



St. Simon of Cyrene Parish

5112 W. Washington Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60644
St. Martin Church - 773 287-0206
3147 W. Douglas Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60623
St. Agatha Church - 773 522-3050
WEBSITE: <https://www.stsimonofcyrene.org>



Mass Times

Sunday:

St. Agatha Church, 9:00am
St. Martin de Porres Church, 11:00am

Weekdays:

St. Agatha Church, Thursday, 7:30am
St. Martin de Porres Church
Tuesday, 9:00am and Thursday 9:00 am

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: The Parish has set calendar dates for the baptism of babies and small children. Parents should contact the Deacon William Pouncy.

R.C.I.A. Adults seeking Baptism or to make their Profession of Faith and other sacraments should contact the Director of Religious Education to register.

Reconciliation is available upon request.

Marriages: Couples must contact the Pastor six to twelve months prior to a proposed wedding date. Attendance at a Pre-Cana Session will be required.

Ministry to Sick and Shut-In: If a member of the church is in a hospital, nursing home or homebound, please call the parish office if they would like to receive the Eucharist.

Funerals: Please contact the Pastor before making arrangements for funerals of church members.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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.

Parish Staff

Pastor: Fr. Thadeo Mgimba
Deacon Couple: Rev. Mr. William & Gayle Pouncy
Deacon Couple: Rev. Mr. Greg & Carolyn Shumpert
Parish Administrative Assistant: Carol Johnson
Parish Secretary: Refoncia McGowan
Dir. of Religious Education: Marvin McCurry
Housekeeper: Scarlett Evans-Perez
Music Director: Dennis Smith
Musician: Calvin Smith
Choir Director: Antonio Anderson
Outreach Ministry: Derek Brown
Outreach Ministry: Heather Johnson
Websites & Social Media: Emily Dillon

Sunday Collections for September 8, 2024

Sunday Contributions	\$5,400.00
Give Central	1274.00
Kolbe House-Special	00
Total	6,674.00

Thanks for your generosity!





For Whom Shall We Pray...

Walter Adams, Susie Aldrich, Bertha Anderson, Jewel Austin, Geraldine Baylor, Kyle Becnel, Hildegard Bezdicek, Hazel Bills, 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, Diana Foster, Zenobia Fuller, Enochs Galloway, Danny Gardner, Shea Gardner, Callie Gee, Pamela D. Gee, Yvonne Gibson, Patricia Graham, Marian Graham, Kia Gray, Bill Hailey, Nathaniel W. Hall, Mary Harrell, Leatrice Harris, Tony Harris, Harlem Daniel Hayes, 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, Virginia Jones, Corine Jourdan, Ashanti Kelly, Jacqueline Kelly, Brian Lares, Jimmy Lee, Sayyid Lestrade, Melvin Lightford, Anthony Lyons, Alexander Madden, Mannette, Dolores Mapp, Larry Mapp Jr., Arelys Marquez, Catherine Martin, Melik McCloud, Latrice McGee, Carmella Miller, Connie Montoya, Arlene Moore, Tamma Norals, LaVita Norris, Clara Orlando, Mariano Palacios, Michael Parham, Luvenia Parker, Emma Peradas, Scarlett Evans Perez, Gordon Perry, Jan F. Peters, Sylvia Peters, Essie Pledage, Queenie Randle, 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, Tyler Williams, Armonie Witherspoon, Beverly Wright, Flora Yancy

To love God

The greatest commandment that Jesus left us is centered on the theme of love. In the Gospel of Matthew chapter 22:36-37, when Jesus was asked, “Teacher which is the greatest commandment in the law? He replied, Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” Indeed, in saying this Jesus affirmed that to love God is a sublime duty of the human beings toward their creator. This magnificent duty requires them to dedicate every aspect of their life for God; for he created them that they may love, know and serve him.

