



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.

R.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.

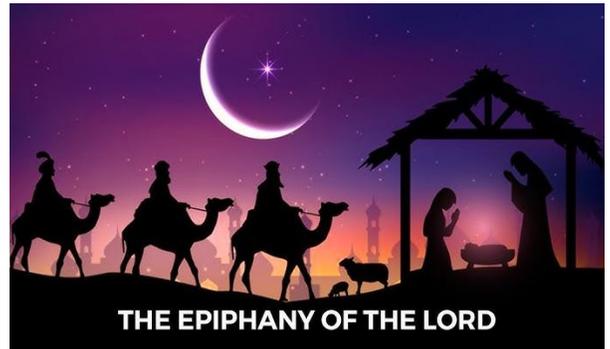
Reconciliation is available upon request.

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.

January 04, 2026 The Epiphany of the Lord



Epiphany is crucial in Christianity as it celebrates the manifestation of Jesus' divinity, revealing Him not just as the Jewish Messiah but as the Savior for all people (Gentiles), marked by the visit of the Magi (Wise Men) and often His baptism and the Wedding at Cana, symbolizing His universal call and the start of His mission to the whole world. It solidifies the idea that Christ's message conquers all boundaries, bringing light to everyone, not just Israel.

House Blessings:

Many Catholic families use blessed chalk to mark their lintels with "20 + C + M + B + 26" as a prayer for Christ's blessing on their home for the new year

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 December 21, 24, 25, 2025

Sunday and other Contributions	\$4,235.00
Give Central 12/23 - 12/31	535.00
Zelle 12/23 - 12/31	350.00
Kolbe House	52.00
Total:	\$5,172.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!
TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN MAILING
IN YOUR SUNDAY OFFERINGS OR MAKING
THEM ONLINE! AND, OF COURSE, OUR
SUNDAY ATTENDEES!

Healing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray that You will lay your healing Hands upon all those who are sick. We beg You to have compassion on all those who are suffering so that they may be delivered from their pitiful circumstances.
In Jesus, we pray.
Amen.

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, Williams Jones Sr., Virginia Jones, Corine Jourdan, Ashanti Kelly, Jacqueline Kelly, Brian Lares, Jimmy Lee, 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, Lois Sims, 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, Annette Williams, Armonie Witherspoon, Beverly Wright.

We Have Come This Far by Faith: Come, Holy Spirit

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, we pause to look back with gratitude and to look forward with faith. *“We have come this far by faith: Come Holy Spirit”*, is our parish theme for this year. The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us, “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb 11:1). It is this hope, quiet, resilient, and trusting, that has carried us through.

In 2022, we took a courageous step of faith as two communities, St. Agatha and St. Martin de Porres, came together to become one parish family, St. Simon of Cyrene. This journey of merging was not easy. We let go of some familiar ways that once defined us and were invited to embrace new realities we had not anticipated. At times, this transition felt like loss. Yet what once felt like an ending has become a beginning shaped by grace, unity, and a renewed sense of mission.

Together, we have gathered around the altar to celebrate the sacred liturgy, sharing songs of joy and prayers offered through moments of sorrow. We have welcomed new members into our parish family and celebrated the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, Reconciliation, Confirmation, and Matrimony. We have also come together for the great feasts of the Church, cultural celebrations, moments of remembrance, and joyful parish traditions that continue to strengthen our sense of belonging as one people of God. We have witnessed growth in ministry among us. Through ministry fairs and new initiatives, groups such as the Praise Dancers and the Drama and Poetry Club have emerged, offering powerful and inspiring expressions of faith. These ministries remind us that the Holy Spirit continues to move among us, calling forth gifts both old and new for the building up of the Body of Christ.

Our journey has also included real loss. We have mourned beloved members of our community. Some programs that once served our parish have come to an end, while some among us have faced health challenges or moved away for various reasons. These losses have left real wounds in our hearts, and we carry them with tenderness before the Lord. Even so, we continue to rely on the power and mercy of God. Nothing has stopped us from becoming the people God calls us to be, his beloved children and co-heirs of his divine promises.

Guided by the Gospel of Matthew 25, which has become not just a scripture we read but a way of life for our parish, we reach out in love and service. Through our Food Pantry, Clothing Ministry, Helping Hand Ministry, and Christmas Giving Ministry, we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and comfort those who mourn. In doing so, we have truly become the Simons of Cyrene, helping our brothers and sisters carry their crosses and bearing witness to Christ’s compassion in our community.

Though we are not perfect, we trust that God is still at work among us. We are still on the journey, not there yet, but we see the promised land, flowing with milk and honey, and we believe that one day, by God’s grace, we will arrive. As we step into this new year, let us continue the journey, not as individuals, but as one body in Christ, trusting that the same God who brought us this far will carry us forward. And so, we pray with confidence and hope, Come, Holy Spirit. Lead us, guide us, and strengthen us as we walk by faith and not by sight. Happy New Year.

Brother Thad

SERMON: BAPTISM OF THE LORD (CYCLE A)

Today, when you celebrate the baptism of Jesus Christ, you also celebrate the last day of the Christmas/Epiphany Season. As we still sing Christmas carols and Epiphany songs, we also sing of Jesus Christ as our teacher, our prophet. Today we celebrate the beginning of his public ministry, when he begins to gather disciples, when he begins to form what we call the Church. That's what baptism is all about.

