

Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church

2340 W. Lehigh Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19132
215.228.8330

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

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

GAUDETE SUNDAY

3rd Sunday of Advent



*“Rejoice in the
Lord always;
again I say,
rejoice. Indeed,
the Lord is near”*

- Phil 4:4-5

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 ?**

Rejoice in the Lord Always

Today is Rejoice Sunday! We are more than halfway through Advent. Our readings call us to look forward to the coming of the Lord with great joy, who comes to heal, protect, strengthen, and guide us to the Father. Rejoicing can be hard when we are facing trials. In fact, it doesn't make sense to ask someone to rejoice after losing a football game, yet scripture tells us to rejoice in the Lord always. The key phrase is "in the Lord."

The prophet Isaiah, in today's first reading, encourages the exiled Jews in Babylon to rejoice because their God will liberate them from slavery and safely lead them back to their homeland. The refrain for today's Responsorial Psalm is, "Lord, come and save us!" In the second reading, James the Apostle urges early Christians to rejoice and wait patiently for the imminent second coming of Jesus. Finally, in the first part of today's Gospel, Jesus comforts John the Baptist in prison by encouraging him to rejoice, urging him to set aside his mistaken expectations of the Messiah and to accept Jesus' healing and preaching ministry as the fulfillment of Isaiah's Messianic prophecy. In the second part of today's Gospel, Matthew presents Jesus, the true Messiah, paying high tribute to John the Baptist as his herald and the last of the prophets, highlighting John's prophetic courage and encouraging his listeners to rejoice in the greatness of his herald.

If John the Baptist, even after having a direct encounter with Jesus, the Messiah, could doubt and question his Faith, then so can we. If disillusionment is a necessary precondition for a more resilient Faith, then we, too, must be open to its possibilities. In moments of doubt, despair, and disillusionment, we are, indeed, in good company. Occasional doubts – even horrifying doubts – are one thing, but doubts that persist despite every Biblical remedy require careful attention. Let us remember that our trust and Faith in our Christian dogmas and all the teachings of the Church are rooted and grounded in the Divinity of Jesus, who taught them, and in the Divine authority by which He authorized the Church to teach what He had taught. It is up to us to learn our Faith in depth so that God can dispel our doubts.

As we pray today, we also rejoice that the Lord does not fail to show His power and might. We rejoice in the thought that Jesus will be reborn in our lives, deepening His gifts of love, mercy, forgiveness, and the spirit of humble, sacrificial service during this Christmas season. During this time, let us joyfully share God's bountiful grace, forgiveness, and mercy with others. What Jesus commanded John's disciples to do, He commands us to do as well: "Go, and tell others what you hear and see." Despite the apparent "signs" and miracles, some people still rejected Jesus.

Let us hold in our hearts the Gospel message about Jesus given by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Will we allow the Holy Spirit, through these Gospel accounts, to inspire in us this Advent a metánoia—a radical change in our thinking, loving, living, and being—regarding God, others, and ourselves—that will reshape and clarify our purpose for living as He intended when He created us—or not?



Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

The central teaching of the Catholic faith is our belief in Jesus's real presence in the Blessed Sacrament, which is why, at any given hour, Catholics are praying before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. These moments are among the most precious we spend on earth with the Lord. Many Christians have experienced miracles through adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, like the case below:

This is Nora's story (not her real name). I have been praying during my weekly hour of Adoration for many years for my husband to return to Mass and the Sacraments, as he has been away from them for 26 years. He didn't even enter the church when our children were making their First Holy Communion and Confirmations. On a wet, freezing winter day, he dropped me off at the Adoration Chapel for my holy hour and asked me to hurry out afterward, as he wanted to go to an important meeting. After an hour, he came to pick me up and waited outside in the car. When he waited an extra twenty minutes, he lost patience and ran into the Adoration Chapel to hurry me out. I pretended not to see him, and he sat down very impatiently for a few minutes. Finally, I got up and left, and he hurried after me. I expected a lot of anger and complaints because I stayed longer than an hour and kept him waiting. As we got into the car, he turned to me and said, calmly and quietly, 'I am not going to that meeting I mentioned, but instead I am going to the priest in the parish house and asking him to hear my confession. Something came over me as I entered that Adoration Chapel, and I feel God calling me back again.' He received confession that day and became a daily mass-goer and a weekly Adorer for the very first time. I attribute this to the power of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Note: We have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our chapel at the rectory every Thursday from 10 am to 11 am. Make an appointment to visit Jesus and spend time with Him. Jesus is waiting for you. Like Jesus' disciples, when we ask him, "Where do you live," he invites us with the words: "Come and see." (Jn 1:38-39)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 14, 2025

Reading 1, Isaiah 35:1-6,10, Responsorial Psalm, 146, Gospel, Matthew 11:2-11,

Reading 2, James 5:7-10

15 December 2025 – Monday First Reading: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a, Gospel: Matthew 21:23-27

16 December 2025 – Tuesday First Reading: Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13, Gospel: Matthew 21 28-32

17 December 2025 -Wednesday First Reading: Genesis 49:2,8-10, Gospel: Matthew 1:1-17

18 December 2025 –Thursday First Reading: Jeremiah 23:5-8, Gospel: Matthew 1-18-25

19 December 2025 – Friday First Reading: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a, Gospel: Luke 1:5-25

20 December 2025 – Saturday First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14, Gospel Luke 1:26-38



Mass Intentions

Sunday: Deacon William Iacobellis

Monday: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday: Patricia Mullen

Wednesday: Donald R. Fletcher

Thursday: Gabriella Conner

Friday: Dennis Monahan

Saturday: Spec. Int. - Arthur Barnaby - Living

Prayers for Parishioners

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

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 7, 2025

Thank you for your support !

In Church: \$ 3,478.00

Online: \$ 605.42

Total: \$ 4,083.42

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.