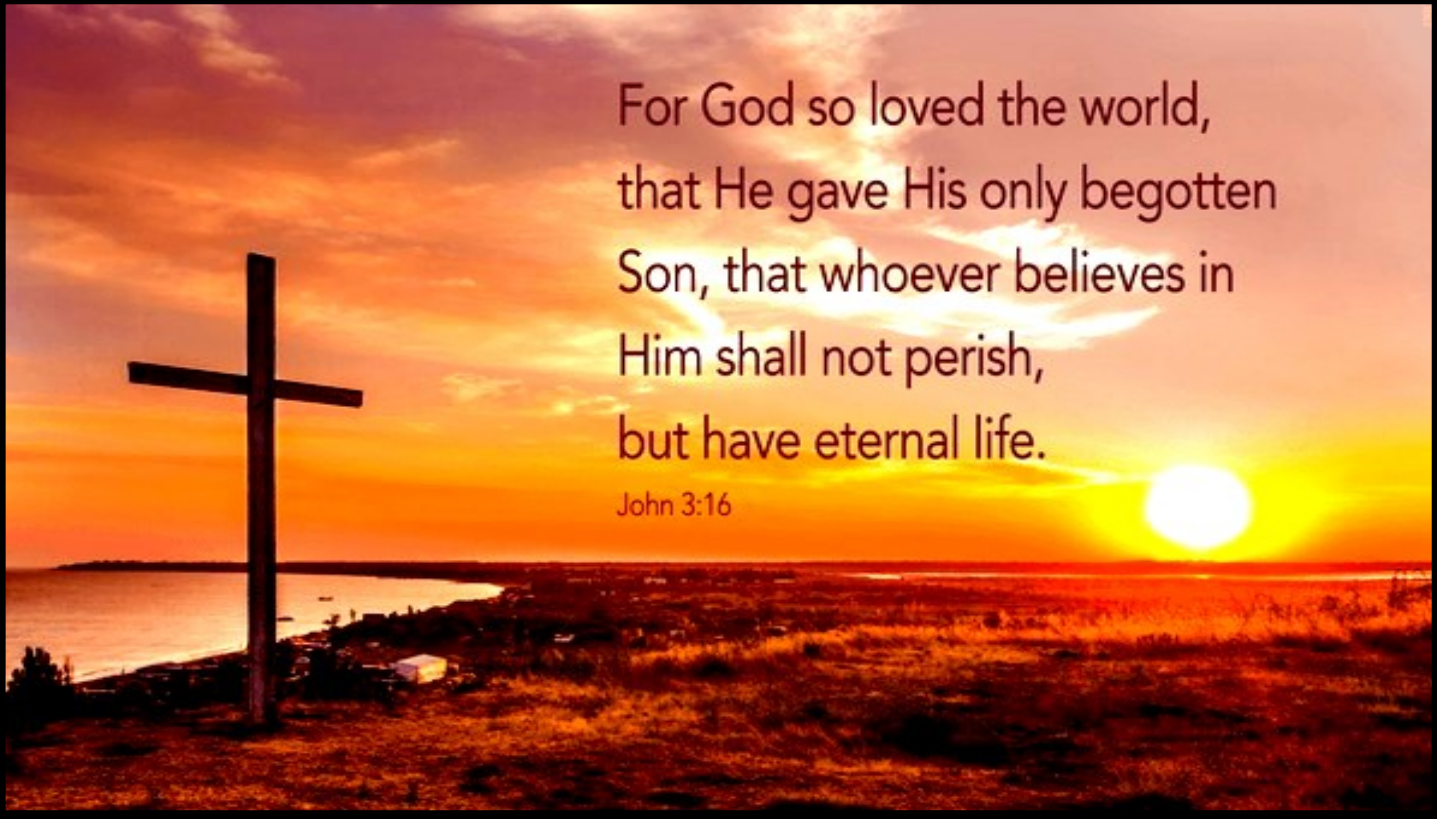




St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish
March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Lent



For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten
Son, that whoever believes in
Him shall not perish,
but have eternal life.

