



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

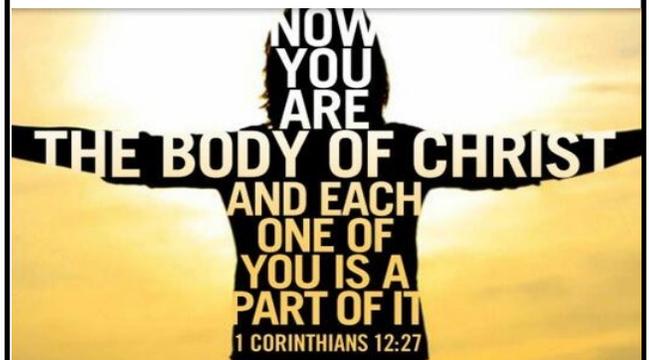
Housekeeper: Scarlett Evans-Perez

Music Director: Dennis Smith

Musician: Calvin Smith

Choir Director: Antonio Anderson

January 25, 2026 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time highlights the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. In the Gospel, Jesus proclaims the coming of the Kingdom of God and calls His first disciples to follow Him. This moment marks the start of His mission to teach, heal, and bring God's light to the world, inviting all people to repent, believe, and become active followers of Christ.

Pope Francis on September 30, 2019 directed that the **Third Sunday of Ordinary Time** should be observed as the **Sunday of the Word of God**. In a *motu proprio* entitled *Aperuit Illis*, the Holy Father said that the annual date should be "devoted to the celebration, study, and dissemination of the Word of God."

Sunday Collections for January 18, 2026

Sunday Contributions	\$5,653.80
Give Central 01/17 - 01/23	601.19
Zelle 01/17 - 01/23	30.00
Sharing Parish	500.00
Kolbe House	289.00
Total:	\$7,073.99

December 2025, Online Offertory: \$2,205.00

*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 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, (Third Posting)

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: THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (CYCLE A)

In today's Gospel, you heard how Jesus called the disciples to follow him. You know that this is the beginning of the Church, the gathering of disciples by Jesus Christ. These men, Peter, Andrew, James, and John saw the light. They followed Jesus Christ because of the truth of his teaching, the wisdom of his words. He was indeed the light of the world, for all people.

- In our country, the people who are very poor, for the most part, are not very church-going. They have a hard time surviving. So, those who do go to church are often strict in their religion. Sometimes, the most successful traditions among the poor are those that make the most demands, those that have the greatest rigidity. The poor, then, are often divided into saints and sinners. Yet, as people advance up the social scale, more and more people go to church. In the United States, that's the thing to do. So, the middle class esteems religious observance. Yet, at the same time, moral codes become more loose. Churches become more forgiving. In confession, penitents are given five Our Fathers and five Hail Marys. The more affluent you become, the harder it is to tell the difference between believer and nonbeliever.
- So, then, you must face this question. What difference does the light of faith make? Surely, you know some good and honorable people who live good lives, who are concerned about others, who are polite and kind and generous. Yet they do not share the Catholic faith. Perhaps you know some dedicated people who are Jewish. They may tell you that the really important thing is that we worship the same God. That's what matters, they say. The rest is incidental.
- Perhaps you know some other people whose religion is limited to a vague profession of confidence in human progress. They will tell you that what is important is that you are sincere, that religion is really a matter of individual choice, personal preference. Faith, they say, is a private matter. Real religion, they will tell you, is right living, in justice and charity.
- Finally, perhaps you know some Catholics who are prejudiced or narrow-minded, Catholics who are sinners, through and through, Catholics who don't understand their tradition and don't live by it. Ask yourselves the question, "What difference does faith make?"

I suggest to you that faith is a matter of perspective, a question of interpretation, a gift of insight. That's why we call it the light of faith. It is not a magic bullet, that clears away all sin. It is not a medicine that heals all illness. No, our religion is at its core not at all a matter of morality. The reason you believe is not that it will be good for the kids, that you will live a better life, that Christians are more fun to be with. No, faith makes its own demands. You accept the Catholic faith, the Orthodox faith, because it is true. You do what the faith asks because it is right. No other reason will do. This is the light of life, incarnate in your midst, the vision of the saints, given to you who believe.

- Fr. Gilligan



Where there is darkness, let me sow light;



God of light and love, we can all too easily fall victim to the darkness around us. It is in darkness that violence most often occurs. It is in the darkness of hearts filled with anger and despair and hopelessness that the seeds of violence are sown. It is in the darkness of community where there are few jobs, broken homes, poor educational opportunities, a loss of a moral center, that the evil one, the prince of darkness, flourishes. Yet, Lord, you call us to be a light in this darkness, to be your instruments of compassion, compassionate challenge, mercy and forgiveness, to magnify the light of your Spirit within us, a light that can and will overcome the darkness if we allow you to work through, with and in us. Jesus, the Light of the World.

**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

**Next Sunday's Readings: February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

Today'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

Next Sunday's Mass: February 1, 2026

— St. Agatha Church - 9am Mass

Celebrant: Fr. Thad
Deacon: Rev. Mr. William Pouncy
Commentator: TBA
Readers: TBA
Eucharistic Ministers: Sheila Townsend and 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

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

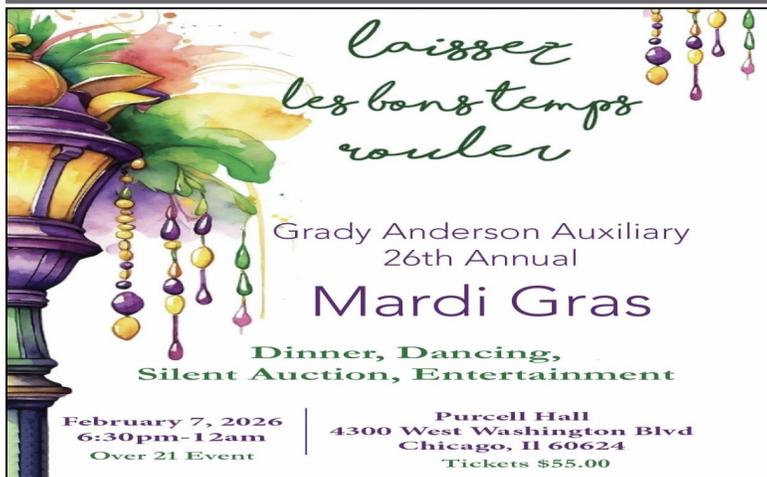
**Mass Intentions
January 25, 2026**

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

† Happy Heavenly Birthday to
Odis and Jackie Shumpert
From the Shumpert 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



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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