

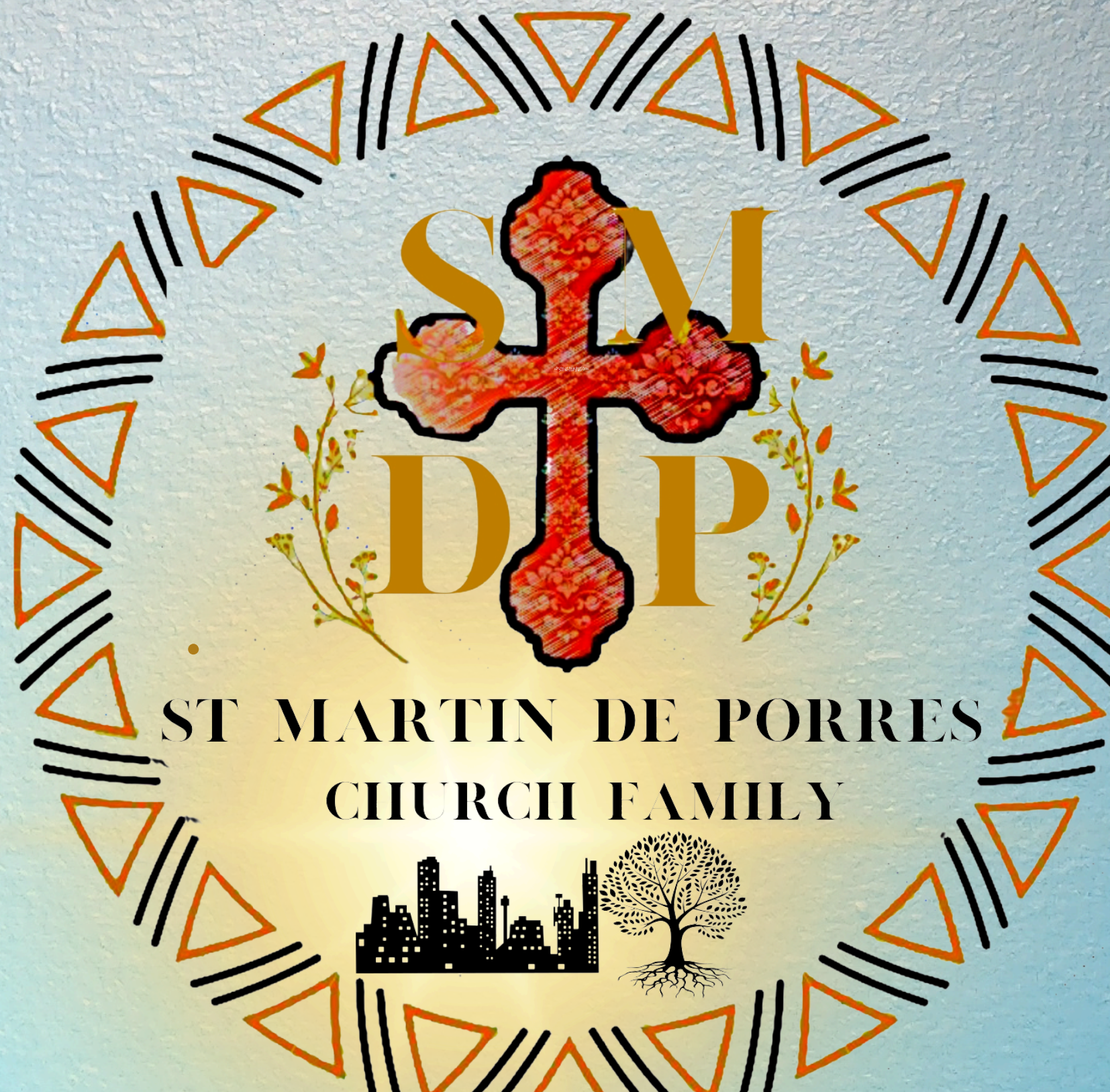
ST. MARTIN DE PORRES BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER!

Rev. Addisalem T. Mekonnen

Deacon Melvin Burton, Jr.

December 29, 2024

AND JESUS SAID



“God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all.”

