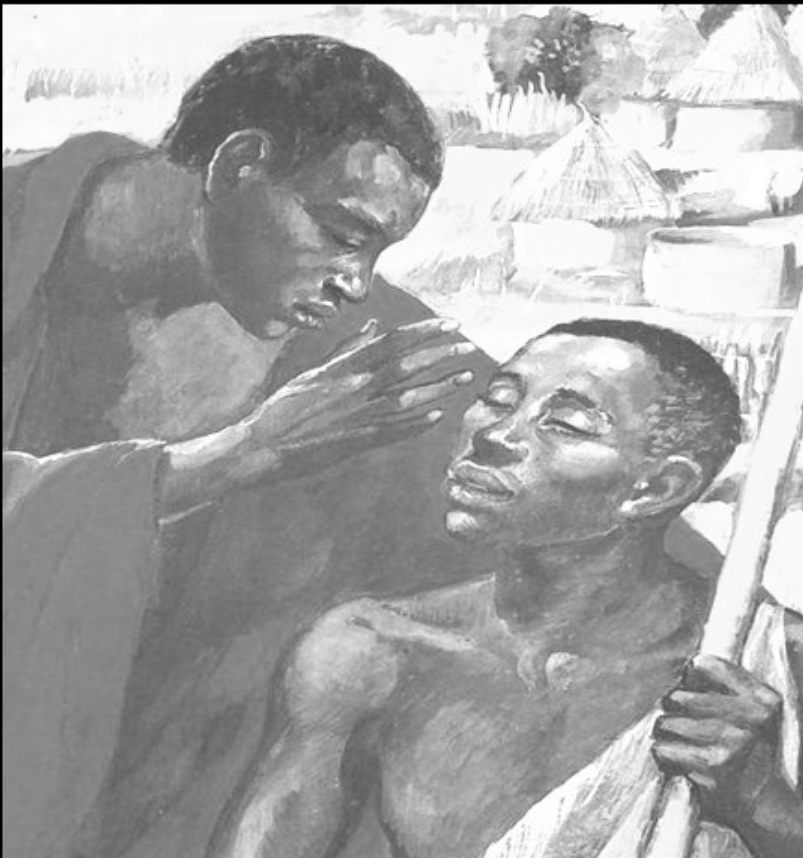




St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish
March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Lent



Faith
 is not hoping
 God can
 it is knowing
 He **will**

Church Staff
 Pastor: Fr. Larry Dowling
 denispadre@aol.com
 Associate Pastor: Fr. Thadeo Mгимба
 tmgimba@archchicago.org
 Operations Director: Cynthia Smith,
 cdsmith@archchicago.org
 Music Director: Dennis Smith (StA)
 Darryl Petty (SMdeP)
 Deacon Couples:
 Rev. Mr William & Gayle Pouncy
 Rev. Mr Greg & Carolyn Shumpert
 Reception/Pantry (StA):
 Refoncia McGowan
 Interim Parish Secretary (SMdeP):
 Carol Johnson
 Building Engineer: Roger Lozano
 Assisting Pastor w/ the DRE:
 Marvin McCurry
 Custodian: Frank Clark
 Housekeeper (SMdeP):
 Scarlett Evans-Perez
 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.stmartindepordesparish.com
 Email: smartindepordes@archchicago.org
 Facebook: St. Martin de Porres Parish Chicago
 Instagram: @stmartindepordesparish
 Twitter: @StMartinParish

Church Office Hours

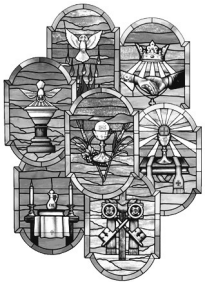
Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Masses: Sunday 11:00 am
Tuesday: 9:00 am
Thursday: 9:00 am (Service & Adoration)

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 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, March 12, 2023

<u>St. Agatha</u>	
Mass Offering	\$823.55
GiveCentral	<u>1369.88</u>
TOTAL	\$2,193.43

<u>St. Martin de Porres</u>	
Mass Offering	\$3,808.00
Special - Kolbe House	<u>25.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3,833.00

Thank you for your generosity!



For whom shall we pray...



Anthony Adams, Walter Adams, Ben Anderson, Bertha Anderson, Kristina Anderson, Jewel Austin, Kyle Becnel, Hildegard Bezdicek, Hazel Bills, Christopher Browne, Diondee Brown-Whitfield, Sandra Coffey, William Crown, Jermaine Curtis, Natalie Davis, Tylesia Day, Shelma Dillon, Elnora Dorsey, Carter Evans, Joyce Evans, Norene Evans, Diana Foster, 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, Lejerrion Harris, Leutrice Harris, Maryann Harris, Tony Harris, Darryl Hicks, 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, Shannon Long, Anthony Lyons, Alexander Madden, Keith Mahaffey, John Mannette, Larry Mapp Jr., Arelys 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, William Smith, Rosa Solano, Regina Taitis Sr., 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 friends, today we encounter Jesus having journeyed with his disciples from Galilee to what will be his final destination in Jerusalem. As they make their way to the Temple precinct, they encounter a man who was born blind. Jesus' own disciples ask Him what the source of his blindness was: something the man himself had done - or his parents. This sounds ridiculous to us, but people in Jesus' time truly thought poverty, sickness and demon possession were caused by something the person had done to bring it on themselves. Of course, this was not just the thought in Jesus' time; even today we have many wealthy people, politicians and some middle class people who believe the poor caused their own problems and failings. They deny the impact of systemic racism, sexism, arrogant nationalism, self-righteousness and greed on those who suffer injustice every day.

