



**St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish**  
**July 16, 2023**  
**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



"For as the rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout...so will my word be which goes forth from by mouth; it will not return to me void without accomplishing what I desire..."  
 Isaiah 55:10-11



Romans 8:18-23



**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)*

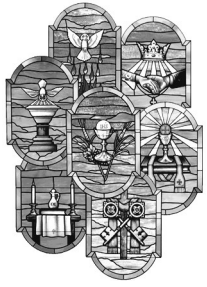
**St. Agatha Church**

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, July 2 & 9, 2023

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

Mass Offering - July 2	\$3,523.00
GiveCentral - July 2	1007.80
Mass Offering - July 9	6819.75
GiveCentral - July 9	1596.28
Kolbe-Special - July 2 & 9	82.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$13,028.83</b>

Thank you for July 9 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, Ana Garcia, 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 Gruszczyk, 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, Ashanti Kelly, Jacqueline Kelly, Brian Lares, Jimmy Lee, Sayyid Lestrade, Shannon Long, Anthony Lyons, Alexander Madden, Keith Mahaffey, Latoya Mahaffey, Ronnie 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, Sommer Reynolds, Phyllis Riley, Aquila Rogers, Deborah Rutledge, Lorraine Sanford, Eunice Scripp, Rosa Solano, Regina Taitis Sr., Brenda D. Taylor, Clarice Thomas, Michael Triplett Sr., Richard Spearman, 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...**

One of my favorite church hymns is a song called "Sow the Word." It was composed by two Mundelein seminarians, Keith Zavelli, now deceased, and Steve Janco, still a prolific composer. The words capture the essence of all three Scriptures for this Sunday. Listen to the words of the refrain: "So the Word came to the world, so the Word came to stretch His arms and die for the world. As He loved, so He lived, to sow the Word." The beauty of the song rests in wordplay with the words 'Sow' and 'Word.' The imagery of the verses of the song are taken almost directly from Sunday's First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Today's Gospel presents us with God as a farmer, a Sower of seeds. The people of Jesus' time would have laughed at this parable. What halfway intelligent farmer would haphazardly scatter seed anywhere and everywhere? The answer, Jesus hints at, is a God who has the eternal hope that every seed - the Good News - that falls on dry and barren land will, with the grace of God, take root, grow, and bear fruit.

We can all too easily look at certain people and say, "They're hopeless. They're not going to go anywhere in life. Why even bother preaching the Good News to them when their hearts are hardened?" We have similar people in our society who would write off whole racial, ethnic and other marginalized groups as hopeless. I think about an early conversation that former Mayor Emanuel had with the late Karen Lewis, head of the Chicago Teacher's Union, who she said told her, "We can only save 75% of our youth, so we need to concentrate on that 75%." I wonder who he would choose or label as the 25% we leave behind. It's hard to believe that someone would even suggest this. Jesus would have condemned such a statement.

Jesus asks us all to be Sowers of the Word, scatterers of the seeds of Good News, of faith, hope and love that can redeem our world. He invites us to engage those people, those groups, who are locked into attitudes and beliefs that are contrary to Jesus' all-inclusive, all-embracing message. He doesn't tell us to avoid them, to write them off. He asks us to take risks to reach out, build relationships without judgment, build a foundation of trust and mutual dialogue, then decide to work together to build better families, better communities and a better world.



His words are clear to those who refuse to be open to listen to the Word: "*Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and be converted, and I heal them.*" "But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it." Will we fully open our eyes, our ears, our hearts and minds to come to understand what Jesus is asking of us and what incredible supports and rewards He is offering us? It's up to each of us to plant seeds of faith, hope and love everywhere where God's love is needed. And I don't know a single place where it is not.

**Gentle peace! Fr. Larry**

**Next Sunday, July 23, 2023**  
**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Readings: Wisdom 12:13,16-19**  
**Romans 8:26-27**  
**Matthew 13:24-43**

<b>Celebrant Mass Schedule</b>		
	<b>St. Agatha</b>	<b>St. Martin de Porres</b>
<b>07/23/23</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>
<b>07/30/23</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>	<b>Fr. Larry</b>
<b>08/06/23</b>	<b>Fr. Larry</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>
<b>08/13/23</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>	<b>Fr. Larry</b>
<b>08/20/23</b>	<b>Fr. Larry</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>
<b>08/27/23</b>	<b>Fr. Thad</b>	<b>Fr. Larry</b>

**LIFE LINE HEALTH SCREENING**  
**Friday, July 21, 2023**  
**St. Agatha Church Site**  
**4 Screenings for \$149**  
**Carotid Artery Disease - Atrial Fibrillation**  
**Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm**  
**Peripheral Arterial Disease**  
**To Make an Appointment,**  
**Call 1-800-640-6307**  
**Or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HC**

 **Mass Intentions for this Week**   
**Sunday, July 16, 2023**

**In Loving Memory of Holman Ingram**  
**From the Peters and Clark Family**

**Happy Blessed Birthday to Sandra Coffey**  
**From Husband William Coffey**

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

**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 Jesus 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!*

**Our Vision...**

Rooted in and propelled by the love of Jesus Christ, we, the people of St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish, one Parish Family with ministry sites at St. Agatha & St. Martin de Porres Churches, profess a life-giving, all-embracing faith, fostering full participation in worship that nourishes us to care for one another and extend our lived faith, relentless hope and life-giving love to our Westside Communities.

**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

*- Golden Age Group -*

**Food, Fellowship, Info for Seniors**  
**Other Activities**  
**Every 3rd Monday 12:00 - 2:30 p.m.**  
**Monday, July 17, at St. Agatha Site**

**Transportation provided for**  
**St. Martin Seniors**  
**RSVP to Ms. McGowan (773) 522-3050**