



**THE MINISTRIES
OF
ST. SIMON OF CYRENE
CATHOLIC PARISH**



Pastor: Fr. Larry Dowling (773) 550-0177 ldowling@archchicago.org
Associate Pastor: Fr. Thadeo Mgimba (708) 654-6992 tmgimba@archchicago.org
Operations Director: TBD (773) 522-3050 x223 StA MWThurs
(773)287-0206 SMdeP Tues/Fri

St. Martin de Porres Church (Church of Record)
5112 W. Washington Blvd, Chicago, IL 60612 (773) 287-0206
St. Agatha Church
3147 W. Douglas Blvd., Chicago, IL 60623 (773) 522-3050

Our St. Simon of Cyrene Parish Mission

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.

First Edition: May 2024

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 He 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 lifegiving 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!

St. Simon of Cyrene, husband, father, laborer, strength for the suffering Christ in our world, pray for us!

Ministries of St. Simon of Cyrene

Parish Council Members and Commissions

The role of Parish Commissions at St. Simon of Catholic Parish is to:

- **Support the Parish and Pastor's vision to create, through its Commission Representatives, consistent practices within each Committee and Ministry of 20 minutes of prayer and faith sharing starting each meeting. As we build unity between our two sites, a work-in-progress and well on its way, it is important that we spend time in prayer and faith sharing to strengthen our collective desire, God's desire for true unity. We ask each committee to take time to reflect on the question: How has this gathering honored the Mission/ Vision of the Parish? Then close in simple prayer.**
- **Parish Commissioners seek to support each Commission in helping provide support for all of us to incorporate these practices.**
- **Parish Commissioners are your liaisons to communicate back to the Pastor and your Parish Council your needs and concerns, your plans, events to discuss, and reasons for us to celebrate your successes.**
- **Parish Commissioners will also report back to you information from your Parish Council.**

Spiritual Life – Angela Wilson & Rémy Spearman

Evangelization Commission – Mark Henderson & Mia Cornelius

Lifelong Education and Faith Formation Commission –

- Laquita Porter & Stacey Jasper

Parish Leadership – Carolyn Shumpert & Michael Wilson

Human Concerns Commission – Stella Palmer & Jan Peters

Parish Life – Michael Wilson & Keynin Seabrook

Social Justice – Tanya Ball & Portia Parker

Questions, suggestions, concerns should be directed to the Parish Council at sofcyrene.parishcouncil@gmail.com

Parish Finance Committee

The Parish Finance Council plays a crucial role in overseeing and controlling the financial affairs of the parish. Here are some key points about their responsibilities:

Advisory Role: The Parish Finance Council assists and advises the pastor regarding financial matters. This includes oversight of parish finances..

Areas of Responsibility:

- **Administration and Finance: The council helps manage financial resources, budgeting, financial reporting, and financial policies.**
- **Facility Management: Responsibilities include overseeing maintenance, repairs, and improvements to parish facilities.**
- **Stewardship and Development: The council promotes stewardship, fundraising, and development efforts within the parish community.**

Co-Chair: Carolyn Parks clpmorris05@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Philippe Beauzile pbeauzile@aol.com

Diane Levy dianetlevy@gmail.com

Janice Oda Gray odagrays@yahoo.com

Kathy Davis davisgerm@sbcglobal.net

Linda Vick lindavick@ameritech.net

Lavetta Beauzile starfirstmortgage@yahoo.com

Mark Boone markboone404@gmail.com

Paul Morris pkmorris2@gmail.com

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Spiritual Life Commission – Angela Wilson, Remy Spearman

Commission Mission Statement: The mission of the Spiritual Life Commission is to cultivate a dynamic and nurturing environment where every member of our parish community can explore, grow, and fully express their spirituality. Through music, lecture, greeting, communion and outreach to the community, we strive to create opportunities for spiritual enrichment, fostering a deeper connection with God and one another.

+++ Liturgical Ministries +++

- **Ministry of the Assembly**

All who attend Church on Sunday are responsible for raising voices and using our bodies to offer praise and thanks to God. This requires full, conscious, and active participation from our greeting others on entering the church, then offering praise and thanks to God in our community prayer of song, in our response to the prayers and readings, and in prayer for one another.

- **Greeters/Ushers** – Welcomes everyone to church, assuring all have a Worship Aid on entering and a weekly Bulletin before leaving, assists with special needs of congregation members, connects with visitors, sharing information on the parish with them.