- Baptism and confirmation, together, bring us into the Church, to the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist, week after week after week. So, we consider baptism as, first of all entrance into the Church.
- Consider what kind of Church you belong to; there are two marks of the Church, found in today's Scripture readings. First, the Church comes from God. Our Father says, "I formed you and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations." That means that you, the Church, are formed by God—that's what the Scripture says. The Church is not a gathering of individuals who choose what they want. It is not a collection of people who have already made some kind of decision. No, of its very nature, the Church is formed by God our Father. He himself makes us what we are. And what God makes you is this: "a light to the nations." You are to be illumination for other people, those who do not believe. For them, you are to be a sign of the covenant of God's relationship to his people. That is the first mark of the Church, in today's First Reading.
- The second mark of the Church is that it is universal, "Catholic." "as we say. It is not a business or a club. In the Second Reading, Peter speaks up. He says, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality." Rather, a person from any ethnic origin is welcome, as long as that person has reverence for God and acts uprightly. So, there are two conditions for membership: reverence for God, often translated as "fear," and right living. If you have faith and if you want to do what is right and just, then you are welcome. It doesn't matter who your parents were, what your language is, or what your culture might be. All races and all nations are welcome.
- These two marks of the Church endure to the present. The Church comes from God, and she is universal. In your own lives, by your own baptism, you know this to be true. As God said to his people, "Here is my servant," as God said to Christ, "This is my beloved Son," so God says to you, "You are my servants. You are my sons and daughters. "He singles you out and demands your allegiance.

Remember the teaching of today's Scripture. Let no one tell you that the Church is anything else but something God himself has formed. Let no one tell you that anybody is excluded from the Church by his or her race or ethnic origin or culture. Let no one divide the Church by false distinctions of language, of social class, or of patriarchal segregation. You are not slave or free, male or female, rich or poor; you are one in Jesus Christ.

As the one people of God, cherish your common baptism. Always remember that you are united by that sacrament, above all, united in your mission, in your identity, and in your universal openness to others.

- Fr. Gilligan



St. Simon of Cyrene Christmas Mass Celebration



Today's Readings: January 04, 2026
The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah:60:1-6
Ephesians3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Next Sunday's Readings: January 11, 2026
The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Acts 10:34-38
Matthew 3:13-17

Today's Mass: January 04, 2026

— **St. Agatha Church - 9am Mass**

Celebrant: Fr. Thad
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Greg Shumpert
Commentator: Johnny Casper
Readers: Donald Lewis Sr., Donald Lewis Jr.
Eucharistic Ministers: Sheila Townsend and Gerald Smith

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

Celebrant: Fr. Kiiguta
Deacon: Rev. Mr. William Pouncy
Altar Server: Melvin Jones
Commentator: Mary James
Readers: Karl Brinson, Mark Henderson
Eucharistic Ministers: Liz Becnel, Michelle Hayes, Michel Wilson, Angela Wilson

Next Sunday's Mass: January 11, 2026

— **St. Agatha Church - 9am Mass**

Celebrant: Fr. Thad
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Greg Shumpert
Commentator: Charlie Casper
Readers: Richard Spearman, Remy Spearman
Eucharistic Ministers: Sheila Townsend and Gerald Smith

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

Celebrant: Fr. Knotek
Deacon: Rev. Mr. William Pouncy
Altar Server: Melvin Jones
Commentator: Marvin McCurry
Readers: Darryl Wilson, Susanne Warren
Eucharistic Ministers: Jan Peters, Stella Palmer, Adrienne Curtis, 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 Beauzile

Secretary: Linda Vick

Council Members: Lavetta Beauzile,

Mark Boone, Janice Oda Gray,

Diane Levy, Paul Morris



Mass Intentions
January 04, 2026

† Praying for the Repose of the Soul of
Mr. Roger A. Villalba
From the Villalba Family

Happy Blessed Birthday Joseph Sims
From the Sims Family

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

St. Martin de Porres Credit Union
Located in Purcell Hall

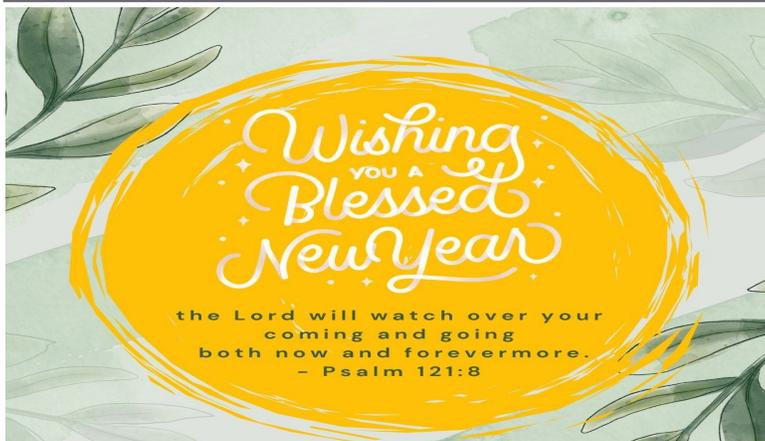
4300 W. Washington Blvd. - (773) 626-0776
Open Saturdays: 10:30am-1:30pm

Purcell Hall Rental Information

Contact the Parish Office - (773) 287-0206

Charitable Hands Ministry

Contact the Parish Office - (773) 287-0206



St. Simon of Cyrene Parish Online Giving

