

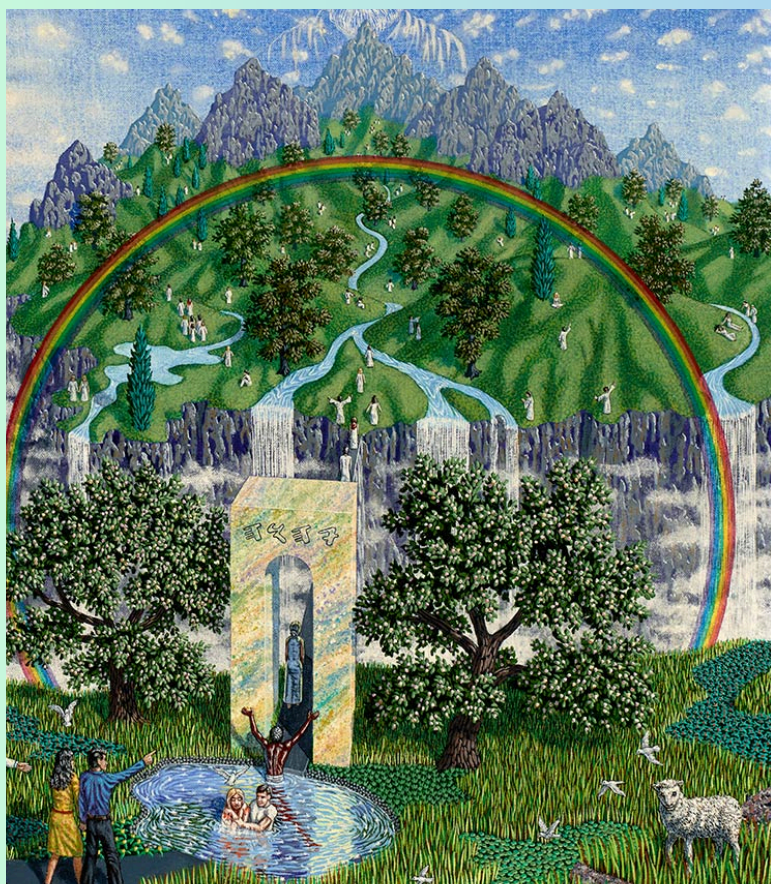
Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church

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

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

August 24, 2025

**21st 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 ?**

Are you Saved?

Venerable Bishop Fulton J. Sheen tells us there will be three surprises in Heaven. The first surprise is that we might be shocked to see that many people we thought would be in Heaven are not there. St. John of the Cross explains why: “At the evening of our life, we shall be judged on how we have loved.” The second surprise is that we will be amazed to see that people we never expected to see in Heaven are there. This is because God judges peoples intentions and rewards them accordingly. The third surprise is that we will be astonished to find ourselves in Heaven! Since our journey to Heaven is mainly God’s work, we will be surprised to realize that God went out of His way to save us, simply because we showed the willingness and generosity to accept His grace. In today’s Gospel, Jesus answers the question of who will be saved, when, and how.

In the first reading, Isaiah’s prophecy speaks to the future Babylonian exiles returning to Jerusalem after about 64 years in captivity, telling them that salvation is not limited to the Jewish people, and that is why Yahweh will also welcome pagans into Judaism. The prophet’s great book ends as it begins — with a vision of all the peoples of the world streaming toward Jerusalem, acknowledging and praising the God of Israel.

In the second reading, exploring with his readers the consequences of Christian commitment, St. Paul describes “the narrow gate” of Jesus as the pain and suffering resulting from the loving discipline God gives His children to free them from sin and draw them into His Light, Life, and Love.

When the questioner asked Jesus, “How many will be saved?” he assumed that God’s chosen people’s salvation was almost inevitable, as long as they kept the Law. In other words, the Kingdom of God was only for the Jews, and Gentiles would be excluded. From Jesus’ response, we see how foolish it is for people, like Jehovah’s Witnesses, to believe they know the exact number of the saved: 144,000. Jesus affirms that God wants everyone to have eternal life. However, he emphasizes the need for constant faithfulness and alertness throughout our lives.

God allows us to decide every day which road to take and which gate to choose. He encourages us, however, to choose His way: “Choose life” (Moses – Dt 30:19-20); “Choose this day whom to serve” (Joshua – Jos 24:15); If God is Lord, follow Him” (Elijah – 1 Kgs 18:21); “There are two paths: one of life and one of death, and the difference between the two is great.” (Didache)

The parable of the locked door warns us that the time to enter through the “narrow gate” is limited. Each day sees endings and missed opportunities — “Opportunity will not knock twice at your door,” says the proverb. It may be helpful to use the old Examination of Conscience we were asked to do each evening, kneeling to ask God’s pardon for our faults and sins of the day that has just ended: “How aware was I today of God’s many gifts? How well did I respond to the chances to witness and serve in Jesus’ name — to forgive, feed, clothe, and love those who entered my life? How much effort did I put forth today to enter through the narrow gate of sacrificial love in action?”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Catholic Women's Conference 2025 – 10 Year Anniversary

Saturday, October 18, 2025 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa 654 Ferry Road Doylestown, PA

<https://www.catholicwomensconference.org/>

AbbeyFest 2025 Sept 20 , 2025 National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa

AbbeyFest is a large outdoor afternoon Mass and solemn evening candlelight Eucharistic procession, Adoration and Benediction. We are blessed each year to have Archbishop Nelson Perez as our principal celebrant! Celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and worship Our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

<https://theabbeyfest.com/> for music line up and ticket information.

Flea Market at Saint Barbara Roman Catholic Church, Saturday September 20, 2025

Registration for a table is Monday August 25, 2025 -Call 215.477.3566 for information.

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/>.

Anointing of the Sick/Homebound Parishioners

If you know a homebound parishioner who would like to receive Holy Communion and a visit, 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 24, 2025

Reading 1, Isaiah 66:18-21, Responsorial Psalm 117

Gospel, Luke 13:22-30, Reading 2, Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

25 August 2025 – Monday

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, Psalm 149, Gospel: Matthew 23:13-22

26 August 2025 – Tuesday

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Psalm 139, Gospel: Matthew 23:23-26

27 August 2025 – Wednesday

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Psalm 139, Gospel: Matthew 23:27-32

28 August 2025 – Thursday

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13, Psalm 90, Gospel: Matthew 24:42-51

29 August 2025 – Friday

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8, Psalm 97, Gospel: Mark 6:17-29

30 August – Saturday

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11, Psalm 98, Gospel: Matthew 24:14-30

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 24, 2025

Sister Barbara Glennon, SSJ

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.