

Saint Martin de Porres

Catholic Church

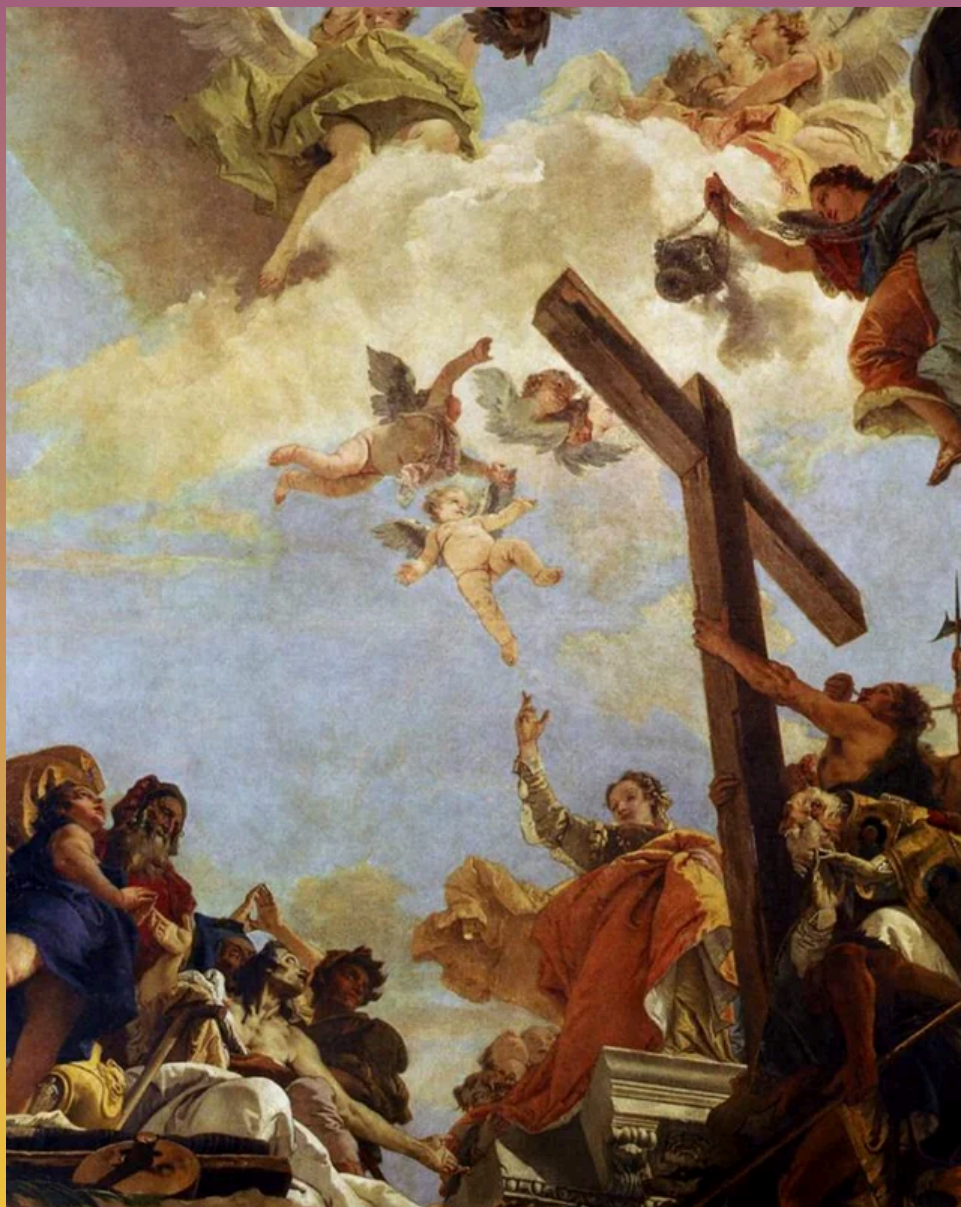
2340 W. Lehigh Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19132
215.228.8330

