

Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church

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Parish Website: <http://smdpphiladelphia.com>
Email: SaintMartindePorres2340@gmail.com

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

September 7, 2025

**23rd 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 ?**

Dedication to God and detachment from worldly attachments

Today's passage in Luke confuses many people because in the Middle East, anyone who intentionally cuts ties with family and social networks would lose the usual ways of earning a living. Moreover, a person's life and family relationships are crucial for security and identity, no matter their social standing.

Why was Jesus, who had been urging his followers to love everyone—including their enemies—suddenly saying that no one could be his disciple unless he hated his own family? The Hebrew language does not have comparatives—it is not possible in Hebrew, for example, to say you love something “more” or “less” than another. It only makes sense to speak of loving or hating. The phrase, “If anyone follows me and does not hate father and mother,” should be understood as: “If anyone follows me, without preferring me to father and mother....” To see this, we only need to look at the same idea in the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus says: “Whoever loves father and mother more than me is not worthy of me” (Mt 10:37).

Furthermore, the word “hate,” as used here, is a Semitic exaggeration that may reflect an idiom meaning ‘love less than’ (Oxford Bible Commentary). It is clear that Jesus’ “hating” one’s family is a Semitic hyperbole or exaggeration used for emphasis. Matthew’s Gospel clarifies this: “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.” (Mt 10:37-38).

Thus, the word “hate,” in Hebrew, does not mean “detest,” but rather “to put in second place.” Jesus is not calling us to hate father and mother, but rather urging us to prioritize our commitment above all other obligations, including family. When Jesus said, “hate your family,” he was referring to spiritual detachment—the ability to put God first before other relationships and before self-interest. Without such detachment, one cannot truly follow Jesus. Jesus cannot just be a part of our lives; he must be the center because without God, we can do nothing! Love for Christ does not exclude other loves; instead, it arranges them properly.

According to Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran theologian martyred by Hitler, “Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, Baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, and grace without Jesus.... Cheap grace costs us nothing (in the short term). Costly grace costs us our life, but it is also the source of the only true and complete life.”

Jesus’ call for true Christian discipleship can only be accepted if we practice detachment and renunciation daily. Authentic discipleship requires a genuine commitment to the duties given to us by life, circumstances, the community, or directly by God Himself, along with loving acts of selfless, humble, and sacrificial love offered to all of God’s children. Remember, all this is only possible if we rely on prayer and the Holy Spirit’s guidance. Mother Teresa said, “If we have our Lord amid us, with daily Mass and Holy Communion, I fear nothing for the Sisters nor myself; he will look after us. But without him I cannot be. I am helpless” (MFG, p. 26).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Council Meeting

Our next Parish Council Meeting will be held after Mass on September 14. Members have been notified via email.

2025 Catholic Charities Appeal (CCA) In-Pew Commitment Weekend October 11 and 12

Envelopes will be in pews for Catholic Charities Appeal. Please help us support this very important cause, Catholic Charities is the heart of the Church's mission in action, delivering vital support across the Philadelphia region, providing food, housing, and care for seniors, families, and individuals with disabilities. Please help Catholic Charities nourish, shelter, support, and empower those in need.

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.

Food for Thought

Taking up our own cross does not mean seeking out suffering. Jesus did not seek his cross; he accepted it willingly, out of loving obedience to the Father, and through his obedient love, he transformed it from a symbol of torture into a sign of redemption and glory. Jesus did not come to make human crosses heavier, but to give them meaning. It has been rightly said that "whoever looks for Jesus without the cross will find the cross without Jesus," that is, he will undoubtedly find the cross but not the strength to carry it. Though "bearing a cross" is often associated with accepting chronic illness, painful physical conditions, or difficult family relationships, it also includes what we do voluntarily, as a result of our commitment to Jesus Christ.

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.

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 September 7, 2025

Reading 1, Wisdom 9:13-18b, Responsorial Psalm 90
Gospel, Luke 14:25-33, Reading 2, Philemon 9-10, 12-17

8 September 2025 – Monday

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4a, Psalm 13, Gospel: Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23

9 September 2025 – Tuesday

First Reading: Colossians 2:6-15, Psalm 145, Gospel: Luke 6:12-19

10 September 2025 – Wednesday

First Reading: Colossians 3:1-11, Psalm 145, Gospel: Luke 6:20-26

11 September 2025 – Thursday

First Reading: Colossians 3:12-17, Psalm 150, Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

12 September 2025 – Friday

First Reading: 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14, Psalm 16, Gospel: Luke 6:39-42

13 September – Saturday

First Reading: 1 Timothy 1:15-17, Psalm 113, Gospel: Luke 6:43-49



Blessed Carlo Acutis to be Canonized a Saint Sunday September 7, 2025

Born in 1991, Carlo Acutis, a Catholic teenager known for creating websites that cataloged 187 Eucharist Miracles before his death in 2006 will be canonized Sunday September 7, 2025 by Pope Leo XIV. Carlo's witness of faith as a child led adults to convert and be baptized. Carlo was a faithful friend. He was known for standing up for kids at school who got bullied, especially kids with disabilities. When a friend's parents were getting a divorce, Carlo made a special effort to include his friend in the Acutis' family life. With his friends, he spoke about the importance of going to Mass and confession, human dignity, and chastity.

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/46048/who-was-carlo-acutis-a-cna-explainer>

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, 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, Sheila Ward

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.