Contact:

Keynin Seabrook kbahati@comcast.net

Jacqueline Veasey jacquelineveasey1@gmail.com

- **Commentator** – Invites congregation to reverently participate in the Mass, leads Prayers of the Faithful, reads announcements.

Contact: Deacon Shumpert, gshumpert56@gmail.com

Liz Becnel ladyliz313@gmail.com

- **Lectors** – Prepares and proclaims the sacred Word of God, honoring the 2000+ year legacy of preserving and proclaiming the Sacred Scriptures with freshness and relevancy

Contacts:

Gloria Seabrook gloriaseabrook48@yahoo.com

Marvin McCurry mmccurry@archchicago.org

- **Eucharistic Minister** – Reverently offers the Precious Body and Blood of Christ to the gathered body of Christ.

Contacts:

Gloria Seabrook gloriaseabrook48@gmail.com

Adrienne Curtis Adrienne_Curtis@yahoo.com

- **Children's Liturgy of the Word** – Offered every Sunday (except 4th Sunday) as opportunity to hear and reflect on the Word of God at the children's age level.
Contact: Julie Richardson jrichardson.0903@gmail.com
- **Servers** – Assist the priest and deacon at the altar.
Contact: Pat Graham PatriciaGraham1450@gmail.com
Melvin Jones 773-716-7648
Deacon Shumpert gshumpert@archchicago.org
- **Choir** – Offers the gift of their voices in prayerfully preparing and leading the congregation in participating in giving praise and thanks to God expressed through the prayer of sacred song. Weekly choir rehearsals (Tuesdays), lead hymns at weekly Sunday Masses; sing for funerals as requested; attend outings to sharing parishes.
Contact:
St. Agatha Mary Anderson, marylou144@yahoo.com
St. Martin de Porres Staci Mahaffey staci.mahaffey@gmail.com
Become a member by showing up on Tuesday or see Dennis Smith, bddsmith@msn.com
- **Cantor** – Offers their talent in prayerful song, leading the congregational response to the Psalm between the First and Second Readings.
Contact: Dennis Smith, bddsmith@msn.com
- **Liturgical Movement** – Prepares liturgical praise dance for special celebrations in this ancient and special form of praise and prayer.
Contact: Regina Perry Carr 630-670-9888
Dr. Kim Henderson 773-653-9167
- **Sacristan** – Prepares all the necessary setup to celebrate Mass. Checks inventory of supplies and requests order through Operation Director
Contact:
St. Agatha: Deacon Greg Shumpert gshumpert@archchicago.org
St. Martin de Porres: Liz Becnel ladyliz313@gmail.com
- **Environment & Art** – Creates an environment inside and outside the church to draw the congregation more deeply into the sacredness of each liturgical season.
Contact: Alesia Nelson alesianelson@aol.com
Pat Graham PatriciaGraham1450@gmail.com
Stacey Jasper jasper.stacey@yahoo.com

- **Care Minister to the Sick & Homebound** – Acts as ambassador from the Sunday assembly to bring fellowship and Communion to the sick and homebound who are unable to attend Mass on Sunday. Requires certification classes.

Contact:

StA Vicki Tillman vickie.tillman54@gmail.com

SMdeP Deacon Pouncy wpouncy@archchicago.org

- **Bereavement** - The Bereavement Ministry assists the family with the planning of the funeral mass and repast and provides resource recommendations to families. Follow-up is also provided for those grieving the loss of a loved one.

Contact:

St. Martin de Porres: Liz Becnel ladyliz313@gmail.com

Janice Henry jmhenryrn@yahoo.com

St. Agatha: Phyllis Lee 312-208-2577

Linda Smith 773-996-3305

EVANGELIZATION

Evangelization Commissioners: Mark Henderson, Mia Cornelius

Commission Mission Statement: "We at Saint Simon of Cyrene strive to bring the Gospel and Good News of Jesus Christ to our brothers & sisters, in unity, both in inside the church and to those in our communities. To pray with, witness to, and encourage those who already share our faith, and attract, invite, and promote a *lived faith, hope, and love*, sharing our own life experiences, our personal encounters with Jesus Christ, with those with whom we seek to come to embrace the Good News.

- **Evangelization Committee (In development)** Although it is the ministry of every parishioner to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others, this committee seeks to promote ways for every parishioner and every ministry and committee in the parish to participate more fully in this essential mandate of our faith. Training for the Committee is provided.

