St. Agatha - St. Martin de Porres Parish Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 11, 2022



Church Staff Pastor: Fr. Larry Dowling denispadre@aol.com Associate Pastor: Fr. Thadeo Mgimba tmgimba@archchicago.org **Operations Director (StA): Cynthia Smith,** cdsmith@archchicago.org **Unified Parish Operations Director: TBA** Music Director: Dennis Smith (StA) **Daryl Petty (SMdeP)** Deacon Couple: Rev. Mr. William & Gayle Pouncy Deacon Couple: Rev. Mr. Greg & Carolyn Shumpert Deacon Couple: Rev. Mr. Bruce & Sandra McElrath **Reception/Pantry (StA): Refoncia McGowan Building Engineer: Roger Lozano** Assisting the Pastor w/ the DRE: Marvin McCurry Interim Parish Secretary (SMdeP): Carol Johnson **Custodian: Frank Clark** Housekeeper (SMdeP): Scarlett Evans-Perez **Religious Education Director: TBA** Websites & Social Media Admin: Emily Dillon (SMdeP) DiMarkco Chandler (StA)

JESUS MAFA. The Prodigal Son, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, Original source: http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr

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> Church Office Hours Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Masses: Sunday: 10:00 am Tuesday: 9:00 am Thursday: 9:00 am (Servíce & Adoratíon) St. Agatha Church 3147 W. Douglas Boulevard Chicago, IL. 60623 Phone: (773) 522-3050 Website: www.st-agatha-chicago.org Email: stagatha@archchicago.org www.facebook.com/st.agathachicago/

> Church Office Hours Monday - Fríday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Masses: Sunday: 8:00, 10:30 a.m. Thursday 7:30 a.m.

Sacramental Information



Baptism: Please call the church office for appointment at least two months prior to date. A prep class is required. Parents should contact Deacon William Pouncy.

RCIA: Adults Seeking Baptism and/or Making a Profession in the Catholic Christian Faith should contact Deacon Greg Shumpert.

Marriage: Please contact the parish office before setting your date. The Church asks that couples be parish members for at least 6 months before setting a date. Participation in Pre-Cana and a Premarital Inventory required.

Funerals: Please contact the parish office before going to see a Funeral Director. We will accommodate the needs of your family to help you through the loss and healing.

Ministry to Sick and Shut-In/ Anointing of the Sick/ Home Visitation/Receiving Communion at Home: If you or a loved one is in need of a minister from St. Agatha-St. Martin de Porres to visit for Communion, Anointing of the Sick or any other pastoral need, please contact the church office as soon as the need arises. Fr. Larry, Fr. Thad or one of the Care Ministers will gladly visit in a time of need.

Hospital Stays: If you or a loved one is going into the hospital, <u>please</u> notify the office in order that a priest or care minister can call or visit the hospitalized person and be support to the family.





For whom shall we pray... Anthony Adams, Walter Adams, Bertha Anderson, Kristina Anderson, Jewel Austin, Ted Bergh, Hildegarde Bezdicek, Hazel Bills, Christopher Browne, Melvin Clark, Sandra Coffey, Ernestine Cottrell, William Crown, Jermaine Curtis, Natalie Daves, Tylesia Day, Shelma Dillon, Elnora Dorsey, Carter Evans, Joyce Evans, Norene Evans, Hildred Fuller, Zenobia Fuller, Danny Gardner, Shirley Gardner, Callie Gee, Pamela D. Gee, Marian Graham, Kia Gray, Stan Gruszeczki, Bill Hainey, Nathaniel

W. Hall, Mary Harrell, Diane Harris, Jasmine Harris, Jennifer Harris, Johnny Harris, Lejerrion Harris, Leutrice Harris, Maryann Harris, Tony Harris, Lucy Henry, Veronica Hicks, Elia Hinogosa -Cangey, Joesaya Henderson, Yvonne Gibson, Kesiea & Melinda, Kim Henderson, Leonard Henderson, Jerron Johns Jr., Sr., Julius Jones, Jacquiline Kelly, Laurita Lockhart, Alexander Madden, Keith Mahaffey, John Mannette, Larry Mapp Jr., Patrick McAnany, Melik McCloud, Sofia McFarland, Robert McGee, Latrice McGee, Carmella Miller, Connie Montoya, Arlene Moore, Josh Morrow, LaVita Norris, Clara Orlando, Mariano Palacios, Michael Parham, Luvenia Parker, Emma Peradas, Gordon Perry, Jan F. Peters, Sylvia Peters, Essie Pledage, Queenie Randle, Elberta Raschke, Lucy Redmond, Imogene Rhodes, Marvin Register, Phyllis Riley, Deborah Rutledge, Lorraine Sanford, Eunice Scripp, Rosa Solano, Brenda D. Taylor, Clarice Thomas, Michael Triplett Sr., Terri Triplett, Deano Tretter, Joseph Tretter Sr, Charese Troupe, Clarence Walker, Shirley West, Walter Whitlow, Armonie Witherspoon, Beverly Wright, Flora Yancy.

From the Desk of Fr. Larry... My sisters and brothers, at the beginning of every celebration of the Mass, we participate in what we call 'the Penitential Rite". Even before that, we great each other with "The Lord be with you... and with your spirit!" At the heart of this beginning to the Eucharistic celebration is an opening of ourselves to join with one another in celebration of God's goodness to us. We should enter into this celebration offering ourselves – body, mind and spirit – to give praise to the God who loves us wholeheartedly and unconditionally. the God who longs for us to accept and embrace the depth and breadth of His love in order that we might then be compelled, out of love, to add our unique value to the world.

Some people still attend Mass out of a sense of obligation, a way to follow the rules set by the Church and God through the Ten Commandments. Some people attend because they see it as their personal time with God.

The beauty of the Mass and all of our Sacramental celebrations is that they are meant to be celebrated in community, recognizing the critical need of the community to support those receiving the Sacrament in their continued living of a full life.

For example, we believe Baptism expands one's family to include the universal Christian family, including the company of saints. We remind each other that we are all responsible to support the parents of a baptized child in their awesome responsibility of raising their son or daughter.

Like Baptism, the Eucharist is considered a Sacrament of Initiation. Even though we receive it (hopefully) every week, we are re-initiated into the faith and reconnected with the People of God every Sunday, reminded that we are our responsible for each other. In contrast to the Protestant sense of being 'born again', we are born again in the celebration of the Mass as we recommit ourselves in love and service for the Lord and the Lord feeds us to accomplish that thru the Word, His Body and Blood and the prayers of the gathered community.

Which leads us back to this wonderful gift of God's mercy, exemplified in the beautiful story of the Prodigal Son in today's Gospel. I am always deeply touched by the image of the father standing on his balcony, looking out into the distance, keeping vigil in the hope that his youngest son will return to the family and, when seeing him from far off, runs to him and embraces him.

Imagine for a second Jesus standing at the doors of our churches, looking into the distance, longing for us to return each week, but even more longing for the return of those who have been away for awhile or those who left because of some hurt caused by the church. We are not, of course, the young son who squandered everything; instead we are more like the older son, unaware and ungrateful for the constancy of protection and care provided each day by the Father. For this we should perhaps declare, "Lord, have mercy!" and allow the Lord to rejoice and celebrate our gift of gratitude to Him.

Gentle peace! Fr. Larry

St. Agatha - St. Martin de Porres Catholic Parish "Walking in Faith, Moving Forward with Christ" *"be church after church!"* Next Sunday, Sept. 18th 25th Sunday Ordinary Time

Readings: Amos 8: 4-7 1 Timothy 2: 1-8 Luke 16: 1-13



