

Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church

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Philadelphia, PA 19132
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Our Clergy
Parochial Administrator: Fr. Wilfred Emeh
Parish Deacon: Melvin Burton Jr.

December 28, 2025

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



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

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 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

Following the example of the Holy Family of Nazareth

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. This feast reminds us that we are part of a human family and, at the same time, belong to God's family, the Church. In both families, we have privileges and responsibilities. In both, we work out our salvation together — as women, men, and children living and working in love and peace. Hence, let us do our best to make life pleasant for the other members of our family and begin again today.

The first reading tells us to "Honor your father and your mother." Ben Sirach offers many insights into living properly in accordance with the Torah. Sirach reminds children of their duty to honor their parents — even when it is difficult. He also mentions the two-fold reward God promises to those who honor their father and mother. The first reward is "riches," and the second is a long life: "Whoever reveres his father will live a long life." He reminds children that God blesses them if they obey, revere, and show compassion toward their father.

In the letter to the Colossians, Paul urges us to put on love and remain thankful in our relationships with one another. This advice is part of the "Household Code" — the rules for members of the Christian family. Paul teaches that children should learn and practice noble qualities such as compassion, kindness, forgiveness, and sharing within the warmth of the family.

Although the first two readings place greater emphasis on children's obligations to their parents, there is a profound lesson here for parents as well. "Like father, like son" is an old saying that is often true. If parents fail to do what is right and just in the sight of God, they can hardly complain if their children turn out disobedient to God and to them. Young people learn more from example than from precept. If parents give their children the example of a life of obedience to the laws of God and their country, the children, in turn, will be more likely to carry out their duties to God, to their parents, and to their fellowman.

The Church encourages us to look to the Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph for inspiration, example, and encouragement. They were a model family in which both parents worked hard, helped one another, understood and accepted one another, and took good care of their Child so that he might grow not only in human knowledge but also as a Child of God.

We need to make the family a confessional rather than a courtroom. A senior judge of the Supreme Court congratulated the bride and groom on their marriage and offered this pertinent advice: "See that you never convert your family into a courtroom; instead, let it be a confessional. If the husband and wife start arguing like attorneys to justify their behavior, their family becomes a court of law, and nobody wins. On the other hand, if the husband and wife — as in a confessional — are ready to admit their faults and try to correct them, the family becomes a heavenly one."

Both parents and children need to grant and ask for forgiveness. If you had abusive parents who mistreated or manipulated you, you probably carry a lot of hurt when we talk about parents. God knows about that hurt; God cares about it and understands why you hurt. As in all relationships, the parent-child relationship, too, requires love, repentance, and forgiveness on both sides. Both the parent and the child should be able to say, "I was wrong, I am sorry, please forgive me," and both should be able to say, "You are forgiven."



FAITH CORNER

Christmas is a time of great joy and celebration for many people around the world. However, the true meaning of Christmas is often lost in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. At its core, Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is a time to reflect on the significance of Jesus' birth and the impact it has on our lives.

The true meaning of Christmas is about the gift of eternal life that Jesus offers us. It is a time to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us, and the hope and peace that he brings to our lives in this world.

Jesus' birth is a pivotal event in human history. It marks the beginning of a new era of hope and redemption for humanity. Through his birth, Jesus brought light into a world filled with darkness and sin. He came to offer us a way out of our sinful nature and to provide us with a path to eternal life.

As God adopted us into his family through Jesus Christ, (Eph 1:5), we are the sons and daughters of God, to learn of him and to be the obedient ones, and believe in his Son Jesus. Who comes to save the world for all who believe in him.

These are key verses and meanings in scripture for this Christmas season:

Luke 2:11: “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord”.

Matthew 1:21: “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from the sins”.

John 14:6: “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”.

Colossians 1:15-17: Describes Jesus as the image of the invisible God, the Creator and the sustainer of all things, giving Him preeminence.

In contrast the secular focus of Christmas is with its spiritual significance as a true time to remember salvation through Jesus Christ.\

Deacon Melvin Burton Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekday Masses in Chapel

Weekday Masses in the Chapel will resume Thursday, January 1, 2026
(Thursday Jan 1 will be 10 am) Please note: There will be no Adoration on Thursday

Daily Reading for Sunday December 28, 2025

Reading 1, Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14, Gospel, Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23, Reading 2, Colossians 3:12-21

29 December 2025 – Monday First Reading: 1 John 2:3-11, Gospel: Luke 2:22-35

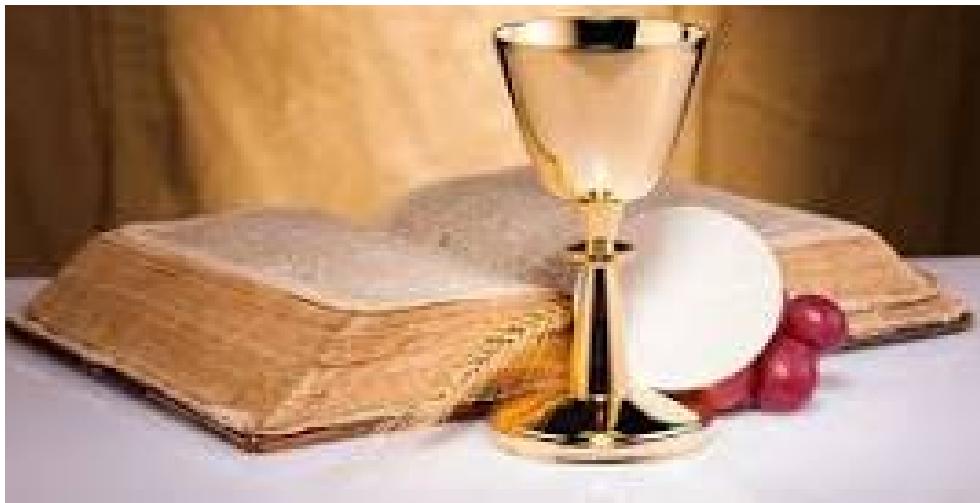
30 December 2025 – Tuesday First Reading: 1 John 2:12-17, Gospel: Luke 2:36-40

31 December 2025 -Wednesday First Reading: 1 John 2:18-21, Gospel: John 1:1-18

1 January 2026 –Thursday, First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27, Second Reading Galatians 4:4-7, Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

2 January 2026 – First Reading 1 John 2:22-28, Gospel: John 1:19-28

3 January 2026 – Saturday First Reading: 1 John 2:29-3:6, Gospel John 1:29-34



Mass Intentions

Sunday: Spec. Int. Arthur Barnaby - Living
Thursday: Fr. Addisalem Mekonnen

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 21, 2025

Thank you for your support !

In Church: \$ 3,008.00

Online: \$ 505.02

Total: \$ 3,513.02

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.