

# ST. MARTIN DE PORRES

## BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER!

Pastor Addisalem T. Mekonnen  
Email: [fathermekonnen@gmail.com](mailto:fathermekonnen@gmail.com)  
Deacon Melvin Burton, Jr.  
First Sunday of Advent  
December 3, 2023

## AND JESUS SAID



**"Be watchful! Be alert!  
You do not know when the time will come."**

2340 West Lehigh Avenue Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19132

(215) 228-8330 Phone - (215) 221-6516 Fax

[www.smdpphiladelphia.com](http://www.smdpphiladelphia.com) [www.facebook.com/SMDPPHILLY/](https://www.facebook.com/SMDPPHILLY/)

[www.feb29rac.podbean.com](http://www.feb29rac.podbean.com) [YouTube/smdpphiladelphia.com](https://www.youtube.com/smdpphiladelphia.com)

Sunday Mass at 10:00 am is available on LIVESTREAM

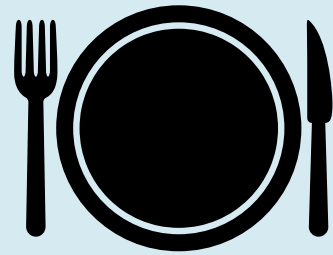
Dir. of Parish Services - Mr. James E. Andrews

Business Manager- Mr. John Duffner

Bookkeeper - Ms. Elaine Epotalivo

Secretary - Ms. Elsie Banks

# Advent Season



## *Food for thought from Fr. Mekonnen*

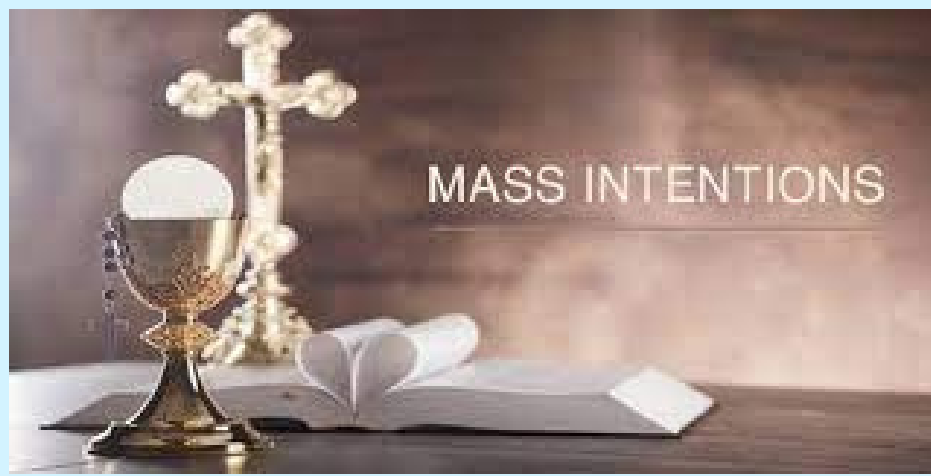
The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, “When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming.” (CCC 524) Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

Even though the Church calls Advent “the long preparation” for Christmas, it may feel like the shortest preparation. The busyness of shopping, and the worldly aspects of the “holiday season” make time fly by. Then, we wake up on Gaudete Sunday wondering where the first three weeks of Advent went. So, I invite you to pause for a moment and think about how we as a church family can become busy with serving our Blessed Lord by being intentional about prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during this Advent Season. The reason priests wear purple during the seasons of both Advent and Lent is because it is penitential season. Penitential means the activity of offering up sacrifices such as fasting and almsgiving. This is how the Church teaches us to be alert and ready for the feasts of Easter and Christmas. Just think about the great distance our Lady and St. Joseph travel at night from Nazareth to Bethlehem which was 70 miles away with very little of their belongings. That was how they celebrated Advent because it was the will of our heavenly Father, and so, Emmanuel, our Savior is the first link. Our Lady and St. Joseph became the second and third link. We as believers are called to be a link as well, because of our faith-filled relationship with Jesus. Prayer is a simple way to become; that link that becomes a blessing; that puts a smile on someone’s face and the warmth of peace into our heart.