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 Taylor-Dorsey

Business Manager- Mr. John Duffner

Bookkeeper - Ms. Ramona Milburn

Office Manager - Ms. Elizabeth Maitre

Remembering Fr. Addisalem T. Mekonnen

It is with great sadness that we gather here together for the weekly meeting of Our Lady of Lourdes Praesidium on the day following the death of Fr. Addisalem Mekonnen. We have a special relationship with Fr. Addisalem as he was a transitional deacon here at MDP, the spiritual director of our Praesidium, and presently the spiritual director of the Philadelphia Senatus. If you've ever heard his personal story it is very clear that his life and call to the priesthood was greatly influenced by the Blessed Mother. It was clear to anyone who spoke with him that the love of his life was the Blessed Mother. Speaking of his 8 years of seminary formation at St. Charles Borromeo, Fr. Addisalem said that eight years was not long because formation is an ongoing process that doesn't stop until the good Lord calls us home in heaven. Unfortunately for so many people in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and in the Legion of Mary, Fr. Addisalem's formation as a priest has come to an end. For those of us who knew him, today is filled with sadness and sorrow. Given his youth and unexpected passing, it is difficult to look upon his life with thanksgiving and hope. Intellectually we know that we have a lot to be thankful for, but at this moment we would just like to have our Fr. Addisalem back with us. Intellectually we know that Jesus gives us the hope of the resurrection, but right now we'd rather cling to Fr. Addisalem on earth than think of him in heaven. Our grief is part of our human nature. Jesus, true God and true man, wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. So we can confidently go to Jesus knowing that he is aware of and feels our pain. And of course, we can confidently go to our Blessed Mother knowing that she is aware of and feels our pain ... in fact, she feels it more than we do.

Let us not forget that Fr. Addisalem lived as a legionary, died as a legionary, and will be a legionary for all eternity. One day the Legion will reassemble without the loss of anyone and we will be reunited with Fr. Addisalem once again. In the meantime, we commit ourselves to prayer for Fr. Addisalem so that he be delivered from Purgatory and enter the joy of heaven.

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen"

Rev. Addisalem T. Mekonnen Obituary

Rev. Addisalem T. Mekonnen, 42, of Philadelphia, PA passed away peacefully on December 21, 2024.

Father Mekonnen was the loving son of Teshager and Tsadu (nee Abai) Mekonnen and born in Ethiopia. He attended Saint Francis de Sales Elementary school and Parkway Gamma High School.

Father Mekonnen entered Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in Overbrook in September 2007 to begin his studies for the Catholic priesthood. Father was ordained a priest by the Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap in May 2015. Father served as Parochial Vicar of Nativity of our Lord Parish, Warminster, Saint Anselm Parish, Philadelphia, and Saint Martin de Porres Parish, Philadelphia. Most recently Father Mekonnen, served as the Pastor of Saint Martin de Porres Parish, Philadelphia since July 2020. Father was also the dedicated Archdiocesan Spiritual Director of the Legion of Mary.

Beloved son of Teshager and Tsadu Mekonnen; Loving brother of Tesfay Mekonnen, Eskiar Mekonnen, Eyob Mekonnen, Solomon (Rutha) Mekonnen, Semere (Ivorie) Mekonnen and Daniel Amalak. Devoted Uncle to Nyla Mekonnen, Lydia Mekonnen, Layla Mekonnen, Zala Mekonnen, Freweny Gebrekidan, Minase Mekonnen, Bana Mekonnen, Ezana Mekonnen, Bazen Mekonnen, Haile Mekonnen and Kidane Mekonnen. He is predeceased by his relatives who passed on before him.

Relatives and friends are invited to his Viewing, Friday, December 27, 2024 8:30AM St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, 4625 Springfield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19143 and to his Funeral Mass 10:30AM in the church. Int. SS Peter Paul Cemetery.

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

Sunday Mass 10:00 a.m.

All are Welcome!



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

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.

Blessings and prayers for all celebrating Birthdays in the Month of December



**Bible Study
with Deacon Burton
Resume January 7, 2025
Bible study @ 6:30PM with Deacon
Melvin / ZOOM Meeting # 570-117-
8316 / by phone -
16468769923,,5701178316 /**



**Rectory Office Hours:
Wednesday - Fridays 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Saturdays 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

