



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 22, 2024 TWENTY-FIFTH 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 15, 2024

Sunday Contributions	\$6,309.00
Give Central	1944.00
Kolbe House-Special	151.00
Total	8,404.00

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, Burke Pledage Jr., 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

Decision was Made at the Door

A few days ago, Deacon Pouncy, Deacon Greg, and I went to a Ford car dealer in Bourbonnais to buy a new van for St. Simon of Cyrene Church's food pantry. When we arrived at the dealership, we found a staff member at the door waiting to welcome us. He introduced himself and asked about our reason for visiting the dealership. We expressed our intention of buying a passenger's van. We also asked for a Staff member that spoke with us on the phone.

Instantaneously, two more staff members came to welcome us upon learning that we had chosen their dealership to do business with them. Indeed, we witnessed an inexpressible joy and happiness in their faces. It's easy to say that they were happy because they anticipated our business transaction, but I believe their joy stemmed from seeing the Church folks coming to engage with them in the matter of business.

Both Deacon Pouncy, Deacon Greg and I felt that "this was the right place to do business." Honestly, this decision was made easily right at the entrance door of the dealership, simply because we felt that we were treated with respect, love, and joy as if we were kings. The adage that says, "hospitality is the end game of everything," rang true to us.

This experience made me wonder and wish for our Churches to embody this kind of radical hospitality. The radical hospitality of being extreme generous in the way we welcome others into our Churches. Well, we should welcome joyfully those who come to our Churches as if we are welcoming Christ. A lesson I learned from this experience is that, as a Church, we are demanded to change our culture of hospitality by dedicating ourselves in showing respect, love, joy, happiness and care to all those who are coming to our Church just like the folks at a car dealership did to us. I believe that someone can be transformed by a smile of love or a sense of being welcomed joyfully at the doors of our Church.

I believe the newcomers to the Church decide whether to stay or choose the Church as their home Church based on the first impression they receive at the door. A nice service with a good homily and music has an impact for one who is searching for a home Church, but a welcoming and hospitable Church is a dealer maker. A vibrant worshiping community that has a strong and vibrant hospitality ministry which welcomes people at the door and makes them feel at home as they come to worship on Sunday, is more valuable and impactful than a cold one with no hospitable attitude.

Brother Thad

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

In the Gospel today, you heard how Jesus Christ foretold his own suffering, death, and Resurrection. As you know, the disciples did not understand his teaching; they were more concerned about who was more important among them. It is the same with us today.

- Often, we do not understand why we have to endure trouble or pain. We deny it. We reject it. We fight it. When the COVID epidemic broke out, some government officials did not speak the truth. Leaders were more concerned about making themselves look good; and they didn't want to accept that there was a problem. Denial is something we all engage in, refusal to accept the truth.

- So often, if we want to learn a new language, acquire skill in playing an instrument, understand a different culture, we reject the trouble involved. We choose to do something else, something easier. In the case of friendship, we fail to work on the relationship. We fail to put out the effort needed to bring resolution of a problem. We talk to other people about it but neglect to talk to the one person we should talk to. That's because we avoid what is difficult and choose what is easy. We are afraid of risk, of being hurt by some, of being rejected. We don't want suffering or pain or trouble or inconvenience. All that is natural to us, as it was to the disciples.

- By the same token, it is hard for us to understand what Jesus Christ is saying to us. It is difficult for us to accept what the Church may be teaching, especially if it is not in accord with the culture in which we live. Sometimes, Jesus Christ or the Catholic Church will ask us to think, to look differently at a situation, to reconsider what we are doing. And again and again, we choose not what is difficult but what is easy.

- Clearly, Jesus is teaching that the path to happiness for him and for us is through suffering, through rejection by other people, and through sacrifice. This is why we fast, why we do penance, why we pray intensely, why we study, why we meditate, why we continue learning all through life.

