



## 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](mailto: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 08, 2024 SECOND 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 December 01, 2024

Sunday Contributions	\$6,437.00
Give Central	1947.00
Kolbe House	55.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$8,439.00</b>

Sharing Parish 12/4 \$1,000.00

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, Mary Bender, Hildegard Bezdicek, Hazel Bills, Margaret Brown, Christopher Browne, Leonard Chhenier, Carlos Chino Chapa, 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 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, Darryl Hicks, Gwendolyn Hicks, Jacqueline Hicks, Veronica Hicks, Joesaya Henderson, Kesiea & Melinda, Kim Henderson, Leonard Henderson, Darryl Hicks, Jerron Johns Jr., Sr., Julius Jones, Virginia Jones, Corine Jourdan, Ashanti Kelly, Jacqueline Kelly, Brian Lares, Jimmy Lee, Sayyid Lestrade, Melvin Lightford, Anthony Lyons, Alexander Madden, Martin Mannede, 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, 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

## **Celebrating the Blessed Virgin Mary: Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe**

In December, the Church is blessed to celebrate two significant Marian feasts: the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 8th and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th. These celebrations highlight the profound role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in God's plan for humanity's salvation. Additionally, on January 1st, we will celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, further emphasizing Mary's unique place in the life of the Church.

You may have noticed that the Immaculate Conception is described as a solemnity, while Our Lady of Guadalupe is a feast. What is the difference between these two liturgical celebrations? Why is one a solemnity and the other a feast?

In liturgical terms, solemnities are the highest-ranking celebrations in the Church. They commemorate the most important events, mysteries of faith, or saints of particular significance. Solemnities often begin with a vigil Mass the evening before, and the Gloria and Creed are always included in the liturgy. Some of the solemnities are Easter, Christmas, the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, the Assumption, and the Immaculate Conception.

In contrast, feasts are of slightly lower rank but still celebrate important events in the lives of Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary, or the Apostles. On feast days, the Gloria is recited, but the Creed is omitted. The following are the examples of some of the feasts: the Feast of the Transfiguration, the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, and the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, we honor the fact that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from sin from the very first moment of her existence. The Church teaches that Mary was preserved from original sin at the moment of her conception, a grace given to her in anticipation of the salvation brought by Jesus Christ. The opening prayer for this solemnity reflects this profound truth, stating that God the Father prepared Mary to be a worthy mother for our Lord, allowing her to share in Christ's saving grace from the beginning of her life.

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe honors the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Patroness of the Americas and a powerful symbol of hope, faith, and unity. Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego on Tepeyac Hill (modern-day Mexico City) in 1531, requesting that a church be built in her honor. When Juan Diego relayed this message to the Bishop, he was dismissed. To confirm her request, Our Lady of Guadalupe, provided a miraculous sign; she filled Juan Diego's tilma, or cloak, with roses, an extraordinary occurrence in December and imprinted her image on it. This luminous and vibrant image is preserved to this day, a powerful testament to her intercession and love.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated as a symbol of God's love for the poor and marginalized. Through her intercession, countless souls have been drawn to Christ. She reminds us of God's abiding presence and Mary's role as mother to all. As we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary through these celebrations, may we deepen our faith and imitate her trust in God. May her example inspire us to remain steadfast in our own journey of faith. God bless you.

**Brother Thad**

## Sermon: Second Sunday of Advent (Cycle C)

In today's Mass, we call to mind the Holy Way, the path to God, the royal road to heaven that lies before us. Tell the faint-hearted, do not be afraid; your God will come and save you.

