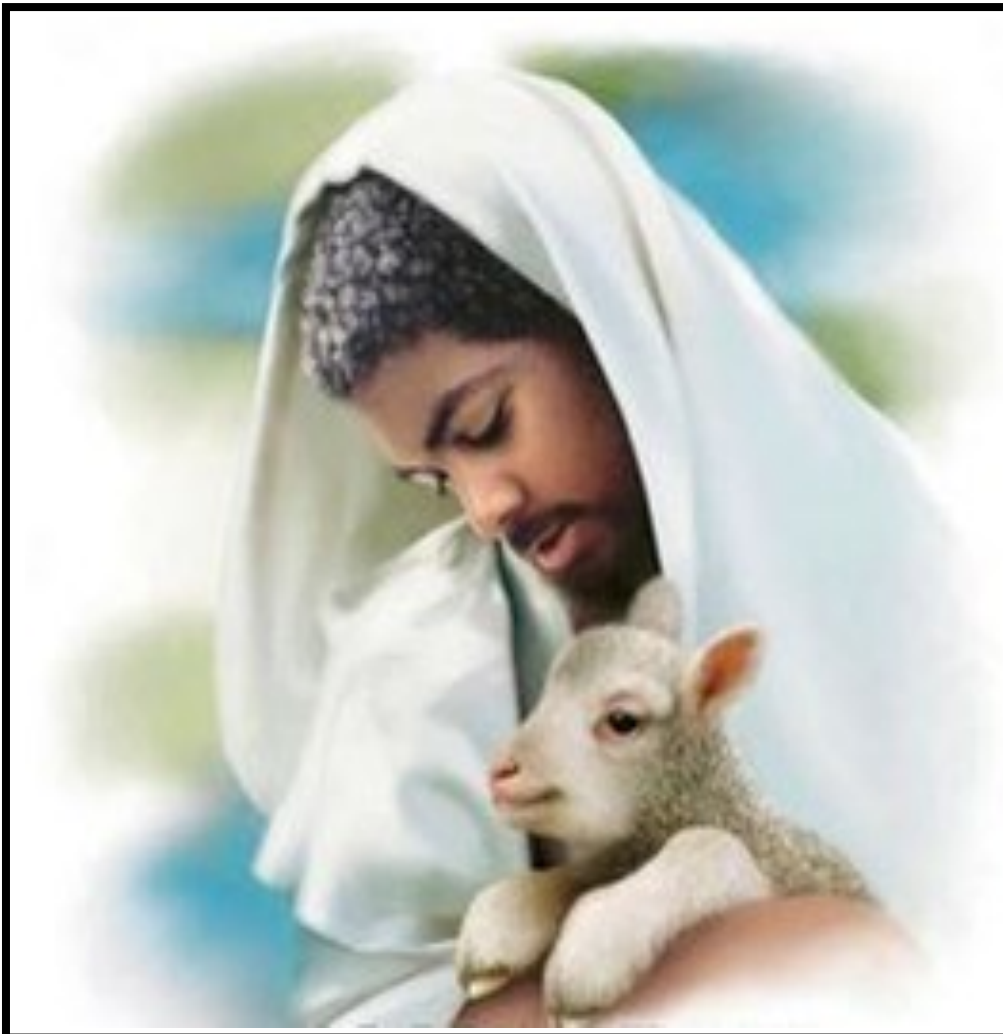




St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish
April 21, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Easter



**I am the good shepherd,
and I know mine and mine know me,
just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;
and I will lay down my life for the sheep.**
John 10:14-15

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.

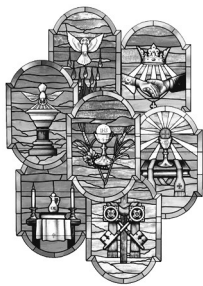
Masses: Sunday: 11:00 am; Tuesday: 9:00 am
Thurs: 9 am (Service w/Adoration)

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 Dcn 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.

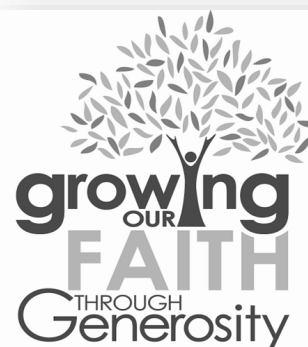
Hospital Stays: If you or a loved one is going into the hospital, please notify the office in order that a priest or care minister can call or visit the patient and be support to the family.

Your Stewardship of Treasure for the Mission of Jesus Christ Sunday, April 14, 2024

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

Mass Offering	\$2,789.00
GiveCentral	650.00
RiceBowl Donations, March & April, 2024	<u>454.32</u>
Total:	\$3,893.32

Thank you for your Generosity!



