



## 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](mailto: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 11, 2026 The Baptism of the Lord



The Baptism of the Lord is observed as a distinct feast in the Roman rite, although it was originally one of three Gospel events marked by the feast of the Epiphany. Long after the visit of the Magi had in the West overshadowed the other elements commemorated in the Epiphany,

Pope Pius XII instituted in 1955 a separate liturgical commemoration of the Baptism.

Currently, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is usually celebrated the Sunday after Epiphany. The exception is when Epiphany is observed on January 7th or 8th; this causes the Baptism to be celebrated on the Monday immediately following Epiphany. When celebrated on Sunday, the Baptism is part of Christmas Time, but when displaced to Monday it falls in Ordinary Time.

### 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 04, 2026

Sunday and other Contributions	\$6,069.00
Give Central 01/01 - 01/09	1,524.39
Zelle 01/01 - 01/09	870.00
Kolbe House	5.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$8,468.39</b>

**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!**



### **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, Sayid Lestrade, Melvin Lightford, Diana Lozano, Anthony Lyons, Alexander Madden, Martin Mannede, 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.

### **Dear St. Agatha Parish Donors and Friends,**

On behalf of the legacy parish of **St. Agatha**, I extend our sincere and prayerful gratitude for your generous contribution to our parish **To Teach Who Christ Is Campaign** (TTWCI). Your support played a vital role in strengthening the life, mission, and sustainability of St. Agatha Parish, and we remain deeply thankful for your trust and generosity. We write to assure you that **all funds received were used faithfully and responsibly** to carry out the programs and projects as originally stated in the campaign. These initiatives were **fully completed prior to 2022** under the legacy parish of St. Agatha, in accordance with the intent and vision shared with our donors.

As outlined during the campaign, the overall goal was **\$220,000**, of which **\$132,000 was designated to remain at St. Agatha** to meet local needs at the discretion of the parish. Any funds raised beyond the goal were also retained fully by the parish, an extraordinary opportunity that allowed St. Agatha to address both immediate and long-term needs in service of the Gospel. Following careful planning and discernment, the following projects were successfully completed:

- The reimagining and repurposing of the former school space for parish and community mission vitality
- The creation of a computer lab serving parish and community youth and adults
- The replacement of the church roof, ensuring safety and long-term preservation of the sacred space

These completed projects stand as a lasting testament to your generosity and to the shared commitment of the St. Agatha community to **teach who Christ is** and to serve both parish and community faithfully. Upon final reconciliation of all expenses related to these completed projects, a remaining balance of **\$5,238.22** was identified. In the spirit of transparency and responsible stewardship, we respectfully seek your permission to **repurpose these remaining funds** to establish a modest **online YouTube/Meta evangelization studio**. This initiative would support evangelization through social media, allowing the parish to reach homebound parishioners, young people, and those beyond the physical walls of the Church.

After prayerful consideration, parish leadership recommends this repurposing as a faithful continuation of the original intent of the campaign, to proclaim Christ, strengthen the Church's mission, and use contemporary tools to teach who Christ is in today's world. If you have any objection to the proposed repurposing of the remaining funds, we respectfully ask that you notify **Fr. Thadeo Mgimba** no later than **January 31, 2026**. You may contact him by email at **tmgimba@archchicago.org**, or by calling or texting his **cell phone**, or by contacting the parish through its **main telephone number**.

If no objections are received by **January 31, 2026**, the parish will proceed with the repurposing of the funds as outlined above. Thank you once again for your generosity, your faith, and your enduring **support of the mission of St. Simon of Cyrene**. Please be assured of our commitment to accountability, transparency, and prayerful stewardship of every gift entrusted to the Church.

With gratitude and blessings,

**Fr. Thadeo E. Mgimba, Pastor**

## 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*

## ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO **MINISTRY OF CARE TRAINING**

Minters of care bring the Eucharist to Catholics from all walks of life who are unable to participate in the Eucharistic Liturgy at their parishes. Recipients may include Catholics who are homebound, residing in nursing homes, or patients in hospitals. The Archdiocese conducts periodic training to help insure those called to Ministry are educated in the spirituality, theology and the rites of Pastoral Care of Sick. This training also insures people properly prepared to participate in this important ministry.

**Ministry of Care training will be offered from 8:30 to 4:00 on Saturday, January 31, at AdventHealth LaGrange Hospital, 5101 Willow Springs Road, LaGrange, Illinois. Lunch will be provided during the free training.**

Participants must be 18 years of age or older and have the support of their pastor and the Minister of Care Parish Coordinator. Topics will include the spirituality, theology and the rites of Pastoral Care of the Sick.

**Contact Deacon Tom Carlson to enroll: [tcarlson@archchicago.org](mailto:tcarlson@archchicago.org) or 630-746-8384**

**Today's Readings: January 11, 2026  
The Baptism of the Lord**

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

**Next Sunday's Readings: January 18, 2026  
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6  
1 Corinthians 1:1-3  
John 1:29-34

**Today'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:** Reva Wilson, Susanne Warren  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Jan Peters, Stella Palmer, Adrienne Curtis Albert Valentine

**Next Sunday's Mass: January 18, 2026**

**— St. Agatha Church - 9am Mass**

**Celebrant:** Fr. Thad and Deacon Greg Shumpert (Preach)  
**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Greg Shumpert  
**Commentator:** Terrance Lewis  
**Readers:** Olivia Patterson, Kevin Carney  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Sheila Townsend, Gerald Smith

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

**Celebrant:** Fr. Thad and Deacon William Pouncy (Preach)  
**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. William Pouncy  
**Altar Server:** Melvin Jones  
**Commentator:** Stella Palmer  
**Readers:** Liz Becnel, Gerardo Arellano  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Gloria Jones, Marvin McCurry, Julie Richardson, Adrienne Curtis



**St. Simon of Cyrene Alpha Team Meeting  
Wednesday, January 14th, 2026**

Come join Deacon Greg Shumpert Alpha Team  
on Wednesday, January 14th, 2026  
To start at 6:30pm - 8:30pm at our  
St. Agatha site, located at 3147 W. Douglas Blvd.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**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



**Mass Intentions  
January 11, 2026**

† Happy Heavenly Birthday to Charlie Thomas  
From your Loving Family

Happy Blessed Birthday to  
Naomi Martinez and Jesus Andrade  
From the Martinez and Andrade 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. Simon of Cyrene Parish Online Giving**

