



St. Simon of Cyrene Parish

St. Agatha Church - 773 522-3050
3147 W. Douglas Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60623

St. Martin Church - 773 287-0206
5112 W. Washington Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60644
EMAIL: st.simonofcyrene@archchicago.org

Mass Times

Sunday:

St. Agatha Church, 9:00am

St. Martin de Porres Church, 11:00am

Weekdays: St. Martin de Porres, Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00am
St. Agatha, Thursday, 7:30am

Rectory Office Hours:

St. Martin de Porres: Monday - Friday 8:00am - 3:30pm

St. Agatha: Open upon request for meetings

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: The Parish has set calendar dates for the baptism of babies and small children. Parents should contact Deacon William Pouncy.

O.C.I.A. Adults seeking Baptism or to make their Profession of Faith and other sacraments should contact the Director of Religious provision for our needs. Use this prayer as you meditate on the collection of Bible verses about gratitude Education to register.

Reconciliation is available upon request.

Marriages: Couples must contact the Pastor six to twelve months prior to a proposed wedding date. Attendance at a Pre-Cana Session will be required.

Ministry to Sick and Shut-In: If a member of the church is in a hospital, nursing home or homebound, please call the parish office if they would like to receive the Eucharist.

Funerals: Please contact the Pastor before making arrangements for funerals of church members.

February 01, 2026 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

BLACK HISTORY & OUR FAITH IN JESUS

For many African Americans, faith in Jesus **played a central role in that endurance.** From the era of slavery through segregation and into the present, faith was not abstract. It lived under pressure.

It is clear from Scripture that **black people are objects of God's love and grace.** The very lineage of Jesus included blacks, and Africans were among the leaders of the first-century church.

For black theology, the **black Messiah symbolised Jesus Christ as a sign of suffering, misery, and struggle in a powerful way transformed by his resurrection.** The black people saw through the Messiah that God sided with the poor.

Parish Staff

Pastor: Fr. Thadeo Mgimba

Weekend Minister: Fr. Michael Knotek

Deacon Couple: Rev. Mr. William & Gail Pouncy
[Deacon Pouncy, **Director of Charity and Outreach**]

Deacon Couple: Rev. Mr. Greg & Carolyn Shumpert
[Deacon Shumpert, **Director of Evangelization**]

Director of Religious Education: Marvin McCurry

Business Manager: Carol Johnson

Secretary: Refoncia McGowan

Housekeeper: Scarlett Evans-Perez

Music Director: Dennis Smith

Musician: Calvin Smith

Choir Director: Antonio Anderson

Sunday Collections for January 25, 2026

Sunday Contributions	\$2,217.67
Give Central 01/24 - 01/30	736.93
Zelle 01/24 - 01/30	30.00
Sharing Parish	2702.20
Kolbe House	2.00
Total:	\$5,688.80

*In the spirit of giving,
we thank you for
your generosity!*



For Whom Shall We Pray...

Walter Adams, Susie Aldrich, Bertha Anderson, Kristina Anderson, Jewel Austin, Cheryl Baker, Gia Brown-Baxter, Geraldine Baylor, Hildegard Bezdicek, Hazel Bills, Margaret Brown, Christopher Browne, Benito Cervantes, Carlos Chino Chapa, Karen Chatman, S.T. Clark, Sandra Coffey, William Crown, Jermaine Curtis, Michael Davis, Natalie Davis, Tylesia Day, Shelma Dillon, Elnora Dorsey, Mary Ann Evans, Carter Evans, Flora Evans, Joyce Evans, Michael Evans, Norene Evans, Mechelle Foster, Bradney Frazier, Sr. Mary Finneghan, Zenobia Fuller, Samuel Funches, Enochs Galloway, Anna Garcia, Manuel MeMe Garcia, Danny Gardner, Shea Gardner, Callie Gee, Pamela D. Gee, Yvonne Gibson, Patricia Graham, Marian Graham, Kia Gray, Bill Hainey, Jewel Haney, Nathaniel W. Hall, Mary Harrell, Leatrice Harris, Kimberly Hamza, Tony Harris, Joesaya Henderson David Hicks, Darryl Hicks, Gwendolyn Hicks, Jacqueline Hicks, Veronica Hicks, LuAnn Hickman, Kesiea & Melinda, Kim Henderson, Leonard Henderson, Jerron Johns Jr., Sr., Julius Jones, Preston Jones, Virginia Jones, Corine Jourdan, Ashanti Kelly, Jacqueline Kelly, Brian Lares, Phyllis Lee, Sayyid Lestrade, Melvin Lightford, Diana Lozano, Anthony Lyons, Alexander Madden, Martin Mannette, Dolores Mapp, Larry Mapp Jr., Mapp, Leon Mapp, Arelys Marquez, Catherine Martin, Melik McCloud, Latrice McGee, Carmella Miller, Connie Montoya, Arlene Moore, Ezekiel Clement Msembe, Tamma Norals, LaVita Norris, Clara Orlando, Michael Parham, Luvenia Parker, Emma Peradas, Lorenzo Perez, Gordon Perry, Jan F. Peters, Sylvia Peters, Burke Pledage Jr., Essie Pledage, Queenie Randle, Marvin Register, Sommer Reynolds, Ed Ricks, Aquila Rogers, Deborah Rutledge, Lorraine Sanford, Eunice Scripp, Lazaro Alexander Singh, Nicole Slater, Rosa Solano, Breanna Spriggs, Brenda D. Taylor, Jose Teran, Michael Triplett Sr., Richard Spearman, Stannie Thomas, Terri Triplett, Deano Tretter, Joseph Tretter Sr, Charese Troupe, Clarence Walker, Janessa Warren, Virginia Warren, Shirley West, Diondai Whitfield, Walter Whitlow, Williams, Armonie Witherspoon, Beverly Wright.

