



## 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.

### 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

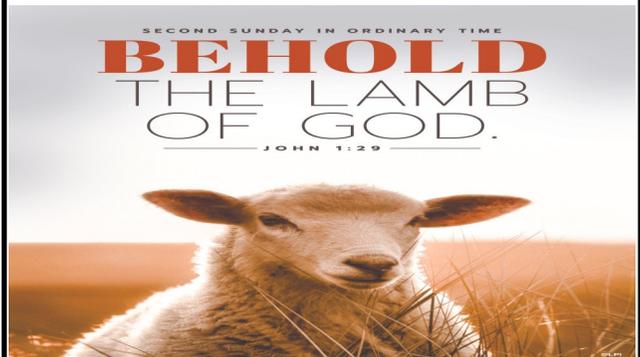
**Housekeeper:** Scarlett Evans-Perez

**Music Director:** Dennis Smith

**Musician:** Calvin Smith

**Choir Director:** Antonio Anderson

## January 18, 2026 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



### What does "behold the lamb of God" mean?

"This testimony caused the two disciples of John the Baptist to leave him and become followers of Jesus. That is what John's witness is supposed to do. That is why he is saying, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." He wants people to leave him and follow the Lamb (see Revelation 14:4)

Furthermore, John, in his Gospel, explicitly identifies Jesus as the Passover Lamb, and he dramatically shapes his narrative to frame the ministry of Jesus the Christ as the Lamb of God—from the first witness of John the Baptist, "Behold the Lamb of God!" (**John 1:36**), to the testimony of John the Beloved upon the death ...

### Sunday Collections for January 11, 2026

Sunday and other Contributions	\$8,322.10
Give Central 01/10 - 01/16	480.00
Zelle 01/10 - 01/16	280.00
Sharing Parish	3275.00
Kolbe House	23.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$12,380.10</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, Virginia Jones, Corine Jourdan, Ashanti Kelly, Jacqueline Kelly, Brian Lares, Phyllis Lee, Sayyid 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](mailto: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: SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (CYCLE A)

Today, in the Gospel, we hear John the Baptist, on Jordan's bank, saying that he was to prepare the way for Jesus Christ. John acknowledged him as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. What is said of Jesus Christ today is also said of his Church; today, we celebrate the mission of Christ, continued in the present by the community of believers.

- Think today of what Isaiah said of the servant of God, Israel: "I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." The prophet Isaiah was speaking of God's people; they were to become a source of wisdom for gentiles, a beacon of truth for the pagans, a light for the whole world. We see these words fulfilled in Jesus Christ, to be sure. His teaching is valid not just for the Jews but also for the gentiles, for all people. But the prophecy of Isaiah applies equally well to you, to the Church of the living God.
- God promised he would accomplish this for his people, and now you can see his promise being fulfilled. I speak specifically of the growth of the Christian community in China. At Easter last year, there were thousands upon thousands of adults who were baptized and welcomed into the Catholic Church. Asia News reports that, in the capital city of Beijing alone, despite a tense political climate, 400 baptisms were celebrated in the Church of the Savior, the Immaculate Conception, the parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and the church of St. Joseph. In fact, there are so many converts, there is a shortage of godparents. In Beijing, it is common that a godfather or godmother will sponsor dozens of catechumens. And it is much the same in many of the large cities: Shanghai, Xian, Guangzhou, Xiamen, Shenzhen, and others.
- Why is this happening? What's going on? One seminary professor gave his explanation to Asia News. He said that society is afflicted by materialism, by individualism, by selfishness. This priest said that the Church "answers the cries of these people's hearts, the thirst for God, which is spreading throughout China." The professor said that Christians are making known a "collaboration between faith and reason," to make life better and respect creation itself. Many of the new converts, it is said, come from relatively successful backgrounds; they are not poor. They are people who live a secure life, yet they seek meaning elsewhere. University professors, students, businessmen and women these are individuals for whom Buddhism and Taoism are not sufficient to answer their questions. There are also poor people who find help from the Church, social support that the government cannot provide. Christian charity is alive and well in China, helping orphans, older people, and those with serious illness. Finally, vocations to the priesthood are increasing rapidly; the average priest is 35 years old.

God said that he would make you "light to the nations." In China Millions upon millions of people are seeing that light for the first time. The Scripture you hear today is fulfilled in your midst. The Catholic Church today is winning converts, gaining esteem, and growing in numbers. Grace to you and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Fr. Gilligan

### Where there is doubt, let me sow faith

Lord, all too often I have doubted that anything can remedy the mess we have made. I have doubted that there are any real solutions and that I can make any real impact at all on the violence that spirals upward around us, choking our community, wounding our families, breaking our spirit. Yet you remind us, Lord, that we are not alone, and that we cannot solve this on our own, that without Your sweet Holy Spirit of encouragement and fortitude and wisdom, we cannot bring healing and harmony to our homes and our streets. Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!



We pray to Christ, who modeled peace-making and healing for us, that through our prayers, outreach and advocacy, we may actively participate in healing the wounds of conflict in our families, among our friends, on our streets and throughout our neighborhoods.



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

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

**Next Sunday's Readings: January 25, 2026  
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Isaiah 8:23-9:3  
1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17  
Matthew 4:12-23 (67)

**Today's Mass: January 18, 2026**

— **St. Agatha Church - 9am Mass**

**Celebrant:** Fr. Raphael Makhori and  
Deacon Greg Shumpert (Preach)

**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Greg Shumpert

**Commentator:** Terrence Lewis

**Readers:** Olivia Patterson, Kevin Carney

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Sheila Townsend and 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

**Next Sunday's Mass: January 25, 2026**

— **St. Agatha Church - 9am Mass**

**Celebrant:** Fr. Knotek

**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Greg Shumpert

**Commentator:** Chalie Casper

**Readers:** Shannon Guider and Sis Marilyn Derr

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Sheila Townsend and Gerald Smith

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

**Celebrant:** Fr. Thad

**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. William Pouncy

**Altar Server:** Melvin Jones

**Commentator:** Julie Richardson

**Readers:** Mark Henderson and Karla Kimbrough

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Scarlett Evans-Perez, Jan Peters, Pat Buford, Jacqueline Veasey



Father, we thank You for looking beyond our faults and for loving us unconditionally. Forgive us when we fail to love others in the same way. Give us eyes to see the needs of the difficult people in our lives, and show us how to meet those needs in a way that pleases You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**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

**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 18, 2026**

† In Loving Memory of  
Mr. Bill Jones and Mr. Jimmy Lee

Prayers of Physical and Spiritual Healing  
for Mr. William Smith from the Gray 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**

