

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 21, 2025

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time



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 ?

Wise and Honest Stewardship

The parable of the dishonest steward, also known as the crooked steward, has astonished good church people for centuries. It seems that Truth Incarnate is praising a dishonest business manager for deception, or that He who gave us the commandment, “Thou shalt not steal,” is himself praising someone for breaking it. St. Augustine said, “I can’t believe that this story came from the lips of our Lord.” Jesus shares a paradoxical story about a steward (manager) of an estate belonging to a wealthy absentee landlord.

The steward was outright a rascal. But his boss praised him for his cleverness because he acted with foresight. Facing the upcoming return of his master and an audit of his accounts, the steward skillfully turned the debtor list of his master into his own debtors. He bought “friends” with his master’s money and used these “friends” to secure a livelihood for the soon-to-be-fired servant (due to his previous embezzlement). In Luke’s story, four morals are drawn to reveal its meaning. The parable encourages us to take stock of the resources given to us: time, talents, opportunities, health, intelligence, education, and other advantages. It also challenges us to use these resources wisely so they will benefit us in eternity.

Clearly, Jesus was not praising the steward’s dishonesty. He was commending his clever resourcefulness. The parable shows that Christians should be as cautious and inventive in doing good as the steward was in gaining wealth and securing his future. Christians need to pay as much attention to matters of the soul as they do to worldly concerns. In saving our souls and sharing the Good News, our Lord wants us to use the same creativity and effort that others put into their worldly pursuits or attempts to reach some human goal.

How we manage our money and possessions tests our character. It reveals whether we are morally qualified to receive the true riches of Heaven. How we treat what belongs to others is a test of our readiness to be entrusted with our own possessions. How do we treat others — their name, possessions, time, ministry, feelings, and family? The answer shows our fitness for proper stewardship. That is why Jesus asked, “If you have not been faithful in that which is another man’s, who shall give you that which is your own?” (verse 12).

While we live here on earth, we are responsible for things that aren’t truly ours. We can’t take them with us when we die; they are only lent to us — we are merely stewards over them. But in Heaven, we will receive what is truly and eternally ours. Our Heavenly destiny depends on how we use earthly possessions. Jesus shares this parable to help us realize that our time is limited, and we need to prepare an account by asking whether we’ve been using God’s gifts—such as wealth, health, talents, and other blessings—selfishly or for His glory by sharing with others.

“The children of this world” are those who are attached to darkness and only see and value the things of this world. They live for this world, focus their attention on it, invest everything in it, and devote their mind and body’s energy fully to it. On the other hand, the children of light see real, eternal, spiritual values as primary and regard temporal values as secondary. They are wise and honest in their stewardship, conscious that they will render an account whenever the supreme owner comes around.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements

Any group or individual announcements to be read from the pulpit should be submitted to the rectory office no later than Wednesday prior to the weekend of announcement. Announcements from pulpit will be highlighted in the bulletin.

Saint Martin de Porres Flea Market October 25, 2025 from 10 am to 5 pm

Reserve a vending space for \$ 20.00. Please see flyer at table for complete details.

Saint Martin de Porres Website/Communications and Young Adults Teams

Stay up to date on events by visiting the Saint Martin de Porres website <http://smdpphiladelphia.com/>. Our Young Adults and Communications teams are working on many new social media ideas. Adult volunteers interested in learning and lending a hand are needed. No experience necessary. Please call the rectory office for more information.

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) has begun. Classes are held Sunday. 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. To enroll your child please call the rectory for 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 21, 2025

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7, Responsorial Psalm 113

Gospel, Luke 16 1-13, Reading 2, Timothy 2 1-8

22 September 2025 – Monday

First Reading: Ezra 1:1-6 , Psalm 126, Gospel: Luke 8:16-18

23 September 2025 – Tuesday

First Reading: Ezra 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20, Psalm 122, Gospel: Luke 8:19-21

24 September 2025 – Wednesday

First Reading: Ezra 9 5-9, Psalm Tobit 13:2 3-4a 4befghn 7-8, Gospel: Luke 9:1-6

25 September 2025 – Thursday

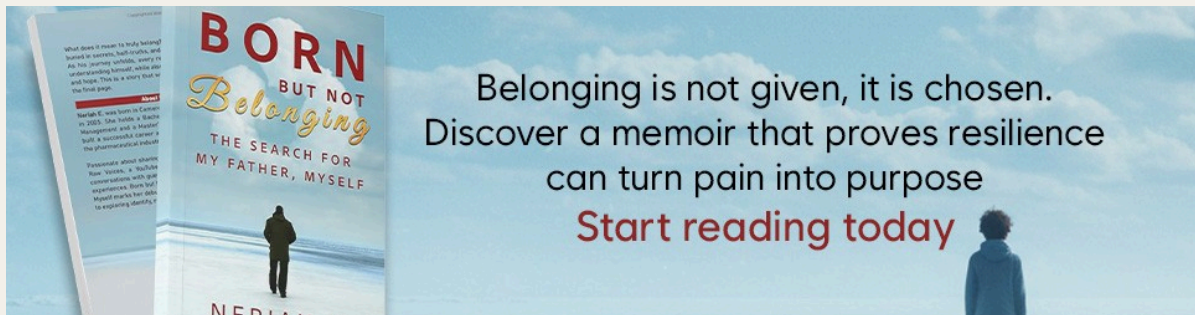
First Reading: Haggai 1:1-8, Psalm 149, Gospel: Luke 9:7-9

26 September 2025 – Friday

First Reading: Haggai 2:1-9, Gospel: Luke 9:18-22

27 September – Saturday

First Reading: Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15a, Psalm 1 Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12ab, 13, Gospel: Luke 9:43b-45



Born but Not Belonging: The Search for My Father, Myself is a powerful story for parents, blended families, single parents-and anyone who has ever wrestled with questions of identity. It follows the journey of a young man whose true paternity was hidden from him. Marked by rejection, he summoned the courage to search for answers, uncovering not only the truth about his father but also a deeper understanding of himself and his place in the world.

What sets this book apart is its unique fusion of memoir and fiction. Though inspired by a real-life story, it is told through fictional characters and places, creating a narrative that is both emotionally authentic and universally relatable. This approach allows readers to connect with the raw truths of rejection, hidden paternity, and identity struggles while enjoying the pace and immersion of a novel. Unlike traditional memoirs that may feel too personal or novels that are purely imagined, this story bridges both worlds; offering truth wrapped in storytelling. Its universality, combined.

Copies are available at Amazon.com for \$12. The author is Fr. Wilfred's family friend.

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.