Contact:

Fr. Thadeo Mgimba, tmgimba@archchicago.org

Mia Cornelius miajcornelius@gmail.com

Mark Henderson markjual@sbcglobal.net

Kim Henderson 773-534-6362

- **Legion of Mary** - The Legion of Mary is a lay Catholic organization with a mission to serve God under the banner of Mary by the corporal and spiritual works of Mercy. The main purpose of the Legion of Mary is to give glory to God through the sanctification of its members. The Legion of Mary has two kinds of membership: active and auxiliary. The main apostolate of the Legion is activities directed towards Catholics and non-Catholics encouraging them in their faith or inviting them to become Catholic. The Legion of Mary is committed to worldwide evangelization through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary by way of the Rosary as prayer, and performance of spiritual works of mercy done in service to the Church.
Contact: Gerard Dupee 773-261-3930

LIFELONG EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION

Commission Mission Statement: As the Faith Life Education & Formation Commission of St. Simon of Cyrene, we seek to make religious education a lifelong cycle from birth until death. As we combine ministries to introduce those who want to participate or volunteer in the Faith Life Education & Formation commission. We would like to achieve this integrated approach with inter-generational & bilingual religious education instruction, celebrations, social & emotional activities, and outreach to families that have left the parish during the pandemic. There is an urgent need in the start or strengthening of a college student faith formation communication network, for college students that are on college campuses, have relocated, and young adults who may need continued faith formation by offering ongoing classes and enrichment opportunities at the parish.

Child Religious Education and Formation for Grade School Age Students

Based at St. Martin de Porres, Grade School age children learn about faith and God in their lives. Also prepares youth for sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion (2nd Grade and older) and Confirmation (7th & 8th Grades and older). Partners with Youth Ministry for Teens whose name will likely change as this Ministry is still going through development and the youth will determine the name for their group.

Contact:

Marvin McCurry mmccurry@archchicago.org

Richard and Remy Taylor Spearman taylor.remys@gmail.com

Julie Richardson jrichardson.0903@gmail.com

Youth Ministry (*in early development* - name will change as this Ministry is still going through development and the youth will determine the name for their group.)

Supports faith life and development of teens through social activity, prayer activity and volunteer projects benefiting the parish and neighborhood. Partners with Child Religious Education and Faith Formation as youth enter 7th and 8th Grades.

Contact:

Stacey Jasper jasper.stacey@yahoo.com

Mia Cornelius miajcornelius@gmail.com

Sierra Jones 773-331-3045

Tracy Harvey 773-301-7980

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Youth Center – Offers Pre-K through 8th Grade after



school program Monday through Friday, as well as all day summer camp. Programs include tutoring, life skills, drumming, choir, dance and drama. Volunteers are needed in each curriculum area. (Note: BSYC forms parish youth leadership for ministry in their home parish.)

Contact: Mr. Chuy de Leon, Executive Director

jdeleon@bsyc.org jdeleon@archchicago.org

Need Young Adult Leaders/ Mentor from the parish. Need Board members, (7 members a year) and helpers for fund raising and grant writing.

- **Young Adult Ministry** (*in development*)– Group meets for social, spiritual and outreach activities monthly.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults – Education and formation for adults (18 and over) to be baptized or confirmed in the Catholic Church. Volunteer presenters needed on different topics.

Contact: Adrienne Curtis adrienne_curtis@yahoo.com

Deacon Greg Shumpert gshumpert@archchicago.org

- **Sacramental Prep – Baptism** – Meets with parents and sponsors who are having a child baptized in the Church; conduct Baptismal Prep for parents and godparents.

Contact: Deacon Shumpert gshumpert56@gmail.com

Deacon Pouncy wpouncy@archchicago.org

- **Sacramental Prep – Marriage** – Meets with couples to go through Marriage Inventory process required to be married in the Church. Time commitment: training and two-three couples to work with each year for two meetings each.

Contact: Fr Larry denispadre@aol.com

Deacon Pouncy wpouncy@archchicago.org

- **Prayer Partners/ Ministry of Praise** – Connect on a regular basis to meet in prayer, reflect and share on the Scriptures. Goal is to deepen the faith life of parishioners. Pray daily for the general needs of the parish and any special needs. Volunteer to be a pray-er.

