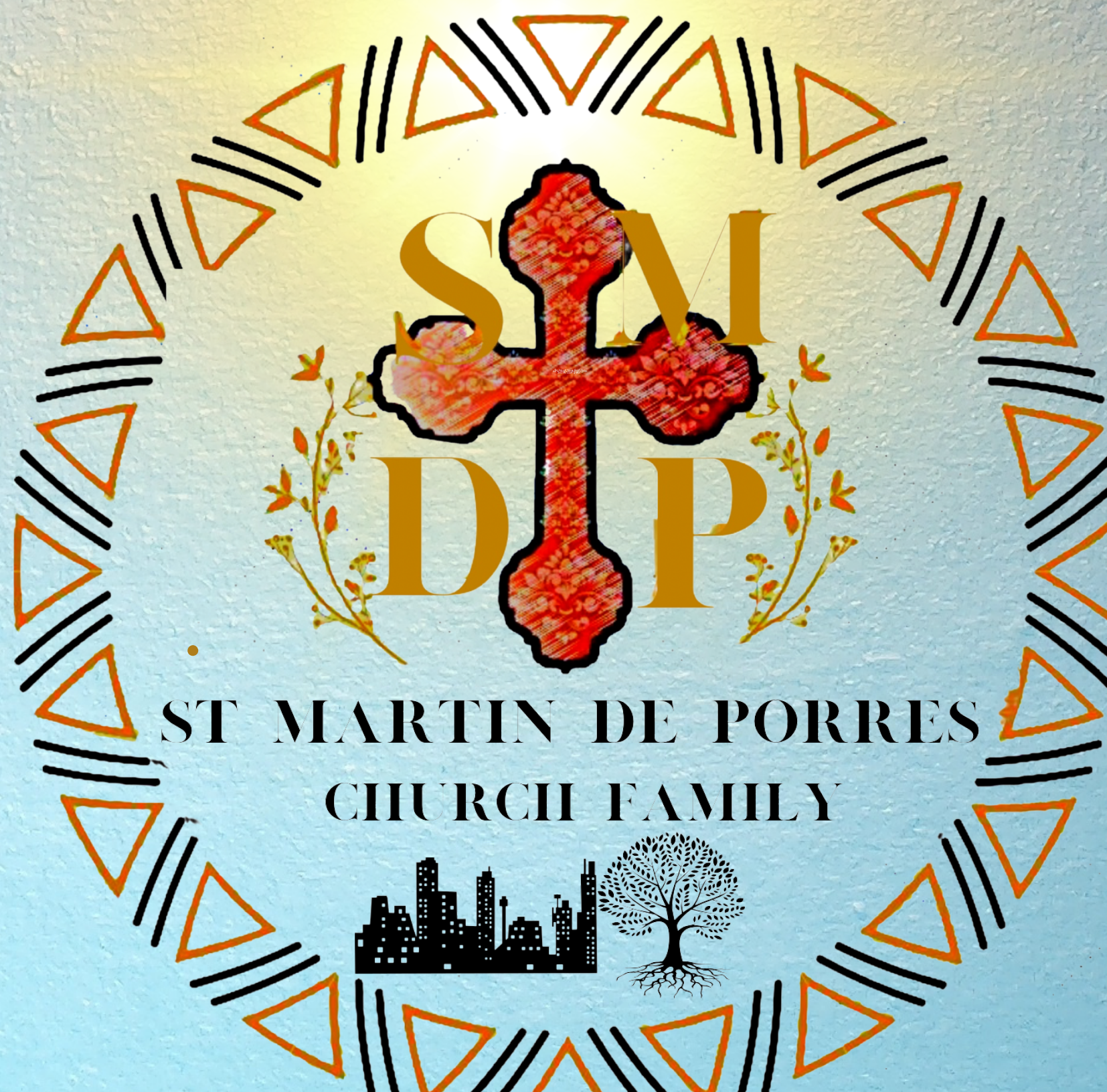


# ST. MARTIN DE PORRES

## BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER!

Pastor Addisalem T. Mekonnen  
Email: [fathermekonnen@gmail.com](mailto:fathermekonnen@gmail.com)  
Deacon Melvin Burton, Jr.  
**First Sunday of Lent**  
February 18, 2024

## AND JESUS SAID



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

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/)

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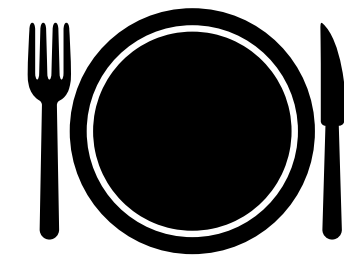
Sunday Mass at 10:00 am is available on LIVESTREAM

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

Business Manager - Mr. John Duffner

Bookkeeper - Ms. Elaine Epotalivo

Secretary - Ms. Elsie Banks



## WHY SHOULD WE HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR GUARDIAN ANGEL?

God created a Guardian Angel for every human being on earth. God created billions of Angels in one instance, and He asked them to make their choice of whether to serve each person as our Guardian Angel or not. If our guardian Angel said yes, then they immediately experience the beatific vision, which means they would behold the face of God in heaven; if they rejected us, then they became a demon. Satan would then assign that demon to attack us with temptations to disobey God's commandments, because they hate us. If our first Guardian Angel accepts us, then Satan would assign another demon to attack us. The first act of our Guardian Angel is to accept us. It is an act of love, in which they choose to serve us from the moment we are born. Our mothers' Guardian Angel would protect us until we were born. The mission of our Guardian Angel is to protect us from both physical and spiritual harm. Our Guardian Angel will also give us inspirations to pray to God, the most Holy Trinity, go to Mass on Sundays, practice Fasting, Offer up Sacrifices, and have devotion to the Holy Spouses. The Holy Spouses are our Blessed Mother and St Joseph.

