

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 7, 2025

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

Second Sunday of Advent



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 ?**

Preparing the way for the Lord

On the one hand, salvation is God's doing, and we cannot earn His blessings. Today's first reading, from Isaiah, emphasizes that, through His Son, God does all the saving. On the other hand, we must cooperate with God because He cannot force His bounty upon us, as this would violate our free will. That is why John the Baptist, in today's Gospel, calls us to play our essential part—living lives of repentance, conversion, and renewal—and thus preparing the way for the Lord's second coming.

The First Reading, taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, is a Messianic prophecy. It is the third oracle of Isaiah given as a prediction of Jesus's first coming, the Messiah. Isaiah's prophecy that God would raise a Messianic King centuries after King David's throne had been overthrown and vacant for generations (because David's successors had not been loyal to their God) was meant to encourage the people who had been waiting for deliverance: "Behold a virgin will conceive and bear a son and shall call him, Emmanuel, for God is with us."

In the Second Reading, St. Paul, in his Letter to the Romans, calls for reconciliation among the different factions in that community. Paul reminds his Roman readers that those who wait together for the many comings of our God should overlook their differences and support one another with mutual understanding and acceptance. Perhaps this reading is in the Lectionary today because it encourages patience, which is fitting for this season of patiently waiting for the Lord's coming. It also contains a very seasonal statement about why the Lord came: to fulfill God's promise to the Jews and to extend mercy to the Gentiles. Paul also reminds the newly converted Roman Christians, many of whom are Jews, that the Sacred Scriptures of the Old Testament remain a source of instruction, encouragement, and hope.

John's message was not comforting. It struck directly at the hearts of men. John condemned evil wherever he encountered it. He accused Herod of living a morally loose life (14:4), called the Scribes and Pharisees a "brood of vipers," and urged people to seek righteousness. His message was "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near" (v. 2), words Jesus later used to start his own preaching (4:17), and similar to those Jesus and his disciples would proclaim (10:7). John justified his call to repentance by declaring that the Kingdom of Heaven was near and that the way to prepare for that day was to repent. Literally, the Greek word for repentance means "to change one's mind and heart," a shift in direction or a U-turn.

Advent is the time for us to prepare by repenting of our sins and renewing our lives through prayer, penance, and sharing our blessings with others. Let us accept the challenge of the German mystic Angelus Silesius, "Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem – but all in vain until He is born in me." He means that Jesus must be reborn in our hearts during this season of Advent and every day of our lives, bringing us love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness, and the spirit of humble service.

We too are called to be precursors, to preach, to cry out like John the Baptist, "Repent! Reform your lives! The kingdom of God is at hand!" Yes, we are all called to preach that Gospel, but not necessarily all of us with words. Before we are ready to preach to others about conversion and penance, we have to be converted ourselves and do penance.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We need to heed John's call for a change in life. John the Baptist, the stern and unwavering preacher, challenges our surface-level efforts at change, urging us to look more deeply. Obeying the commandments is a good start, but we must also evaluate our relationships with others. We must mend broken bonds and ease tensions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat employees fairly. Start where you are, John says. Our personal and social lives must be put in order. John's voice is sober and counters the intoxicating voices around us today. He calls for integrity and social awareness. We must give up our selfish thirst for consumerism and instead be filled with hope for Jesus' coming. So, following John's advice, let us celebrate the memory of this first advent, prepare for Jesus' new advent in our lives, and wait for his second advent at the end of the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation

Monday December 8, 2025 Mass will be at 10 am in the Church.

Mass Intentions

The 2026 Mass Book is open for Mass Intentions. Please call the rectory office or place your intention in the collection basket. Mass Stipend is \$ 10.00

Christmas Meals/Groceries

December 23, 2025 in Church Hall

Bingo

Next Gift Card Bingo December 20, 2025

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.

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

Please contact the rectory office with any updates to our Prayer list

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.

Daily Reading for Sunday December 7, 2025

Reading 1, Isaiah 11:1-10, Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 72, Gospel, Matthew 3:1-12,

Reading 2, Romans 15:4-9

8 December 2025 – Monday First Reading: Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

9 December 2025 – Tuesday First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11, Gospel: Matthew 18 12:14

10 December 2025 -Wednesday First Reading: Isaiah 40:25-31,

Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30

11 December 2025 –Thursday First Reading: Isaiah 41:13-20, Gospel: Matthew 11:11-15

12 December 2025 – Friday First Reading: Zechariah 2:14-17, Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

13 December 2025 – Saturday First Reading: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11



Mass Intentions

Sunday: Antonio DiLossi
Monday: Joshua Lane - Living
Tuesday: James Thompson Shaw
Wednesday: Britton Palmer
Thursday: John Reilly
Friday: Holy Souls in Purgatory
Saturday: David Burke - Living

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 November 30, 2025

Thank you for your support !

In Church: \$ 2,443.00

Online: \$ 310.68

Total: \$ 2,753.68

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.