Contact: Cynthia Boone, 630-209-9238
Mattie Dillard, 773-638-4523
Jacqueline Gray 773-722-0996
Barbara Marques 773-808-0262
Delores Mapp 773-626-6783

- **Affiliated Schools**

St. Angela Catholic School 1332 N Massasoit Ave, Chicago, IL 60651
Phone: (773) 626-2655 www.saintangela.org

Chicago Jesuit Academy 5058 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60644
(773) 638-6103 www.chicagojesuitacademy.org

Christ the King College Preparatory School 5088 W Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL 60644
(773) 261-7505 www.ctkjesuit.org

Kipp Elementary Charter School 116 N. Leclaire Ave., Chicago, IL 60644
(773) 938-8557 (Adjacent to St. Martin de Porres Rectory)

HUMAN CONCERNS

Parish Council Commission Representatives: Stella Palmer & Jan Peters

Commission Mission Statement: This commission discerns and responds to the needs of persons in the parish, the wider community and the world by identifying resources to meet their needs and enlisting the active cooperation of parishioners. The members collaborate with the pastor, staff, and other organizations and agencies in service, advocacy, justice education, and empowerment of people.



- **Food Pantry** – Provides food for needy area families
 +++ **Wednesday, Thursday St. Martin de Porres, 10 a.m. – Noon.**
Contact: Deacon Pouncy wpouncy@archchicago.org

+++ **Tuesday at St. Agatha 9:00 – 11:00**

Contact:

Ms. Refoncia McGowan rmcgowan@archchicago.org 773-522-3050 x220

- **Knights of Peter Claver** - Mission is to render service to God and the Church, render aid and assistance to the sick and disabled, and promote social and intellectual association among our members. Builds fellowship among members, supports parish events and outreach.
Contact: Michael Davis 773-639-4739
- **Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Peter Claver** – Gathers in mutual support of the Knights of Peter Claver. Supports various outreach efforts, financial support of parish and coordination of monthly community dinners
Contact: Stella Palmer stellalete@yahoo.com
- **The Learning Center (Parish Partner Organization)** – Located at 2153 S. Millard Avenue, the Center provides free tutoring for area residents seeking their GED high school equivalency through Malcolm X College, or learn English as a second language (ESL). Need tutors, help with fund raising.
Contact: Executive Director: Angie Saucedo (773) 277-3111
thelearningcenter@tlcchicago.org
- **Dreambuilders Community Engagement and Community Dinners** – Free dinners and fellowship for church members, families and community members held at St. Agatha every other Monday from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Contact: Jack Jackson jack@chicagodreambuilders.org



- **Health and Wellness Ministry – Emotional and Physical Health** – Assists in promoting programs for physical and mental health education for the parish and community. Volunteers needed for committee.

Contact:

Dr. Fred Richardson drfrjmdnfp@gmail.com

Michael Wilson wilson0667@aa.net

Janice Henry jmhenryrn@yahoo.com

Jack Jackson jack@chicagodreambuilders.org

- **The Encompassing Center Free Mental Health Center (Parish Partner Organization)** – FREE community mental health center founded by the community. Full service mental health, trauma and marital counseling for residents of North Lawndale, East and West Garfield Park and area between from Western to the Dan Ryan. **encompassingcenter.org**
3019 W Harrison St, Chicago, IL 60612 (773) 638-5703 Jennifer Smith, Director

- **M.U.S.I.C. Incorporated (Parish Partner Organization housed at St. Agatha)**
Music training program for youth ages K – 12 in stringed and wind instruments. As the youth learn, they become part of an orchestra that holds recitals several times a year.
Contact: Sarah Dupuis, sdupuis@musicinchicago.org 773-470-9815
- **The Winslow Redmond Technology Center at St. Agatha Church** Has conducted journalism and social media for youth ages 16 and older. Has also been used for Senior ‘How to use technology’ Classes. New programs in development.
Contact the Office if interested in helping develop programs.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Parish Council Commission Representatives: Tanya Ball, Portia Parker

Commission Mission Statement:

The Commission's mission is to promote justice, solidarity, peace & harmony among the human family within God's sacred creation, caring for and mutually empowering those who are suffering and in need, while bringing awareness and enlightenment to all to see and actively strive to uphold the dignity of our brothers and sisters in Christ and the environment.



- **Faith in Action Committee (*in development*)**
– Plans social action and engagement in St. Agatha community in community organizing in affiliation with the Center for Spirituality and Public Life (CSPL) and other organizations needing support.
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**Contact: Tanya Ball abundantlifetanya@yahoo.com
Portia Parker portiacain@gmail.com**

- **Dreambuilders, LLC** – Nonprofit funding source for all mutual empowerment externally funded programs: News School, M.U.S.I.C., Inc. Restorative Justice outreach, Parenting Classes and Parent-to-Parent Supports, Street and Jail Outreach, Mentoring Youth and Families, Financial Literacy, Ministry to Returning Citizens.
Contacts: Jack Jackson 773-766-5403
Cristine Pope Grant Writer 708-369-1676
Philippe Beauzile 708-404-2011
- **Circle Keepers/Restorative Justice** – Assist with restorative Peace Circles and Talking Circles with youth and parents. Formal training required.

