



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.

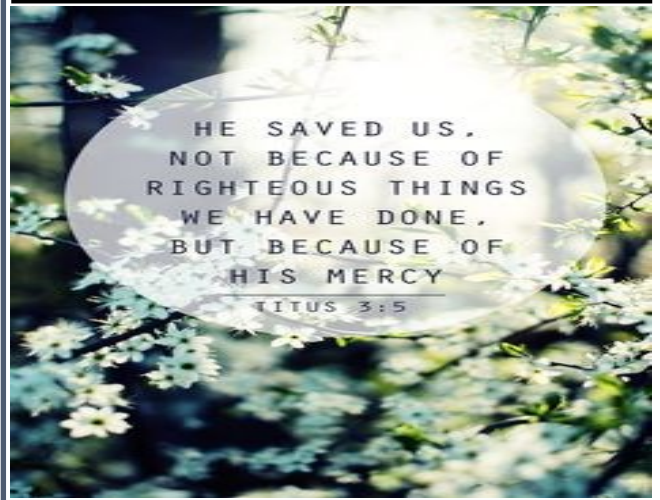
Reconciliation is available upon request.

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.

NOVEMBER 10, 2024 THIRTY-SECOND 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 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 03, 2024

Sunday Contributions	\$4,271.25
Give Central	1267.00
Fundraising Collection	425.00
Kolbe House	<u>55.00</u>
	\$6,018.25

Thanks for your generosity!





For Whom Shall We Pray...

Walter Adams, Susie Aldrich, Bertha Anderson, Jewel Austin, Cheryl Baker, Gia Brown-Baxter, Geraldine Baylor, Kyle Becnel, Hildegard Bezdicek, Hazel Bills, Margaret Brown, Christopher Browne, Leonard Chhenier, Carlos Chino Chapa, DiMarkco Chandler, Sandra Coffey, William Crown, Jermaine Curtis, Natalie Davis, Tylesia Day, Shelma Dillon, Elnora Dorsey, Mary Ann Evans, Carter Evans, Joyce Evans, Norene Evans, 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., 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 Mannelle, Dolores Mapp, Larry Mapp Jr., Arelys Marquez, Catherine Martin, Marilyn Martin, Martina Mgimba, 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, 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

Do Not Invite Your Family or Friends

In the Gospel of Luke 14:12-14, Jesus advises us:

“When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your wealthy neighbors...”

Do not invite the people you know is the message of this text. Personally, I wonder, who among us hears these words and feels ready to follow them? Most of us would hesitate to host a luncheon or a dinner without inviting friends, or to choose to invite the poor over our own brothers and sisters. Who would leave out their relatives to make room for the lame or the blind at a lunch table?

Sitting at a table with unfamiliar faces can feel uncomfortable for many of us. We are naturally inclined to sit with people we know, where conversation flows easily, and shared stories enliven the gathering. We find a sense of belonging among familiar faces and often a sense of disconnection from those whom we don't know, regardless of their condition or their background.

So, when Jesus demands us not to invite our friends, family, or neighbors to a meal we are hosting and instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind, it feels almost offensive and unfair. This teaching of Jesus is disturbing because it challenges us to do what feels unnatural and uncomfortable. Our human weakness makes us suspicious of those who seem different or are unknown to us, leading us to believe that they cannot be trusted, and therefore, cannot share or sit at the table with us for lunch or dinner.

I find it thought-provoking to imagine hosting a meal with a group of people I don't know, while leaving out friends and family who have supported me and given me hope. Those whom I know are part of my social circle and are the ones who encourage me to live with purpose each day. What about you? Would you be willing to host a meal with strangers, the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind while leaving out your family, friends, and neighbors? Who among us could do that?

Yet the Bible tells us that this is the path we should follow because we are part of the same family in God's eyes. It's a hard teaching, indeed, but one worth reflecting on deeply.

God bless you.

Brother Thad

**SERMON: THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(CYCLE B)**

You remember well the parables of Jesus Christ. You remember his admonition to pray to the Father in secret. You remember how he said that if your eye scandalizes you, cut it out. These are metaphors, figures of speech. So, now consider the widow in today's Gospel. She gave from the heart. That's what Christ is talking about, again and again. He teaches us how to live the Law, the Torah, fully and completely. A gift was given to Elijah, from the heart; and there was a reward. So, now, in the Gospel story, a widow gives generously, from the heart; and there is a reward. Generosity itself is a virtue.

- How does a wealthy person do this? How does anybody with a good income do this? In fairness, you're already paying double taxes if you sell stock at a capital gain. You're already paying a high income tax. You can't escape paying sales tax. And much of this money, paid to the Government, goes to charitable ends. So, the point of the Gospel is not how you can help substantially. That you are already doing, whether you like it or not. The point of the Gospel is this: how can you give in such a way that it comes from the heart?

