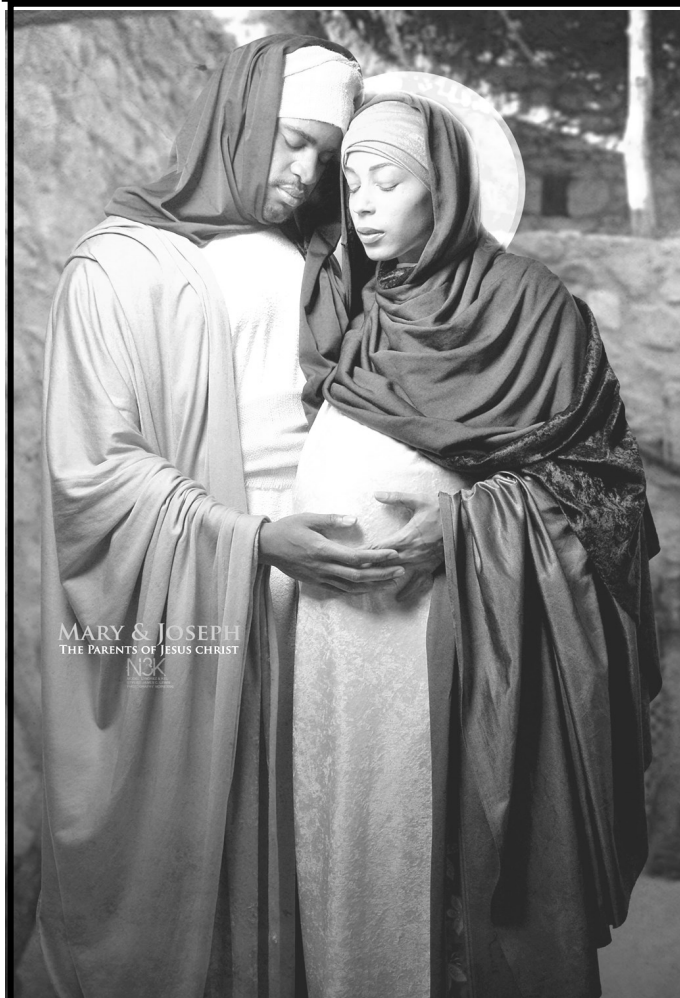




St. Agatha - St. Martin de Porres Parish

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022



When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

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
5112 W. Washington Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60644

Phone: (773) 287-0206

Website: www.stmartindeporresparish.com

Email: stmartindeporres@archchicago.org

Facebook: St. Martin de Porres Parish Chicago

Instagram: @stmartindeporresparish

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/

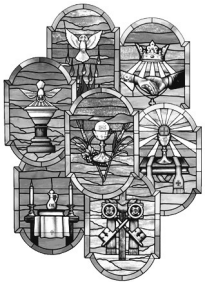
Church Office Hours

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 Den 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 patient and be support to the family.

Your Stewardship of Treasure for the Mission of Jesus Christ Sunday, December 4, 2022

St. Agatha
Mass Offering \$
GiveCentral .00
Thanksgiving .00
\$

St. Martin de Porres
Mass Offering \$
Special: Kolbe House .00
\$.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, Christopher Browne, Diondee Brown-Whitfield, 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...

My brothers and sisters, as we get closer and closer to the Feast of Christmas, the Scriptures lead us through the stories of Mary and Joseph as they decide whether they will say 'yes' to be the earthly parents of the Son of God. This Sunday's Gospel from Matthew focuses us on Joseph, the carpenter, the descendant of the House of David, already betrothed or engaged to Mary, now dealing with the reality that Mary is now pregnant and that he is not the father. Joseph clearly struggles with his decision and it is the intervention of an angel, as it was with Mary, that convinces him to take Mary as his wife AND to commit to be the earthly father, guide and teacher for his Son, who just happens to be the only Son of God! We can only imagine the depth of faith and the leap of faith that both Joseph and Mary had to take to commit to this journey of a lifetime.

In our First Reading, the Prophet Amos foretells that God will offer His only begotten Son, Jesus, to dwell for 33 years in flesh, experiencing human emotions, human joys and sorrows, and the difficult realities living as a Jew under Roman occupation and a church regime beset by abuses against the poor to benefit some of the Jewish hierarchy. It was not a pretty world to be born into. But it was real and very similar to the places where many children are born into the world today.

