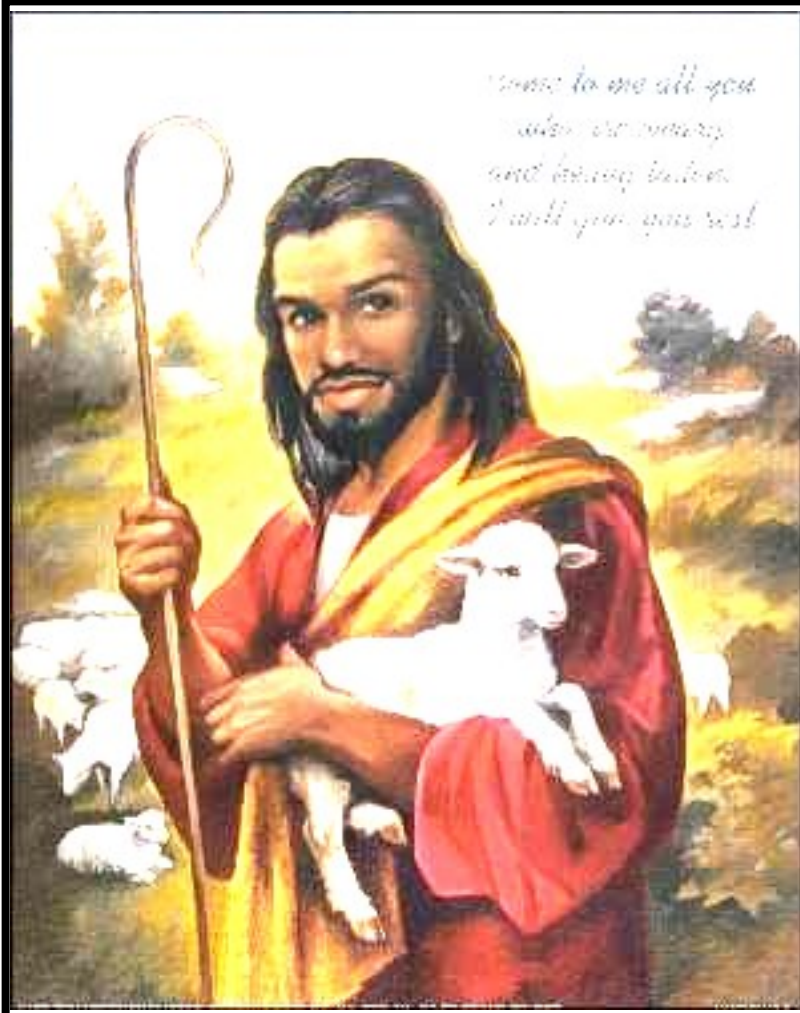




St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish
April 30, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Easter



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
Maintenance: Andrew Griffin
Interim 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: stmartindepordes@archchicago.org
Facebook: St. Martin de Porres Parish Chicago
Instagram: @stmartindepordesparish
Twitter: @StMartinParish

Church Office Hours

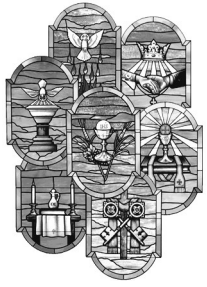
Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Masses: Sunday: 11:00 am
Tuesday: 9:00 am
Thursday: 9:00 am (Service & Adoration)

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 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, April 23, 2023

St. Simon of Cyrene at St. Agatha - St. Martin de Porres

Mass Offering	\$4,917.00
GiveCentral	1105.00
Special - Kolbe House	45.00
TOTAL	\$6,067.00

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, 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 Gruszczki, Bill Hainey, Nathaniel W. Hall, Mary Harrell, Diane Harris, Jasmine Harris, Jennifer Harris, Johnny Harris, Lejerrion Harris, Leatrice Harris, Maryann Harris, Tony Harris, Darryl Hicks, Veronica Hicks, Jacqueline Hicks, Gwendolyn 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, Shannon Long, Anthony Lyons, Alexander Madden, Keith Mahaffey, John Mannelle, Larry Mapp Jr., Arellys 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 Pledge, Queenie Randle, Elberta Raschke, Lucy Redmond, Imogene Rhodes, Marvin Register, Phyllis Riley, Deborah Rutledge, Lorraine Sanford, Eunice Scripp, 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 brothers and sisters, this Fourth Sunday of Easter is commonly known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." In the Gospel Jesus refers to himself as a Shepherd who will never lead us astray. The people of His time continued to encounter some of the Jewish leaders as those who would often lord it over them and take advantage of them in order to preserve their power rather than honor the law and the prophets, guiding people away from false idols and toward greater care for the poor.

