



St. Agatha - St. Martin de Porres Parish
First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2022



A Season Of Hope

Church Staff

Pastor: Fr. Larry Dowling
denispadre@aol.com
Associate Pastor: Fr. Thadeo Mgimba
tmgimba@archchicago.org
Operations Director (interim): Cynthia Smith, cdsmith@archchicago.org
Music Director: Dennis Smith (StA)
Daryl Petty (SMdeP)

Deacon Couples:

Rev. Mr William & Gayle Pouncy
Rev. Mr Greg & Carolyn Shumpert
Rev. Mr Bruce & Sandra McElrath

Reception/Pantry (StA):

Ms. 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)

St. Martin de Porres Church
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Chicago, IL 60644

Phone: (773) 287-0206

Website: www.stmartindepordesparish.com

Email: stmartindepordes@archchicago.org

Facebook: St. Martin de Porres Parish Chicago

Instagram: @stmartindepordesparish

Twitter: @StMartinParish

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Masses: Sunday: 11:00 am

Tuesday: 9:00 am

Thursday: 9:00 am (Service & Adoration)

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/

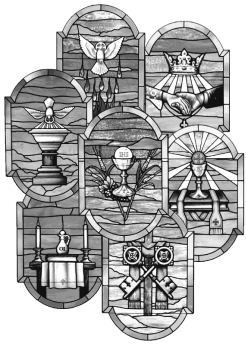
Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Masses: Sunday: 9:00 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, please notify the office in order that a priest or care minister can call or visit the hospitalized person and be support to the family.

Your Stewardship of Treasure for the Mission of Jesus Christ Sunday, November 20, 2022

St. Agatha
Mass Offering \$1,741.25
GiveCentral 1020.00
\$2,761.25

St. Martin de Porres
Mass Offering \$3,885.00
Special: Kolbe House 119.00
\$4,004.00

Thank you for your generosity!



For whom shall we pray...

Anthony Adams, Walter Adams, Bertha Anderson, Kristina Anderson, Jewel Austin, Kyle Becnel, Hildegard Bezdicek, Hazel Bills, Diondee Brown, Christopher Browne, Sandra Coffey, Ernestine Cottrell, William Crown, Jermaine Curtis, Jeanette Dandurand, Natalie Davis, Tylesia Day, Shelma Dillon, Elnora Dorsey, Carter Evans, Joyce Evans, Norene Evans, Hildred Fuller, Zenobia Fuller, Danny Gardner, Shea Gardner, Callie Gee, Pamela D. Gee, Yvonne Gibson, Marian Graham, Kia Gray, Stan Gruszczycki, Bill Hainey, Nathaniel W. Hall, Mary Harrell, Diane Harris, Jasmine Harris, Jennifer Harris, Johnny Harris, Lejerriion Harris, Leutrice Harris, Maryann Harris, Tony Harris, Lucy Henry, Veronica Hicks, Elia Hinogosa-Cangey, Joesaya Henderson, Kesiea & Melinda, Kim Henderson, Leonard Henderson, Jerron Johns Jr., Sr., Julius Jones, Jacqueline Kelly, Brian Lares, Jimmy Lee, Sayyid Lestrade, Laurita Lockhart, Anthony Lyons, Alexander Madden, Keith Mahaffey, John Mannette, Larry Mapp Jr., Arelys Marquez, Isabel Marquez, Catherine Martin, 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... Happy New Year! No, I'm not getting ahead of myself! No, today, the First Sunday of Advent, is the actual start of a new Church Year for the universal Church. Interestingly, the Scriptures for this first Sunday focus us, not on the coming of Christ at Christmas, but on his Second Coming that is part of Jesus' promise of returning for the Final Judgement, best detailed in Matthew 25.

So why start the season with this? First of all, what we are preparing for is not just the celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas. No, it is really for us, to remind us that Christ is always seeking to be born more deeply in our hearts and minds, to be more a part of our lives, to conceive in us the possibilities of each and all of us bringing a deeper and more visible birth of love into our world.

Our readings call us to a vigilance, to a hope that resurrection and renewal of broken lives and spirits in our world will indeed happen through our unity with Christ. We are reminded again that our choice to follow Christ will cause division in our world, even among those closest to us. As painful as that can be, Jesus gives us the strength to persevere, to continue to be faithful to His mission which, sadly, doesn't always coincide with the agendas of certain churches, preachers and segments of Christianity, particularly these days by some evangelical white 'Christians' who place self-preservation and political loyalties above the all-inclusive mission of Jesus Christ.

So what is Jesus asking of us as we begin our journey toward Christmas? Advent is a time, like Lent, to do some self-reflection, to assess our commitment to our faith, to Jesus Christ, to reflect on the spiritual divisions within ourselves and to commit to challenge and dismantle the forces of division and injustice in our world. The Advent Season offers us the opportunity for reflection, reconciliation and a renewal of hope so that, at Christmas, we can celebrate both the birth of Jesus and the rebirth of Christ's love within us.

