

Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church

2340 W. Lehigh Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19132
215.228.8330
website:

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

December 21, 2025

Fouth Sunday of Advent



Mass Schedule

Weekday Masses:
In Chapel
Wednesday & 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
Sandra Streeter - Director Religious Education
Tonya Dorsey - Music Director
Elizabeth Maitre - Office Manager

**EACH ONE CATCH ONE
CAN YOU LEAD SOMEONE TO CHRIST ?**

Joseph, the faithful and just husband

As we approach Christmas, it is natural to reflect on the human elements behind this grand celebration of our salvation mystery. Throughout the liturgical year, we don't focus on the virtues of St. Joseph as we do on those of our Blessed Mother, yet both sacrificed greatly for their God-given son, Jesus Christ. Today's gospel depicts Joseph as a good, just, and faithful husband and foster father to Jesus.

Joseph's betrothal to Mary meant they were legally married, although their marriage had not been consummated. It was shameful for Mary to be found pregnant when they had not slept together. In Deuteronomy 22:23-24, the penalty for adultery was death by stoning at the door of her father's house, as she had brought disgrace to her father.

Since Joseph was a just man full of mercy, he decided to divorce Mary quietly to avoid causing her unnecessary pain. In doing so, he shows us Christ-like compassion in the face of sin. He also demonstrates a Godly balance between the Law of Torah and the Law of Love. Then, in a dream, he learned that the Holy Spirit had conceived the Child and that he was to be the foster father of Christ, claiming the Child by naming Him and then raising Him. Joseph, through trust and faith in God, accepted his mission as the foster father of the Son of God. Without his calm, thoughtful, and just disposition, it would have been impossible for Joseph to hear and obey God's inspiration.

Like Joseph, we must trust in God, listen to Him, and stay faithful. We are gathered in this Church, four days before Christmas, because, like Joseph, we are loyal and trust in God's power and mercy. Though we may face financial struggles, job insecurity, family issues, and health concerns, let us strive to be trusting and faithful like St. Joseph. Instead of relying on our own plans to get us through life, let us trust in God and find strength through fervent prayer and by listening to Him speak through the Bible. Let us stay faithful and prayerful, following the example of Joseph and Mary—humble, kind, and the greatest believers in God's goodness and mercy—as we welcome Jesus into our hearts and lives this Christmas.

Let's check if Jesus is on our list this Christmas and if we have a special gift in mind for Him. We all know the joy of finding the perfect present for our husband or wife, children, a good friend, or a parent. What special gift are we giving to Jesus this year to honor His birth, and what do we expect from God? God sent Jesus from Heaven to earth to provide us with what we genuinely need most in life: hearts filled with love. That is the gift Jesus truly wants from us, and that's what you and I really need from God this Christmas – a heart filled with love. We have many wants. We're like children with a catalog before Christmas, circling all our desires by the dozens. But we have one essential need: a heart filled with love. God wants to give each of us a heart filled with love, mercy, compassion, and forgiveness this Christmas and every day of our lives.

The greatest gift we can give to those we love is to trust in them, believe in their good dreams, and try to help make those dreams come true. We need to believe in the good dreams of our husbands, wives, children, parents, heroes, leaders, and friends, and then do our best to help them achieve those dreams.

FAITH CORNER

Spiritual insights for Catholics

Advent is a time of anticipation and reflection for you as you prepare your hearts for the celebration of Christmas during the Season of Advent. This period offers rich traditions, meaningful symbols, and valuable spiritual insights that deepen your faith and connection to the Catholic community.

Traditions and Practices: Customary activities during Advent included lighting candles on an Advent wreath, daily scripture readings, and participating in church services that build spiritual resilience.

Spiritual insights: Advent encourages Catholics to engage in personal reflection, penance, and acts of charity as a way to deepen their relationship with God and prepare their hearts.

Community and Family: This season is an opportunity for fostering community and strengthening family bonds through shared rituals, prayer, and outreach efforts to those in need.

These practices enable you to cultivate a heart open to God's graces and presence. The liturgy not only serves to enrich your spiritual life but also foster a sense of community as you prepare collectively to welcome the light of Christ into the world.

During the Christmas season you can have activities like decorating a Jesse Tree to visualize the genealogy of Jesus. You can organize a family day to volunteer work. Supporting those in need, which not only brings your family closer together but also reminds every one of the importance of giving.

Embracing this time for family and friends, you allow yourself to prepare your heart for the celebration of Christ's birth. Fostering a deeper relationship and understanding of hope and anticipation. You can enhance your spiritual journey and grow closer to your faith. Advent truly serves as a sacred opportunity for renewal and reflection in your life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Saint Francis of Assisi Parish !

Please welcome our friends from Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Springfield, PA here to worship with us today !

Weekday Masses in Chapel

Weekday Masses in the Chapel will resume Thursday, January 1, 2026

Christmas Meals/Groceries

December 23, 2025 in Church Hall 3:30 pm to 4pm weather permitting.

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 5 pm - Christmas Day Mass 10 am

Daily Reading for Sunday December 21, 2025

Reading 1, Isaiah 7:10-14, Gospel, Matthew 1:18-24, Reading 2, Romans 1:1-7

22 December 2025 – Monday First Reading: 1 Samuel 1:24-28, Gospel: Luke 1:46-56

23 December 2025 – Tuesday First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24, Gospel: Luke 1"57-66

24 December 2025 -Wednesday First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16, Gospel: Luke 1:67-79

25 December 2025 –Christmas Day - First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10, Second Reading, Hebrews 1:1-6, Gospel for Mass During Day: John 1:1-18

26 December 2025 – Friday First Reading:Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59 Gospel:Matthew 10:17-22

27 December 2025 – Saturday First Reading: 1 John 1:1-4, Gospel John 20:1a, 2-8



Mass Intentions

Sunday: Father Addisalem T. Mekonnen
Monday: Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday: Dennis Monahan
Wednesday: Jerry Tardive
Thursday: Angela Caruso
Friday: Lynn Polidor Hoffman
Saturday: Spec. Int - Tom McDevitt - Living

Prayers for Parishioners

Kendra Maxwell, Lois Streeter, Barbara Carter, Melody Cooper, Jenai Ballard, Tamika Tender, Audrey Victor, Janice Williams, Lisa Williams, Mary Jean Williams, Helen Dirkson, Theresa Hart, Grenda Perry

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.

Weekly Collection for December 14, 2025

Thank you for your support !

In Church: \$ 986.00

Online: \$ 598.44

Total: \$ 1,584.44

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.