



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.

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 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

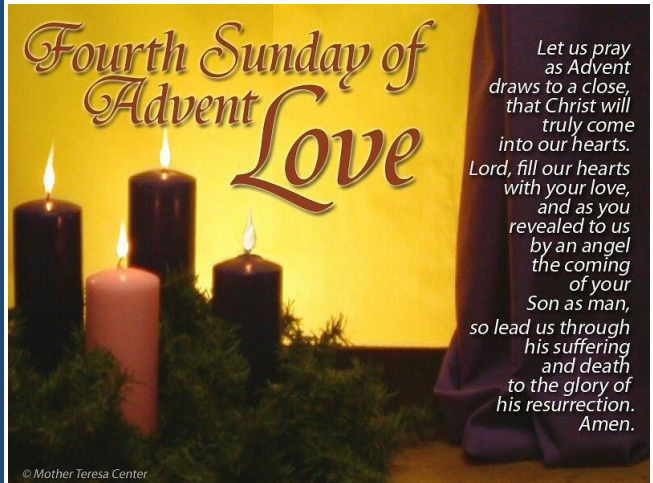
Choir Director: Antonio Anderson

Outreach Ministry: Derek Brown

Outreach Ministry: Heather Johnson

Websites & Social Media: Emily Dillon

DECEMBER 22, 2024 FOURTH 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.

Sunday Collections for December 15, 2024

Sunday Contributions	\$4,207.15
Give Central	1676.10
Sharing Parish	500.00
Kolbe House	<u>93.00</u>
Total:	\$6,476.25

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, Margaret Brown, Christopher Browne, Leonard Chhenier, Carlos Chino Chapa, DiMarkco Chandler, Sandra Coffey, William Crown, Jermaine Curtis, Michael Davis, Natalie Davis, Tylesia Day, Shelma Dillon, Elnora Dorsey, Mary Ann Evans, Carter Evans, Joyce Evans, Michael 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, Leatrice Harris, Tony Harris, David Hicks, Darryl Hicks, Gwendolyn Hicks, Jacqueline Hicks, Veronica Hicks, Joesaya Henderson, Kesiea & Melinda, Kim Henderson, Leonard Henderson, Darryl Hicks Jerron Johns Jr., Joyce Ann Johnson, Sr., Julius Jones, Virginia Jones, Corine Jourdan, Ashanti Kelly, Jacquiline Kelly, Brian Lares, Jimmy Lee, Sayyid Lestrade, Melvin Lightford, Diana Lozano, Anthony Lyons, Alexander Madden, Martin Mannette, Dolores Mapp, Larry Mapp Jr., Arelys Marquez, Catherine Martin, Marilyn Martin, Martina Mgimba, Melik McCloud, Latrice McGee, Pamela D. Gee, Carmella Miller, Kenny Miles, 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, Flo Shumpert, 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

Dear Parishioners,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each one of you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. It is my prayer that this Christmas brings renewal of heart and spirit in your life and in the life of our Church, St. Simon of Cyrene.

St. Anselm, in his book *Why Did God Become Man*, explains why we celebrate Christmas with joy and gratitude to God. St. Anselm taught that the birth of Christ, the Son of God - the God-Man, was necessary to repay the debt incurred by human sins. Only someone who is fully God and fully human could repay that debt. Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, was born among us; He is fully God and fully human. By dying on the cross, He paid the debt of our sins in full, freeing us from bondage.

This is why we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with such joy. Jesus is our Savior. He brings peace, justice, love, and mercy to a broken world. Through His sacrifice on the cross, He shed His blood so that we might have life in abundance. St. Irenaeus said the importance of Christ's humanity when he said, "The glory of God is the human person fully alive."

This means that when men and women become fully alive living in faith, hope, and love, they manifest the glory of God. Therefore, in this Christmas season, I pray that we may come to understand the necessity of Jesus' birth for our salvation and that we may experience the glory of God in becoming fully alive.

The New Year 2025 is a Jubilee Year for the Catholic Church around the world. The theme for this Jubilee Year is "Pilgrims of Hope." Pope Francis encourages us to light the flame of hope, a flame that strengthens us as we face the future with open hearts, trusting spirits, and far-sighted vision.

In this Jubilee year, let us be the bearers of hope in our families, our parish, and our community. Perhaps you might consider volunteering to any parish ministry, reaching out to someone in need, or simply sharing a word of encouragement with a neighbor. Small acts of hope can transform lives.

I want to thank all of you for your warm hearts, kind spirits, contagious love, and resilient faith. Together, you help move forward our mission of witnessing to Christ as Lord, promoting justice and peace, and reaching out charitably to the disadvantaged in our Westside community. Just as St. Simon of Cyrene carried the cross of Jesus, we are called to carry the crosses of our least brothers and sisters in Christ, every day in our life.

I warmly invite you to join us for our Christmas Mass and this Jubilee year that the Church has planned for the New Year 2025. Together, let us journey as pilgrims of hope.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2025.

Fr. Thadeo Mgimba

Sermon: Fourth Sunday of Advent (Cycle C)

It will surprise many people, but it's true. In the liturgy, the month of May has nothing to do with Mary. In the month of May, we focus on the mystery of Easter, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Now, however, during Advent, especially as Christmas draws near, we think of the Virgin Mary often. Mary is mentioned in the Gospels more than once, especially in this season of Advent.

