



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 15, 2024 THIRD 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 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 08, 2024

Sunday Contributions	\$5,132.00
Give Central	590.00
Kolbe House	63.00
Total:	\$5,785.00

Sharing Parish 12/9 \$1,305.00

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, 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, Jacqueline 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, Hosea Mills, 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, Justin Rivera, 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 Importance of Preparation

"Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight" is a powerful call that comes from the prophet Isaiah, urging his people to be ready for the day of the Lord. Isaiah understood the importance of preparation in people's lives. He passionately exhorts the faithful to *"straighten in the desert a highway for the Lord."* This colorful imagery carries the importance of preparing a welcoming path for God. It is a call to do something for the Lord and to transform our lives.

This call to action is echoed in the New Testament. The Gospels of Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3, and Luke 3:4, repeat the decree: *"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."* Certainly, these words are not merely about physical preparation but a spiritual readiness. It is a call to vigilance, a challenge to lay a solid foundation for the Lord's coming into our lives.

Preparation is indeed key to any success. It sets the stage for building anything worthwhile, for helping to anticipate challenges, and for developing plans to overcome them. Through preparation, one can research, estimate, and organize the resources needed for any task or responsibility. In the long run, preparation builds confidence because it serves as a rehearsal for what is to come. It transforms uncertainty into readiness to practical actions.

The Advent season embodies this theme as believers focus on preparing themselves for the coming of the Lord. Advent is a season of waiting and preparation, and it requires discipline, humility, and patience. Both preparation and waiting demand a steadfast heart and a willingness to trust in God's timing and not in human timing.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a renowned theologian, powerfully reflected on this idea when he said: *"Waiting is an art that our impatient age has forgotten. It wants to break open the ripe fruit when it is hardly finished planting the shoot... For the greatest, most profound, tenderest things in the world, we must wait. It happens not here in a storm but according to the divine laws of sprouting, growing, and becoming."*

As we journey through this season, let us embrace the art of preparation and waiting. Let us remain humble, disciplined, and patient, trusting that good things come to those who invest in preparation and await God's perfect timing. May we be ready to receive our Lord Jesus Christ with open hearts. God bless you.

Brother Thad

Sermon: Third Sunday of Advent (Cycle C)

Throughout Advent, we reflect carefully on the shortcomings of this life, the things that need changing, the need for justice and judgment, the wars and struggles and conflicts that mark our lives. We are well aware of human misfortune, of disease, of poverty, of addiction, of troubles of all kinds, of lack of faith, of depression, of selfishness and greed. Yes, we yearn for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, for the advent of his kingdom, for a better world and a better life.

- In answer to all this, St. Paul, alone in prison, writes us. He says, “Rejoice, I say it again, rejoice. Put all anxiety away from your minds. Then will God’s own peace stand guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- In Advent, we treasure these words of St. Paul. He was a man of vision. He saw something that we often fail to see. St. Paul knew why Christ was coming again and why we look forward to that coming. The reason is given to us by Christ himself, who said “I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly.”
- Life itself, then, is meant to be a happy life, a gift from God. That is a life that this age cannot deliver, a joy that this country cannot provide, a peace that this world cannot give.
- Everyone here who has suffered severe illness, everyone here who has lost a parent or a close friend, everyone here who has known real tragedy—everyone here knows what it means to look forward to the Coming of Christ.
- You hear now the words of Kathleen Norris, from her book, *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*.

We know that marriages, families, communities, and nations often come together and discover their strength when some apocalypse has occurred, some new revelation of the fault lines in our lives. Hospital chaplains see this all the time. For some reason we human beings seem to learn best how to love when we’re a bit broken, when our plans fall apart, when our myths of our self-sufficiency and goodness and safety are shattered. Apocalypse is meant to bring us to our senses, allowing us a sobering and usually painful glimpse of what is possible in the new life we build from the ashes of the old.

What Kathleen Norris says makes sense. When we see that this world is imperfect and passing away, we yearn for a new world, a new heaven and a new earth. We wait in joyful hope.

Rejoice, the Lord is near. His reign is here at hand.
That dazzling vision, coming clear,
Reveals what God has planned.

Let heaven hear our voice. Now greet God’s only Son.
Let every human heart rejoice. Proclaim what God has done!
Where angels rally round, where heaven sings on high,
We rise, we join that joyful sound. His welcome splits the sky!
Our Savior comes as King; his reign, by right restored.

—*Father Michael Gilligan*

Prayer for Vocations from the Black Catholic Community

God of Love and Life, God who invites each and every one of us to develop and share of the fullness of the unique cultural, spiritual and intellectual gifts you have given us:

+ We seek Your Sweet Spirit of Encouragement, that it might touch the hearts and minds of those men and women, youth and young adults, seeking to understand how best to serve you.

+ We ask that Your Blessed Spirit of Encouragement embolden and empower each of us to call forth leaders – or to be called forth ourselves as leaders - from the African American community: leaders in catechesis, leaders in marriage ministry, leaders in planning and leading worship, leaders in ministry with youth and young adults, leaders in study and reflection on the Holy Scriptures, deacons and deacon couples, priests and religious men and women.

• Fill us with the conviction necessary to call forth, empower and accompany those called to formal ministry, those called to lead and accompany and empower us all in the celebration, service and growth of our beloved African American Catholic community. Make us Your instruments, Your voice, to call forth disciples, leaders, ministers to serve You through service among and with Your faithful people. We ask this through Christ, Our Brother and Lord. Amen.

THANK GOD
for what you have
TRUST GOD
for what you need

Next Sunday, December 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Readings: Micah 5: 1-4a
Hebrews 10: 5-10
Luke 1: 39-45

Celebrant Mass Schedule

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

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
 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
Advent Reconciliation Service

We would love for you to join us!
Saturday, December 21, 2024 - 10:00am
St. Martin de Porres Church Site
5112 W. Washington Blvd.
Chicago, IL



Mass Intentions for this Week
Sunday, December 15, 2024

† In Loving Memory of Lillian LeCoure
 and Raymond Waters, From the LeCoure Family
 † Happy Heavenly 71st Birthday to Lucy Msambili
 From Sr. Martha Msambili
 Prayers for Justin Rivera and Hosea Mills
 From Bernice Thomas

We encourage our parishioners to pray for their loved ones, living

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

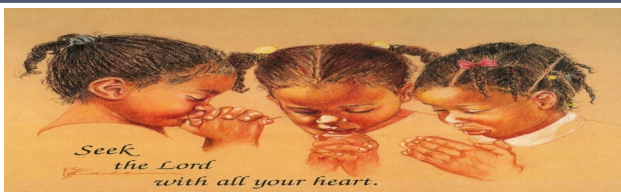
Co-Chair: Philippe Beauzile

Secretary: Linda Vick

Council Members: Lavetta Beauzile,

Mark Boone, Kathy Davis, Janice Ode Gray,

Diane Levy, Paul Morris



**Take a Minute to Pray for
 a Young Person**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of your children and youth all around the world. You have created them in your own image and likeness. Help us to guide, affirm and love them so they are equipped to make healthy choices for their lives. Help the children experience your great love for them deep in their hearts. Send your spirit upon them to comfort, heal, protect and enlighten all their decisions. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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