The requirement of loving God is that one must align one’s thoughts, desires, emotions, and actions with God’s will, seek to honor Him, to sanctify His name and to serve him in all that one is doing. St. Bonaventure, [a 13th Century Franciscan Theologian and Philosopher] presented the idea that, a “*true love of and for God is not just about an external action or a mere affection; it is about uniting our will with God’s will.*” Certainly, for St. Bonaventure *loving God meant surrendering ourselves entirely, allowing our love to lead us into a mystical union with God.*”

Now, according to St. Bonaventure the reason for total surrender to God is that God is the Supreme God [Summum Bonum], and he is the source of all goodness, truth and beauty. All of us in our existential condition are attracted, enticed, moved, motivated and inspired by what is good, true and beautiful. From this I can firmly attest that to love God is to be the lover and the seeker of goodness, truth and beauty which originate only from the supreme good, our God. So, to seek or to love goodness, truth and beauty is to seek or to love God himself.

As a simple affirmation, I can say this the benefit of loving God is what St. Paul said in his first letter to the Corinthians [1Cor 8:4] that, “If one loves God, one is known by him.” Truly, this is one of the strongest statements of St. Paul *that declares that to love God is to be known by Him, the Summum Bonum.* For God knows who we are, what we are and how we are. He knows our past, our present and our future. He knows our joy and happiness, our fears and worries, our hardships and our temptations. Yet he loves us regardless of our imperfections.

Therefore, to love God is to choose him and to allow him to be the source of our strength, our goodness, our beauty and truth. God knows and loves us better. St. Augustine once was quoted saying, “*You know me, Lord, better than I know myself.*” *Brothers and Sisters let’s love God and be known by God.* God bless you.

Brother Thad

SERMON: TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (CYCLE B)

You heard in today's First Reading a description of the suffering servant. The first people who heard this description thought of the community of God's chosen people, Israel. So, today, it's reasonable to see in the suffering servant a personification of the Church, which is today the people of God. By and large, however, most of us will see in the suffering servant a representation of Jesus Christ himself.

- To every suffering, Christ brings meaning. To every illness, he brings healing. To every death, he brings the promise of eternal life. When Scripture says, "The Lord opens my ear," that refers to Christ who hears the word of his Father. When Scripture says, "I set my face like flint," that refers to Christ, who obeyed the will of his Father. When Scripture says, "The Lord God is my help, who will prove me wrong,?" that refers to Christ, who held out to the moment of his death.
- The teaching of Christ for us is clear. He tells us to take up our cross. He asks us to judge not by human standards but by God's.
- If you can't accept this now, remember the example of Peter in today's Gospel. He couldn't accept it either. If you are unable to do this, remember you are not alone. If you suffer, you do not suffer by yourself. Jesus Christ is with you. And the Church is with you. If Christ has risen, so will you. If the Church will rise, so will you. Your strength does not come from yourselves but from Christ and from his Church. From the Messiah in person. From the Church in person. From grace and from the sacraments.
- If you have faith, you will also have good works. Faith saves, and good works follow. That's what saving faith means. Lutherans and Catholics today, by common agreement, are no longer divided on this central question. The true believer is also one who does the will of the Father, who obeys the command of the Lord, who is able to endure, to suffer, and to triumph.

Who do you say that I am? On your answer, your whole life depends. Who do you say that I am? Not a nice guy or a good teacher. Who do you say that I am? It is Jesus Christ, the suffering servant of God. We will follow him to the end. Dying he destroyed our death; rising he restores our life. And soon he will come in glory. Jesus Christ, our life and our light, our sunset and our sunrise, our hope and our victory. Jesus Christ, a suffering servant and a king. Jesus Christ, the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end.

—Father Michael Gilligan

NOT FORSAKING
THE ASSEMBLING
OF OURSELVES TOGETHER,
AS IS THE HABIT OF SOME,
BUT EXHORTING ONE ANOTHER,
AND SO MUCH THE MORE AS
YOU SEE THE DAY APPROACHING
—HEBREWS 10:25

Jesus is teaching His disciples that forgiveness is more than an action, it is a habit. If you were to do something 77 times, you would be well on your way to forming a habit. Jesus' use of the double 7 in 77 is symbolic as well as practical. 7 is a perfect number in the biblical sense (think the 7 days of creation) and the repetitive use here can indicate a certain abundance of the ideal. The commentary given by the [USCCB website](#) (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) offers this beautiful phrase, "limitless forgiveness." What a world we could create if we each had a habit of limitless forgiveness.