There is a poem that I have loved for years that captures the spirit of this First Sunday of Advent. It is a poem written during the persecution of peasants, human rights activists, and church workers in Guatemala, many who lost their lives, living in fear of death daily. The poem, written by poet Julia Esquivel is still relevant for Christians today. Threatened with Resurrection... It is something within us that doesn't let us sleep, that doesn't let us rest, that won't stop pounding deep inside, it is the silent, warm weeping of Indian women without their husbands, it is the sad gaze of the children fixed somewhere beyond memory, precious in our eyes which during sleep, though closed, keep watch, awake. Now six have left us, and nine in Rabinal, and two, plus two, plus two, and ten, a hundred, a thousand, a whole army witness to our pain, our fear, our courage, our hope! What keeps us from sleeping is that they have threatened us with Resurrection! Because every evening though weary of killings, an endless inventory since 1954, yet we go on loving life and do not accept their death! They have threatened us with Resurrection Because we have felt their inert bodies, and their souls penetrated ours doubly fortified, because in this marathon of Hope, there are always others to relieve us who carry the strength to reach the finish line which lies beyond death. They have threatened us with Resurrection because they will not be able to take away from us their bodies, their souls, their strength, their spirit, nor even their death and least of all their life. Because they live today, tomorrow, and always in the streets baptized with their blood, in the air that absorbed their cry, in the jungle that hid their shadows, in the river that gathered up their laughter, in the ocean that holds their secrets, in the craters of the volcanoes, Pyramids of the New Day, which swallowed up their ashes. They have threatened us with Resurrection because they are more alive than ever before, because they transform our agonies and fertilize our struggle, because they pick us up when we fall, because they loom like giants before the crazed gorillas' fear... Join us in this vigil and you will know what it is to dream! Then you will know how marvelous it is to live threatened with Resurrection! To dream awake, to keep watch asleep, to live while dying, and to know ourselves already resurrected!

Gentle Peace! Fr. Larry

OPPORTUNITIES TO CELEBRATE TOGETHER THIS ADVENT SEASON

Masses: Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. SMdeP, Thursdays 7:30 a.m. StA

Adoration/ Benediction Thursdays 9:00 a.m. SMdeP

**Wednesday Prayer Together on ZOOM [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83120205574?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83120205574?pwd=Z0xmZzZXRzdUemd2NlhsV2pFOUx4UT09)
[pwd=Z0xmZzZXRzdUemd2NlhsV2pFOUx4UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83120205574?pwd=Z0xmZzZXRzdUemd2NlhsV2pFOUx4UT09)**

Next Sunday, December 4, 2022
Second Sunday of Advent
Readings: Isaiah 11: 1-10
Romans 15: 4-9
Matthew 3: 1-12

Celebrant Mass Schedule

	St. Agatha	St. Martin de Porres
11/27/22	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
12/04/22	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
12/11/22	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
12/18/22	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry

Mass Intentions for this Week
Sunday, November 27, 2022

Tommy & Bradley Trifone
 Anthony & Renae Wallin,
 Karen & Michael Kondrat from Linda Wallin
 Roger & Martha Villalba, for Safe Travels

We encourage our parishioners to pray for their loved ones, living and deceased, by offering a Mass Intention. **Donation is \$10**

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

Charitable Hands Ministry

Deacon William Pouncy and Liz Becnel
 Call Deacon Pouncy (312) 841-3974

An Advent Prayer for the Lord to Come

This Advent, Lord, come to the manger of my heart. Fill me with Your presence from the very start. As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given, Remind me of the gift You gave when You sent Your Son from Heaven. The first Christmas gift, it was the greatest gift ever. You came as a baby born in a manger. Wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree, Waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me. Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth, When He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped Himself in rags of earth. Immanuel, God with us, Your presence came that night. And angels announced, "Into your darkness, God brings His Light." "Do not be afraid," they said, to shepherds in the field. Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield. Make me like those shepherd boys, obedient to Your call. Setting distractions and worries aside, to You I surrender them all. Surround me with Your presence, Lord, I long to hear Your voice. Clear my mind of countless concerns and all the holiday noise. Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush. In the midst of parties and planning, I want to feel Your hush. This Christmas, Jesus, come to the manger of my heart. Invade my soul like Bethlehem, bringing peace to every part. Dwell within and around me, as I unwrap Your presence each day. Keep me close to You, Lord. It's in Your wonderful Name I pray. AMEN.

The Meaning of the Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent. It is a circular candle holder that typically holds five candles. During the season of Advent one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday until all of the candles, including the fifth candle, are lit on Christmas Day. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Most Advent wreaths use three colors of candles – purple, pink, and white. However, some may use blue in place of the purple.

1st CANDLE – (purple) THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. "And again, Isaiah says, 'The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:12-13)