



# 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.

## OCTOBER 6, 2024 TWENTY-SEVENTH SUN- DAY



## 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 29, 2024

Sunday Contributions	\$2713.80
Give Central	2499.00
Kolbe House-Special	1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,213.80</b>

Thanks for your generosity!





**For Whom Shall We Pray...**

Walter Adams, Susie Aldrich, Bertha Anderson, Jewel Austin, Cheryl Baker, Geraldine Baylor, Kyle Becnel, Hildegard Bezdicek, Hazel Bills, Margaret Brown, Christopher Browne, Carlos Chino Chapa, DiMarkco Chandler, Frank Clark, Sandra Coffey, William Crown, Jermaine Curtis, Natalie Davis, Tylesia Day, Shelma Dillon, Elnora Dorsey, Mary Ann Evans, Carter Evans, Joyce Evans, Norene Evans, Diana Foster, Zenobia Fuller, Enochs Galloway, Anna Garcia, Manuel MeMe Garcia, 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, Harlem Daniel Hayes, David Hicks, Gwendolyn Hicks, Jacqueline Hicks, Veronica Hicks, 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., Arelis Marquez, Catherine Martin, Melik McCloud, Latrice McGee, Carmella Miller, Connie Montoya, Arlene Moore, Tamma Norals, LaVita Norris, Clara Orlando, Michael Parham, Luvenia Parker, Emma Peradas, 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, Linda Smith, Rosa Solano, 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

**Every Priest is Taken Among Men**

A few years ago, as I was finishing high school, I was ready to embark on a new academic journey at a university. Deep in my heart, I had a strong desire to become a medical doctor, but at the same time, I felt a pull toward the priesthood.

It was around that time I met Sr. Jane Nugi, who introduced me to the idea of priesthood. She told me it was possible to be both a priest and a medical doctor. I thought that combining both callings would be incredible, so I decided to join the seminary. After years of formation, I was ordained as a priest, becoming fully immersed in the priesthood and leaving behind the idea of becoming a medical doctor.

Priesthood opened up a profound world that can only be experienced by becoming a priest. As priests, we are called to make vows or promises to live a life of celibacy, poverty, and obedience to God, to our Bishops and Superiors. Priests freely choose this path with the intention of dedicating their entire lives to the service of the Kingdom of God, the Church, and the care of the community of believers. Priests are called to be people of prayer, offering prayers for their own sins and for the sins of others. They work for the Church, which is the living sacrament of Christ, as messengers of hope, proclaimers of the Good News, ambassadors of faith, and instruments of love and charity.

Interestingly, in the eyes of children, priests are often mistakenly seen as "God," because they represent God and speak on His behalf during church services, in the celebration of the sacraments, and through prayers and blessings. On two occasions, to my surprise, I was called "God" by little children. This experience made me realize that, to young and innocent children, priests are powerful symbols of God's presence in their lives. Moreover, to many people, priests not only represent God but are also seen as the hands, eyes, ears and the feet of Christ to those in need.

The biblical image of the priesthood is rooted in the Book of Hebrews [Heb 5:1-14]. In this chapter, the choice of priests is described as follows: "Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness, and so, for this reason, must make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honor upon himself but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. In the same way, it was not Christ who glorified himself in becoming high priest, but rather the one who said to him: 'You are my Son; this day I have begotten you,' just as he says in another place: 'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.'"

So, every priest that you know, comes from a family like yours and has parents and relatives like yours. He is a man from a regular family. Now, let's promote vocation to priesthood among our young people. God bless you.

**Brother Thad**

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

You hear today the message that God's creation includes marriage, sex, and family life. In other words, following the words of Jesus in the Gospel, we acknowledge that family life is part of God's plan for us, from the beginning.

When you think of the doctrine of creation, the most important element in that doctrine is the fact of dependence, in the present. The doctrine of creation has not so much to do with historical origins of marriage or what God actually did with Adam and Eve. No, the main point is that in the here and now we need God, in order to find happiness in these three areas of marriage, sex, and family life. We know that our human nature was designed by God our creator.

Is it not true that so many of us live by social pressure, by conformity, by absorption into the general culture? Do not many of us simply think in accord with what others around us think? Are we not, by and large, formed by the world of media, school, and friends? It is strange, then, that we do not acknowledge our dependence. We often think of ourselves as autonomous, as free, as independent agents, with our own ideas and values. Every generation does this, and every generation is deceiving itself.