- Throughout the Bible, the New Testament and the Old Testament, we celebrate the fact that we journey to God as a people, as a nation, as a Church. We do not get there alone. Consider just a few examples how other people think differently from us individualistic Americans.
- In Japanese, there is no word for individual guilt. Yes, there is a word for shame, public embarrassment, disgrace. But there is no word for the concept of personal, individual responsibility. To us individualists, the Japanese language seems strange; that's because the concept of individual sin does not exist within the culture.
- Similarly, in Korea, people do not celebrate individual birthdays. That would seem inconceivably self-centered. Instead, everyone each year celebrates on the same day the fact that they are one year older.
- In the same way, individual guilt and individual prayer is not the main thing in Jewish writings, especially in the Bible. What matters most is the corporate sense, the group identity. Scripture says, for example, "Up, Jerusalem. Stand upon the heights." That is an invitation to the whole people, to gather as a people. In the song, I Lift My Soul, which is Psalm 25, the rabbis made a point that it is a prayer of the whole people. The word "I" is used because Israel is praying as one person; all of us are praying together, with the same mind and heart. Of course, that's the exact opposite of the way most Americans will understand I Lift My Soul. We think of ourselves as individuals, and we often pray as individuals. To the extent we do that, we will never enter the mind of Christ and never take on his attitude of prayer.
- When Scripture says "every valley shall be filled in, every mountain made low," that means that a highway will be cleared for God's people. Because we move together, we need room to travel. Similarly, the crooked paths shall be made straight; the rough ways, smooth. All humankind shall see the salvation of God. Throughout, the emphasis is on our common future, our shared destiny, our family's journey ahead.
- Today, the Catholic Church is in her springtime. The current revival of the liturgy is beyond comparison, in any century, in depth and in universality. We are coming to pray, once again, in the spirit of the best of our ancient tradition. That renewal of the liturgy is proceeding apace, in good time, with measured solemnity and peaceful progress.

—Father Michael Gilligan



People in Mexico and in the United States celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. Mary is the Patron Saint of Mexico and Patroness of the Americas. Every year, thousands of people from all over the country make a pilgrimage to the Basilica in Mexico City. The day commemorates her apparition to Saint Juan Diego in the hills of Tepeyac in 1531. She asked him to go to the bishop and tell him that the Ever Virgin Mary, Mother of God, sent him to ask for a church to be built atop Tepeyac hill.

Today, as a sign of their devotion to Mary, many pilgrims travel to this site on their knees for many miles. They do this as a sign of their devotion to Mary and to show gratitude for favors received from her. Outside of the shrine there are groups of mariachis, folk musicians, and ethnic dancers who have come to celebrate. Inside, various priests and bishops from all over Mexico gather to celebrate Mass. In the evening, the entrance of the basilica is filled with pilgrims from different regions of the country. Many other fiestas or popular celebrations take place in honor of La Virgen Morena, or the dark-skinned Madonna, all over Mexico. Almost every household erects an altar to the Virgin Mary for the day and the faithful demonstrate their joy by lighting fireworks throughout their cities.

Mary's apparition in Mexico to Saint Juan Diego aided the Catholic Church's effort to bring the Gospel to the Americas. This is why the bishops of the United States affirm: "Mary embraces God's will and freely chooses to cooperate with God's grace, thereby fulfilling a crucial role in God's plan of salvation."



**Next Sunday, December 15, 2024**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-18a**  
**Philippians 4: 4-7**  
**Luke 3: 10-18**

**Celebrant Mass Schedule**

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

<b>12/08/24</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>
<b>12/15/24</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>	<b>Fr. Tom Walsh</b>
<b>12/22/24</b>	<b>Fr. Knotek</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>
<b>12/24/24</b>	<b>*Christmas Eve Mass at St. Martin de Porres</b> <b>5:00pm Caroling - 5:45pm Pageant - 6:00pm Mass</b>	
<b>12/25/24</b>	<b>Christmas Day Mass - Both Church Sites</b> <b>St. Agatha: 9:00am - St. Martin de Porres: 11:00am</b>	

**Today!!**

**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Celebration!**

**Immediately following 11:00am Mass.**  
**All are Welcome!**  
**Come join in the Celebration at**  
**Purcell Hall, 4300 W. Washington Blvd.**

*Faith*  
makes things possible ... not easy



*Mass Intentions for this Week*

**Sunday, December 08, 2024**

† In Loving Memory of Sheila Wilson  
From Family and Friends

Prayers for Shanaria Stemley and 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. 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

*- Golden Age Group -*

**Food, Fellowship, Info for Seniors**

**Other Activities**

**Every 3rd Monday**

**12:00 noon - 2:30 p.m.**

**Monday, December 16**

**at St. Agatha Church Site**

**St. Martin Seniors RSVP to**

**Ms. McGowan (773) 287-0206**

**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