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

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

September 14, 2025

Exaltation of the Holy Cross



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 Christian and the Cross

Today, the church celebrates the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. We observe this feast to understand the history of the cross in our faith and to better appreciate the significance of the symbol and reality of Christ's sacrificial love, specifically, the cross, in the daily life of every Christian. The first reading today (Nm 21:4b—9) describes how God healed the complaining Israelites through the brazen serpent. The second reading (Phil 2:6-11) reminds us that Jesus humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

In the Gospel, Jesus explains to Nicodemus that he, the Son of Man, is the one who has come down from heaven and must be 'lifted' like the serpent in the wilderness (Num 21:4-9). This 'lifting' refers to his crucifixion, which is not an end but a means of salvation. Through faith in him, those who believe can have eternal life, as "God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son...." The passage emphasizes that Jesus came not to condemn the world but to save it through his sacrifice.

The Son of Man Must be Lifted: Jesus links his upcoming crucifixion to the Old Testament story of the bronze serpent. Just as Moses raised the serpent on a pole so that those bitten by snakes could be healed, Jesus, lifted on the cross, offers healing and eternal life to everyone who believes in him.

A Paradox of Triumph and Sacrifice: The lifting up of Jesus on the cross is not a defeat but a victory. This triumph is a paradoxical event where suffering and death result in salvation, showing God's ultimate love for humanity and the possibility of new life for all who believe.

God's Love for the World: The passage emphasizes the depth of God's love, demonstrated by sending His only-begotten Son. This love is unconditional and not based on merit but is a freely given gift from God to everyone who chooses to accept it.

Salvation Through Belief: Eternal life is available to everyone who believes in Jesus. This belief is more than just mental agreement; it involves a trusting acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior, which leads the believer to a transformed life.

We should honor and venerate the cross and carry it with us to remind ourselves of God's love for us and the price Jesus paid for our salvation.

The cross will give us strength in our sufferings and remind us of our hope for eternal glory with the risen Lord. With St. Paul, we express our belief that the "message of the cross is foolishness only to those who are perishing" (1 Cor 1:18-24), and that we should "glory in the cross of Our Lord" (Gal 6:14).

We should bless ourselves with the sign of the cross to remind ourselves that we belong to Christ Jesus, to honor the Most Holy Trinity, and to ask the Triune God to bless us, save us, and protect us from all danger and evil.

The crucifix should remind us that we are forgiven sinners, and therefore, we are expected to forgive those who offend us and to seek forgiveness whenever we offend others or hurt their feelings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday Theresa Hart

Join us in wishing a Happy Birthday to Theresa Hart who's 100th birthday was celebrated on September 12th. Theresa is watching livestream !!!! Happy Birthday to Theresa !

Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, on Tuesday, October 28, 2025

As a Sacred Jubilee Site, the National Shrine offers an opportunity for the Jubilee Indulgence. For the pilgrimage schedule, bus information and more details, visit archphila.org/hollyear.

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,

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.

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 14, 2025

First Reading: Numbers 21:4b-9, Responsorial Psalm 78

Gospel, John 3:13-17, Reading 2, Philippians 2:6-11

15 September 2025 – Monday

First Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Psalm 28, Gospel: John 19:25-27

16 September 2025 – Tuesday

First Reading: 1 Timothy 3:3-13, Psalm 101, Gospel: Luke 7:11-17

17 September 2025 – Wednesday

First Reading: 1 Timothy 3:14-16, Psalm 111, Gospel: Luke 7:31-35

18 September 2025 – Thursday

First Reading: 1 Timothy 4:12-16, Psalm 111, Gospel: Luke 7:36-50

19 September 2025 – Friday

First Reading: 1 Timothy 6:2c-12, Gospel: Luke 8:1-3

20 September – Saturday

First Reading: 1 Timothy 6:13-16, Psalm 100, Gospel: Luke 8:4-15

Mass Intention

Ms. Theresa Hart - Living

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, 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.