

Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church

2340 W. Lehigh Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19132
215.228.8330

Our Clergy
Parochial Administrator: Fr. Wilfred Emeh
Permanent Deacon: Melvin Burton Jr.

March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent in Year C

Mass Schedule

Weekday Masses:
In Chapel
Monday & Wednesday 9 am

At Temple Newman Ctr
Tuesday and Thursday
12:10 pm
(except winter and
summer break)

Sunday Mass
In Church
10 am

Adoration

Wednesdays at 10 to 11 am (Chapel)
Lenten Season
Friday
5 pm to 6 pm (Church)
Followed by Stations of the Cross

Reconciliation

Sunday's 9:15 - 10 am
or by appt.

Parish Office Hours :
8 am to 4 pm Monday -
Thursday

Parish Staff

Business Mgr. John Duffner
Bookkeeper Ramona Milburn
Music Director -Tonya Dorsey
Office Mgr. - Elizabeth Maitre



Why do Catholics go to Confession?

On this fourth Sunday of Lent, our Gospel reading is the familiar story of the Prodigal Son. This story demonstrates God's unfathomable love and compassion toward his children. The prodigal son could be any one of us at any point in our life when we wander away from God. This gospel is typically used during penitential services to recall God's love and the need to turn away from sin and come back to God.

It is customary for Catholics to go to confession regularly, but even when we cannot do so throughout the year, there is one time when it is absolutely necessary to go to confession: Easter. Speaking about why we go to confession, I would like to share Fr Saunder's reflection:

Jesus entered this world to forgive sins. Recall the words of our Lord: "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him may not die but may have eternal life." (Jn 3:16). During His public ministry, Jesus preached about forgiveness of sins: remember the parables of the Prodigal Son (Lk 15:11ff) or the Lost Sheep (Lk 15:1ff), and His teaching that "There will likewise be more joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than over 99 righteous people who do not need to repent." (Lk 15:7) Jesus Himself forgave sins: remember the story of the woman caught in adultery (Jn 8:1ff) or the woman who washed His feet with her tears. (Lk 7:36ff) He also taught us to pray for forgiveness in the "Our Father:" "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." His mission of reconciliation would climax in His passion, death, and resurrection: Jesus suffered, died, and rose to free us from sin and death.

Jesus wanted this ministry of reconciliation to continue. On the first Easter Sunday evening, Jesus appeared to His Apostles, "breathed on them," and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive men's sins, they are forgiven; if you hold them bound, they are held bound." (Jn 20:21-23) Only twice in Sacred Scripture do we find God breathing into human beings? First, in the Genesis account of creation, God breathes the life of a soul into the man He has created. (Gen 2:7) Now, Jesus, the Son, breathes His life into His Apostles, His priests, so that through them He will breathe life into the souls of contrite sinners. In this scene, Christ instituted the sacrament of penance and appointed His Apostles as its ministers.

Therefore, we go to confession because it is a sacrament given to us by Christ, and it has always been a practice of the Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgy Meeting

Holy Week is the most significant period of our faith's mysteries. We need adequate preparation to make it spiritually profitable for everyone. We will have a planning meeting on Sunday, March 30, after 10 a.m. Mass. The music director, deacon, readers, ushers, and everyone involved in the Easter liturgy should attend.

Penitential Service

In preparation for Easter, we shall have a penitential service in the church on Saturday, April 5, at 6 pm..

The Holy Rosary

During this season of Lent, we should renew our commitment to praying the rosary individually and as a community.

When we pray the rosary, we unite ourselves to Jesus with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We shall pray the rosary every Sunday during Lent, beginning at 9.30 am.

Be a Part of the Conversation, Take the Survey!

Please see trustandhope.org to read the letter from Archbishop Nelson Perez to learn more about the vision for us to come together to encounter each other with open hearts to build the strongest possible church of Philadelphia.

Fridays of Lent- 5pm-6 pm

Exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

As Catholics, we believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

We are in his divine presence when Jesus is exposed in the Blessed Sacrament.

During his passion in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus wanted his special friends, Peter, James, and John, to stay awake for an hour of prayer.