- Empty space – if you're trying to squeeze in a new habit, you can bet it's going to be squeezed right out of your life. You need time and space to dedicate to the new habit.
- Consistency – if it's not scheduled, it's probably not going to happen. A habit doesn't need to be a daily thing, but each person has some kind of limit for how far between occurrences the practice needs to happen (perhaps there's science on this).

What about habits like Jesus is talking about, the inner, intangible habits. Things like forgiveness, patience, empathy, silence, joy. These are a harder, as they happen at random, aren't usually tied to physical objects, and can take any number of minutes or hours to fully process. Here are some suggestions:

- Pray for the grace to grow in your habit. But be careful, as most older grandmas will tell you, if you pray for patience you will be gifted a whole host of opportunities to practice the virtue.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to inspire the habit in you during specific situations. We can't always anticipate when we will need empathy or courage. But, there are definitely situations in your life where you have an inkling ahead of time what type of inner habit you will need. Take the time before embarking into that situation to ask the Holy Spirit to pour His eternal gifts out on you that you need for that specific moment.

Keep a gratitude journal. Cultivating a spirit of gratitude is an excellent way to grow in thankfulness. It also encourages you to review your day, which then draws your attention to the times things went well and when they didn't. This survey of the day or week can highlight the times you practiced one of these inner habits well, or where you need to grow.

Next Sunday, September 22, 2024
 Twenty-Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time
 Readings: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20
 James 3:16—4:3
 Mark 9:30-37

Celebrant Mass Schedule

<u>St. Agatha</u>	<u>St. Martin de Porres</u>
9/15/24 Fr. Thad Dcn. Greg (Preaching)	Fr. Thad Dcn. Pouncy (Preaching)
9/22/24 Fr. Mike Knotek	Fr. Thad
9/29/24 UNITY MASS 10:00am – St. Agatha Church Fr. Brian Walker	

Mass Intentions for this Week
 Sunday, September 15, 2024



† In Loving Memory of Lillian Mayfield-Ingram
 From the Peters and Clark Family

† Happy Heavenly Birthday to Sheila Wilson
 From Sister In-Law Reva Wilson

† Happy Heavenly Birthday to Fr. Francis Scanlan
 - St. Martin de Porres Credit Union Committee -

Happy Blessed 43rd Anniversary
 Mr. and Mrs. James and Carolyn Collier

We encourage our parishioners to pray for their loved ones, living and
 deceased, by offering a Mass Intention.
 Donation for Mass is \$10.00

**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

St. Simon of Cyrene Parish

Parish Council Members

Chair: Keynin Seabrook
Vice Chair: Mark Henderson
Secretary: Remy Spearman

Commissions

Spiritual Life:

Angela Wilson, Remy Spearman

Evangelization Commission:

Mark Henderson, Mia Cornelius

Life Long Education and Faith Formation:

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

Finance Council Committee

Co-Chair: Carolyn Parks

Co-Chair: Philippe Beauzile

Secretary: Linda Vick

Council Members: Lavetta Beauzile,
 Mark Boone, Kathy Davis, Janice Ode Gray,
 Diane Levy, Paul Morris

**Weekday Mass
 Times**

TUESDAY
 9.00 am - St. Martin de Porres

THURSDAY
 7.30 am - St. Agatha
 9.00 am - St. Martin de Porres
 (Service and Adoration)
www.stsimonofcyrene.org



**St. Simon of Cyrene Parish
 Church Sites Rectory Office Hours - 773.287.0206**

St. Agatha: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
 9:00am - 2:00pm
 Tuesday 8:00am - 12:00 noon
 Friday, open upon demand

St. Martin de Porres: Monday - Friday
 8:00am - 3:30pm