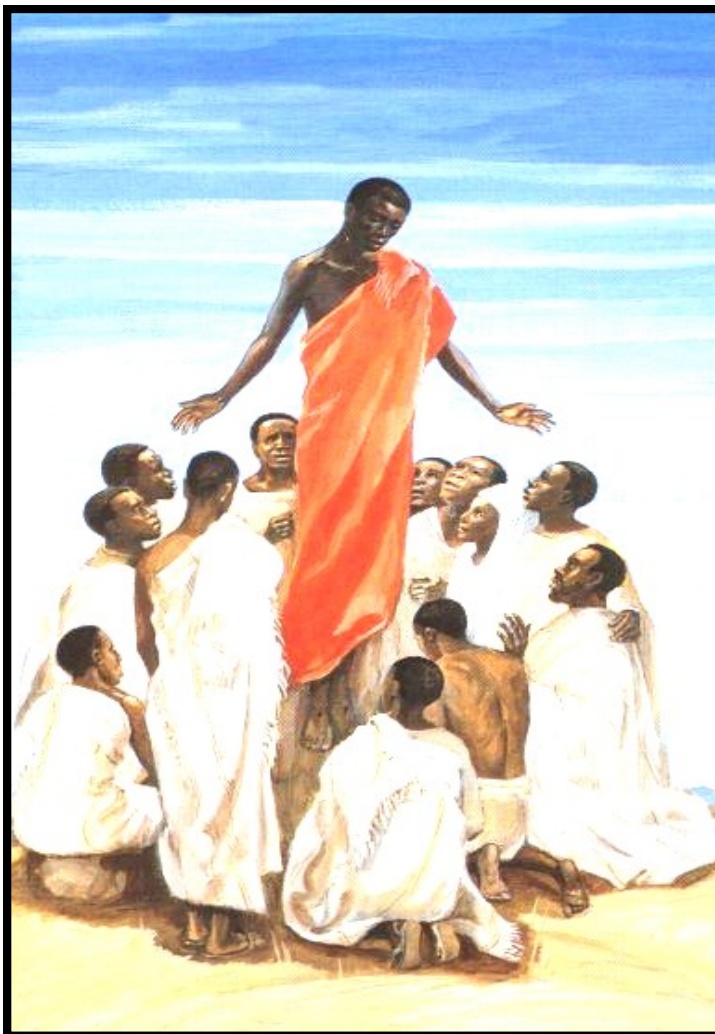




St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish
May 12, 2024
Ascension of the Lord

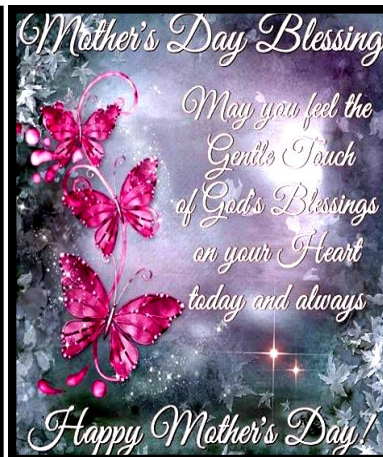


!!! BLESSED MOTHER'S DAY !!!



You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth."

When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.
Acts 1: 8-9



NEXT SUNDAY
May 19, 2024
PENTECOST SUNDAY
UNITY MASS
10:00 a.m.
St. Martin de Porres

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

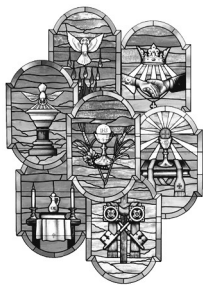
3147 W. Douglas Boulevard

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.