The adoration hour is a precious moment in which we immerse ourselves in worship, intimately united with the passion of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Jesus invites us:

“Come to me all you are weary and burdened and I will give you rest” (Mtt11:28).

How to pray during adoration. You can fill the hour with any of these prayers

- Thanking God for blessings
- Ask for forgiveness(contrition)
- Praise and worship
- Make your requests(include intention for lapsed Catholics to come back to church.
- Say the rosary
- Read scripture or spiritual reading
- Say the Psalm
- Make silent moments; be there for at least 10 minutes
- Listen to praise and worship songs(during guided Holy Hour)

How to Go to Confession: A Step-by-Step Guide

Enter the confessional and greet the priest. Begin by making the sign of the cross and say, “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It’s been [however many days/months/years] since my last confession.”

List your sins. Mention venial sins, which occur every day, and mortal sins, which are more serious. Try to be thorough, but it’s OK if you don’t remember every single sin. It doesn’t have to be a non-stop laundry list of sins. When you’re done, conclude by saying “I’m sorry for these and all my sins.”

Listen to the priest. When you’re done confessing your sins, the priest may offer some guidance and suggest ways to avoid sins in the future. He’ll then give you a penance.

Pray the Act of Contrition: My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. ' In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

Receive absolution from God via the priest. The priest will absolve you from your sins, and you will make the sign of the cross as he blesses you. When he dismisses you, respond, Thanks be to God

Prayer to St. Monica

Eternal and merciful Father, I thank you for the gift of Your Divine Son, Jesus Christ, who offered His life on the Cross for all mankind. I thank you also for the gift of the Catholic faith that I share. Help me to grow in faithfulness to You by prayer, by works of charity and penance, and by regular participation in the Sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist. You gave Saint Monica a spirit of selfless love manifested in her constant prayer for the conversion of her son, Augustine. Inspired by boundless confidence in Your power to move hearts and the success of her prayer, I ask for the grace to imitate her constancy in my prayer for (N.). In Your mercy and kindness, O Lord, grant that (he/she/they) may be open to the promptings of Your Holy Spirit to return to Your love and mercy in the communion of Your Church. Grant also that my prayer be ever hopeful and my witness be ever joyful. And grant me, O Lord, the grace never to judge another person's motives, for You alone can read what is in our hearts. I ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Rosary/Bible Study

with Deacon Burton
Tuesday at 6:00 pm
Zoom Meeting # 570-117-8316
Phone: 1-646-568-7788 HostKey # 20165

Mass Intentions

Sunday: Frank & Beverly McPoyle (*Fr. Wilfred*)
Monday: Joann Fox Hyboky (*Fr. Wilfred*)
Tuesday: Michael Harding (*Fr. Wilfred*)
Wednesday: Patrick Peterson (*Fr. Wilfred*)
Thursday: Fallen Away Catholics (*Fr. Wilfred*)
Friday: Protect Children from Evil (*Fr. Wilfred*)
Saturday: Thanksgiving for all of the Animals
(Fr. Wilfred)

Prayers for Parishioners

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, Hazel
Marsh, Yakaisha Marsh, Lisa McCloed,
William Patterson, Clarence Preston, Lois
Streeter, Tamika Tender, Vicente Velazquez,
Audrey Victor, Janice Whitmore, Lisa
Williams, Mary Jean Williams, Rosa Gallon,
Lenora Chapman, Flora Hall, Patricia Moon,
Lakia Moon, Edna Moon Wilkes, Paul J.
Haggerty, Jenai Ballard

The 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 the whole world through the apostolate of the Legion.
Please call rectory for information.

Parish Mission Statement

We are a Catholic Community nourished by the Word of God and the Eucharist to proclaim the good news of salvation in North Philadelphia. Inspired by our Patron Saint Martin de Porres, we strive to welcome everyone, regardless of race or background and to attend to the needy of our community. We aspire to be a beacon of hope in the City of Philadelphia, moved by an unwavering determination to revive, rebuild trust, and mediate a loving relationship between the people of our city and Jesus Christ.

Vision Statement

Our Vision is to form intentional disciples and to build a faith filled and vibrant church community through a commitment to faith formation, prayer, Eucharistic celebration and Adoration, and care for the less fortunate brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit we shall recreate the spirit of the early Christian community.