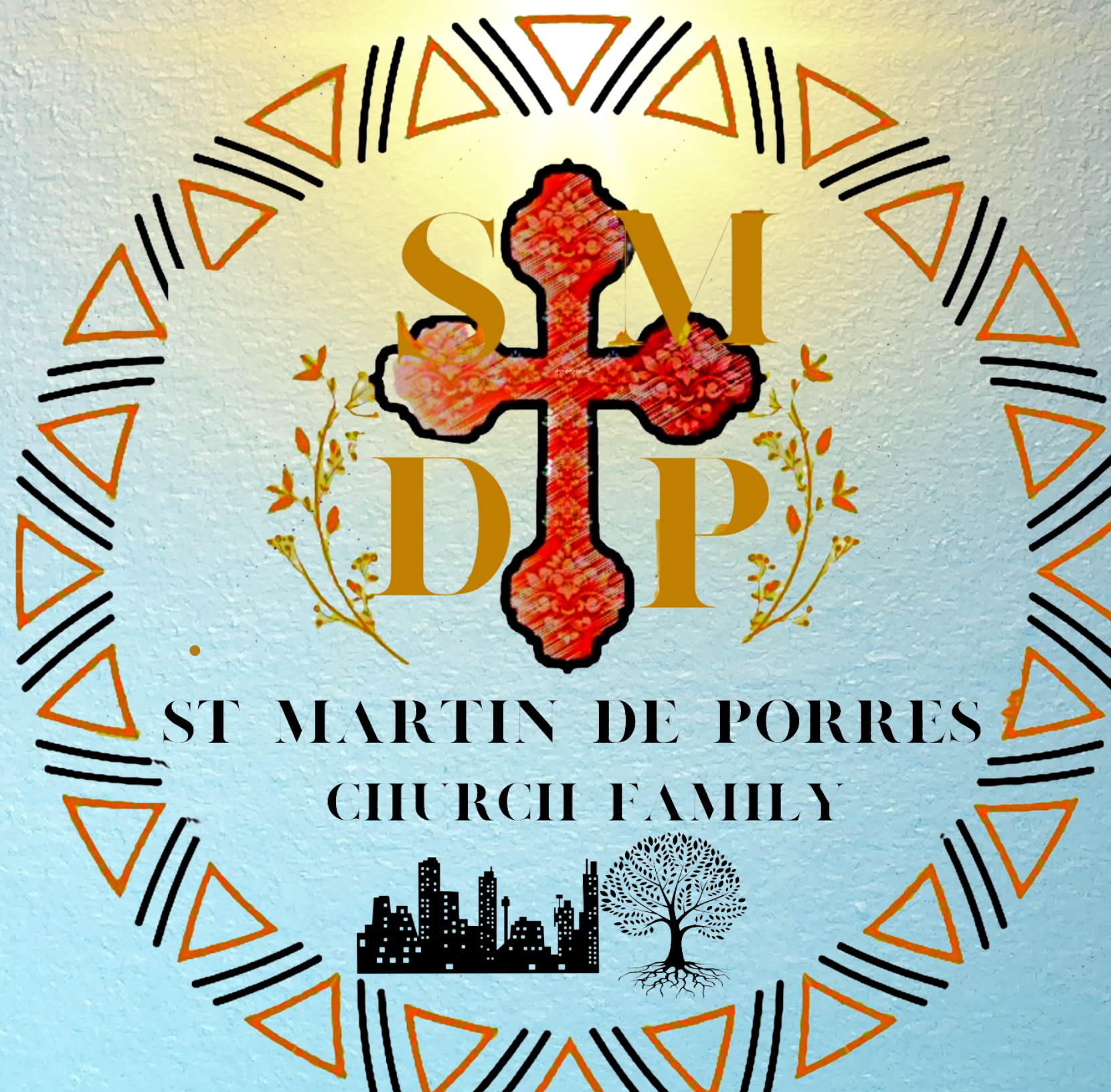


# ST. MARTIN DE PORRES

## BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER!

Pastor Addisalem T. Mekonnen  
Email: [fathermekonnen@gmail.com](mailto:fathermekonnen@gmail.com)  
Deacon Melvin Burton, Jr.  
**Third Sunday of Lent**  
March 3, 2024

## AND JESUS SAID



"You shall love your neighbor as yourself"

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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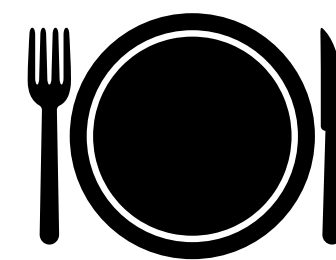
Sunday Mass at 10:00 am is available on LIVESTREAM