Our Guardian Angel are highly intelligent, so they know our disposition for vice and virtue right after we are born. Therefore, if we want to grow in humility, then we need to ask our Guardian Angel to reveal to us our sins and he will be more than happy to do this, because we will benefit from this interior humiliation. God our Heavenly Father can hear that prayer and see that interior humiliation. Jesus made a promise, "When you pray, go into your room, and when you shut your door, pray to your Father Who is in the secret place; and your Father, who sees in secret will reward you openly." (Matthew 6:6) We will grow in humility and receive an increase of God's grace, which will help us reflect the real presence of Jesus from within our soul. The reason that our Guardian Angel may seem like M.I.A. (missing in action) is because we ignore him and that in fact limits our capacity to receive his assistance. The more we pray asking for his assistance, the more he can help us in our journey of faith. Just imagine being in a medical emergency, or if a criminal is coming to attack you, and no one calls 911. If no one makes the call, how can we blame the first responders and police officers for not responding? Think and reflect on this about the God-Man; Jesus called on angels to minister to Him while He was fasting in the desert "Then the devil left Him, and angels came and ministered to Him." (Matthew 4:11) Our Guardian Angel is eager to serve us faithfully, but he cannot force his service on anyone who rejects his helping hand.

It is important to know that the Church teaches us not to name our Guardian Angel or ask to know his name. If we name him, then it is a sign of our authority over him which is false; since only God has authority over them, and by extension our Lady as well. Conversely, if we ask to know his name, then the demon may trick us so that we have no way of being certain if that is his name, or not. It is wise and safe to just call him Guardian Angel and he knows we are speaking to him.

**Guardian Angel Prayer:** *Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day, be at my side, To light and guard, Rule and guide. Amen*

In J.M.J.

Fr. Mekonnen



# 7:00 AM Mass in Rectory Schedule & Intentions

Sunday, February 18, 2024  
in the Church  
“For the People of the Church”

Tuesday, February 20, 2024  
Rev. James A. Driscell O.P.

Thursday, February 22, 2024  
Bob Morro

Friday, February 23, 2024  
Alphonse J. DiGiovanni

Saturday, February 24, 2024  
John Whitehouse

Friday, February 23, 2024 at 6 p.m.  
Please join the 8th grade students of  
St. Martin de Porres Catholic School as they  
showcase their knowledge at the  
2nd Annual Blacks in Wax Presentation & Exhibit  
Featuring Inventors

## Congratulations!

KYLA GALLON



HONOR Student at Villa Maria Academy

Annual Mass for Persons with Disabilities  
and the Deaf Community will be held on  
Sunday, March 10, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the  
Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul.

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 – 7-9 PM  
Event: Evening of Mercy – Doors Open for  
Confession

All Catholics are invited to the Cathedral for  
an evening with the Sacrament of Penance  
and Reconciliation. Allow Jesus to unburden  
your heart this Lent through a thorough  
confession of your sins. Multiple priests will  
be available for confession, including our  
Missionaries of Mercy.

Location: Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter  
and Paul, Philadelphia 19103

True Devotion to Jesus through  
Mary by St Louis de Montfort  
33 Days Zoom meeting with  
Fr. Mekonen @ 6:30 p.m.



STARTING FEBRUARY 22ND  
ZOOM Meeting # 282 564 5789  
Mobile # (16465588656)  
(2825645789)



**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:**

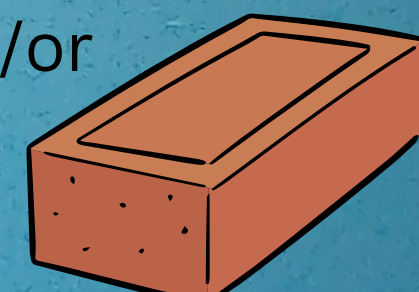
**JENAI BALLARD, CHERYL BELL, MURIEL BOOKER,  
LUCILE BROWN, ANDRE CARTER, BARBARA CARTER, JANICE  
WHITMORE-CARTER, GERALD CARTER, MARSHA COOPER,  
MELODY COOPER, MARY COOPER, HELEN DIRKSON, RITA FELDER,  
JANICE FLOYD, THERESA HART, LYNETTE FORD-HAVENS, HARRY  
W. HUBBARD, AUGUSTUS JOHNSON, KEITH JONES, MARIE  
LAWRENCIN, HAZEL MARSH, YAKAISHA MARSH, JAMES MASON,  
LISA MCLOED, WILLIAM PATTERSON, CLARENCE PRESTON, 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

## Buy a Brick Campaign

The engraved design won't fade or crack away with sun and  
weather exposure; over time the engraving will still be crisp  
and legible.

Contact Rectory office staff and/or  
complete application form  
215-228-8330



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

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

***All are Welcome!***



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAYS FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION  
OF MASS IN THE CHURCH HALL**



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 wishes 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.**

**Blessings and prayers for all celebrating  
Birthdays in the Month of February**



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

