

# St. Agatha - St. Martin de Porres Parish

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FACEBOOK: St. Martin de Porres Parish Chicago

INSTAGRAM: @stmartindepordesparish & TWITTER: @StMartinParish

## Mass Times

Sunday: 10:00am

Tuesday: 9am & Thursday: 9am (Service & Adoration)

## 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 Parish before making arrangements for funerals of church members.

## Parish Staff

**Pastor:** Fr. Larry Dowling

**Associate Pastor:** Fr. Thadeo Mgimba

**Deacon Couple:** Rev. Mr. William & Gayle Pouncy

**Deacon Couple:** Rev. Mr. Bruce & Sandra McElrath

**Deacon Couple:** Rev. Mr. Greg & Carolyn Shumpert

**Operations Director:** TBA

**Building Engineer:** Roger Lozano

**Assisting the Pastor with the DRE:** Marvin McCurry

**Interim Parish Secretary:** Carol Johnson

**Custodian:** Frank Clark

**Housekeeper:** Scarlett Evans-Perez

**Religious Education Director:** TBA

**Music Director:** Darryl Petty

**Websites & Social Media Admin:** Emily Dillon



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**JULY 31, 2022**

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN**

**ORDINARY TIME**

**Our Mission Statement** We the people  
of St. Agatha-Saint Martin de Porres Parish  
have come together as a  
**Community of Believers**

to **profess our faith** by **evangelizing** ourselves,  
others and **fostering full participation** in the **con-**  
**cern for the needs of all.** We strive to bring **faith,**  
**hope** and **love** to our **Westside Community**

## EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME CYCLE C

**Gospel theme:** Money and wealth are needed for this life, but they do not bring eternal life. This world is filled with toil and trouble. Now, our attention centers on the risen Christ, who brings us together in peace. He is our life, our light, hope of glory.

**Sermon:** There is one subject that never fails to capture everybody's attention: money. And believe it or not, I'm not asking for some. But I do have to talk about the Scripture today, and the subject is money.

Gasoline prices have risen, as you know; and they are going up. The stock market is still not what people would like it to be. And, as good as the economy is, most households today have to have two wage-earners, just to keep up.

What does the Scripture say? In the First Reading, Qoheleth, the Preacher, says all this days sorrow and grief is his occupation; even at night his mind is not at rest. Perhaps this is the day trader, who works in the pits at the Board of Trade, in Chicago. Perhaps this is the farmer who worries about disease affecting his livestock, in England. Perhaps this is the housewife, trying to juggle demands of a job, and children, and a marriage, in New York. Some people, young people in the prime of life, some people can't sleep at night. Other people make their way through the day on tranquilizers, on caffeine, or on something else. Scripture is not outdated; people today are the same as in the time of Qoheleth, the Preacher. The question we ask is the same as it was then; what good does it do to work and work and then die? What sense is there in passing it all on to someone else? It is vanity of vanities. It is utterly senseless. It is pointless.

The message I preach is as difficult for me as it is for you. I'm happy to be here, in an air-conditioned building, with comfort. Yet you heard how the Gospel began: someone came up and said to Christ: "Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me." That's the way a child might come up to his mother and say, "Tell him to stop hitting me." And Jesus Christ, the Word of God, the Son of the eternal Father, says clearly, "Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?" In that situation, Jesus did not pass judgment; and neither can I. If I speak to you, as I must, I have no business passing judgment. My task is to preach the Word of Christ whether I like it or not, whether

you like it or not. My task is to understand that Word and make it known, as it is, not as I might imagine it. Your task is to harden not your hearts, as we pray in the Psalm, harden not your hearts but be open to the Word of Christ.

And Jesus Christ puts it clearly. He says, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions." And Jesus told a story to drive the point home: a man accumulates his wealth, but he was a fool. The message of Qoheleth, the Preacher, eat, drink, and be merry, no longer is true enough for us. The message of Jesus Christ makes more sense: grow rich in the sight of God. Set your heart on what pertain to higher realms. You know that cemeteries are filled with the bodies of people whose very names are forgotten. St. Paul says, "Stop." In a real sense, you have already died. You are dead to sin, to shame to selfishness. Because you believe, your life is hidden now with Christ in God. You don't need Oxycodone or Xanax to live; you don't have to give yourself over to anxiety. You don't have to yearn for more and more.

