

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.

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 12, 2020



*A sower
went out
to sow...*

Matthew 13

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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...

It is tempting to design today's message around the Gospel in the familiar way: what kind of soil is your soul? Do you receive God's word like the path, - shallow, so it never has a chance? Or like the rocky ground, - no roots? Etc., etc. But that does not seem to be where the Church is leading us in today's readings. The first reading is upbeat, and says that God's word is strong and accomplishes its mission. That mission is always a mission of God's love, gathering his people together, healing their wounds, taking them to a richer, love-filled life.

So, today's Gospel is saying that no matter what kind of reception God's word receives through the mission of Jesus, it will succeed. Despite the shallow, rootless, distracted attention many people give, Jesus' mission will succeed, thirty or sixty or a hundredfold. God's love does not fail; God does not fail to heal, to care, to lead, to comfort, and to invite us to eternal life. No matter what.

No matter who or where we are, God's word is good news for us. The circumstances of our life can be more or less of a blessing, but they do not determine our happiness. If we are rich soil for God's word, we will appreciate the blessings that are always around us. But happiness does not depend on circumstances.

There are people who are dirt poor, there are prisoners, refugees, migrants who are among the happiest people on earth; while there are incredibly rich people, movie stars, rock stars, politicians, movers and shakers, corporation CEOs, who are among the most miserable people on earth. It does not matter who you are, where you are, what you have, what you don't have, how much money you have or don't have; it does not matter who has done you wrong or who has done you right; it does not matter what position you have or don't have; it does not matter what race you are; it does not matter what kind of work you do or what kind of job you lost; it does not matter what you drive or don't drive; and it does not matter where you live. What matters is that you receive with open heart, open mind and open arms the word of God.

Many years ago, a wise and holy man used to repeat often to his children:

*"Two men looked out from behind prison bars:
one saw mud, the other saw stars."*

Mass Schedule and Intentions

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, July 11, 2020, 5:00 pm

For the Church Family

Sunday, July 12, 2020, 10:00 am

Special Intention

Monday, July 13, 8:00 am

Special Intention

Tuesday, July 14, 8:00 am

Barbara and Robert Lewis

Wednesday, July 15, 8:00 am

Mary Grace Lewis

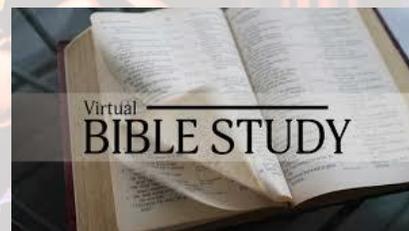
Thursday, July 16, 8:00 am

Sister of Karen Rudeguire

Friday, July 17, 8:00 am

Laura Del Roso Melvin

Since we are blessed to have two priests assigned to our Church, we will be offering Daily Mass more often. PLEASE consider coming to Mass in the morning. The Mass is offered in the air conditioned Rectory. It's a beautiful way to begin your day!



Bible Study on ZOOM Tues, 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#



If any parishioner needs a bag of food, please see Melody Cooper after Mass or call the Church Office, 215.228.8330

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.

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 Giovetsis, 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, Erma Patterson, John Perry, Norma Plenty, James Porter, Kevin Reaves, Andre Roberts, Elias Robinson, Ira Robinson, Gloria Russell, Bucky Shimp, Doris Simmons, Lois Streefer, Taylor Stringer, Larry Tillman, Renee Turner, Vicente Velazquez, Audrey Victor, William Victor, Mary Ann Wallace, Willam Ward, Tyanna Wallace, Lisa Williams, Mary Jean Williams, Sylvia Williams.



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.

Men's Ministry Meeting Sunday, 8:45 am in the Church Hall. All men are welcome!

YOU Matter! For more information on the US Census:

www.my2020census.gov



Black, white parishioners forge model for racial healing

By Gina Christian • (Read the entire article on Catholicphilly.com)

A month after the George Floyd killing, two Philadelphia parishes — one largely African American, the other predominantly white — are creating what one pastor called a “template for conversations” on racial healing. A June 29 virtual town hall on the topic drew more than 120 members of St. Martin de Porres in Philadelphia and St. John Chrysostom in Wallingford.

The Zoom meeting was coordinated by the parishes in response to Floyd’s May 25 death under Minneapolis police restraint, which sparked waves of global protest against racism and police brutality. Pastors Father Stephen Thorne and Father Edward Hallinan shared their insights on overcoming racism in response to parishioner questions. The hour-long discussion was moderated by James Andrews, a St. Martin de Porres parishioner and Mary Chollet, director of ministry and communications at St. John Chrysostom.

Father Thorne acknowledged that “talking about race is very, very uncomfortable,” but both pastors stressed that the town hall conversation was rooted in faith. “We gather tonight as a Christian community,” said Father Hallinan. “This is not Fox News, this is not CNN. This is a faith community, so we look at the issue through the eyes of the word of God ... of Catholic social teaching ... of Jesus in the Gospel.”

From that perspective, racism can clearly be seen as a sin, said Father Thorne, adding that “you will not get inside seating, outside seating or even curbside pickup in God’s kingdom if you are racist.”



