

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

Reverend Addisalem T. Mekonnen

Parochial Vicar / Assistant Pastor

Deacon Melvin Burton, Jr.

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 5, 2020

Welcome Father Mekonnen!



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www.smdpphiladelphia.com www.facebook.com/SMDPPHILLY/

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

On a Spiritual Note...

Today we hear Jesus saying those well-known and well-loved words: **“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy and my burden light.”** (Matthew 11:28-30) After the weeks and months of suffering with the coronavirus and with the fallout over systemic racism in our country, we need these comforting words from Jesus! Of course, he does not mean that he will automatically erase all the suffering that has accompanied these months: some have lost dearly loved ones; many have lost jobs, either temporarily or permanently; most people have lost money and financial stability and many of the necessities that go with it; and we have been disturbed in soul.

So Jesus does not promise easy circumstances in our lives: he knows that life has its cruelties. He **does** promise, though, that we will never be alone as we make our way.

Rather than fixing all the things that come at us, Jesus today is talking about what is **inside us**. And, believe it or not, there is where a great, great deal of our suffering comes from. He is talking about sin, but not about sin just in the “near the surface” way that we often think of. “Near the surface” means thinking about sin as “breaking a rule.” “Oops, I told a little lie; oops, I gossiped about a neighbor or an in-law; oops, I didn’t go to Church on Sunday.” Those things matter, but sometimes we pass them off as if they did not.

Jesus is talking about the burdens that sin places on us: the burden of carrying a grudge; the burden of resentment, of hatred, of prejudice; the burden of racism; the burden of dishonesty, either the dishonesty of lying and falsifying, or the dishonesty of cheating or stealing; the burden of unfaithfulness; the burden of ignoring God. How much anxiety, conniving, guilt, worry, fear, anger, frustration and ill health result from all the burdens of sin! Sin is not merely the “violations,” like a parking ticket, but the sense of our very soul being “off course.” It is the sense that we are not being who we really are. Then, of course, we cannot care and give love as we could. **THAT** is the great burden of sin.

Jesus does not deny that following him entails a yoke and burden, but they are easy and light. Jesus would tell us, “Take it easy, give yourself a break: come follow me.” Thank you, Jesus!

Mass Schedule and Intentions

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, July 5, 2020

For the Church Family

Tuesday, July 7, 8:00 am

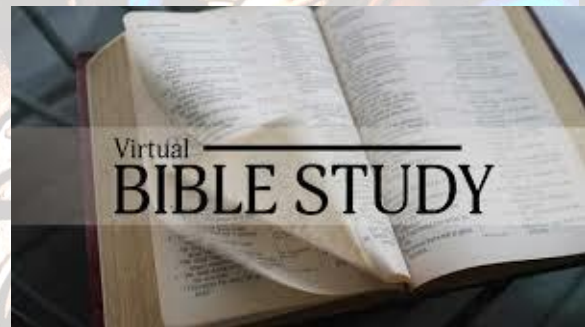
Mary Grace Lewis

Wednesday, July 8, 8:00 am

Barbara and Robert Lewis

Thursday, July 9, 8:00 am

Robert Lewis and Naomi Owens



*Join Father Thorne on ZOOM for
Bible Study, Tuesday, 6:30 pm*

- Directions:** 1) Get your Bible
2) Log onto Zoom
3) Type in the meeting identification #: 812-526-9359
4) One tap mobile / +16465588656,,8125269359#

**PRAY AND WORK FOR THE
END OF RACISM IN OUR
NATION AND CHURCH.**

Check out these websites...

catholicphilly.com
www.nbccongress.org



We offer our prayers and support to Father Thorne as he serves on the Committee for Reconciliation for the City of Philadelphia. He represents Archbishop Perez and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The committee focuses on strategies for racial healing and justice.

If any parishioner needs a bag of food, please see Melody Cooper after Mass.



We are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, which will be celebrated with other parishes in the Archdiocese at the Cathedral during the Mass in honor of the feast of Saint Martin de Porres in November. If you or your child have not been confirmed, please see Father Thorne.

Join us after Mass next Sunday for "curb side" water ice and hot dogs as we welcome Father Mekonnen!



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, Kivvia Carter, Lamont Chase, Helen Clowney, Mario Coleman, Donna Collier, Ella Combs, Danielle Daniels, John Davis, Stephanie Durrell, Barbara Dunn, George Ellington, Sharon Faison, Gloria Felder, Shirley Fields, Frances Floyd, Janice Floyd, Delores Ford, Patricia Freeman, Charing Garnett, Mary Ann Gill, Paul Giovetzsis, Martina Granger, Jeffrey Gray, Kerry Hall, Theresa Hart, Vainida Hampton, Lynette Ford-Havens, Harry W. Hubbard, Jeffrey Johnson, Marie Lawrencin, Mary Livingston, Tiffani Livsey, Hazel Marsh, Yakaisha Marsh, Donna Moorhead, Marva Murray, Erna Patterson, John Perry, Norma Plenty, James Porter, Kevin Reaves, Andre Roberts, Elias Robinson, Ira Robinson, Gloria Russell, Bucky Shimp, Doris Simmons, Lois Streeter, Taylor Stringer, Larry Tillman, Renee Turner, Vicente Velazquez, Audrey Victor, William Victor, Mary Ann Wallace, William Ward, Tyanna Wallace, Lisa Williams, Mary Jean Williams, Sylvia Williams.

YOU Matter! For more information on the US Census:

www.my2020census.gov





Devotion to Mary leads to consecration, and now to priesthood

By Brendan Monahan

Renaissance Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in West Philadelphia rearranged the elderly woman's belongings before she returned from the hospital.

The staff wanted to tidy up her room, but that left the woman disoriented. She peered into her life and saw nothing. Her family and friends all passed away. Now she couldn't even find her personal things.

"I don't know why I'm here," she said. "I don't want to live."

The now Rev. Mr. Addisalem Mekonnen approached the woman, her bed facing the window. He brought her a crucifix. She placed it at the bottom of a drawer. The walls of the room remained bare.

"Your suffering is a blessing," said Deacon Mekonnen, who will be ordained a priest for the Philadelphia Archdiocese Saturday, May 16 at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul. "You can take your suffering and unite it to Christ."

The elderly woman held onto his every word.

"She was completely distracted from all negative feelings," said Shirley Crosby-Cole, a friend of Deacon Mekonnen and present at the time.

Crosby-Cole and Mekonnen, then just a newbie to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, returned to the nursing home to visit the woman. The walls, then full of brightly colored pictures the woman painted, mirrored a change inside her.

Crosby-Cole knew then, understood more than anything in that moment, that Mekonnen was destined for the priesthood.

Read the entire article in the insert in today's bulletin!