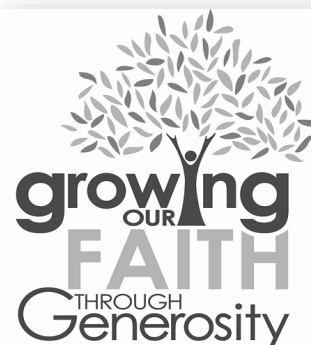
Ministry to Sick and Shut-In/ Anointing of the Sick/ Home Visitation/Receiving Communion at Home: If you or a loved one is in need of a minister from St. Agatha-St. Martin de Porres to visit for Communion, Anointing of the Sick or any other pastoral need, please contact the church office as soon as the 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, May 5, 2024**

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

Mass Offering	\$6,542.00
GiveCentral	2949.00
Easter Collections	250.00
Kolbe House-Special	35.00
Total:	\$9,776.00



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, Bill Hainey, Nathaniel W. Hall, Mary Harrell, Leutrice Harris, Tony Harris, Darryl Hicks, Gwendolyn Hicks, Jacqueline Hicks, Veronica 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, 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, 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 friends, we struggle with loneliness, especially after the departure or death of a loved one. Inside we struggle with, “What do I do now that this person is gone?” The disciples of Jesus must have had those similar feelings. First, after Jesus’ death when they thought all had been lost. Then, having the Resurrected Lord appear to them a few times, Him now leaving them and ascending to the Father in heaven, to return to the ‘place’ from which the Father had sent him.

So what do they do now? Jesus tells them to wait because He will be sending the Holy Spirit to dwell within them and among them. They were to be, as it says in this Sunday’s reading from Ephesians, filled with all humility and gentleness, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit. (Eph 4:2-5)

In many ways, Jesus’ physically leaving the disciples opens the door for them now to be fully themselves because they, as all of us are, are gifted with the Holy Spirit dwelling within them, seeking to support, encourage and stretch them to ‘go forth’ and be bearers of the Good News to the ends of the earth.

We might imagine them going back to the Upper Room where they had celebrated the Last Supper with Jesus, waiting, wondering, a mix of excitement and fear. When would the Spirit come?

As I often remind those who have lost loved ones, they now need to adjust to a new reality. Physical separation, from our Christian belief, does not mean a spiritual separation. In fact, we believe that our loved ones, now dwelling in the heart of God, bring us closer to God through their intercession, their spirit very much alive, still connected to us and connected to the heart of Jesus, the Father and their Holy Spirit.

I love the theological term often used in referring to Jesus’ Ascension: the Generous Absence of Jesus. Sounds strange, doesn’t it? Yet what it says to us is, now that Jesus and our loved ones are physically gone from us, it is now time for us to step up and continue their legacy of love in the world, each in our own unique, God-given way. The Generous Absence of Jesus offers us two alternatives: continue to mourn the physical loss of our loved ones or recognize this as an opportunity to reflect on our own lives and how we will continue to live our lives humbly, lovingly and generously. The Generous Absence of Jesus presents an opportunity for us to grow and thrive, carrying on the legacy of Jesus and our loved ones, always, always supported by the Gift of Jesus and the Father: their Sweet Holy Spirit!

After all, Jesus is still physically and spiritually present to us in the Eucharist, offering Himself to us to feed us for the journey. In Holy Communion, we take his body and blood into our body and blood. The Spirit helps us accept his whole life, death, and resurrection as these settle into us and into others around us. This real presence now abides forever in our midst, urging us, gently nudging us to say yes.

Gentle Peace! Fr. Larry

Blessed Mother’s Day to all our mothers, grandmothers, guardians and all women who offer a mother’s love to our youth!

Next Sunday, May 19, 2024
Pentecost Sunday - Unity Mass
Readings: Acts 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 12:3b, 12-13
John 20: 19-23

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.

Celebrant Mass Schedule

St. Agatha	St. Martin de Porres
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05/12/24 Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
05/19/24 PENTECOST Unity Mass SMdeP	
05/26/24 Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
06/02/24 Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
06/09/24 Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry

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!*

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. 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

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

Mass Intentions for this Week

Sunday, May 12, 2024



† In Loving Memory of
Lillian Mayfield-Ingram, Mother of
Janette Peters-Gruszczycki and Jan Peters

† Happy Mother's Day in Memory of Lillian Dillion
From the Dillion Family

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