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

Business Manager- Mr. John Duffner

Bookkeeper - Ms. Elaine Epotalivo

Secretary - Ms. Elsie Banks



## **Why Should We Go To Confession To a Priest, When We Can Just Confess Our Sins to God ?**

One way of perceiving the proper role of the Church is to view Her as a hospital; this was a popular analogy among the early church fathers. St Augustine wrote, "The Church is a hospital for sinners." It was through Baptism that we became healed from original sin and became adopted children of God, but what remains is concupiscence, which is an inclination towards sin. We could look at this as a vaccination that we receive as infants, in which our body can build up our spiritual immune system against sin. Our blessed Lord, who is our Divine Physician, gives us the Sacrament of Confession so that we may be healed from our wounds, because He had the foresight to understand that we would continue to struggle with either serious or venial sins, even after our baptism. God permits us to have concupiscence because in His infinite wisdom, He desires to give us the opportunity to enter the spiritual battle of overcoming temptations by way of His graces, which is necessary to exercise our spiritual muscles of faith animated by charity.

Our Blessed Mother is the nurse, who gives us instructions and encourages us to trust her Son, the Divine Physician, in going to confession. We may not go to confession regularly, or at all, because we are filled with fear because we misunderstand what our Lord is doing in this sacrament of healing, which is a real miracle. I read an article online about the "The true story of the miraculous intercession of the Virgin Mary in 1944 to prisoner Claude Newman of Mississippi" in which he learned about confession from our Lady and he said "The Lady told me that when we go to confession, we are kneeling down not before a priest, but we're kneeling down by the Cross of Her Son. And that when we are truly sorry for our sins, and we confess our sins, the Blood He shed flows down over us and washes us free from all sins." This precious Blood of Christ is like a blood transfusion we need for us to make a recovery from the wounds we inflict upon ourselves through serious sins. Some Catholics may be afraid of confessing their sins before a priest, even though the priest is necessary for the sacrament; nevertheless, he is the instrument that God has chosen to use in which Christ works this miracle. "You know, the Lady said that Confession is something like a telephone. We talk through the priest to God, and God talks back to us through the priest." I would like to add on that there are no exceptions to confession, in that even priests, bishops, and popes must receive this sacrament from another priest for them to receive the healing power of Christ. The Church is the hospital that not only brings us healing, but She also gives us heavenly food which is the Holy Eucharist. The best way to prepare for reception of the Holy Eucharist is confession, because our relationship with God, self and neighbor is reconciled as we become fully mature in our spiritual life focused towards heaven. When we pray the Act of Contrition with true sorrow and a firm resolution to sin no more, we bring joy to our heavenly Father, because He desires that no one should suffer fatal wounds from sin that leads to a spiritual death. Our Lord said, "I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance" (Lk15:7). It is necessary to confess our sins both in private and before our Lord through the priest in the Sacrament of Confession.

In J.M.J.

Fr. Mekonnen

# 7:00 AM Mass in Rectory Schedule & Intentions

Sunday, March 3, 2024  
in the Church  
"For the People of the Church"

Tuesday, March 5, 2024  
Joan Blair, SSJ

Thursday, March 7, 2024  
Ellen P. Casey, SSJ

Friday, March 8, 2024  
Dennis Martin Hudgins

Saturday, March 9, 2024  
Melody Cooper

## St. John Chrysostom

607 S Providence Rd, Wallingford, PA

March 19 at 6:00 pm.

Overcoming Racism Stations of the Cross  
with our Parish. All are welcome!

March 23, 11:30 am Social Justice Stations  
of the Cross with St. John Chrysostom  
at SMdP

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.

**JUNIOR  
LEGION  
OF MARY**  
FRIDAYS

3:30 p.m. Church Hall  
**Junior Legion of Mary**

All children are invited for FUN, Roasary,  
and refreshments

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



**STARTED 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:

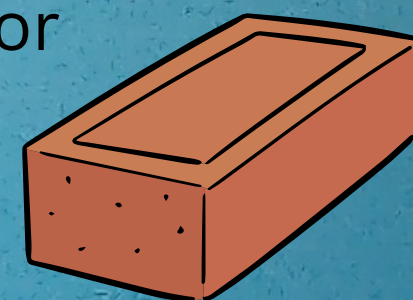
**JENAI BALLARD, CHERYL BELL, MURIEL BOOKER,  
LUCILE BROWN, ANDRE CARTER, BARBARA CARTER, JANICE  
WHITMORE-CARTER, GERALD CARTER, MARSHA COOPER,  
MELODY COOPER, MARY COOPER, HELEN DIRKSON, RITA FELDER,  
JANICE FLOYD, THERESA HART, LYNETTE FORD-HAVENS, HARRY  
W. HUBBARD, AUGUSTUS JOHNSON, MARIE LAWRENCIN, 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.**