For whom shall we pray...

Walter Adams, Susie Aldrich, Bertha Anderson, Jewel Austin, Geraldine Baylor, Kyle Becnel, Hildegard Bezdicek, Hazel Bills, Diondee Brown-Whitfield, Margaret Brown, Christopher Browne, DiMarkco Chandler, Frank Clark, 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 Gruszczki, 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, Dolores Mapp, Larry Mapp Jr., Arelys Marquez, Catherine Martin, Marilyn Martin, Patrick McAnany, Melik McCloud, Latrice McGee, Martina Mgimba, Carmella Miller, Sebastian Mitchell, 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 Alexander 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 Yancy

From the Desk of Fr. Larry...

My brothers and sisters, listen to this quote from Jesuit priest John Foley: “the real value in life is to receive, not to grab and possess.” Listen again: “the real value in life is to receive, not to grab and possess.”

We know all too well that ‘the world as it is’ today focuses a lot on possessing things: power, wealth, the latest in technological gadgets, the latest fad in tennis shoes or fashion, the constant onslaught of advertising to buy things that we want rather than just those things with which we need to live uncomplicated lives focused on the MAIN THING: our relationship with God, with our loved ones, and with those who greatly need the resources we have to offer them, resources that God expects us to share with them.

The Good Shepherd in today’s Gospel offers His sheep all that we need to live and thrive individually and as one flock united in solidarity of heart and mind with the Shepherd. The false shepherd is only in it for the money and is unlikely to invest himself in more than the minimum of care for the flock as long as he gets his wages at the end of the trail.

There are too many false shepherds out there, wolves in sheep’s’ clothing who all too easily ‘pull the wool’ over the eyes of followers by somehow convincing them that he really cares for them when, in reality, he or she will say or do anything they want to hear. This is obvious in our politics and, sadly, in our church institutions.

There is a wonderful story about a great orator who was speaking to a crowd of followers. Someone asked him to proclaim the 23rd Psalm, which he did with great passion, and the audience applauded resoundingly. But then the orator invited a pastor he knew to come up from the audience and asked him to proclaim the same Psalm. As he proclaimed it - really praying it - the people found themselves in tears as he ended the psalm. Someone asked the orator, “What was the difference between your recitation and the pastor?” The orator said to them, “I know the Psalm. The pastor obviously knows the Shepherd.

As we celebrate this traditional Good Shepherd Sunday, it is important for us all to understand that all we have and all we are is a gift from God. We can open our hands and let God pour into them whatever we really need. And if we keep our hands open, we can easily let what we have pass on to others, those who are without. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is the source of everything. We are not sheep, mindlessly following the shepherd, but human beings always seeking to attune our hearts and minds and all of our senses to the voice and heart of the Good Shepherd. All else that we attach ourselves to in life is fleeting and will ultimately disappoint. But we will never be disappointed as long as we are disciples of the Good Shepherd!

Gentle Peace! Fr. Larry

Next Sunday, April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Readings: Acts 9:26-31
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8

Celebrant Mass Schedule
St. Agatha St. Martin de Porres

4/21/24	Fr. Larry	Fr. Brian Walker
4/28/24	Fr. Rukuratwa Kiiguta	Fr. Larry
5/05/24	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
5/12/24	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
5/19/24	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
5/26/24	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
6/02/24	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
6/09/24	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry

**GIVE YOUR CHILD THE GIFT OF
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
AND FORMATION**

**Classes continue every Sunday
from 10:00a.m. -10:50 a.m.
St. Martin de Porres**
**Signup with one of our Catechists
after Mass today!**

**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: Kevin Johnson
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

St. Simon of Cyrene Prayer of Intercession

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 humble strength and willing service. You have given us this noble African, St. Simon of Cyrene, as a model of such virtue, manifested in a life as a husband, father, laborer and willing servant to help bear the burdens of others. He helped bear the cross of Your Son, Our Lord, Brother and Savior, Jesus Christ, in order that Jesus might complete his journey to suffer the cross, conquering death and opening the doors of heaven to all humankind.

Through the intercession of St. Simon of Cyrene, strengthen me in my resolve to live the truth of who You created me to be, to love as only to be life-giving to others, to use my unique gifts to help bear the crosses of all innocent victims who suffer injustice inflicted by the greed, arrogance and apathy of others. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*St. Simon of Cyrene, one with Our Savior
in bearing His cross, pray for us!*

*St. Simon of Cyrene, a foundation stone of the
Christian Church in Africa, pray for us!*

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, April 21, 2024**



† In Loving Memory and Happy Heavenly Birthday
to Orangie Lee Johnson
From the Johnson Family

**Prayers of Health and Healing for
Mrs. Dolores Mapp**

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