



**St. Agatha - St. Martin de Porres Parish**  
**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**  
**January 1, 2023**



*"And  
 Mary  
 kept all  
 these  
 things,  
 Reflect  
 - ing  
 on them  
 in her  
 heart."*

*Luke 2: 19*

**Church Staff**

**Pastor:** Fr. Larry Dowling  
 denispadre@aol.com  
**Associate Pastor:** Fr. Thadeo Mгимба  
 tmгимба@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.stmartindeporesparish.com

**Email:** stmartindepores@archchicago.org

**Facebook:** St. Martin de Porres Parish Chicago

**Instagram:** @stmartindeporesparish

**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/**

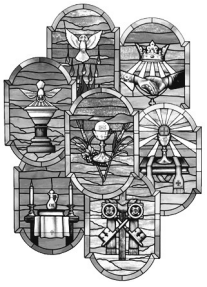
***Church Office Hours***

***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 Dcn 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 25, 2022

**St. Agatha**  
Mass Offering \$1,929.34  
GiveCentral 1340.00  
Christmas 390.00  
\$3,659.34

**St. Martin de Porres**  
Mass Offering \$1,576.00  
Christmas 1060.00  
Special Kolbe House: 42.00  
\$2,678.00

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, a new calendar year is about to begin. Normally, this first Sunday in the Octave of Christmas, we would be celebrating the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Because Christmas fell on Sunday this year, this Feast is celebrated on Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>. This Sunday, New Year's Day, the universal church celebrates the World Day of Peace. We also begin the year celebrating Mary, the Mother of God.

This may seem like the wrong focus for the beginning of the New Year, that we should instead celebrate the Gift of Jesus Christ in our lives. So what's the deal? What the Church is raising up is not to focus on Mary, but to see Mary as a conduit for bringing the love of Christ into the world. She also sets the example for us, who as disciples of her Son, are called to share or lives, pointing others to Christ through our actions and words. The best images of Mary that I love are those where Mary is clearly pointing to or guiding us to Jesus. We pray *through* Mary, not *to* Mary! "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen"

The beginning of the New Year is a great time to make one – and only one – resolution: To live our lives honoring the spark of the Divine in each of us and allowing the light of Christ to shine through, with and in us in all we do.

Our Gospel for Sunday recounts the visit of the shepherds to witness to the birth of the newborn Son of God, the Messiah, the Savior of us all. It is the least in society who are invited to come to the stable to bear witness and, in their material poverty, find themselves rich in peering on the face of the eternal God wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a feeding trough for animals. They are witness to us as well, especially those who are materially comfortable and those with wealth far more than they need, that we will not as easily find Christ in malls, corporate offices and mansions, in places of political power and institutions. No, we will find Christ most visibly on the peripheries of society, in the homeless, outcast, refugee, in the poor and disenfranchised.

Christ enters the human family through a human vessel, the Virgin Mary. Christ continues to enter into our world through each of us who claim discipleship in him. Christ greets us and invites a response in love in those in great material, emotional and spiritual need in our society. May this New Year of 2023 find us inviting Christ into a deeper place in our hearts and, by doing so, allow us to be fully for others what God created us to be!

**Gentle peace! Fr. Larry**



Image of an older Mary in St. Alphonsus Ligouri Parish in Prospect Hts, IL. She is stationed at the back of the middle aisle, pointing/ guiding worshippers to her Son at the altar.

#### **New Year's Prayer**

**Remember us, O God; from age to age be our comforter.**

**You have given us the wonder of time,  
blessings in days and nights, seasons and years.**

**Bless your children at the turning of the year and fill the  
months ahead with the bright hope that is ours  
in the coming of Christ. You are our God, living and  
reigning, forever and ever. Amen.**



**Next Sunday, January 8, 2022**  
**Feast of Epiphany**  
**Readings: Isaiah 60: 1-6**  
**Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6**  
**Matthew 2: 1-12**

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

<b>Celebrant Mass Schedule</b>		
	<b>St. Agatha</b>	<b>St. Martin de Porres</b>
<b>01/01/23</b>	<b>Fr. Larry</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>
<b>01/08/23</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>	<b>Fr. Larry</b>
<b>01/15/23</b>	<b>Fr. Larry</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>
<b>01/22/23</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>	<b>Fr. Larry</b>
<b>01/29/23</b>	<b>Fr. Larry</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>

**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

**Mass Intentions for this Week**  
**Sunday, January 1, 2023**

Leon Williams  
 From  
 Paula Adams Wilburn  
  
 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

**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.

**God is good... All the time...**  
**All the time... God is good!**