- Well, first of all, there's personal involvement in what is important to you. That means time, spent, for example, with a child. It's not a question of money. And it's not a question of what is called "quality time." No, pure and simple, it's just time, plenty of it, for someone who needs your time.

- You can also plan a will. Admit that you will not take any of your estate with you to the next life. Make provision now, for those people you care about.

- Consider individuals you know. Yes, the Gospel today does speak of a temple offering; and, yes, that's analogous to the offering made in church on Sunday. That's well and good. But also consider individuals you can help, individuals for whom there is no deduction on the 1040.

- Finally, look into your motives. Why do you wish to help? What is your intention in giving? Do you have any desire to impress others? Do you still desire a certain control? Are you giving freely, from the heart?

In the Second Reading today, the Epistle to the Hebrews reminds us that Jesus Christ does not die again and again. In the Mass, it is not true that Christ is somehow killed over and over; that is not the nature of the sacrifice. The original offering of Christ, a sacrifice from the heart, was an offering made in generosity and love. It is a pattern, a model, and a stimulus for our own sacrifice, both the sacrifice of the Mass and the sacrifice of our lives. We love God, and we love our neighbor. And the offering we make is itself enabled and empowered by the grace of Christ, who lives forever to make intercession for us. This is our faith, and we are proud to profess it.

—*Father Michael Gilligan*

The Empty Pew

Preachers have a distinctive view of the congregation as he stands before them and delivers the message from God's word. As he teaches the lesson, he subconsciously assesses the audience, and immediately knows if the attendance for that day is good or is lacking. As human nature would have it, members have the habit of sitting in the same place for each service they attend. If the congregation is small, the preacher has probably memorized each member's or family's designated pew. So, when those pews are empty, especially for several services, it is a matter of concern for the following reasons:

- Is someone sick? Do they need prayer, comfort, or ministered to? "And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up." (James 5:15a)
- Are they suffering from loss or tragedy? Do they need God's comfort that can be given through us? (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)
- Are they at odds with a fellow member? Jesus taught us conflict resolution, even if it needs mediation. (Matthew 18:15-20)
- Is the new convert struggling with their commitment to God? Mature Christians should encourage them. (Romans 15:1)
- Have they been offended by truthful presentation of the scriptures which convict the world of sin? (John 16:8)
- Have they willfully missed worship while pursuing pleasure? This is idolatry, is sinful and requires repentance. (Hebrews 10:24-27)
- Have they become distracted by life? Work and family obligations can lead us on the gradual road to unfaithfulness. (Colossians 3:1-2) These are just a few of the things that can concern the preacher (or elder) as they observe the empty pew.

"While the empty pew declares to the world that many are lost or being lost, we do have hope in Christ Jesus. This alone should encourage us to more faithfulness".

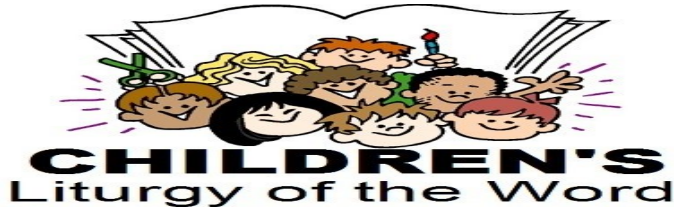
Next Sunday, November 17, 2024
 Thirty-Third Sunday In Ordinary Time
 Readings: Dueteronomy 12:1-3
 Hebrews 10:11-14. 18
 Mark 13:24-32

Celebrant Mass Schedule

<u>St. Agatha</u>	<u>St. Martin de Porres</u>
11/10/24 Fr. Tetwigs	Fr. Thad
11/17/24 Fr. Thad	Fr. Tetwigs
11/24/24 Fr. Raphael Makhori	Fr. Thad
11/27/24 *Thanksgiving Mass at St. Agatha 5:00pm	
12/01/24 Fr. Thad	Fr. Mike Knotek
12/08/24 TBA	Fr. Thad
12/15/24 Fr. Thad	Fr. Tom Walsh

~ Please Mark Your Calendar ~

The Parish Council will host a
Town-Hall Meeting/Information Session
 on Sunday, December 01, 2024 for both Churches.
St. Agatha Church the town hall meeting will
 be **immediately after 9am mass [10am]** and for
St. Martin de Porres Church it will be after
11am Mass [12 noon] We welcome all to attend!



**Children's
 Liturgy of the Word
 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sunday of Each Month
 St. Martin de Porres Church Site
 During 11:00am Mass**

**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, November 10, 2024



† In Loving Memory of Ellen Rose Smith
 From Margaret Ferguson and Family

Happy Blessed Birthday to
 Lazaro Alexander Singh
 From Barbara Marquez

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