

Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church

In the Kingdom of North Philadelphia

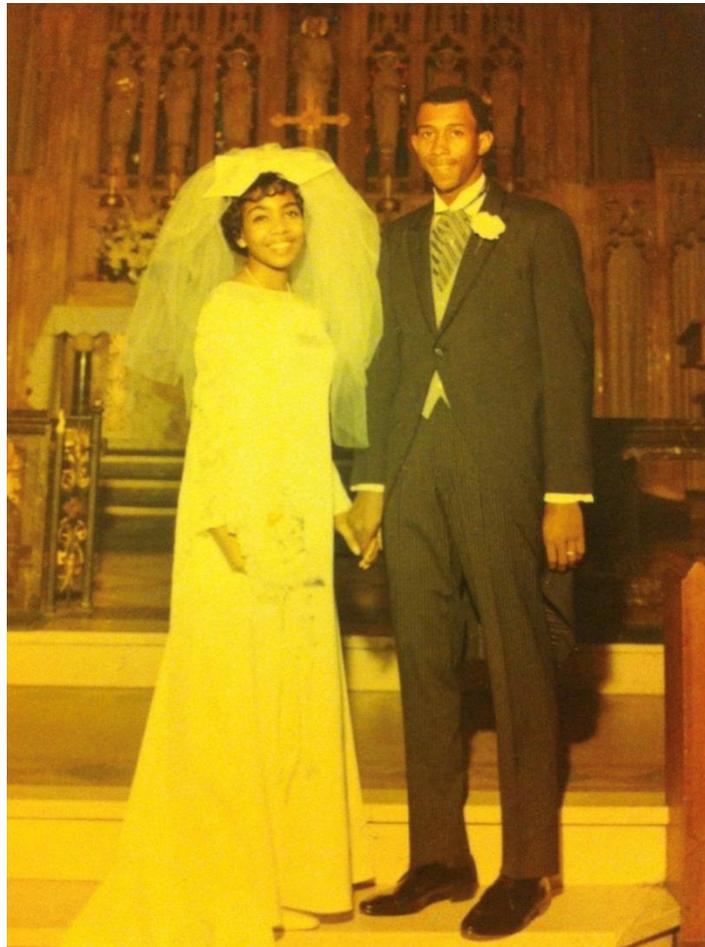
“The Kingdom of God is among you.” Luke 17, 21

Reverend Stephen D. Thorne, Pastor

Sunday Mass – 10:00 am

Third Sunday of Advent - December 17, 2017

Happy 50th Anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Herman Butler



2340 West Lehigh Avenue Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19132
(215) 228-8330 Phone - (215) 221-6516 Fax

On a Spiritual Note

Smile...

our Mass is recorded with video and audio!

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

(215) 228-8330

Church Staff:

*Sister Lynn Marie Ralph, SBS
Director of Religious Education
srlmralph@gmail.com*

*Sister Mary Norbert Moline, SBS
Ministry of Care and Outreach*

*Mrs. Mary Cook, Parish Social Minister
Social Ministry Office / 215-225-2127*

Mr. Paul Haggerty, Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Elaine Potalivo, Secretary

Mrs. Tonya Dorsey, Minister of Music

Mr. Melvin Burton, Jr., Diaconate Candidate

Mr. Jamey Francis Moses, Seminarian

Saint Martin de Porres Catholic School

'An Independence Mission School'

(215) 223-6872

*Sister Meaghan Patterson, SSJ
School Principal*

Today's Mass is filled with anticipation and joy. The prophet Isaiah, hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, is excited about the healing and restoration God will bring about in Israel. Mary, the mother of Jesus, learns she is to be his mother, and sings a song of praise for the great things God has done for her. John the Baptist is anxious to make way for the coming of Jesus, whose sandal strap John is not worthy to fasten.

Of course, we are in the picture, too. We are preparing for Christmas, Jesus' birthday. And we are preparing for all the celebrations that are a part of Christmas.