John 3:16

"And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his or her works may be clearly seen as done in God." Jn 3: 19-21

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

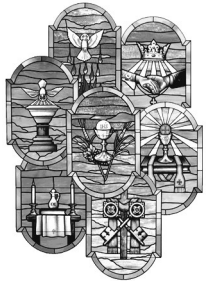
5112 W. Washington Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60644 Ph: (773) 287-0206
Office Hours Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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 3, 2024

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

Mass Offering	\$6,085.50
GiveCentral	1 080.00
Kolbe House-Special	9.00
Total:	\$7,174.50

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, 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 Yancy

From the Desk of Fr. Larry...

My friends, in today's Scripture Readings, we hear contrasts between dark and light, evil and good, with the call always to seek to embrace the light – the light of truth, beauty, integrity, the light offered by faith. In our first reading, the Jewish people have turned away from God and turned toward placing false idols and sinful living above God. As the reading tells us, they desecrated the Temple – not just the Temple in Jerusalem, but by desecrating the temple of the bodies, minds and spirits of others and themselves.

As a result, God allows – or, really, they allow the Babylonians to conquer them forcing them into exile. But despite their transgressions, God does not abandon them. This comes in the person of Cyrus, King of Persia, a non-Jew, who is influenced by the Lord to allow the Jewish people to return to their homeland. And he even offers to rebuild the Jerusalem Temple for them! This may seem crazy, but Cyrus is wise in allowing his citizens to worship their own faith, reconnecting them with a merciful God. He sees and honors the longing of the people to reclaim their faith and return to their homeland, escaping the darkness of exile and reconnecting with the 'place of light,' because it is important for him and his family as well.

In the Gospel, the darkness is obvious as Nicodemus, one of the chief priests who has in some way been touched by Jesus' ministry, comes to visit Jesus in the middle of the night. Jesus challenges Nicodemus to see that He has been called to follow this path which may well lead, as it did for many of the former prophets to arrest, suffering, and death. But Jesus adds a fourth thing: to be 'raised up on the third day.' He is trying to define Himself, not as God, but as the Messiah who seeks to lead everyone to God and ultimately to dwell with God for all eternity.

So, my friends, there are choices we make in life, choices we make that are righteous and good... or choices to operate in the shadows of our hearts and minds to do things that are contrary to what good God would have us do to others and to ourselves. I see these as choices to be life-giving or life-sapping. There is nothing we do in this world that does not, in some way, positively or negatively affect others. Even the sins we claim are personal or private, affect others because they take away from the positive impact we can have on others. All sin is social. We make choices, for good or bad, that impact our own physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing, but which also affect our relationships with our loved ones and others.

We all want to do what is right, what is good, what is pure; but it is part of the human condition that we also want to taste some of that other stuff that we know, if we understand the difference between good and bad, is bad for us and, by extension has a negative impact on others.

We have a choice: embrace the Light of Christ which can guide us through those times of temptation or continue to buy into the temptations that draw us into the darkness. The Good News is that, even in the darkness, God is present, forgiving us, longing for us to take His hand to lead us into the Light.

Gentle peace! Fr. Larry

Next Sunday, March 17, 2024
 Fifth Sunday of Lent
 Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Hebrew 5:7-9
 John 12:20-33

Celebrant Mass Schedule
St. Agatha St. Martin de Porres

03/10/24	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
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



FOOD PANTRY
St. Martin de Porres
 Wednesday & Thursday
 10:00 a.m. to Noon
St. Agatha
 Tuesday
 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Fired Up Friday - March, 15th
 Blessed Sacrament
 Youth Center



5:00p.m. - 8:00p.m. Grades 7th - High School

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



AN APPEAL TO ALL PARISHIONERS

We will be beginning RCIA classes soon. RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, are a series of classes for those who are seeking to formally join the Catholic Church... or for those who have been baptized but have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation. We are asking parishioners to invite other young and older adults to consider becoming Catholic. Contact the Parish Office to Sign Up!

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



In Loving Memory of Mary Frances Davis
from the Eucharistic Ministers

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