



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> - EMAIL: st.simonofcyrene@archchicago.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.

DECEMBER 01, 2024 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 & Gail Pouncy
[Deacon Pouncy, **Director of Charity and Outreach**]

Deacon Couple: Rev. Mr. Greg & Carolyn Shumpert
[Deacon Shumpert, **Director of Evangelization**]

Parish Operations Director: Yvonne Coffey

Parish Administrative Assistant: Carol Johnson

Parish Secretary: Refoncia McGowan

Director 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 November 24, 2024

Sunday Contributions	\$3,923.00
Give Central	1155.00
Sharing Parish	4070.85
Fundraising Collection 11/03	100.00
Kolbe House	30.00
Total:	\$9,278.85

Universal Offertory - October \$1,605.00

Thanks for your generosity!





For Whom Shall We Pray...

Walter Adams, Susie Aldrich, Bertha Anderson, Kristina Anderson, Jewel Austin, Cheryl Baker, Gia Brown-Baxter, Geraldine Baylor, Kyle Becnel, Mary Bender, Hildegard Bezdicek, Hazel Bills, Joann Blaze, Margaret Brown, Christopher Browne, Leonard Chhenier, Carlos Chino Chapa, DiMarkco Chandler, Yvonne Coffey, Sandra Coffey, William Crown, Jermaine Curtis, Michael Davis, Natalie Davis, Tylesia Day, Shelma Dillon, Elnora Dorsey, Mary Ann Evans, Carter Evans, Joyce Evans, Michael EvaNorene Evans, Diana T. 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, Leatrice Harris, Tony Harris, David Hicks, Gwendolyn Hicks, Jacqueline Hicks, Veronica Hicks, Joesaya Henderson, Kesiea & Melinda, Kim Henderson, Leonard Henderson, Jerron Johns Jr., Carol Johnson, 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, Martin Mannette, Dolores Mapp, Larry Mapp Jr., Arelys Marquez, Catherine Martin, Marilyn Martin, Martina Mgingba, Melik McCloud, Latrice McGee, Carmella Miller, Connie Montoya, Arlene Moore, Ezekiel Clement Msembe, Tamma Norals, LaVita Norris, Clara Orlando, Michael Parham, Luvenia Parker, Emma Peradas, Lorenzo 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, 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, Joan Watkins, Shirley West, Diondai Whitfield, Walter Whitlow, Tyler Williams, Armonie Witherspoon, Beverly Wright, Flora Yancy

The Advent Season: The End and the Beginning

This past Sunday, we celebrated the Feast of Christ the King, marking the conclusion of Liturgical Year B and the inauguration of Liturgical Year C. During Year B, our Sunday Gospel readings focused on the Gospel of Mark, while weekday Masses invited us to meditate on the Gospel of Luke.

Now, as we enter Liturgical Year C, our Sunday Gospel readings will center on the Gospel of Luke. Luke's Gospel emphasizes Jesus' interactions with individuals who were often marginalized in His society. We will witness His compassionate encounters with women, children, the poor, prostitutes, tax collectors, and sinners. Luke also highlights Jesus' humanity, presenting Him as deeply concerned with the dignity and struggles of each person. Luke's Gospel, symbolized by the winged ox or bull, is a sign of sacrifice, service, and strength. It invites us to reflect on Jesus' mission of mercy. Meanwhile, during weekday Masses in Year C, we will reflect on the Gospel of Matthew.

The Feast of Christ the King, which celebrates Jesus as the King of the Universe, serves as a bridge between liturgical years. It ends one cycle and begins another, guiding us into the season of Advent, a time of vigilance and preparation for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Advent is a season of joyful hope, a time to await God's saving acts with hearts full of expectation. The key themes of Advent are preparation, watching, waiting, expecting, and hoping for the coming of the Son of God. It is a season of spiritual renewal, that we might open our hearts to welcome Emmanuel, God with us, with reverence and joy.

As St. John Paul II beautifully stated: *"Advent is the spiritual season of hope par excellence, and in this season the whole Church is called to become hope, for itself and for the world. Advent is a time of expectation and of preparation for the encounter with Christ, an encounter to which we are invited above all in the liturgy, but also in the events of daily life."*

Mother Teresa of Calcutta further reminds us of the transformative power of this season: *"The season of Advent is like springtime in nature, when everything is renewed and so is fresh and healthy. Advent is meant to do this to us to refresh us and make us healthy, to be able to receive Christ in whatever form He may come to us."*

Therefore, in today's fast-paced world, Advent is a countercultural reminder to pause and look inward. How often do we rush through December, distracted by shopping lists and busy schedules, only to feel unprepared when Christmas Day arrives? Advent calls us to slow down, to light the candles of the wreath, not just as a tradition but as a symbol of the light of Christ breaking through our own darkness. As we journey through this sacred season, let us make room in our hearts for the One who comes.