Theme: February Reflections, Lent, and Our Patron Saint

Dear Brothers and Sisters, February invites us to remember, to give thanks, and to hope. As we observe Black History Month, we do so not only by recalling history, but by honoring faith, faith lived, faith endured, and faith passed on to us.

During this month, our Liturgy Team has dedicated our celebrations to honoring our ancestors who have gone before us to eternal life. In a special way, we are focusing our attention on the *Saintly Seven*, seven African American men and women whose lives of heroic virtue continue to inspire the Church today. They are: Venerable Pierre Toussaint, Venerable Mother Mary Lange, Venerable Mother Henriette Delille, Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, Servant of God Julia Greeley, Servant of God Friar Martin Maria de Porres Ward, and Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman. Their witness reminds us that holiness rises from our own history, struggles, and hope. Throughout the month, we will honor them through prayer, seeking their intercession and protection for our community.

Beginning this year, on the **second Sunday of each month**, we will observe **Witness Sunday**. On this day, members of our parish will be invited to briefly share their faith journey. God has been good to you, and sharing how He has guided your life can be a blessing to our community. If you are invited to share your story, please consider accepting, we would truly love to hear it.

The Lenten Season begins on **Ash Wednesday**, February 18. We warmly invite everyone to begin this sacred season together on that day. Masses will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m. at St. Agatha Church, 8:30 a.m. at St. Angela School, and 7:00 p.m. at St. Martin de Porres Church. Ashes will also be distributed at both churches at 11:00 a.m. This year, ashes will not be distributed during Sunday Mass on February 22. If you are homebound and wish to receive ashes, please contact the parish office so that a priest or deacon may visit you.

Later this month, we will **celebrate our Patron Saint, St. Simon of Cyrene**. On Friday, February 27, the St. Simon of Cyrene Choir will present a musical concert at 7:00 p.m. On Saturday, February 28, we will gather for a Prayer Breakfast under the theme "*We Have Come This Far by Faith - Come, Holy Spirit*," with Deacon Leroy Gill as our guest speaker. On Sunday, March 1, we will celebrate our Unity Mass for the Feast of our Patron Saint at St. Martin de Porres Church.

Thank you for your faithfulness and active participation in our parish life. As we continue this journey together, I ask one simple thing: **bring one person with you to church each Sunday**.

May God bless you always.

Brother Thad

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

SERMON: FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (CYCLE A)

The Beatitudes you just heard, the teaching of Jesus Christ, is clear. God's blessing is given to those who are poor, those who are humble, those who know suffering in their lives. In these words, Jesus Christ is speaking about you, the people that God has chosen.

- The First Reading from Zephaniah said, "Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth." The call of God goes out especially to the broken-hearted, the lowly, and the poor. How many of you know the pain of divorce, the stress of giving up your job, the loss of a loved one? How many of you know the pain of rejection, of financial shock, of victimization? I bet that's just about everybody. On the other hand, how many of you are faithful? How many Catholics truly practice their faith? How many hardly ever miss Sunday Mass? How many are well informed with regard to their belief? How many have a firm conviction of the true faith? I bet that's just a small percentage of this community.
- With good reason, God says to you that "I will leave as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly." You know what a remnant sale is. It's an occasion for somebody to get rid of their old, unusual fabrics. Scripture says that you are a remnant. You are a minority, and you always will be.
- God says of the remnant that "they shall do no wrong and speak no lies." You see what that means for you? If we are saved, it is because there are saints among us. There actually are people who bring out the best in us, people we look up to. And these people may well not be priests or deacons or nuns. They are the remnant in your midst.
- St. Paul says that you should consider your own situation. Not many of you, he says, are wise; not many are influential; and surely not many are well-born. The basis for your membership in the Church—the basis for the Church itself—is that God chooses you. If someone is going to boast, then, let him boast in the Lord. Remember the unforgettable expression of Henry V. As Shakespeare spoke of the English soldiers about to do battle: "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers." That's the idea of the remnant, the few.
- In the twentieth century, what woman do you think has inspired the most people? What single woman has thousands of followers who do what she taught them to do? What one woman, now dead, still lives in the charity of millions of people who venerate her memory? It is surely Mother Teresa of Calcutta. She was nothing but a humble servant of the Lord, a diminutive, unassuming individual, a foreigner in the land she made her home. Yet today, her religious order, the Missionaries of Charity, is growing by leaps and bounds, serving the poor in Chicago, New York, and other cities around the world.