In fact, we need to rely on God, on his Word in Scripture, on his help given us in the Catholic Church, on his wisdom expressed in our common faith and practice. In fact, we rely either on the general American culture or on the Church, one or the other. In fact, we live in the City of God or in the City of Man, as St. Augustine put it. Sometimes, we live in both cultures; and so we experience tension, confusion, and doubt.

Concretely, in view of today's Gospel, we consider the question of marriage and divorce. Note what Jesus says in the Gospel. His teaching is much the same as the practice in the Western Church today, the Roman Catholic Church. Neither husband nor wife can divorce the spouse and marry someone else. It is not divorce that is condemned, as such, but rather remarriage after divorce, while the first spouse is still living.

Now, suppose two people cannot live together. They just don't get along, at all. They have serious reasons for separating. As far as the Gospel is concerned, yes, they can separate, even get divorced. But they remain married and so cannot marry again, while the spouse is living.

Are there any exceptions to this teaching? Yes, there are two. First, the Eastern Catholic Church, today recognized in the Greek Orthodox Church, had a different practice. These Christians say that marriage can die and fail, through human fault. Both Christians who seek a divorce go to confession, do penance, and repent of their sin. Then the Church actually grants a true divorce, with the right to remarry. The Western Church was in communion with the East for many centuries, and this different practice was never condemned in the West. Nor does it today pose an obstacle to reunion. So, perhaps we in the West could also someday accept this interpretation of the Gospel. For now, in the Catholic Church, there is only the second exception of annulment. In the West, marriage is understood as a legal contract between two individuals. So, you can legally recognize that people were unable to commit themselves in a legal contract; the most common cause is psychic incapacity—one or both of the individuals were unable to form the marriage bond. These are two exceptions to the teaching of Christ in today's Gospel.

—Father Michael Gilligan



**FINDING  
YOUR LIFE'S  
PURPOSE**

**“What is Your Purpose in Life?”**

“What is Your Purpose in Life?” Many people wonder about the purpose of life. Why are we here on this planet? Without purpose, life is meaningless. So, everyone is looking for purpose in their lives. Some people's purpose is to make as much money as possible. Other's purpose is to find their true love and live happily ever after. Yet others seek to find purpose in a satisfying career or in raising a family. Most of those purposes are worthy goals in life.

The Bible teaches that there are five purposes in life for the believer: worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and evangelism. All are important and should be part of a believer's life, but one should be our main purpose. When you look at the five purposes, we will be able to do four out of the five in heaven. Which one can we only do on earth? Evangelism – reaching the lost will not happen in heaven, so I believe it is to be our main focus on earth.

*2 Peter 3:9 (ESV) The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

This verse is talking about when Jesus will return. It is saying the Jesus is not slow in coming back, He has a plan. He is being patient, waiting for more people to repent and be saved, rather than perish. In other words, Jesus is not waiting to return until we have better worship, fellowship, discipleship or ministry. He is waiting to return until the last person in His plan repents and is saved. Reaching the lost with salvation is the main purpose of believers in this life. So, let's look at the purpose of people who do not yet know Jesus.

Next Sunday, October 13, 2024  
 Twenty-Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time  
 Readings: Wisdom 7:7-11  
 Hebrews 4:12-13  
 Mark :10:17-30 or 10:17-27

**Celebrant Mass Schedule**

**St. Agatha**

**St. Martin de Porres**

10/06/24	Fr. Thad	Fr. Thad
10/13/24	Fr. Thad	Fr. Tetwigs
10/20/24	Fr. Thad Dcn. Pouncy - Preaching	Fr, Thad Dcn. Greg - Preaching
10/27/24	F. Knotek	Fr. Thad

SAVE THE DATE  
**ST. SIMON OF CYRENE**  
 ANNUAL LUNCHEON

**SOUL TRAIN**  
 REVIEW

featuring  
 The Delivery Point  
 Band



NOVEMBER 2, 2024

12 PM - 4:30 PM

CRYSTAL SKY BANQUETS  
 7941 47TH STREET  
 MCCOOK, IL 60525

**ADULTS \$50.00 CHILDREN \$25.00**

PRESENTED BY ST SIMON OF CYRENE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE  
 ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARD THE CHURCH ENVIRONMENTAL FUND

**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, October 6, 2024**



† Happy Heavenly Birthday to  
 Michelle Galloway, from Cousin Reva

† Happy Heavenly Birthday to Anna Richardson  
 and Happy Blessed Birthday to David Hicks  
 From the Hicks Family

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