



**St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish**  
**September 10, 2023**  
**Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**



*“For where two or three are  
gathered together  
in my name, there am I  
in the midst of them.”*

*Matt:18-20*

Church Staff

**Pastor:** Fr. Larry Dowling  
denispadre@aol.com  
**Associate Pastor:** Fr. Thadeo Mgimba  
tmgimba@archchicago.org  
**Operations Director:** Cynthia Smith,  
cdsmith@archchicago.org

**Music Director:**  
Dennis Smith (StA / SMdeP)

**Deacon Couples:**  
Rev. Mr. William & Gayle Pouncy  
Rev. Mr. Greg & Carolyn Shumpert

**Reception/Pantry (StA):**  
Refoncia McGowan

**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](http://www.stmartindepordesparish.com)

**Email:** [smartindepordes@archchicago.org](mailto:smartindepordes@archchicago.org)

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

**Instagram:** @stmartindepordesparish

**Twitter:** @StMartinParish

*Church Office Hours*

*Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 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](http://www.st-agatha-chicago.org)

**Email:** [stagatha@archchicago.org](mailto:stagatha@archchicago.org)

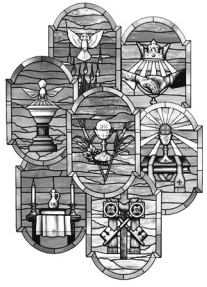
[www.facebook.com/st.agathachicago/](http://www.facebook.com/st.agathachicago/)

*Church Office Hours*

*Monday - Friday*

*9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

*Masses: Sunday: 9:00 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, September 3, 2023

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

Mass Offering	\$5,441.00
GiveCentral	1223.27
Kolbe House-Special	42.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$6,706.27</b>

**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, Diondee Brown-Whitfield, Margaret Brown, Christopher Browne, DiMarkco Chandler, 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 Gruszczycki, 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, Davis 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, 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, 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, Natoya Williams, Armonie Witherspoon, Beverly Wright, Flora Yancy

## From the Desk of Fr. Larry...

My sisters and brothers, I always find it interesting that when we make a mistake that is contrary to our own sense of self, a phrase we use to excuse ourselves is, "Well, I'm only human!" As Christians, we know that we are more than human. We are, in essence, spiritual beings enfleshed in physical bodies. At our best, the spark of the divine spirit placed within us by God at our conception, ignites our bodies to grow, our senses to become stronger, our minds to grow in knowledge and wisdom, our hearts pulsing with life-giving energy, our bodies poised to express that life-giving energy through all our senses to enrich the lives and world around us. As the only faith tradition who believe that God actually became human, one like all of us, we cannot deny the sacredness of both spirit and flesh.

Yet, as we all know, with God's gift of free will, that temptations toward self-gratification, superiority, pride and other sins are often manifested through flesh and a negative spirit.

The Scriptures for today offer us the classic formula for how to deal with interpersonal conflict. Recognizing that sometimes it is 'all too human' to hurt each other, Jesus tells us that we must step back and draw on the divine spirit within us, on our rootedness in faith as part of a faith community or even just the human community, and seek to peacefully resolve the conflict. The formula: First recognize that the Holy Spirit of Jesus is a 'third-party' in every conversation. Sometimes we need to be very deliberate about recognizing this Holy Presence there to keep us centered and to acknowledge the Spirit's needed presence in this moment of hoped-for reconciliation and repair. It is also a space where we need to eventually acknowledge how rules were broken, acknowledge the harm that was done, and recognize God's desire that our relationship may be renewed and strengthened to get us back on track to accomplish our unique God-given purpose.

In conflict, we can easily name the rules that were broken, but ultimately all the rules come down to what the second reading reminds us: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" I can think of times that I was working on a project with someone who was just as passionate as I was about accomplishing the goal we had set out. At points, our passion would clash, oftentimes due to creative differences, the pressures of time, and/or just being tired. Over time, we were able to actually dedicate time, listen and talk things out, moving to overall satisfaction in what we accomplished.

One key aspect about conflict resolution is an openness of those involved to resolve the issues. This doesn't always happen, thus the need, as the Gospel tells us, to invite others into the conversation. Conflict always presents opportunities for learning a growth for all parties involved. "To err is human, to forgive divine." Saying it a little bit differently, "To mess up is part of human freedom, to be open and work toward reconciliation, healing and repair, is recognizing and inviting the divine spirit within us to overrule and destructive human inclination.

**Gentle peace! Fr. Larry**

**Next Sunday, September 17, 2023**  
**Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Readings: Sirach 27:30-28:7**  
**Romans 14:7-9**  
**Matthew 18:21-35**

**Celebrant Mass Schedule**  
**St. Agatha                      St. Martin de Porres**

09/17/23	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
09/24/23	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
10/01/23	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
10/08/23	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry
10/15/23	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
10/22/23	Fr. Thad	Fr. Larry

**St. Simon of Cyrene Grady Anderson Auxiliary Presents**  
**Groovin' on a Saturday Evening**  
**Featuring Jazz Lady Robin Watson**

Join us for an evening of music, fellowship, and fun  
in a tribute concert to jazz pioneers  
**"Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong"**

**Date: Saturday, September 16, 2023**

**Where: St. Agatha Catholic Church**

**3147 W Douglas Blvd - Time: 5:00 pm – 9pm**

**Tickets: \$25.00 each – Includes light refreshments**

**Event Details: Guests must be 21 years of age**

**This event is BYOB - Soda and Set-ups will be sold**

**There will be a 50/50 raffle. Tickets will be available at  
both church sites – St. Agatha and St. Martin de Porres**

**We look forward to seeing you!**



**Mass Intentions for this Week**  
**Sunday, September 10, 2023**



**In Memory of Arlene Prothro**  
**From Paula Adams-Wilburn**

**In Memory of Eledicia and Trinidad Madrigal Sr.**  
**From the Madrigal Family**

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

**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!*

**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.



**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.