

Saint Martin de Porres

Catholic Church

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

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

January 18, 2026

2nd Sunday Ordinary Time



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 Mgr.

Living like Jesus, the Lamb of God

The central theme of today's readings is a call to live and die like the Lamb of God, thereby bearing witness to Christ, the "Lamb of God." We must choose to accept John's testimony in today's Gospel as God's personal and corporate call to us to become witnesses to the Lamb of God.

In both the first and second readings, God calls individuals to His service, entrusting them with a mission. The first reading is from the "Songs of the Suffering Servant" in Isaiah, where the prophet was chosen by God from his mother's womb and consecrated to be a "light to the nations." Here, aspects of Jesus' life as a sacrificial lamb and His mission to save the world are foreshadowed.

In the second reading, Paul reminds the Corinthian Christians that they, like all who call on the Name of Jesus, are "sanctified and called to be holy." They have been called by God and consecrated in Christ Jesus for a life of holiness and service. As believers, we, too, have been called by God to become members of Christ's Body through our Baptism, and we, too, are consecrated in Christ Jesus for a life of holiness and service.

The Gospel passage presents three themes, namely, the witness John the Baptist bears to Jesus, the revelation (epiphany) and identification of Jesus as the "Lamb of God," and the call to discipleship. John's first declaration probably brought five images of the "lamb" to the minds of his Jewish listeners. 1) The Lamb of Yearly Atonement (Lv 16:20-22), sacrificed on Yom Kippur. 2) The Lamb of Daily Atonement (Ex 29:38-42; Nm 28:1-8). 3) The Paschal Lamb (Ex. 12:11ss). 4) The Lamb of the Prophets (Jer 11:19; Is 53:7). 5) The Lamb of the Conqueror.

We need to live and die like the Lamb of God. (A) Live like a lamb by: i) leading pure, innocent, humble, selfless lives, obedient to Christ's commandment of love; ii) appreciating the loving Providence and protective care of the Good Shepherd in His Church; iii) eating the Body and drinking the Blood of the Good Shepherd, thus deriving spiritual strength from the Holy Spirit through the Holy Bible, the Sacraments, and our prayers. (B) Die like a sacrificial lamb by: i) sacrificially sharing our blessings of health, wealth, and talents with others in the family, parish, and community; ii) bearing witness to Christ in our illness, pain, and suffering; iii) offering our sufferings for the salvation of souls, in reparation for our sins and those of the whole world.

We need to be witnesses to the Lamb of God through our exemplary lives. Today's Gospel reminds us that being a disciple of Jesus means growing in Faith so we can become effective witnesses for him. Bearing witness to Christ is an active, not passive, lifelong enterprise. One cannot be a disciple of Jesus at a distance, any more than one can be a distant lover. 3) We are invited to "Come and see." The essence of our witnessing is to state what we have seen and believed, then invite others to "come and see" Jesus for themselves and, so, become disciples with us. As with Andrew and John, our Faith begins with responding to Jesus' invitation to "come and see." We tell others about good restaurants, barbers, optometrists, etc. Why isn't there the same fervor for inviting and encouraging people to participate in our Church activities? If we are not willing to invite others into this experience, what does that say about our experiences with Christ and with our Church?

FAITH CORNER

Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. Contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition in this reflection. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New SMDP Website and Catholic Church of Philadelphia Planning Survey

Please be sure to view our new website stmartindpparish.org.

On our new site you will see a link to take the Catholic Church of Philadelphia Planning Survey. Please participate in this important survey.

Blood Drive

January is National Blood Donor Month. If you are able, please prayerfully consider becoming a blood donor. See table for flyer.

Called to Serve – A Forum for Men Considering the Permanent Diaconate

Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM Location: Archdiocese Office, 222 N. 17th Street, Philadelphia

For details and registration, any interested men can visit archphila.org/deacon.

Join us for Rosary and Bible Study with Deacon Melvin Burton Jr.

Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

ZOOM Meeting # 570-117-8316

By Phone: 1-646-568-7788

Request for Volunteers for Church Cleaning

Saturday January 31 (hall/sanctuary) and Saturday February 7: monthly church/grounds weather permitting. Please see Sheila Lee for more information.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be at 6 pm in Church on Friday's during lent.



Mass Intentions

Sunday: Ed O'Flynn
Monday - Vicente Velazquez Colon
Tuesday - Rita Felder
Wednesday - Muriel Booker
Thursday: Holy Souls in Purgatory
Friday - Timothy Keating
Saturday - Glenn Hafner

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, Gwenda Perry, Sister Germaine and family, Gerald Carter, Francine Tyler

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 January 11, 2026

Thank you for your support !

In Church: \$ 2,456.00

Online: \$736.73

Total: \$ 3,192.73

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.