

# 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 31, 2025

**22nd 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 ?**

## The Virtue of Humility

How often do we hear the call to be humble? Humility is a virtue that everyone needs to develop for a thriving community. The word humility comes from the Latin word *humus*, which means “fertile soil.” In other words, to be humble is to be willing to accept who we are, especially regarding our talents, abilities, limitations, and weaknesses. Humility does not mean thinking less of ourselves; it means thinking more of others. It means living as Jesus lived – not for ourselves, but for others. For just as pride is the root of all sins, “humility is the root, mother, nurse, foundation and bond of all virtue,” as St. John Chrysostom once remarked.

The first reading, taken from the book of Sirach, reminds us that if we are humble, we will find favor with God, and others will love us in return. The second reading, taken from the letter to the Hebrews, gives another reason to be humble, comparing and contrasting the awe-inspiring majesty of the Old Testament God with the meek and humble God of the New Testament, as revealed in the person of Jesus. Jesus, the Only-begotten Son of God, humbled Himself by taking on human flesh and choosing to die the most humiliating death of crucifixion. The Letter to the Hebrews challenges us to imitate Jesus in his humility.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus explains the practical benefits of humility, linking it to common wisdom about dining etiquette. Jesus advises guests to sit in the lowest place instead of seeking seats of honor, so that the host may give them the place they truly deserve. His words about seating at a wedding banquet should encourage us to honor those whom others ignore. By being generous and fair to those in need, we can trust in the Lord’s blessings.

St. Augustine said: *“Humility is so necessary for Christian perfection that among all the ways to reach perfection, humility is first, humility is second, and humility is third.”* He added, *“Humility makes men angels, and pride makes angels devils.”* St. Bernard declared, *“Pride sends man from the highest elevation to the lowest abyss, but humility raises him from the lowest abyss to the highest elevation.”*

Humility is rooted in the understanding that everything we have is a gift from God, so we have no reason to boast. We should not use these God-given gifts to lift ourselves above others. Therefore, humility involves understanding our true worth. It requires us neither to overestimate nor underestimate our gifts and limitations. The humility that the Gospel calls us to has nothing to do with self-deprecation that robs us of proper self-esteem. We must honestly acknowledge the truth about ourselves: we do not know everything, we do not do everything perfectly, and we are all imperfect sinners.

The quality of humility that Jesus discusses also has a sociological aspect. Jesus is calling us to associate with the so-called “lower classes” of society—even the outcasts. He invites us to alter our social patterns so that we connect with the homeless, the disabled, the elderly, and the impoverished—the “street people” of the world—with *agápe* love. Let us pray for humility because it is the only path to charity. Humility and charity are deeply connected: the level of one’s charity equals the depth of one’s humility. Remember that the Lord’s banquet is all about charity. The one who loves and gives the most will be rewarded with the highest place.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Saint Martin de Porres PREP Program**

Saint Martin de Porres Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) will begin this fall. PREP teaches about the Catholic faith, the Bible, and the Sacraments (Baptism, Penance, and Eucharist), and they are a vital part of preparing children to become fully initiated members of the Catholic community and to receive their sacraments. Adult volunteers are needed. Please call the rectory office for more information.

### **Communications Team**

Our Communications Team is looking to train any interested volunteers to help with live streaming. No experience necessary. Adults only please. Anyone interested, please call the rectory for information.

### **Mass Intentions**

A mass intention is a specific prayerful purpose for which a Catholic Mass is offered, such as for the repose of a deceased soul, the healing of a sick person, a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary, or in thanksgiving to God. Mass Intention requests can be placed in the collection basket, please mark envelope "Mass Intention". A Mass intention stipend is \$ 10.00 .

### **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.

### **Food for Thought**

We need to remember that we are guests: We celebrate the coming Banquet Feast in Heaven every time we gather for Our Lord's Supper in Holy Mass. We are the (spiritually) poor, crippled, lame, and blind that Christ calls to Himself. We are spiritually poor and in need of the Lord's true riches; spiritually crippled and in need of the Lord's help to be made whole; spiritually lame and in need of the Lord's grace to walk by faith; and spiritually blind, in need of the light of faith to see clearly. Our place is assured. Let us accept Jesus' invitation by actively participating in this Eucharistic celebration. As God's guests in this world, we should act humbly and remember that we are always in the presence of Someone greater than we are. As hosts of God's people, we should offer hospitality to those who cannot reward us. Surely, we do not have to leave out our friends and families, but neither should we exclude the poor and disabled.

### **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 31, 2025**

Reading 1, Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29, Responsorial Psalm 68  
Gospel, Luke 14:1, 7-14, Reading 2, Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a

#### **1 September 2025 – Monday**

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Psalm 96, Gospel: Luke 4:16-30

#### **2 September 2025 – Tuesday**

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, Psalm 27, Gospel: Luke 4:31-37

#### **3 September 2025 – Wednesday**

First Reading: Colossians 1: 1-8, Psalm 52, Gospel: Luke :38-44

#### **4 September 2025 – Thursday**

First Reading: Colossians 1:9-14, Psalm 100, Gospel: Luke 5:33-39

#### **5 September 2025 – Friday**

First Reading: Colossians 1:15-20, Psalm 97, Gospel: Mark 6:17-29

#### **6 September – Saturday**

First Reading: Colossians 1:21-23, Psalm 54, Gospel: Luke 6: 1-5

**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.

**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.