Contact: Jack Jackson jack@chicagodreambuilders.org
Derek Brown derek.brown76@yahoo.com

- **Parent-to-Parent Parent Support and Engagement**
“From Stressed to Blessed” Parent Enrichment, Communication, Conflict Resolution
Contact: Heather Johnson heatherhj23@yahoo.com

PARISH LIFE

Parish Council Commission Representatives: Keynin Seabrook, Michael Wilson

Commission Mission Statement: *The Commission commits to helping to achieve goals and assist groups in St. Simon of Cyrene Parish who have made a commitment to enhancing the spiritual and life experience for current and future members.*

- **Welcoming Ministry** – Coordinates follow-up with visitors to the Church, plans Welcoming Dinners, Welcome Packets. One group focuses on Reaching out to those who are ill, homebound, or we have missed seeing at church. We call and/or send cards to those who have been away, as well as birthday and holiday cards to those confined at home or in a hospital/nursing home. **Contact: Gloria Seabrook, 312-343-8648 or _____**; YOU can fill out a “We Miss You/ WE Love You” at the back table and drop it in the offering basket. Another committee will focus on hospitality and relationship building.
Contacts: Barbara Cottrell barbara.cottrell@outlook.com
Vicki Tillman vickitillman54@gmail.com
- **Hospitality/ Relationship Building Committee** – Plans and conducts events that bring parishioners together socially to build strong relationships within the overall parish and extend welcome and engagement to our surrounding communities. **Contact: Diane Levy dianetlevy@gmail.com**
- **Golden Age Group** – Social/Educational Group for Seniors (Age 60+). Meet 3rd Monday at St. Agatha Church Noon to 2:00 p.m.
Contact: Ms. Catherine Jones (773) 379-2582
- ***** Needs Revitalization Women of St. Simon of Cyrene** - Plan social events, faith enrichment specific to women. Assist with community events, outreach, where needed.
Contact: Cynthia Boone boonecynthia35@gmail.com
- ***** Needs Revitalization Men of St. Simon of Cyrene** – Plan social events, faith enrichment specific to men. Assist with community events, outreach, where needed. Every man of the parish is considered a member.
Contact: Charlie Casper ccdad8@yahoo.com
Albert Valentine (773) 638-3866

- **Poetry & Drama Club** – Group of all ages preparing and performing works of poetry and drama on occasion for parish and community. Meets 1st and 3rd Sundays after 10:30 Mass for 45 minutes.
Contact: Teresa Blomquist tfbloomquist@hotmail.com
Tara Levy tylevy@gmail.com
- **Parish Fund Raising** – Assists in fund raising for the parish
Contact: Diane Levy dianetlevy@gmail.com
Philippe Beauzile Pheauzile@aol.com
Lavetta Beauzile starfirstmortgage@yahoo.com
- **Grady Anderson Guild** – Raises funds through an Annual Mardi Gras and fall event. Funds support direct needs for both of our parish worship spaces.
Contact: Julie Richardson Juliearichardson@comcast.net
- **St. Simon of Cyrene Travel & Entertainment Committee**
Contact: Joyce Riley riley_joyce@hotmail.com
- **Grant Writing** – Assists in writing grants for programs that support the outreach mission of the parish.
Contact: Cristine Pope cristinepope@yahoo.com

OTHER ESSENTIAL MINISTRIES

- **Parish Pastoral Council** – Advises the pastor on matters regarding the life and ministry of the parish, helps set a vision for the parish. Meetings held monthly on 4th Wednesday. Representatives of each parish group are expected to attend.
Contact:
Council Chair: Keynin Seabrook kbahati@comcast.net
Vice Chair: Mark Henderson markjual@sbcglobal.net
Secretary: Remy Spearman taylor.remys@gmail.com
- **Parish Finance Committee** – Advises the pastor and business manager on matters involving the income and expenses of the parish to ensure good stewardship of the monies contributed by parishioners. Pastor appoints and approves members of the Finance Committee.
Co-Chairs: Caroline Morris clpmorris05@gmail.com
Philippe Beauzile pbeauzile@aol.com
- **ANYONE** who wishes to volunteer with upkeep of the buildings belonging to the parish or helping with landscaping/outside maintenance can **contact the parish Operations Director or Parish Office.**