Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church

"Blessed be God forever ! "

" The Kingdom of GOD is among you." Luke 17:21

Reverend Addisalem T. Mekonnen

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Deacon Melvin Burton, Jr.

January 9, 2022

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www.feb29rac.podbean.com SMDP Philadelphia/youtube

Sunday Mass at 10:00 am is available on LIVESTREAM

Dear Church Family…

God asked Adam and Eve, "Where are you?"

I think this question is for all of us in the context of our personal journey of Faith. God our Heavenly Father wants us to pray, think, and ponder if we are following through in following Jesus wherever He leads us. I feel like we can all relate to St. John the Baptist's journey of faith to some degree in different ways. Several Biblical scholars assert that St. John the Baptist lived in a Jewish community called the Essenes and so even his faith journey was within the context of a Family of believers. He needed to gradually pray, learn, study, learn from his mistakes and practice his faith everyday in order to finally fulfill his one mission in life as the last prophet in the Old Testament.

Therefore, everything he experienced was a preparation for his mission as the forerunner of the Messiah. He jumped for joy in his mother Elizabeth's womb when he heard the voice of Jesus within the voice of Mary our Blessed Mother. Therefore, he had the gift of faith before he was born. He received a great grace by accepting Jesus as His Lord and Savior. St John the Baptist acknowledged the eternal Word before he could even learn to utter one word towards his parents. The Essenes and St. John the Baptist had to wait in patience and that is the virtue we need most in our spiritual life

I can remember other men in the seminary who came from various cities all over our nation. The following are just some but not all the States that men came from: Nebraska, Maine, South Carolina, Alabama, and Virginia. They would complain collectively that we as Philadelphians struggle with patience when it comes to driving both in the suburbs and city. I'm sure we all struggle with patience to some degree because of our hyper-fast culture of technology. We want everything fast because it makes our life experience convenience. Whenever we take that lack of patience into our journey of faith we can become disillusioned because we don't have the authority to tell God, "Speed it up now, Lord."

Just imagine if Jesus is driving in a car with our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph riding shotgun. Jesus tells you to follow Him and you're like, "Sure, Lord, no problem." You start to see you friends and family passing right by you. They are laughing and pointing out how slow you are driving behind Jesus and His Holy Family. You get frustrated and start beeping your horn at Jesus to speed up. Jesus doesn't move faster at all and in fact He even slows His speed even more as they enter a blizzard. You think to yourself, "I do have four- wheel drive," so you floor it and drive right beside Jesus. Next thing you know, you are spinning out of control because you drove over a thick sheet of ice and you stop as you almost crash into Jesus' car. The crowds were wondering if St. John the Baptist was the Messiah and they wanted him to quickly say it. He basically did the opposite and pumped the brakes because, "I'm not Him, but Jesus is the Lamb of God who came to save the world." He pointed to Jesus and so did God the Father as He announced "Behold, my Beloved Son in whom I AM well pleased." The Holy Spirit in the form of a dove also bore witness to Jesus' divinity as well.

We all need to grow in practicing patience not only with others but also ourselves in this journey of Faith. Jesus can and does help us grow in our faith but not at the pace that others demand of us or even what we expect from ourselves. Both speeds are controlled by a person who is a sinner and not God therefore they are not in accordance with the will of our Heavenly Father. It takes a mature Faith to realize and accept the fact that we are all called to follow behind Jesus at the pace He wills, and no anyone else.

In J.M.J

Fr.Mekonnen

7:00 AM Mass in Rectory Schedule & Intentions

January 9, Sunday, 2022
Church Family

January 10, Monday, 2022
Frank & Rosemary Pagano

January 11,Tuesday, 2022
Sean Hagan

January 12, Wednesday, 2022
Celeste Gerhub

January 13,Thursday, 2022
Lauren Maloney

January 14, Friday, 2022
Stephan Celentano

BIBLE STUDY
WITH DEACON BURTON

THURSDAY 6:30 PM
NEW LOG IN…
Meeting ID: 570 117 8316
Phone# +6468769923,,5701178316

If you are sick or in the hospital, please contact the Church Office, 215.228.8330 for a visit.

If anyone is in need of food, please contact Deacon Burton or call the Church Office, 215.228.8330

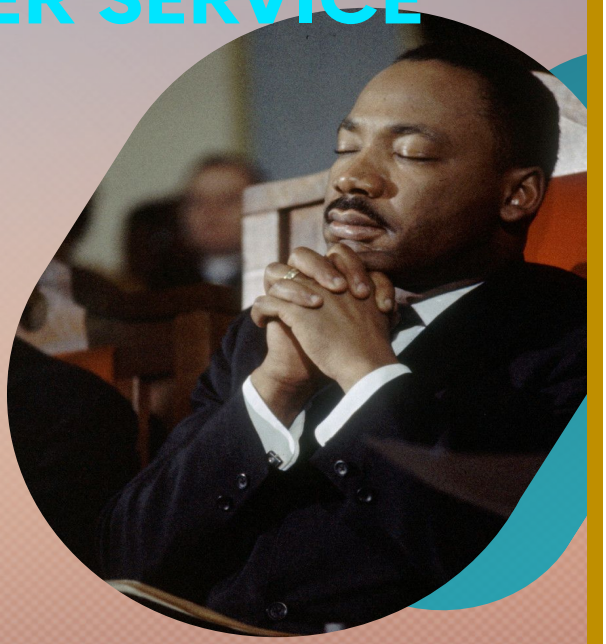
Let us pray for the Sick…

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, Donna Collier, Ella Combs, Danielle Daniels, John Davis, Stephanie Durrell, Barbara Dunn, George Ellington, Sharon Faison, Shirley Fields, Janice Floyd, Charing Garnett, 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, Lisa McLoed, Donna Moorhead, Marva Murray, Willaim Patterson, Norma Plenty, James Porter, Kevin Reaves, Andre Roberts, Elias Robinson, Ira Robinson, Gloria Russell, Doris Simmons, Lois Streeter, Taylor Stringer, Renee Turner, Vicente Velazquez, Audrey Victor, William Victor, Tyanna Wallace Lisa Williams, Mary Jean Williams, Sylvia Williams, Augustus Johnson, Cheryl Wright.

HOLY ROSARY ONLINE
WEDNESDAY 6:30PM
ZOOM Meeting# 282 564 5789
Mobile #(16465588656)
(2825645789)Adoration & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

HOLY ROSARY WITHIN ADORATION & BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IN SMDP CHURCH

REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE



Date: January 17, 2022
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Miraculous Medal Shrine
500 East Chelten Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19144

People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they have not communicated with each other.

Our Speakers:

MOST REVEREND NELSON J. PÉREZ, D.D ARCHBISHOP

PASTOR DONALD D. MOORE MT. CARMEL BAPTIST

RABBI SUE LEVI ELWELL WASHINGTON HEBREW CONGREGATION

AMIR QASIM RASHAD UNITED MUSLIM MASJID

Office for Black Catholics
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA