



St. Simon of Cyrene Catholic Parish
September 24, 2023
Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**"So the last will be first,
and the first will be last."**

Matthew 20:1-16

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
Email: 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
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.

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, September 17, 2023

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

Mass Offering	\$4863.00
GiveCentral	1350.00
Kolbe House-Special	95.00
Total:	\$6,308.00

Thank you for your Generosity!



For whom shall we pray...

Anthony Adams, Walter Adams, Bertha Anderson, Kristina Anderson, Roseanne Andrews, 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 Gruszczki, 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, 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, Jacquiline Kelly, Brian Lares, Jimmy Lee, Sayyid Lestrade, Linda Lewis, 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, 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 friends, today's Gospel doesn't make a lot of sense to a lot of people. We listen to this familiar story of people seeking work at different parts of the day. The ones who started are promised a fair wage. At the end of the day, the landowner pays everyone the same wage for a full day even though they may have only worked a couple of hours. Doesn't sound fair, does it? Sure didn't sound fair to anyone who worked the full day!

Yet, as we all know, God's way is not always our way. God is never unfair. God treats us all with love, dignity and compassion as His creation.

We can all get caught up in this comparison game with God. Why did God give THEM a great voice and NOT ME? Why did God give THEM athletic ability and NOT ME? Why did God give THEM a great intellect and NOT ME? If God gave us all the same talents and attributes, this would likely be a very boring world. As diverse as the beauty of God's creation, so is the diversity of the gifts that God has given to each of us. All serve a purpose in plan and God's plan is fully realized when we can recognize our gifts, develop them to the fullest, and share them with the world.

The problem is that many of us do not recognize our gifts and do not try to develop them to their fullest. No doubt society and the predominant racist, sexist and individualistic power structures limit the ability of many to move beyond survival into actually thriving in life. It's a tragedy to see such great God-given potential in so many in our underserved communities. What a loss to the world! God is inviting all of us who have been gifted with various skills, talents and attributes to share them with others who have been unable to recognize and/or develop their gifts. If we seek to honor God's love for us, then it is incumbent upon us to live large with our gifts – not in a prideful way, but in a way that encourages and inspires others to do the same.

At times I must admit I wish I had a simpler, less complicated life. Sometimes look at others with envy and say, "Oh, to be them! They seem to have things simpler than I do!" But then God reminds me of the gifts He has given me and tells me, "But, Larry, you are not that person. I made you uniquely for the purpose you were created and that person for their specific purpose. I ask you to simply honor the gifts I have given you and share them to their fullest. It's the same wish I have for the person you are singling out. Is it fair? Yes, because I love each of you equally and offer the same amount of grace to each and everyone. Let them do what they are called to do and focus on what I need you to do. The reward at the end is the same: eternal life and experiencing the infinite manifestations of my Love for you!"

Gentle peace! Fr. Larry

Next Sunday, October 1, 2023
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings: Ezekial 18:25-28
Philippians 2:1-11 or 2:1-5
Matthew 21:28-32

Celebrant Mass Schedule
St. Agatha St. Martin de Porres

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
10/29/23	Fr. Larry	Fr. Thad
11/05/23	UNITY MASS 10:00 a.m. SMdEP	



*Authentically Black & Truly Catholic:
 Faith, Peace, and Love in Unity*

Save the Date!



Three Nights: October 16th, 17th, & 18th 2023



5pm-6pm
Food and Fellowship

6:30pm-9pm
Revival Service



Three Locations:

- St. Simon of Cyrene Parish
 (St. Martin de Porres site)
 5112 W. Washington Blvd, Chicago, IL 60644
- Our Lady of Africa Parish
 615 E. Oakwood Blvd, Chicago, IL 60653
- St. Sabina Parish
 1210 W. 78th Pl, Chicago, IL 60620

One in the Spirit! One in the Lord!



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.



Mass Intentions for this Week
Sunday, September 24, 2023



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

**In Loving Memory of Victor Guarino
 From wife, Jean Guarino**

For the Intercession of Fr. Augustus Tolton in healing Roseanne Andrews by Fr Larry

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