By this time, those who followed Jesus knew Him as a man of great integrity, with real compassion for others and a willingness to speak truth to power. His heart is clearly united with the heart of the Father and, by extension, to all who the Father loves, that is, everyone. Jesus always encourages people not to idolize Him, but to connect with the Source of His power, the Father in heaven. The image of shepherd would be familiar to people for a couple reasons: shepherds were quite common in the culture AND shepherds were also seen as low in stature in the general society. Remember that it is to shepherds that the birth of Jesus was announced! Jesus invites the people and all of us to attune our hearts and minds to the voice of the Shepherd, the One connected to the Creator of us all.

As we know, there are many voices in our world who want to lead us astray, to manipulate and divide us, to addict us or distract us from that which should be most important to us: our relationship with God and our relationships with each other. Some may resent being called sheep, typically regarded as dumb animals. But Jesus knows we are not dumb animals. All he seeks and longs for us is that we may know true freedom in embracing fully the love of God, who seeks for us to use our intelligence and wisdom to add our unique value to the world. The forces of racism, sexism and materialism do not offer us freedom and protection as Jesus does. They seek only to limit our freedom or the freedom of others for their own negative purposes.

So how do we attune our minds, hearts and bodies to the voice of the Shepherd? Obviously reading and reflecting on Scripture are important, best if done in dialogue with others. Prayer is important as we reach out in trust to Jesus who seeks to guide us through life, especially in difficult times. Regular worship within a faith community is important as well, imperfect people seeking to be perfected in the love of God. We attune ourselves to the Shepherd by seeking Him out in the poor and oppressed, where He invites us to stretch ourselves to be God's loving presence to others. We attune our hearts and minds to the voice of the Shepherd when we can share with others what accepting and embracing the love of Jesus Christ has meant for us, witnessing to how it has positively and powerfully affected our lives. Jesus, the true Shepherd who will never lead us astray, reassures us in the Gospel, "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

Gentle Peace! Fr. Larry

Next Sunday May 7, 2023
 Fifth Sunday of Easter
 Readings: Acts 6:1-7
 Peter 2: 4-9
 John 14: 1-12

Celebrant Mass Schedule
 St. Agatha St. Martin de Porres

05/07/23	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
05/14/23	Unity Mass at SMdeP 10:00am	
05/21/23	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
05/21/23	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
05/28/23	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad

TODAY!!!

El Dia del Niño - "Day of the Child" Celebration
 St. Agatha Church, 10:30am - 2:00pm

**Take a Minute to Pray for
 a Young Person**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of your children and youth all around the world. You have created them in your own image and likeness. Help us to guide, affirm and love them so they are equipped to make healthy choices for their lives. Help the children experience your great love for them deep in their hearts. Send your spirit upon them to comfort, heal, protect and enlighten all their decisions. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

- UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS -

 Mother's Day Dinner, hosted by St. Martin De Porres Men's Group, Saturday, May 13, at Purcell Hall 4:00pm - 8:00pm

We're Back!

St. Martin Travel and Entertainment Group Meeting Sunday, May 21 after Mass at St. Martin de Porres Church Rectory - 10:30am

- New Members are Welcome to Join -

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. Simon 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!



**Mass Intentions for this Week
 Sunday, April 30, 2023**



In Loving Memory of Arlene Prothro
 From Paula Adams-Wilburn

Happy Birthday to Darryl Hicks, From the Hicks Family

Prayers for Anthony and Renae Wallin and Caryn and Mike Kondrat, from Linda Wallin

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

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