Jesus rebukes the disciples and, because of the faith and impassioned plea of this man who is blind, He cures him by combining earth and 'divine saliva', rubbing this poultice on the man's eyes, then telling him to wash in the pool of Siloam, whose waters were thought to be curative.

The remainder of the story revolves around the formerly blind man's claims to the temple priests that he was healed by Jesus. The Temple priests refuse to believe this man, questioning both the man and his parents as to whether he was really blind after all. They do everything in their power to refute the miracle that Jesus performed, blinded themselves by a lack of faith and not wanting to believe that Jesus, a wandering preacher, could do such a miraculous thing. The man who was cured of blindness becomes the one who can now see and then exposes the blindness of the religious authorities in Jerusalem.

In the first reading, we hear another surprising story. The prophet Samuel seeks to anoint a new king for the people and the Lord reveals that the new king will arise from the family of Jesse. Jesse presents his sons, from oldest to youngest and Samuel discerns that none of them are the Lord's chosen. Ah, but there is another son, David, a mere boy tending the sheep in the fields while his older brothers are auditioning for the job of King. Jesse sends for him and, lo and behold, it is the shepherd boy who will shepherd them as King David. The Lord has surprised again, turning the tables of the ages old tradition that the elder son will be the chosen one.

So what do these readings have to say to us? The answer is found in our second reading from St. Paul to the Ephesians. St. Paul is calling us to open our hearts, our minds, our spirits, to allow the Light of Christ to reveal and remove our own blindness. Our Lenten journey encourages us to reflect on our blindness, our biases, on the trauma that continues to limit us because of unresolved grief. It is only with the help of God and God's people that we can reconcile and be freed from our own blindness. And, once we see the light and embrace Christ our Light in our lives, we can in turn challenge the forces of darkness, of greed, arrogance, racism and sexism and apathy to the harm caused by those who thrive in that darkness. In closing, take to heart the words of St. Paul to the Ephesian community and to you: Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

Gentle Peace! Fr. Larry

Next Sunday, March 26, 2023
 Fifth Sunday of Lent
 Readings: Ezekiel 37:12-14
 Romans 8:8-11
 John 11:1-45

Stations of the Cross
 Fridays During Lent 3 p.m. St. Agatha
 ++++++
 Saturdays During Lent
 10:00 a.m. St. Martin de Porres
 ++++++
 Please support Operation Rice Bowl

Celebrant Mass Schedule
 St. Agatha St. Martin de Porres

03/26/23 Fr. Mike Knotek -St. Agatha 9:00am
 " Fr. Thulani Magwaza -St. Martin 11:00am
 04/02/23 Fr. Thad Fr. Larry
 04/09/23 Fr. Larry Fr. Thad
 04/16/23 Fr. Thad Fr. Larry
 04/23/23 Fr. Larry Fr. Thad
 04/30/23 Fr. Thad Fr. Larry



Masses for Reconciliation
 Sunday, March 26, 2023

*Special Guest Homilists

Fr. Mike Knotek at St. Agatha - 9:00am
 Fr. Thulani Magwaza at St. Martin - 11:00am
 † Individual Confession after each Mass †



Mass Intentions for this Week
 Sunday, March 19, 2023



In Loving Memory of
 Lucy Henry

From Nicole Morris and Family

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 Bechel
 Call Deacon Pouncy (312) 841-3974

St. Simon of Cyrene Prayer of Intercession

God of infinite compassion and boundless love, through the ages you call men and women, young and old, to model for us the virtues of humble strength and willing service. You have given us this noble African, St. Simon of Cyrene, as a model of such virtue, manifested in a life as a husband, father, laborer and willing servant to help bear the burdens of others. He helped bear the cross of Your Son, Our Lord, Brother and Savior, Jesus Christ, in order that He might complete his journey to suffer the cross, conquering death and opening the doors of heaven to all humankind.

Through the intercession of St. Simon of Cyrene, strengthen me in my resolve to live the truth of who You created me to be, to love as only to be life-giving to others, to use my unique gifts to help bear the crosses of all innocent victims who suffer injustice inflicted by the greed, arrogance and apathy of others. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

St. Simon of Cyrene, one with Our Savior in bearing His cross, pray for us!

St. Simon of Cyrene, a foundation stone of the Christian Church in Africa, pray for us!

St. Simon of Cyrene, husband, father, laborer, strength for the suffering Christ in our world, pray for us!

- Golden Age Group -

Food, Fellowship, Info for Seniors
Other Activities
 Every 3rd Monday 12:00 - 2:30 p.m.
 Monday, March 20 at St. Agatha Site
 Transportation provided for
 St. Martin Seniors

PLEASE!

Mail in or drop off your Sunday Tithe or
 Call the Parish Operations Director at
 (773) 522-3050 x 223 to sign up for Give
 Central. **Thanks!**