

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

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Deacon Melvin Burton, Jr.

February 21, 2021 - First Sunday of Lent

Lent, an invitation to be free...



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

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

Sunday Mass at 10:00 am is available on LIVESTREAM

On a Spiritual Note...

This Season of Lent takes us into a deep, mysterious place, - our own soul. It is a journey of repentance: not just, "I messed up: sorry about that," but "Let me look at myself: what am I about? What do I need to change? Where do I start?"

Look at the scene of Jesus' own Lent, - the first Lent: driven by the Spirit; in the desert; tempted by Satan; wild beasts... Jesus had no sin: nothing to repent of or be sorry for. Yet, he wanted to be human like us, to stand with us, and to feel what we feel. In the desert, there is **no one and nothing there**: just yourself. When you are tempted by Satan, you are not just attracted to something or someone you should stay away from, you are encountering **Evil in person**. The **wild beasts** live in chaos, and the chaos may be the landscape of your own life, - the wrongs that need to be made right.

All this is why **repentance** is not merely about being sorry (which it is), but also about seeing things differently, taking on a new set of eyes, a new mindset, a renewed heart, and a cleansed soul. That is why it takes forty days, not just a session.

Most of us can look back over times past in our lives, and say, "Why did I do that? Didn't I see? How could I have been so selfish, so blind, so cruel...?" Lent is about seeing all that not just in the distant past, but as much in the present as possible.

All the talk around us is about blaming **other people** for our problems, and for the problems in the world. It is all **somebody else's fault**, or some other **group** of people. In Lent, oh no, I can look only at **myself**. How wrong am I? What have I done? What have I not seen? How could I be so cruel? Lent is forty days: it might take the first twenty days just to stop blaming everybody else, and start looking at myself.

"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Mass Schedule and Intentions

First Sunday of Lent

Saturday, February 20, 2021, 4:00 pm

Special Intention

Sunday, February 21, 2021, 10:00 am

For the Church Family

Monday, February 22, 7:00 am

Ken Schiller

Tuesday, February 23, 7:00 am

Theresa Thompson

Wednesday, February 24, 7:00 am

Maria Perro

Thursday, February 25, 7:00 am

John William Paquet

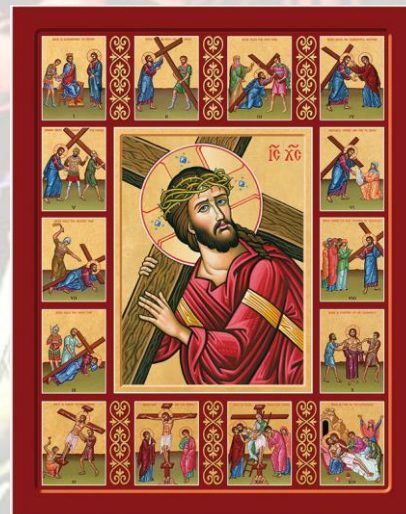
Friday, February 26, 7:00 am

Blaise Davis

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday of Lent

in Church at 7:00 pm.

Join us for the beautiful devotion



Know the Faith!



Bible Study On ZOOM

THURSDAY, February 18, 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#

Father Mekonnen invites you to join him on Tuesday and Saturday, 6:30 pm on zoom.

Topic: Year of Saint Joseph

Year of
ST. JOSEPH



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2825645789>

Meeting ID: 282 564 5789

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,2825645789# US

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2825645789>

Thank you to all who join us in prayer by live stream every Sunday. We are blessed to have you with us spiritually. Please consider supporting our Church Family by mailing a donation or giving.

www.smdpphiladelphia.com

What are you TAKING ON during the holy season of Lent?

Prayer...

Fasting...

Sharing with the Poor...

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, Bill Bromley, Andre Carter, Barbara Carter, Janice Whitmore Carter, Lamont Chase, Helen Clowney, Donna Collier, Ella Combs, Danielle Daniels, John Davis, Stephanie Durrell, Barbara Dunn, George Ellington, Sharon Faison, Shirley Fields, Janice Floyd, Delores Ford, 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, Janell Lavendar, Mary Livingston, Tiffani Livsey, Hazel Marsh, Yakaisha Marsh, Lisa McLoed, Donna Moorhead, Marva Murray, Erna Patterson, John Perry, Norma Plenty, James Porter, Kevin Reaves, Andre Roberts, Elias Robinson, Ira Robinson, Gloria Russell, Mary Ann Skipper, 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, Cheryl Wright.

Black priest a model for racial healing in church, society, says pastor



Father Augustus Tolton

By Gina Christian • Posted February 14, 2021

A Black priest on the path to sainthood is a model for racial healing in the Catholic Church and American society, said a Philadelphia pastor and educator.

In a Feb. 10 webinar, Father Stephen Thorne of St. Martin de Porres Parish surveyed the life and legacy of Father Augustus Tolton, the first African American priest to be ordained in the United States.

“He will be a saint for all, but America needs the witness of Father Tolton perhaps more than ever,” said Father Thorne during the presentation, which was sponsored by St. Francis de Sales Parish and the Collegium Institute for Catholic Thought and Culture, both in Philadelphia. “We have to learn once again what it means to be one nation under God.”
