

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
Deacon Melvin Burton, Jr.**

August 18, 2019 - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Jesus said to his disciples,
"I have come to set the earth on fire"**



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www.feb29rac.podbean.com [SMDP Philadelphia/youtube](https://www.youtube.com/SMDPPhiladelphia)

Our Church Staff:

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Pastor – frsthorne@gmail.com

Deacon Melvin J. Burton, Jr.
Church Deacon

Mrs. Elsie Banks
Secretary & Asst. DRE

Mrs. Mary Cook
Social Minister: (215) 225-2127

Mrs. Tonya Dorsey
Minister of Music

Sister Mary Norbert Moline, SBS
Ministry of Care

Mr. Paul Haggerty
Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Elaine Potalivo
Administrative Support

Sister Lynn Marie Ralph, SBS
Director of Religious Education

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday – Thursday

9:00 am – 5:00 PM

After hours for emergencies: (215) 228-8330

Saint Martín de Porres Catholic School

Sister Meaghan Patterson, SSJ - Principal
(215) 223-6872

Saint Martín de Porres Convent

(215) 229-0769

On a Spiritual Note ...

It sounds strange, doesn't it, to hear Jesus talking about setting a fire on the earth, one that will cause division? We usually think of Jesus as the Prince of Peace, not division. Heaven knows we have enough of division and conflict in our world, and in our country!

So, what can Jesus be talking about? Does he really want to start fights?! Of course not. Let's back up. Let's talk about fire for a moment. There are fires that destroy, certainly, but there are also fires that purify. Think of the process of refining metals, of shaping instruments, or removing impurities from some raw elements. The Word of God is a fire that shapes, forms, teaches, purifies people, souls, minds, hearts. But the Word of God is also resisted by many who refuse to be touched by it. So Jesus is talking about the fire of his Word, which is brighter than light, and he knows it will be hated by those who love darkness. It will be resisted by those who do not want to change from hatred to love, from resentment to forgiveness, from selfishness to sacrifice.

Ah, then, the struggle comes home (exactly what Jesus was talking about!) We must ask ourselves, "Do I love the fire of Jesus, or do I cling to darkness, to resentment, to bias, to bad relationships, to bad habits, to deceit, etc., etc., etc.?"

What do you say?



Mass Schedule and Intentions

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 18, 10:00 am
For the Church Family

**May God bless our college students as they
off to school!**



Daily Mass will not be offered this week.

Back to School...

As we prepare for another school year, we are again collecting school supplies for the children in our community. Please purchase school supplies like back packs, pens, notebooks etc. All items can be placed at the Shrine of Saint Martin de Porres.

We will offer a special blessing to all students and teachers on Sunday, September 1.

Next Sunday, we will welcome a missionary who will invite us to share our blessings with the needed of the world. Please be generous in the collection. Thank you!

Any parent of a young person who would like their child to become an altar server is asked to see Deacon Burton.



Let us pray for the Sick...

We pray for all in our Church Family who are sick and those who care for them: Harold Bond, Muriel Booker, Dorothy Bradley, Christopher Browne, Andre Carter, Janice Whitmore Carter, Kivia Carter, Lamont Chase, Helen Clowney, Mario Coleman, Donna Collier, Ella Combs, Danielle Daniels, John Davis, Barbara Dunn, George Ellington, Sharon Faison, Shirley Fields, Frances Floyd, Janice Floyd, Patricia Freeman, Charing Garnett, Mary Ann Gill, Paul Giovetsis, Martina Granger, Jeffrey Gray, Kerry Hall, Vainida Hampton, Lynette Ford-Havens, Harry W. Hubbard, Jeffrey Johnson, Mamie Keitt, Marie Lawrencin, Mary Livingston, Tiffani Livsey, Hazel Marsh, Donna Moorhead, Marva Murray, Erma Patterson, John Perry, Norma Plenty, James Porter, Kevin Reaves, Andre Roberts, Elias Robinson, Ira Robinson, Gloria Russell, Bucky Shimp, Doris Simmons, Lois Streeter, Larry Tillman, Vicente Velazquez, Audrey Victor, William Victor, Mary Ann Wallace, Tyanna Wallace, Lisa Williams, Mary Jean Williams, Sylvia Williams.

*If you are in the hospital, please call the
Church Office so we can visit you:
215- 228-8330*

Upcoming Events!

*Blessing of college students
Sunday, August 18*

*Blessing of all students and teachers
Sunday, September 1*

*Concert featuring God's Men
Saturday, September 7, 3:00 pm
Saint Ignatius Catholic Church*

*Church Fashion Show
Featuring our 'Classy Seniors'
Saturday, September 21*

*Family and Friends Day 2019
Sunday, September 29*

