

ST. MARTIN DE PORRES BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER!

Pastor Addisalem T. Mekonnen
Email: fathermekonnen@gmail.com
Deacon Melvin Burton, Jr.
December 22, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!

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

Music Director - Ms. Tonya Dorsey
Business Manager- Mr. John Duffner
Bookkeeper - Ms. Ramona Milburn
Office Manager- Ms. Elizabeth Comby

7:00 AM Mass in Rectory Schedule & Intentions



**Sunday, December 22, 2024
in Church**

“For the People of the Church”

**Tuesday, December 24, 2024
4:00 pm Christmas Vigil**

**Wednesday, December 25, 2024
Christmas Day
9:00 am**

**Thursday, December 26, 2024
parish office closed
Brian Kirsch**

**Friday, December 27, 2024
Dan Gaskill**

**Saturday, December 28, 2024
Mass at 11:00 AM
Linda J. Cosonotino**

**Parish OFFICE HOURS
WEDNESDAY , THURSDAY,
FRIDAY
8:00 am- 3:00 pm**



**TUESDAY Bible Study
with Deacon Burton will
resume on January 7, 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,
BRIANNA SIMONE BRISCOLUCILE 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, , MARIE LAWRENCIN, HAZEL MARSH,
YAKAISHA MARSH, JAMES MASON, LISA MCLOED,
CLARENCE PRESTON, LOIS STREETER, TAMIKA TENDER,
RENEE TURNER, VICENTE VELAZQUEZ, AUDREY VICTOR,
JANICE WHITMORE, LISA WILLIAMS, MARY JEAN
WILLIAMS, SHARON WILLIAMS, SYLVIA WILLIAMS,
TALLUAH WILSON, CYNTHIA ORTA, EDDIE JENKINS,
VONITA HALL

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



How can the Giver and Gift become one ?

“The Giving Tree” by Shel Silverstein is a picture book that tells the evolving story of a relationship between a boy and a tree throughout the stages of the boy’s life, from childhood to old age. The narrative begins with a young boy who enjoys playing with the tree, climbing its trunk, swinging from its branches, and eating its apples. During this time, the tree is happy to provide the boy with joy and the fruits of its branches. As the boy grows older, his visits become less frequent, and his needs change. When he returns as a teenager, he asks the tree for money. The tree suggests that he sell her apples, which he does, and the tree is happy to have been able to help. Later, as a young man, the boy desires a house, and the tree offers her branches so that he can build one. Once again, the tree is happy to provide for the boy’s needs. Years pass, and the boy returns as a middle-aged man. This time, he wants a boat to sail away and find peace. The tree, now only a trunk, offers herself for the boy to carve out a boat. He does so and sails away, leaving the tree as just a stump. Finally, the boy returns as an old man, tired and seeking a quiet place to sit and rest. The tree, thinking she has nothing left to give, offers her stump for the boy, now an old man, to sit on. The boy accepts, and the tree is happy once again, able to provide the boy with comfort in his old age.

The “Giving Tree” can be seen as a parable about the relationship between God, the most Holy Trinity, and the beloved people of God. God the Father, and the tree on which Christ was crucified at Calvary represent the giving tree. The beloved people of God are represented by the boy who matures into manhood. The Israelites loved receiving gifts from God such as water, manna, meat, promise land, offspring, healings, rain, and the defeat of their enemies. Just like the boy, every time they received whatever they needed, they would soon forget God and not be interested in being with God until they needed something. God the Father, along with God the Son, and Holy Spirit are unconditional in their love for humanity. God the Father sent His beloved Son through the Holy Spirit and the fiat of the Blessed Virgin Mary, so that the Gift and Giver is made one with His believers. The wisdom of God is infinitely impressive in that it is now impossible to steal from God’s gifts and then forget God because the greatest Gift is God Himself in the flesh. No one ever imagined that the tree of life is the cross of Christ and this gift was present from Jesus’ birth until His death at Calvary. Jesus, our King, was born in poverty and so He never wanted anyone to separate Him from the tree of life which is His Holy Cross. If anyone wants to receive Jesus, then they have to accept His cross as gift because it is what enables believers to receive the Gift and Giver as one meaning in right relationship with God and all the members of the church.

in J.M.J

Fr.Mekonnen

Sundays - 9:15 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation or by appointment. Sunday Mass 10:00 a.m. All are Welcome!

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



***ROSARY ONLINE WITH FR. MEKONNEN
is Canceled this week only.***

LEGION OF MARY



Saturdays 12:00 p.m. LEGION OF MARY

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.



***Food Pantry give away
every FOURTH SUNDAY
after MASS***

New Parishioners are most welcome and are encouraged to register as soon as possible in order to become a member of our Church Family. Please see an usher after Mass and request a form. Home Blessings & Holy Communion are available. Anyone who wishes their home, to be blessed, or 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 their Birthdays in the Month of December