In your lives, then, follow the path already marked out for you in the Beatitudes of today's Gospel. Walk in the way of humility, of self-effacement, of gentleness. Cherish poverty of spirit, modesty of speech, peacefulness of action, justice in behavior. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

- Fr. Gilligan



Black history Month



Black History Month is a time to recognize that Black history is not separate from American history it is essential to it. It's a history of strength, resilience, and achievement in the face of injustice. From leaders who fought for freedom and civil rights, to innovators, artists, and educators who shaped our world, Black contributions have helped move society forward for generations. But this month is about more than the past. It's also about the present and our responsibility to build a more just and inclusive future. It calls on us to listen, learn, and take action, not just in February, but every day. When we honor Black history, we honor progress, perseverance, and the power of community.

**Today's Readings: February 01, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13
1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Matthew 5:1-12a

**Next Sunday's Readings: February 8, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Isaiah 58:7-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Matthew 5:13-16

Today's Mass: February 01, 2026

— **St. Agatha Church - 9am Mass**

Celebrant: Fr. Thad
Deacon: Rev. Mr. William Pouncy
Commentator: Sis Marilyn Derr
Readers: Tanya Ball, Olivia Patterson
Eucharistic Ministers: Sheila Townsend, Gerald Smith

— **St. Martin de Porres Church - 11am Mass**

Celebrant: Fr. Walsh
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Greg Shumpert
Altar Server: Melvin Jones
Commentator: Randy Kimbrough
Readers: Karl Brinson, Michael Davis
Eucharistic Ministers: Liz Becnel, Julie Richardson, Michael Wilson, Angela Wilson

Next Sunday's Mass: February 08, 2026

— **St. Agatha Church - 9am Mass**

Celebrant: Fr. Thad
Deacon: Rev. Mr. William Pouncy
Commentator: Terrence Lewis Jr.
Readers: Lavetta Brauzile, Phillip Brauzile
Eucharistic Ministers: Sheila Townsend, Gerald Smith

— **St. Martin de Porres Church - 11am Mass**

Celebrant: TBA
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Greg Shumpert
Altar Server: Melvin Jones
Commentator: Liz Becnel
Readers: Remy Spearman, Richard Spearman
Eucharistic Ministers: Jan Peters, Gloria Jones, Scarlett Evens-Perez, Albert Valentine

St. Simon of Cyrene Parish

Parish Council Members

Chair: Keynin Seabrook
Vice Chair: Mark Henderson
Secretary: Remy Spearman

Commissions

Spiritual Life:

Angela Wilson, Remy Spearman

Evangelization Commission:

Mark Henderson, Mia Cornelius

Life Long Education and Faith Formation:

Laquita Porter, Stacey Jasper

Parish Leadership:

Carolyn Shumpert, Michael Wilson

Human Concerns Commission:

Stella Palmer, Jan Peters

Parish Life:

Michael Wilson, Keynin Seabrook

Social Justice:

Tanya Ball, Portia Parker

Finance Council Committee

Co-Chair: Carolyn Parks

Co-Chair: Philippe Beuzile

Secretary: Linda Vick

Council Members: Lavetta Beuzile,
Mark Boone, Janice Oda Gray,
Diane Levy, Paul Morris

**St. Martin de Porres Credit Union
Located in Purcell Hall**

4300 W. Washington Blvd. - (773) 626-0776
Open Saturdays: 10:30am-1:30pm

Purcell Hall Rental Information

Contact the Parish Office - (773) 287-0206

Charitable Hands Ministry

Contact the Parish Office - (773) 287-0206



**This Week's Mass Intentions
February 01, 2026**

† Happy Heavenly Anniversary to
Helena and Porter Adams
From Paula Adams-Wilburn

Prayers for Anthony and Renee Wallin,
Mike and Caryn Kontrat, from Linda Wallin

We encourage our parishioners to pray for their loved,
ones living and deceased, by offering a Mass Intention.
Donation for mass is \$10.00

*laissez
les bons temps
rouler*

Grady Anderson Auxiliary
26th Annual
Mardi Gras
Dinner, Dancing,
Silent Auction, Entertainment

February 7, 2026
6:30pm-12am
Over 21 Event

Purcell Hall
4300 West Washington Blvd
Chicago, IL 60624
Tickets \$55.00

St. Simon of Cyrene Parish Online