Think for a moment about what God the Father was doing: He was sacrificing His Son to experience the joys and sorrows of free will, to make decisions without direct intervention from Him. Parents can relate to this as they send their kids into the world, hoping they stay connected to them and, at the same time, build their own legacy and offer their unique gifts to the world. Did Joseph and Mary think that when things got tough that the Heavenly Father would jump in and save the day? Maybe... but more likely they knew that they had to deepen their relationship with God and each other to accomplish the task and great honor set before them.

So what does this have to say to us in this final week before Christmas? I believe that it invites us to reflect on the purpose and mission God has given each of us to add our uniqueness – our unique gifts and talents – to the world. Mary's yes and Joseph's yes offer us an example of faithful acceptance of God's plan and invites us to wholeheartedly take on the mission to which God has called us. That mission is individual, but it is also a communal mission to continue to say 'yes' to the unification of our parishes, our collective 'yes' to evangelize, our collective 'yes' to reach out to support our youth and the families surrounding them, our collective 'yes' to extend our love, God's love, to mutually empower families in our community.

My friends, take the time to think about what God is asking of you entering into this Christmas Season and a new calendar year. Is it to recommit to or deepen a current relationship? Is it to take on a new ministry? Is it to seek out more ways to share your passion and gifts? No matter how old or young we are, I believe God is asking us this question, planting the seeds of new possibilities in our hearts and minds. Will we listen? Will we say, like Joseph and Mary, our 'yes' to the journey and task God has for us? Pray for openness to listen, to hear the voice of God speaking to you, directly or through the angels in our lives. I have no doubt he is speaking to each and all of us. Will you listen? I hope so. **Gentle peace! Fr. Larry** **P.S. JOIN US Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows for our Westside Catholic Reconciliation Service**

OPPORTUNITIES TO CELEBRATE THIS ADVENT SEASON TOGETHER

**Masses: Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. SMdeP, Thurs-
days 7:30 a.m. StA**

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

Wednesday Prayer Together on ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83120205574?>



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Westside Catholic
Advent**

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Wednesday, December 21 7:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica

Next Sunday, December 25, 2022
CHRISTMAS
Readings: Isaiah 9: 1-6
Timothy 2: 11-14
Luke 2: 1-14



Celebrant Mass Schedule		
	St. Agatha	St. Martin de Porres
12/18/22	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
12/24/22	St. Martin de Porres - Fr. Larry 4:00 Pageant/Carols - 5:00 Mass	
12/25/22	St. Agatha -	Fr. Thad
01/01/23	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad

Saturday, December 24, 2022
St. Martin de Porres
4:00 p.m. Pageant, Carols
5:00 p.m. Mass
 ++++++
Sunday, December 25th
10:00 a.m. St. Agatha

THANK YOU !!! TO ALL OF YOU WHO
HAVE BEEN MAILING IN YOUR
SUNDAY OFFERINGS OR MAKING THEM
ONLINE! AND, OF COURSE, OUR SUNDAY
ATTENDEES!

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

All Seniors are Welcome to
Golden Age Group
Food, Fellowship, Info for Seniors,
Other Activities
Every 3rd Monday 12:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Monday, December 19 St. Agatha Site
Transportation provided for
St. Martin Seniors
RSVP to Ms McGowan (773) 522-3050

Mass Intentions for this Week
Sunday, December 18, 2022

Frank G. Davis Sr. and Frank G. Davis Jr.
 Jeffrey L. Davis

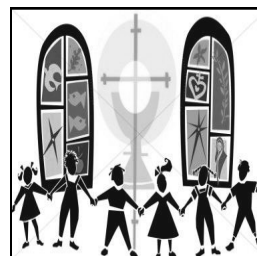
Diondee Brown-Whitfield, from the Hicks Family
 Safe Travels for Roger and Martha Villalba

We encourage our parishioners to pray for their loved ones,
 living and deceased, by offering a Mass Intention.

Donation is \$10



JOIN US !!! Parish Women's Faith Sharing
Every Wednesday 10:00 - 11:00 am
Dial in at (267) 807-9533
Access code: 386562#



Children's Liturgy
of the Word
1st, 2nd and 3rd
Sunday of Each
Month

prepare the way of the Lord !