The attitude of Mary is what is important. She waits in joyful hope, in expectation of the birth of her child. Her expectation is not filled with dread but with peace and calm. She has the support of her family, her friends, and above all her husband, Joseph. Mary is a model of the way in which we wait for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Her feelings are our feelings. Her obedience to God is our obedience. And her faith, her trust in the Lord, is also our trust. The Church sees in Mary a reflection of what she herself is: a people waiting in joyful hope for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

- Mary is the virgin who is to bring forth a son, foretold in Scripture, celebrated in the Gospel, remembered in the liturgy. Mary is the one who symbolizes the Church, who embodies the Church, who shows the Church how to pray and how to believe.
- You heard St. Paul say that Jesus Christ is descended from David in the flesh but made Son of God in power, by his resurrection. In other words, God made Jesus the Messiah, the Christ, the King, by raising him from the dead and by exalting him above all the world. Because of that action, we are called to bring people to obedient faith, the same kind of faith that is evident in the life of the Virgin Mary. She said simply "Let it be." That's the kind of faith we need, obedient and willing, before the command of God.
- It is through Joseph that Jesus is in the line of King David, Joseph, the foster father, Joseph, the husband of Mary, Joseph, the one who accepts the will of God in obedient faith. So, because of Joseph, we acclaim Jesus with the words, "Hosanna, Son of David, to you your people sing."
- At the end of time, the coming of the kingdom, the reign of the Messiah will begin in earnest, in fullness.

The earth will shake and tremble; the sky will open wide; And we will see an army of angels at your side.

Jesus will return, in glory and in power, with angels around him, with the host of heaven accompanying him, with cherubim and seraphim in the vanguard. These angels are a sign of his dominion, a symbol of his universal reign, his lordship over heaven and earth.

But the witness of the angels is not greater than the obedient faith of the Virgin Mary and her husband Joseph. They testify to the kind of life we need to live, to the vision we need to keep, to the Church we learn to love.

—*Father Michael Gilligan*



The story of Jesus' Birth is told in the Bible, particularly in the Gospel of Luke:

The angel Gabriel's announcement:

The angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God who would be named Jesus and rule over Israel.

The census: Caesar Augustus ordered a census of Roman domains, and Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem.

The birth: Mary gave birth to Jesus in a stable because there was no room, at the inn.

The shepherds: An angel appeared to shepherds in the fields and told them that the Son of God had been born. The shepherds went to Bethlehem to see the baby.

The Wise Men: The Wise Men were guided to Jesus by a star in the heavens. They gave Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The naming and circumcision: Eight days after the birth, Jesus was named and circumcised.

Although Christmas is celebrated on December 25th, the exact day and year of Jesus' birth are unknown. The Western Church chose December 25th to celebrate Christmas in 336 A.D., while the Eastern Church chose January 6th.



Next Sunday, December 29, 2024
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Readings: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
Luke: 2:41-52

Celebrant Mass Schedule

St. Agatha St. Martin de Porres

12/22/24 Fr. Knotek Fr. Thad

12/24/24 *Christmas Eve Mass at St. Martin de Porres
 5:00pm Caroling - 5:45pm Pageant - 6:00pm Mass

12/25/24 Christmas Day Mass - Both Church Sites
 St. Agatha: 9:00am - St. Martin de Porres: 11:00am

12/29/24 UNITY MASS - St. Agatha 10:00am Fr. Walker

01/01/25 ONE MASS - St. Martin de Porres 9:00am

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

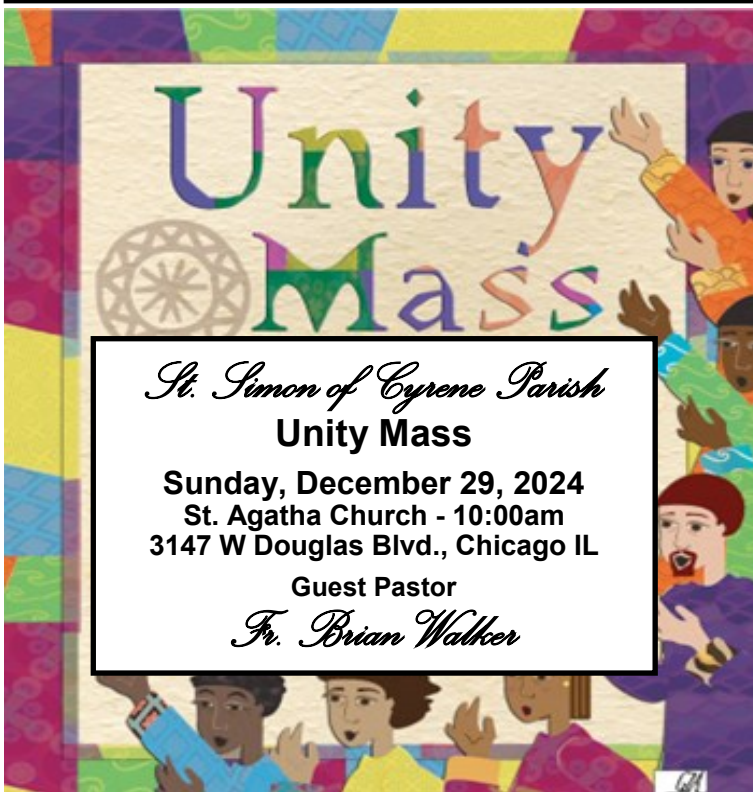
Finance Council Committee

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



St. Simon of Cyrene Parish
Unity Mass

Sunday, December 29, 2024
St. Agatha Church - 10:00am
3147 W Douglas Blvd., Chicago IL

Guest Pastor

Fr. Brian Walker



Mass Intentions for this Week

Sunday, December 22, 2024

† In Loving Memory of the
Hawkins, Moore, Davis and Lattimore Family
 from Phyllis Lee

† In Loving Memory of
James Lee Jones and Christine Jones

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

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
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