

# ST. MARTIN DE PORRES

## BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER!

Pastor Addisalem T. Mekonnen  
Email: [fathermekonnen@gmail.com](mailto:fathermekonnen@gmail.com)  
Deacon Melvin Burton, Jr.  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 2023

## AND JESUS SAID



"If you remain in me and my words remain in you,  
ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

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

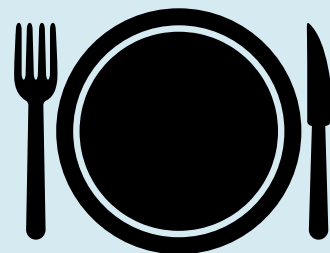
Dir. of Parish Services - Mr. James E. Andrews

Business Manager- Mr. John Duffner

Bookkeeper - Ms. Elaine Epotalivo

Secretary - Ms. Elsie Banks

# Advent Season



*Food for thought from Fr. Mekonnen*

Why and when do We celebrate the birth of Christ ?

Christmas is the solemnity in which we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and this is reason for our joy. Birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and graduations are celebrated all in one day's time. However, this is not the case regarding the celebration of the birth of the only Savior of the world. There are two principal feasts in the Liturgical Year: Easter and Christmas. These are both solemnities (and holy days of obligation) and in the current Liturgical Calendar, are the only feasts that have octaves attached (the 1962 calendar also has an octave of Pentecost). **A holy day of obligation is equivalent to a Sunday, which means all Catholics are obligated to keep the Sabbath Holy by attending the Holy Mass on those days of Solemnities.**

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God | January 1

Ascension of Jesus | May 21 (moved in most dioceses from May 18 to the following Sunday)

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary | August 15

All Saints Day | November 1

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary | December 8

Christmas Day | December 25

Solemnities are festive and exceptional days; the highest ranked feasts of the liturgical calendar marked with special characteristics. “11. Solemnities are counted as the principal days in the calendar and their observance begin with Evening Prayer I of the preceding day. Some Solemnities also have their own vigil Mass (for use when Mass is celebrated in the evening of the preceding day). The celebration of Easter and Christmas, the two greatest solemnities, continues for eight days, with each octave governed by its own rules. (General Norms of the Liturgical Calendar)”

There are institutions that give a Christmas break on the day of Christmas, and even following that date. The purpose for Catholic institutions to give this break, is to avail ourselves the time to offer up worship to God within the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. God rested on the Sabbath and so we are called as children of God rest in God through worshipping God as Church Family.

# 7:00 AM Mass in Rectory Schedule & Intentions



*Begin your day with Mass*

Sunday, December 24, 2023  
in the Church

**“For the People of the Church”**

**10 a.m. & Christmas Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.**

Monday, December 25, 2023  
**10:00 a.m.**

**“For the People of the Church”**

Tuesday, December 26, 2023  
**Brenda Pierce**

Thursday, December 28, 2023  
**Jovita Corace**

Friday, December 29, 2023  
**Eileen Lynch**

Saturday, December 30, 2023  
**Michael P. Kelly Sr.**

**All are obligated to attend Mass  
on Sunday morning the 4th Sunday  
of Advent and Christmas vigil or  
Christmas day**

## **EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL SOUL-FOOD LUNCHEON FOR SMDP PARISHIONERS**

Saturday, January 6, 2024  
Church Hall  
12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

**Register to attend, sign up sheets  
are at the table in the church**

## **Bible Study with Deacon Burton**

Bible Study will resume  
on January 4, 2024



**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, GUS THOMPSON, 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



The magic of Christmas is not in the  
presents but in His presence. May you  
have the gift of faith this Christmas and  
many blessings throughout the New Year.



**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.**

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**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.**