## Advent Prayer Believers Chain

To begin our Countdown to Christmas, you will receive a link to a prayer chain. Each link will have a prayer intention written on it. I ask that you pray for the intention written on the link beginning with the first Sunday of Advent (December 3, 2023) until Christmas day and return it on January 7th. Pick a special time each day—a time that you will remember. Then say the prayer which is written on that link for the special intention.

# 7:00 AM Mass in Rectory Schedule & Intentions



*Begin your day with Mass*

**Sunday, December 3, 2023  
in the Church**

**“For the People of the Church”**

**Tuesday, December 5, 2023  
Anne Quinn**

**Thursday, December 7, 2023  
Mass of Thanksgiving**

**Friday, December 8, 2023  
Eleanor Valent**

**Saturday, December 9, 2023  
Lillian F. Clark**

If you would like to have Masses offered for a loved one or friend, living or deceased, please call the office. The stipend is \$10 per Mass intention.



## Podcasts

### Tune in to Black Catholic Podcasts

Discover what your faith means for your marriage, family, professional life and the issues of our time. Learn how Black Catholics are active in the Church and society. Hear answers to questions about God, the Church, and living a spiritual life in today's world.

<https://nbccongress.org/podcasts/>

## Bible Study with Deacon Burton

Matthew 7: 1-5



**THURSDAY 6:30 PM**

**Meeting ID: 570 117 8316**

**Phone# +6468769923, 5701178316**

**burtonmel417@gmail.com**

How does the Bible, written over 2000 years ago, apply to our daily life in 2023? Join Deacon on Thursdays to find out!



## The power of prayer!

### Let us pray for the Sick.

We pray for all in our Church Family who are

#### SICK AND THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM:

**JENAI BALLARD, CHERYL BELL, MURIEL BOOKER, LUCILE BROWN, ANDRE CARTER, BARBARA CARTER, JANICE WHITMORE-CARTER, GERALD CARTER, MELODY COOPER, MARY COOPER, HELEN DIRKSON, RITA FELDER, JANICE FLOYD, THERESA HART, LYNETTE FORD-HAVENS, HARRY W. HUBBARD, AUGUSTUS JOHNSON, MARIE LAWRENCIN, HAZEL MARSH, YAKAISHA MARSH, JAMES MASON, LISA MCLOED, WILLIAM PATTERSON, CLARENCE PRESTON, ALMA ROSS, LOIS STREETER, TAMIKA TENDER, RENEE TURNER, VICENTE VELAZQUEZ, AUDREY VICTOR, JANICE WHITMORE, LISA WILLIAMS, MARY JEAN WILLIAMS, SHARON WILLIAMS, SYLVIA WILLIAMS**

Please contact the church office to add or remove loved ones from our Prayer list. 215.228.8330

**ROMAN CHANCES**  
**All money and stubs must be**  
**returned by December 10, 2023**  
**to**  
**Ms. Yvonne Gray**



**Saturday -11:00 a.m. Mass**

**Sundays - 9:15 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation  
or by appointment**

***All are Welcome!***



**Welcome to Saint Martin de Porres Church. Based in North Philadelphia, we are a Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. We are one diverse spiritual community called to follow Jesus Christ. “God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life” - John 3:16.**



When we pray the Rosary, we put ourselves and our intentions into God's hands. As we pray, we can let go of any worries we may have and we can choose to completely trust in God, knowing that He is listening to our prayers and that He wants the best for us and those we pray for.



The essential aim of the Legion of Mary is the sanctification of its members through prayer, the sacraments and devotion to Mary and the Trinity, and of the whole world through the apostolate of the Legion.

**Saturdays 12:00 p.m. LEGION OF MARY**

**ROSARY ONLINE - FRIDAY 6:30 PM**

**ZOOM Meeting # 282 564 5789**

**Mobile # (16465588656) (2825645789)**

**Adoration & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament**

Rectory Office Hours:

Thursdays and Fridays 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

---

**New Parishioners are most welcome and are encouraged to register as soon as possible after moving into the Parish. Please see an usher after church and request a form.**

**Home Blessings & Holy Communion are available. Anyone who wishess their home blessed, please call the rectory. If any of our homebound or shut in parishioners wish to receive Holy Communion, please call the rectory 215.228.8330.**



**If you are in the hospital or sick, please contact the church office, 215.228.8330 for a visit from Fr. Mekonnen.**

