

# Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church

2340 W. Lehigh Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19132  
215.228.8330  
Parish Website: <http://smdpphiladelphia.com>  
Email: [SaintMartindePorres2340@gmail.com](mailto:SaintMartindePorres2340@gmail.com)

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

August 17, 2025

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Year C



## Mass Schedule

Weekday Masses:  
In Chapel

Tuesday & Thursday 9 am

At Temple Newman Ctr  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
12:10 pm

(except winter and  
summer break)

Sunday Mass  
In Church  
10 am

## Adoration

Thursday's 10 to 11 am  
(Chapel)

## Reconciliation

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

## Office Hours

Tuesday through Friday  
8 am to 4pm

## Parish Staff

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

EACH ONE CATCH ONE  
CAN YOU LEAD SOMEONE TO CHRIST ?

## Moral Courage in Preaching the Gospel

James Garfield once said that the truth will set you free, but first it will make you miserable. This means that while accepting and acknowledging reality can lead to positive change and liberation, the initial process of facing brutal truths can be painful and uncomfortable. It is by courageously living out our religious convictions with commitment, as Jeremiah, Paul, and Jesus did, even if doing so causes divisions in families and society and invites suffering and death. If no one is ever offended by the quality of our commitment to Christ, then perhaps we are practicing "inoffensive Christianity."

Jeremiah, in our first reading, is shown as experiencing God's fiery word burning inside him. His preaching divided the city and caused such opposition that people wanted to kill him. Showing the courage of his prophetic calling, he told the king that the Lord had said he must surrender to the powerful Babylonian army to save Israel. Fearing how the nobles would react to this command to surrender, the king silenced Jeremiah and refused to obey God's word. As a result, Jeremiah was cast into a deep, muddy, unused cistern to die for his "treason." Standing in this prophetic tradition, Paul, in the second reading, urges Judeo-Christians to stay firm in their faith in Jesus, despite the ostracism enforced by their former Jewish community.

In today's Gospel, Jesus preaches the word of God, which continues to divide families—a word he knew would ultimately lead to his death. The fire Jesus brings is the fire of love and hope. The disruption, division, and revolution caused by Jesus and his faithful followers through sacrificial love and justice are necessary to repair what's broken, put right what's misplaced, and cleanse what's infected in the world and the Body of Christ. In other words, the healing pain caused by Jesus' ideas and ideals is essential for establishing God's true shalom. Although Jesus brings a "sword" and causes division, he is the one who offers the only true and lasting peace. In pursuing his mission, Jesus creates division because some follow him and others oppose him.

Be God's prophets and God's microphones. God sends His prophets to deliver His message to the world in every century. Saint Oscar Romero, Archbishop and Martyr; Saint Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa; canonized October 4, 2016, by Pope Francis), Pope St. John Paul II, Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Martin Luther King, Fannie Lou Hamer, Dom Helder Camara, Maura Clark, Dorothy Kazel, Ita Ford, Jeanne Donovan, and Ella Baker were all twentieth-century prophets who had the courage of their Christian convictions to follow Jesus and proclaim His unfiltered message, which "cast fire on earth" and caused healthy division in society, as today's Gospel points out.

We should keep the fire of Christ burning in our hearts: On our baptism day, we received the light of Christ and were told to keep that flame shining brightly until Christ Jesus comes again. Additionally, the Holy Spirit was sent into our hearts through Baptism and Confirmation to help ignite our faith. "One who is on fire cannot sit on a chair." So, as passionate Christians, we need to inspire others to care for, serve, and bless one another with all the gifts of faith. We should allow that fire to burn away impurities within us and reveal the purity of the gold and silver inside.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **From the Brown Family**

We are asking you to join us in a prayer for Jamal Brown, son of Vanessa. Jamal left us on December 1, 2024 and tomorrow would be his 36<sup>th</sup> birthday. Our family misses him immensely. He had a special place in all of our hearts. He was the person in the family always ready to show you a good time. He was a father, son, brother and always there for all of us. Thank you, the Brown family.

### **Prayers and Congratulations !!!**

Today will be Scott's last day Serving Mass. We will miss him but we are so happy for him that he will be moving to his dorm at Seton Hall ! We invite the entire Church Family to say a prayer over Scott today. Congratulations Scott !!!

### **Sister Bea Jeffries, SBS Black Catholic Formation Program**

Fall Semester begins Sept 11, fully reimbursable from the Martin de Porres Foundation. Register now ! See Table for brochure or <https://officeforblackcatholicsadphila.org/>.

### **Annointing of the Sick/Homebound Parishioners**

If you know a homebound parishioner who would like to receive Holy Communion and a visti, please get in touch with the parish office to schedule an appointment.

### **2025 Catholic Charities Appeal.**

The Catholic Charities Appeal (CCA) is more than a campaign—it is a powerful expression of our faith in action. Every parish plays a vital role in bringing Christ's love to those who need it most, and that impact begins with you.

As we enter the final stretch of the Appeal, we are inviting all parishes to come together in renewed solidarity through a dedicated In-Pew Weekend this October. This moment is an opportunity to reignite awareness, inspire generosity, and finish the year strong. Together, let's continue to be a source of compassion, dignity, and hope in our communities.

### **The Martin de Porres Foundation**

The Martin de Porres Foundation will be supporting Black Catholics throughout our Archdiocese through reimbursing registration fees 100% for Archdiocesan programs See <https://officeforblackcatholicsadphila.org/annual-events/> for dates and information.

### **Daily Reading for Sunday August 17, 2025**

Reading 1, Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10, Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 40

Gospel, Luke 12:49-53, Reading 2, Hebrews 12: 1-4

18 August 2025 – Monday

First Reading: Judges 2:11-19, Psalm 106, Gospel: Matthew 19:16-22

19 August 2025 – Tuesday

First Reading: Judges 6:11-24a, Psalm 85,

Gospel: Matthew 19:23-30

20 August 2025 – Wednesday

First Reading: Judges 9:6-15, Psalm 21, Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

21 August 2025 – Thursday

First Reading: Judges 11:29-39a, Psalm 40, Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

22 August 2025 – Friday

First Reading: Ruth 1:1,3-6,14b-16,22, Psalm 146, Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

23 August – Saturday

First Reading: Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11, 4:13-17, Psalm 128, Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

**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.

**Invite Someone to Church**

As we strive to grow our church attendance, every parishioner is a missionary disciple, sent out to share the gospel with family, friends, and neighbors and to invite someone to church. We are called to create a welcoming church environment and care for our visitors.

**Mass Intention Sunday August 17, 2025**

Samuel Shields Streeter

**Prayers for Parishioners**

Muriel Booker, Lucile Brown, Andre Carter, Barbara Carter, Janice Whitmore-Carter, Gerald Carter, Melody Cooper, Mary Cooper, Helen Dirkson, Janice Floyd, Theresa Hart, Lynette Ford - Havens, Harry W. Hubbard, Hazel Marsh, Yakaisha Marsh, Lisa McCleod, Clarence Preston, Lois Streeter, Tamika Tender, Vicente Velazquez, Audrey Victor, Janice Whitmore, Lisa Williams, Mary Jean Williams, Flora Hall, Lakia Moon, Edna Moon Wilkes, Jenai Ballard, Kimberly Jenks-Johnson, Gwenda Perry, Marsha Cooper

**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.