- What is the origin of war? Why do nations need powerful armies and quantities of weapons? Why is there divorce and abandonment and neglect and abuse? The Second Reading, the Epistle of St. James, gives an answer. The brother of Jesus says that where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder, in fact, and every foul practice. You covet, he says. You kill and are envious. You fight and wage war. Is he not right? Are not those words true?

The fruit of righteousness, the harvest of justice, is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace. This is wisdom from above. This is hope for a weary world. This is the answer to ongoing war. This is what we need, in our country, in our city, and in our homes.

—*Father Michael Gilligan*



God's Generosity

God is generous and merciful, and offers his love abundantly. He loves and values each person, and his riches are available no matter how long we've been away from him.

- God's grace: God is not a God of deserving, but a God of grace. All is gift, and we should not think that we deserve what we get.
- True happiness: True happiness does not come from money, but from God. We should detach from money as a false source of happiness.
- Commitment to faith: We should reflect on our commitment to living our faith.
- Service to others: We should be willing to humble ourselves and be of service to others.
- Dying to selfishness: We should die to our selfishness, and even die for a just cause.

The Bible says his goodness and his mercy will follow us all the days of our lives. The goodness of God. The goodness of God is best described as generosity. If you're looking for what's the best description of the goodness of God, it's the generosity of God. How can you prove it? You can prove it with John 3:16. God so loved the world that he gave.

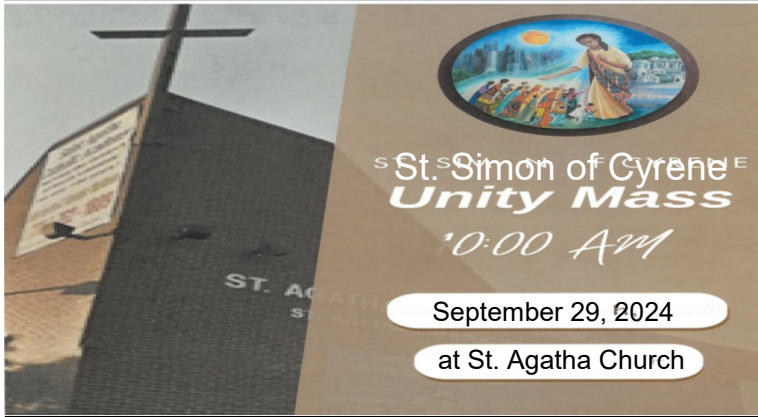
The goodness, the outrageous generosity of God is the foundation for everything in our lives. The outrageous generosity of God needs to be the foundation for everything in your life. Number one, the outrageous generosity of God is the foundation of our faith. In other words, you couldn't even get saved until you realize how generous God was by sending Jesus. As soon as you realize, as soon as you believed John 3:16 you got saved. As soon as you believe God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. As soon as you believe that you were saved.

Next Sunday, September 29, 2024
Twenty-Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time
Readings: Numbers 11:25-29
James 5: 1-6
Mark 9:38-43, 47-48

Celebrant Mass Schedule

St. Agatha **St. Martin de Porres**

9/22/24 Fr. Thulani Fr. Thad
 9/29/24 **UNITY MASS 10:00am – St. Agatha Church**
 Fr. Brian Walker
THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE MASS AT ST. AGATHA!



Important Announcement

I am pleased to announce that the Department of Parish Operations of the Archdiocese of Chicago has expressed interest in receiving all media items formerly belonging to the News School for use by their Media and Communication Department. As such, I plan to donate all assets of the former News School to the Archdiocese of Chicago. If anyone has an objection to this donation, please reach out to me at tmgimba@archdioceseofchicago.org to share your concerns. This announcement will be published in the bulletin on September 22nd and September 29th, 2024. Thank you for your attention.
Fr. Thadeo Mginba

**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

Mass Intentions for this Week

Sunday, September 22, 2024



† In Loving Memory of Porter Adams
 From Paula Adams-Wilburn

Prayers for Mike and Caryn Kondrat and
 Anthony and Renae Wallin
 From Linda Wallin

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. 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