God bless you.

Brother Thad

Sermon: First Sunday of Advent (Cycle C)

In the Scripture today, you just heard that the Lord is drawing near. Jeremiah promised that the Messiah would come. These words we hear are repeated. They were already found in Jeremiah and now are repeated a second time, much the same as before. As it was, so it is. We hear the promise repeated to us. The Messiah will come, the descendant of David, the King. He will do what is just and right. In those days, Jerusalem will be secure and safe. This means that when Christ comes, the people of God will be secure and safe.

- If there is discord as of now, say over the liturgy, then when Christ comes, there will be peace. If there is persecution now, say in Syria, or Iraq, then when Christ comes, there will be peace. If there is apostasy and lack of faith now, say in Europe, then when Christ comes, there will be peace.
- When the Messiah comes, it will be a time of victory and liberation, of triumph and freedom, of celebration and independence.
- In the Epistle, the Thessalonians were not always living right. They were busy being selfish, being parsimonious, being self-indulgent. When some died, they lamented that the individual was dead, before Christ had yet returned. They thought he was coming soon, and so they wanted to be together to meet him. St. Paul reminds them and us what is really important: conduct yourselves in a way pleasing to God. As you are doing already, he says, put that first in your minds. If you do that, you will strengthen your heart. It is true. Your cholesterol levels will decrease. Your left ventricles will become robust. Your blood pressure will go down. Your mind will be clear. Your spirit will be free. You will be blest with a long and happy life. God will strengthen your hearts.
- You may have heard that Ted Turner said he would give a billion dollars to the United Nations. Ted Turner says that the super rich are preoccupied with their place on the Forbes list of the wealthy. He says that is pointless. Life should be lived right now, doing what good is possible. And that is key to a happy life. You don't need to listen to Ted Turner to know that. You already cherish this message in your minds.
- St. Paul says: May the Lord increase you. May God make your love for one another overflow. That is how the Lord will increase you, make you great, make you happy.
- The message of the Messiah is much the same. He says to avoid drunkenness, indulgence, and worldly cares. He tells us to be on guard lest our minds become bloated with these things. Our spirits, our minds, our hearts must be free, free to focus on what is lasting, what is enduring. We must pray constantly to stand secure before the Son of Man. That means that we pray often and faithfully, in order to live, to stand, to survive when the Messiah comes.

—Father Michael Gilligan



The first Sunday of Advent

It gives us the opportunity to center our thoughts on **hope**.

It's a beautiful chance to remember the hope God offers to our lost and dying world, and that He's given us through Jesus.

Galatians 4:4-8 says: But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

Paul, the writer of Galatians, articulates so perfectly the great hope we celebrate at Christmas! Without God's intervention, we were all slaves...bound up by our sin nature and hopelessly headed to the grave. Because of God's great love for us, He came down and rescued humanity by sending his Son as a sacrifice for our sin—so we could be free from the chains of sin and become fully part of God's glorious eternal family.

On this first Sunday of Advent, as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' arrival as a gift to all humanity; let's stir up in our hearts and homes a sense of anticipation. Over this Advent, we pray that **hope** would rise up in our spirits in a tangible and life-giving way.

Next Sunday, December 08, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent
Readings: Baruch 5:1-9
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Luke 3: 1-6 (6)

Celebrant Mass Schedule

St. Agatha

St. Martin de Porres

12/01/24 Fr. Thad	Fr. Mike Knotek
12/08/24 TBA	Fr. Thad
12/15/24 Fr. Thad	Fr. Tom Walsh
12/22/24 Fr. Knotek	Fr. Thad
12/24/24 *Christmas Eve Mass at St. Martin de Porres	
12/25/24 Christmas Day Mass - Both Church Sites	
St. Agatha: 9:00am - St. Martin de Porres: 11:00am	

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 December 8th



Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration!

Sunday, December 08, 2024, immediately following 11:00am Mass. All are Welcome!
Come join in the Celebration at Purcell Hall, 4300 W. Washington Blvd.



Mass Intentions for this Week

Sunday, December 01, 2024

† In Loving Memory and Prayers for All Families, Friends and Loved Ones

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 - (773) 287-0206

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

Today!!

The Parish Council will host a Town-Hall Meeting/Information Session for both Churches at St. Agatha Church, immediately after 9am mass [10am]

St. Martin de Porres Church immediately after 11am Mass [12 noon]

We welcome all to attend!

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