Jesus said he was the way, the truth, and life. Any other way is illusion and death. Our goal is not the good life but the holy life. Our hope is not human progress but the will of God for us. Not what we can get out of life but what we can give—and the one who loses his life will gain it. That is our pride, our hope, and our glory; not wealth or power or influence. Not prestige or vanity or fame. We grow rich in the sight of God, and we live in his grace. Our vision is the vision of eternity.

—Father Michael Gilligan, Ph. D.

**Closing prayer:** Father, we thank you for raising us up to Christ and giving us a share in his riches. Listen to your people and give us a sense of perspective, that we will use our resources for you and for your glory, through Christ our Lord.

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### THE ROSARY

The Rosary will be prayed every First Sunday of the month. At 9:30am before Mass. All are invited to come Pray the Rosary.

Please be prompt

Please Consider

Including St. Agatha — St. Martin de Porres  
Parish in your Will

## PARISH OFFICE

**Martin de Porres Credit Union:**

Located in

Purcell Hall 4300 W. Washington,

Tel. 773-626-0776

**Open Saturdays: 10:30-1:30p.m.**

**Purcell Hall Rental Information:** Contact the Parish Office

**Charitable Hands Ministry—Deacon William Pouncy and Elizabeth Becnel Call Deacon Pouncy**

**Telephone No. (312)841-3974**

## Weekly Collections for July 24, 2022

Envelopes	\$1900.00
Loose	401.00
Kolbe House	52.00
St. Agatha-Dr. Terry Thomas	<u>7.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,360.00</b>

## *Mass Intentions for this Week*

**Sunday, July 31, 2022**

**Happy Birthday Adrienne Curtis from James & Carolyn Collier**

**+Renadar and Sylvester Curtis from the Curtis 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.*

## BAPTISMS FOR SMALL CHILDREN

If you need the Sacrament of Baptism for Babies and small children, **call the Parish Office** during weekday business hours.

**Deacon William Pouncy** will contact you.

There will be a meeting for Parents & Godparents after we set the date for the new date for Baptism. Baptism will be held every 2nd and 4th Saturday or Sunday after Mass.

## From the Desk of Fr. Larry...

My sisters and brothers, today's Gospel presents us with a dispute Jesus is asked to resolve between two brothers. Instead of directly addressing the dispute, he offers a parable about a man who is addicted to acquiring wealth. As the author of Ecclesiastes might say to the man, "Vanity of vanities!" A life wasted on selfishness and the endless pursuit of wealth has accomplished nothing of benefit to the world.

St. Paul addresses this in the Second Reading. Listen to Paul's appeal to us: "Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the greed that is idolatry. Stop lying to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all and in all."

Jesus reminds us that the very essence of life is found in life-giving relationship with the God who created us and with each other. This invites us to ask the question: What do I value in life? What occupies most of my time? Is it material things or other things like jealousy, envy, greed, immorality? Or do I value my relationships with family, friends, parishioners, etc.?

I suggest taking a moment to think about the unique gifts and talents God has given you, what I like to call our inner gifts. They may be things like a good sense of humor, a compassion for others, a good organizer, a good listener, a loyal friend; they may be a particular talent you have. God has given you these gifts, not to cling to them, but to lightly possess them, ready to use them when and where you see the need for someone who is in need of your gifts.

Every Sunday, when representatives from the community present the gifts of bread and wine, gifts of nourishment God has given us, also representing each of our unique individual gifts. We place these on the altar, giving thanks to God for blessing us with these gifts. Then we do something very special with those gifts: We ask the Holy Spirit to cross the boundary between heaven and earth to kiss and empower those gifts with the power of the Holy Spirit, to change the simple bread and wine into the powerful, life-giving nourishment of Jesus Christ himself AND to transform our gifts through the Holy Spirit to make them more powerful in the effect they have on others when we share them.

Jesus asks us to always be open to allowing the Spirit to strengthen the power of our gifts and to always be open to sharing those gifts wherever and whenever needed. We are all gifted by the selfless, life-giving love of God. By accepting that love and living in that love, we become those selfless life-giving vessels of the Spirit for others.

