

ST. MARTIN DE PORRES

BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER!

Pastor Addisalem T. Mekonnen
Email: fathermekonnen@gmail.com
Deacon Melvin Burton, Jr.
Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023

AND JESUS SAID



" I am the way, the truth, and the life:
no man comes to the Father, but by me"

2340 West Lehigh Avenue Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19132

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

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

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

Sunday Mass at 10:00 am is available on LIVESTREAM

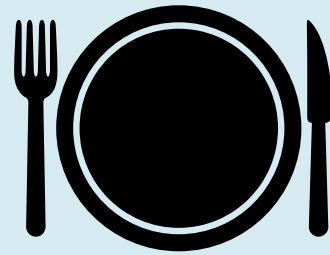
Dir. of Parish Services -Mr. James E. Andrews

Business Manager- Mr. John Duffner

Bookkeeper - Ms. Elaine Epotalivo

Secretary - Ms. Elsie Banks

Advent Season



Food for thought from Fr. Mekonnen

What is the good news? J.O.Y

Most people typically enjoy hearing the good news of having family and friends singing to them, “Happy Birthday.” It makes them feel like everyone is putting them first. Those two words are words that brighten up their mood from sadness or indifference to happiness. Life is a gift, and it is the first act of God’s mercy. No one has ever prayed to be born, and yet, we exist participating in the mysterious mercy of God, because God alone is first. The “J” stands for placing Jesus first; do we feel joy in hearing His holy Name? Do we listen to or read Sacred Scripture? Do we try to praise Him, thank Him, and sacrifice for Him because He is the “Alpha and Omega”?

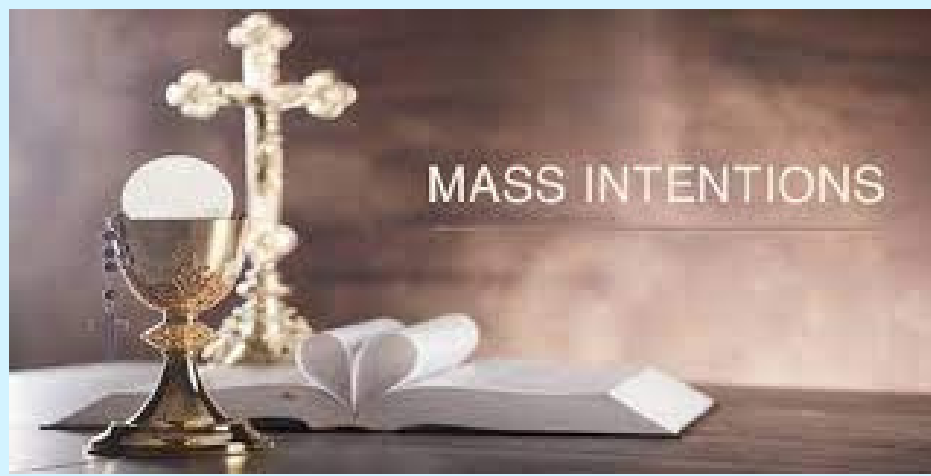
The “O” in joy is putting others second. Our Heavenly Father gave us that perfect example in that He thinks of us with love every second. Therefore, we experience greater happiness in singing “happy birthday” to others and so in serving them, we become selfless. Each candle that is lit, symbolizes another year on this earth that God has given us, so that we can serve Him in our neighbor. Each year is another chapter in our book of life.

We know the sweetness of that cake can give our body a sugar high. Even though that is the case, nevertheless, if we have too much of it, we get sick. Contrary to that, the sweetness of God’s graces makes us whole.

God created us to be born, so that we can live; yet, after the fall of Adam we are born to die. The countdown begins right after we are born, and yet we rarely ever think about that truth. That truth, that not even an atheist can deny. It seems like many atheists are miserable and it makes sense, because it is Jesus who is the source of eternal Life. The difference between a believer and non-believer is that we experience joy in that Jesus who is the Life of the soul in the most holy Eucharist gives us a grace filled high. The sweetness of God’s presence is from within. Therefore, those who have tasted the goodness of the Lord, cannot be despondent. The cross of Christ is the invitation to surrender to the will of our heavenly Father and this experience of the Paschal Mystery gives us interior joy. We are then resurrected so that we no longer live for ourselves, or simply others; rather, we live for God alone. You can see it in our eyes and hear it in our voices, which is pure joy.