And yet, God's ways are so mysterious. Not to put a damper on all of this, but sorrow and pain are also a necessary part of life, even a part of salvation. Mary, so happy at the birth of Jesus, was told by Simeon that a sword of sorrow would pierce her heart. Jesus, the long-awaited child, came to our world in order to suffer and die before he would rise again. John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus, would go to prison and then meet a terrible and silly death. Some people today worry about the future of children who are being born into today's world.

And yet, in the second reading today, Saint Paul tells us to "rejoice always," and "in all circumstances give thanks." What does he know that we do not? Nothing! We know the answer: we just need to bring it into focus. Death and sorrow may touch us, but they do not have the final word! The Jesus who was born in Bethlehem was indeed betrayed, arrested and convicted of false and trumped-up charges, tortured and subjected to the death penalty. BUT HE ROSE AGAIN! Mary was indeed the most sorrowful of mothers, but her tears were turned to laughter! John the Baptist was martyred, and so was St. Paul, but so what?

Death does not win, - life does! Sorrow does not win, - joy does! Injustice does not win, - justice does! Hatred does not win, - love does! All of these do not win by their won power, but by the power of God. There are, and will be, sorrow, injustice, hatred, disappointments, setbacks,

sickness and death. But look up, - God comes, and he comes to save us. And that is the last Word!

Sunday, December 17, 10 am
For the Church Family

Tuesday, December 19, 7 am
Thomas Durkin, Jr.

Wednesday, December 20, 7 am
Mary Gallagher

Thursday, December 21, 7 am
J. Gina Roosevelt

We offer prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of Anthony Murray and Glenda Hilton. Both recently passed away. May they rest in peace.

Sunday Collection

Sunday, December 10, 2017
\$ 3,501

If you missed Mass recently, please make up your Sunday Offering. Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you to all who supported our Church Service Project for Christmas. The gifts we purchased will be donated to women and children who are survivors of domestic violence.

Mass Schedule and Intentions



*Bible Study for Christmas!
Wednesday, December 20,
6:30 pm. Come and share
the word as we prepare for
Christmas*

Let us pray for the Sick...

We pray for all in our Church Family who are sick and those who care for them: Greta Newman, Lynette Ford-Havens, Dorothy Bradley, Erma Patterson, Audrey Victor, Harold Lavender, Mary Ann Gill, James Strothers, William Victor, Charles Belser, Alfred Burrell, Annie Andrews, Martina Granger, Devon Walker, Amira Barnhill, Carlos Benson, Darren Spann, Jamaal Maitlan, Yashida Wing, Phyllis Wing, Janice Whitmore Carter, Gloria Wilder, Ella Combs, Charing Garnett, Danielle Daniels, Donna Collier, Norma Plenty, Mary Livingston, Donna Moorhead, Andre Carter, Patricia Freeman, John Greene, Lisa Williams, Denim Moore, Harold Bond, James Porter, Elias Robinson, George Ellington, Jeffery Gray, Andre Roberts, Harry W. Hubbard, Mario Coleman, Helen Clowney, Mary Ann Wallace, Tiffani Livsey, Lamont Chase, Mamie Keitt, Janice Floyd, Doris Simmons, John Davis, Mary Wilchcombe, Jeffrey Johnson, Vainida Hampton, Maxine Turner, Hazel Marsh, Gloria Russell, Arlene Berkley, Kivia Carter, Kevin Reaves.

If you are in the Hospital or want Holy Communion
in your home, please call the Church Office - (215)

228-8330.

“The best is yet to come” - Jubilee Year 1993-2018

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

JOY



This is the third Sunday in Advent. Today we light two purple candles and the pink candle. The first Sunday, we lit the candle of **HOPE**. On the second Sunday, we lit the candle of **LOVE**. Today, we light the candle of **JOY**. One thing that sometimes happens as we get ready to celebrate Jesus' birth is we expect to be happy all the time. Joy is not the same as happy. Joy is a deeper feeling created by knowing that God cares for us. Joy is remembering that God sent Jesus so we would always know of God's care. During Advent, we pray that we may remember again God's gift of Jesus to the world and know the joy that gift brings to all people.

SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 10, 2017

Come HOME for Christmas...Mass on Christmas Eve, 7:00 PM
Mass on Christmas Day, 10:00 AM