**Gentle peace! Fr. Larry**

**P.S.** Thanks to those who attended our West Blest Side Listening Session this past Wednesday. If you missed it, please join Fr. Thadeo, me, and Archdiocesan Reps Cathy Walz and Brian Collins today at Noon at St. Agatha.

## OUR PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office is open weekdays from 9:00am - 1:00pm

### PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT

Every Tuesday morning mass at 9:00

Every Thursday Communal Service with Adoration and Benediction at  
9:00am

All are Welcome...

Come join us for a Hospitality Gathering at

St. Martin de Porres

Sunday, August 7, 2022

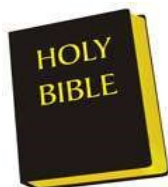
Immediately following 10:00a.m. Mass

in The Connecting Room adjacent to the

Food Pantry

### READERS FOR JULY 31, 2022

**Commentator:** Barbara Contrell  
**First Reading:** Janette Peters-Gruszczycki  
**Second Reading:** Chukwudinma Anthonny Ikpeama



### PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anthony Adams, Bertha Anderson, Kristina Anderson, Jewel Austin, Hazel Bills, Melvin Clark, Sandra Coffey, Ernestine Cottrell, Jermaine Curtis, Natalie Daves, Shelma Dillon, Elnora Dorsey, Carter Evans, Norene Evans, Hildred Fuller, Danny Gardner, Shirley Gardner, Callie Gee, Pamela D. Gee, Marian Graham, Nancy Gruszczycki, Stan Gruszczycki, Nathaniel W. Hall, Jasmine Harris, Jennifer Harris, Johnny Harris, Lejerrion Harris, Maryann Harris, Tony Harris, Lucy Henry, Veronica Hicks, Elia Hinogosa-Cangey, Julius Jones, Laurita Lockhart, Alexander Madden, Keith Mahaffey, John Mannelle, Larry Mapp Jr., Patrick McAnany, Sofia McFarland, Josh Morrow, LaVita Norris, Mariano Palacios, Emma Peradas, Michael Parham, Luvenia Parker, Jan F. Peters, Sylvia Peters, Essie Pledage, Imogene Rhodes, Phyllis Riley, Deborah Rutledge, Charese Troupe, Clarence Walker, Armonie Witherspoon, Flora Yancy.

### *Parish Council*

Meets 1st Thursday of the month at 7p.m.

**Chairperson:** Michael Wilson

**Vice Chairperson:** Jan Peters

**Secretary:** Michelle Haynes

**Other Council Members:** Marvin McCurry, Janice Matthew, Yvette Henderson, Janice Henry & Angela Wilson

### *Finance Council*

**Chairperson:** Carolyn Morris

**Secretary:** Linda Vick

**Other Council Members:** Paul Morris & Diane Levy

**Liaison:** Michael Wilson

### *Parish Commissions*

#### **HUMAN CONCERNS COMMISSION**

**Food Pantry:** Leon Williams & Richard Kimbrough

**Resale Store:** Patricia Buford

**Bereavement:** Janice Henry

**Ministers of Care:** Janice Henry

**Liaison:** Janice Henry & Janice Matthew

#### **SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMISSION**

**Minister of Music:** Darryl K. Petty

**Liturgy Committee:** Deacon William Pouncy

**Lector/Commentator:** Marvin McCurry

**Extraordinary Ministers:** Adrienne Curtis and Jewel Austin

**Liaison:** Marvin D. McCurry

#### **EDUCATION COMMISSION**

**St. Angela Elementary School & Christ the King High School**

**Sacramental Prep:** TBA

**R.C.I.A.:** Deacon William Pouncy

**Lectionary Program:** Julie Richardson

**Liaison:** Michelle Haynes & Janice Henry

#### **PARISH LIFE COMMISSION**

**Fundraising Committee:** Diane Levy

**Grady Anderson Auxiliary Liaison:**

Marvin D. McCurry

**Hospitality:** Patricia Buford

**Ladies of Peter Claver:** Stella Palmer

**Knights of Peter Claver:** Michael Davis

**Legion of Mary:** Gerard Dupee

**Men's Group:** Joseph Brown

**Couple's Ministry:** Angela & Michael Wilson

**Travel & Entertainment:** Joyce Riley

**Liaison:** Yvette Henderson & Angela Wilson