

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 28, 2025

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time



EACH ONE CATCH ONE
CAN YOU LEAD SOMEONE TO CHRIST ?

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

The Rich Man and Lazarus

The parable that challenged Dr. Albert Schweitzer is the story of the rich man and Lazarus. This story Jesus told inspired a man with three doctoral degrees (in medicine, theology, and philosophy) to return to school to study medicine, leave civilization with all its culture and comforts, and move to the jungles of Africa to serve as a missionary doctor for 47 years. At age 43, he left for Africa, where he opened a hospital on the edge of the jungle in what was then called Equatorial Africa. He died there in 1965 at age 90. The man, of course, was Dr. Albert Schweitzer, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952. The single parable that, according to him, radically changed his life was our text for this morning, the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, the beggar. That parable convinced Schweitzer that wealthy Europe should share its resources with poor Africa and that he should start the process.

The parable is told as a one-act play with two scenes. The first scene shows the luxurious life of the rich man, who wears expensive clothes and enjoys five-course meals every day. In contrast, the poor, sick beggar lives in the street by the rich man's front door, fighting with stray dogs for crumbs from the rich man's table. The name 'Lazarus' means 'God is my help.' Despite experiencing misfortune and suffering, Lazarus remains hopeful in God. When the second scene begins, the situation switches. Lazarus is now enjoying heavenly bliss as a reward for his faithfulness to God during his poverty and suffering, while the rich man is suffering in Hell as punishment for failing to show mercy to the poor and for not sharing God's blessings with Lazarus at his door.

The sin of the rich man was that he never saw Lazarus as a person or a brother. Lazarus represents a reality: the poor, the sick, and the unfortunate who are always around us. The rich man did no wrong, but he also did nothing right. He was insensitive. He neither recognized Lazarus, who was right outside his gate, nor understood his God-commanded duty in charity and justice to help him!

Christ is the truly wealthy man who has made himself completely poor for our sake, as He left the riches of Heaven to experience our spiritual poverty on Earth. He comes to us not only through Holy Communion, which is, by far, His greatest gift to us, but also in people with low incomes. He is the poor man who sits at our doorsteps and on our streets. He conceals the wounds of the Cross beneath those of addiction and poverty. He suffers in all who are poor, needy, or abandoned — from the child in the womb to the older adult dying alone, from the poorest of the poor in Africa to those unjustly imprisoned. What we do or fail to do for them, we do or fail to do for Jesus.

Our choices here shape the kind of eternity we will experience. It has been said: "Where we go hereafter depends on what we 'go after,' here!" The destination depends on the path we take. We get what we choose and what we live for. We are forming our moral character to fit forever in one of two places. We are all fortunate enough to share our blessings with others. God has blessed each of us with wealth, health, special talents, social power, political influence, or a combination of many blessings. The parable encourages us to share what we have received with others in various ways instead of using everything solely for selfish gains.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary Claver Awards Banquet November 1, 2025

Oaks Ballroom - 12 pm to 4 pm.

Free off street parking. Adults \$ 65.00 Youth \$ 30.00. Please see brochure in back of church for more information,

Sign up for Christmas Gifts

October 19, 2025 in Church Hall immediately after Mass. One day only.

St. Martin de Porres Mini Conference

Saturday November 1, 2025 please see brochure and sign up at table. No payment necessary for parishioners. Sign up sheet is for head count for lunch supplied by Office of Black Catholics.

Announcements

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

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,

Thanksgiving meals / groceries

November 25, 2025 @ 2:30 pm in Church Hall.

Christmas Dinner / groceries

December 23, 2025 @ 2:30 pm in Church Hall

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.

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 28, 2025

First Reading: Amos 6:1a, 4-7, Responsorial Psalm 146

Gospel, Luke 16 19-31, Reading 2, Timothy 6 11-16

29 September 2025 – Monday

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, Psalm 138, Gospel: John 1:47-51

30 September 2025 – Tuesday

First Reading: Zechariah 8:20-23, Psalm 87, Gospel: Luke 9:51-56

1 October 2025 – Wednesday

First Reading: Nehemiah 2:1-8, Psalm 137, Gospel: Luke 9:57-62

2 October 2025 – Thursday

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12, Psalm 19, Gospel: Matthew 18:1-5, 10

3 October 2025 – Friday

First Reading: Baruch 1:15-22, Gospel: Luke 10:13-16

4 October – Saturday

First Reading: Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29, Psalm 69, Gospel: Luke 10 17-24

SMdP Flea Market!

Saturday, October 25, 2025 from 10AM–5PM

Reserve your space by October 18, 2025 | **Just \$20.00/space**

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2340 W. Lehigh Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19132

On the sidewalk and in the courtyards

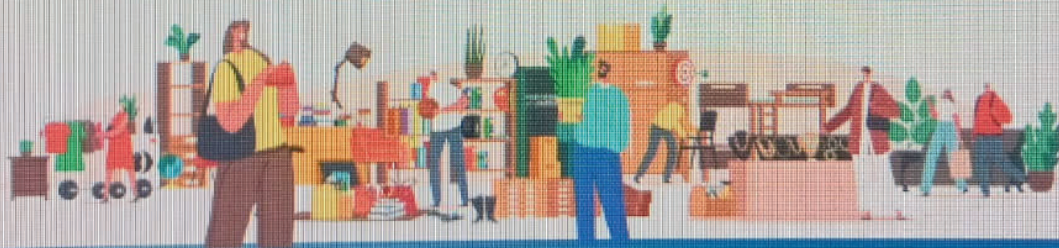
A FUNDRAISING & COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT

joinus

Reserve a Vending Space for a \$20 donation (per space). To reserve your vending space, your \$20 cash donations can be dropped off at the St. Martin de Porres Church Rectory, Tuesdays through Fridays, 8 AM to 4 PM, or drop donations in the Sunday collection using the special flea market envelopes. Parishioner **Karen Powell** will also accept vendor space donations and issue receipts after Mass on Sundays. You can also donate by \$Cashapp | \$melski52 (Melvin Burton).

Volunteers are needed to get the word out and to help clean up outside around the church before the flea market.

The Volunteer Church Clean Up will be Saturday, October 25, 2025 @ 8AM – 10AM.



Reserve a vending space \$ 20.00

Parishioner Karen Powell will accept donations after Mass or donate by \$ Cashapp / \$melski52 (Melvin Burton)

See Flyer at table for additional information