In J.M.J
Fr. Mekonnen

7:00 AM Mass in Rectory Schedule & Intentions



Begin your day with Mass

Sunday, December 17, 2023
in the Church

“For the People of the Church”

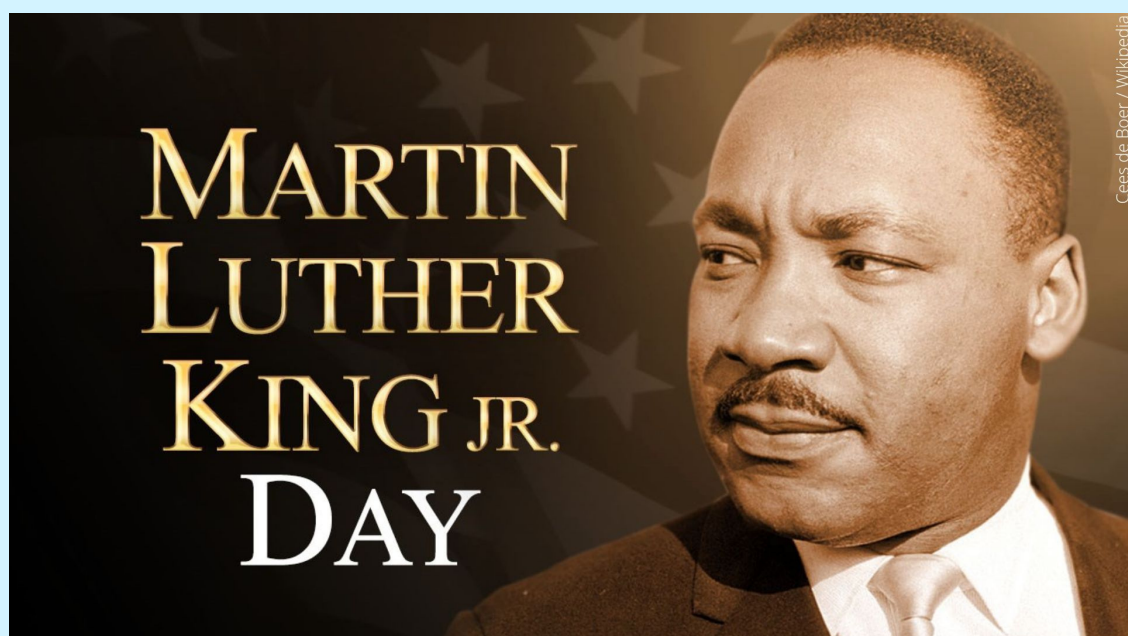
Tuesday, December 19, 2023
Carol Chappelle

Thursday, December 21, 2023
Karen Helker

Friday, December 22, 2023
Jim Tullio

Saturday, December 23, 2023
Deacon Walter Lance

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.



Interfaith Prayer Service

Sunday, January 14, 2024
3:00 PM Prelude - 2:30 PM
Saint Katharine Drexel Church
1920 Providence Avenue Chester, PA

Bible Study with Deacon Burton

Mark 1: 21-28



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

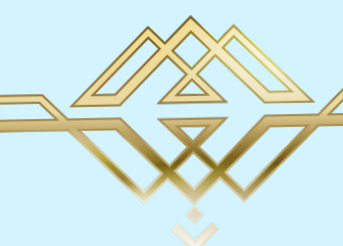
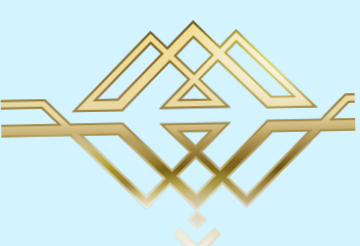
SICK AND THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM:

JENAI BALLARD, CHERYL BELL, MURIEL BOOKER, LUCILE BROWN, ANDRE CARTER, BARBARA CARTER, JANICE WHITMORE-CARTER, GERALD CARTER, MARSHA COOPER, 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

We have decided to continue a unique form of fundraising. A few years ago, we began a **Brick fundraising campaign** that was interrupted by the pandemic. Now you can get your commemorative brick that will make an everlasting impact that can be cherished for years to come. Additionally, those who were unable to participate in the past can now be part of enhancing the church property. Personalize your brick today!

See James Andrews to order your brick \$125





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.



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



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.

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.

