

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 11, 2026

The Baptism of the Lord



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

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

The Baptism of Jesus Christ

The Christmas season, celebrating the Self-revelation of God through Jesus, concludes with the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. Christmas is the feast of God's Self-revelation to the Jews, and Epiphany celebrates God's Self-revelation to the Gentiles. At his Baptism in the Jordan, Christ reveals himself to repentant sinners. The Baptism of the Lord Jesus is the great event celebrated by the Eastern Churches on the feast of Epiphany because it marks the first public revelation of all Three Persons of the Holy Trinity and the official revelation of Jesus as the Son of God to the world by God the Father.

Because baptism is primarily a sacrament of cleansing from sin, it raises the question of why Jesus was baptized. Many Fathers of the Church explain that Jesus received baptism to identify himself with his people, who, as a result of John's preaching, for the first time in Jewish history, became aware of their sins and their need for repentance. The Jews traditionally believed that only the Gentiles who embraced the Jewish religion needed the baptism of repentance, for, as God's chosen people, the Jewish race was holy. Jesus might have been waiting for this most opportune moment to begin his public ministry. The Fathers of the Church point out that the words spoken by the Voice of the Heavenly Father are similar to Psalm 2:17, revealing Jesus' identity ("This is my beloved Son") and to Isaiah 42:1, referring to the "suffering servant" ("with whom I am well pleased"), revealing Jesus' mission of saving humanity by His suffering and death.

The opening of the Heavens, the Holy Spirit descending as a dove upon Jesus, and the Voice declaring Him, "This is My beloved Son with Whom I am well pleased," are God's revelation to humanity of the Mystery of His Triune nature. The presence of the Triune God at this baptism reveals Jesus' true identity and mission. The opening of the Heavens also indicates that this was a moment of God's decisive intervention in human history and in the life of His Son.

By Baptism, we become the adoptive sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of his Church, heirs of Heaven, and temples of the Holy Spirit. We are incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and made sharers in the priesthood of Christ [CCC 1279]. Hence, "Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other Sacraments" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1213).

Most of us dipped the fingers of our right hand into the holy water font and blessed ourselves when we came into the Church today. Why? This blessing is meant to remind us of our Baptism. So, when I bless myself with Holy Water, I should be thinking of the fact that I am a child of God; that the Cross of Christ has redeemed me; that I have been made a member of God's family; and that I have been washed, forgiven, cleansed, and purified by the Blood of the Lamb.

Jesus' baptism reminds us of our mission to experience God's presence within us, to acknowledge our dignity as God's children, and to appreciate the Divine Presence in others by honoring, loving, and serving them in all humility; to live as God's children in thought, word, and action so that our Heavenly Father may say to each of us what He said to Jesus: "You are my beloved son/daughter with whom I am well pleased"; and to lead a holy and transparent Christian life, not desecrating our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit.

GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME. ALL THE TIME, GOD IS GOOD.

FAITH CORNER



Seasons of the Church - Liturgical Calendar

The liturgical calendar is the cycle of seasons in the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church. The Church year begins each year with Advent, the season of awaiting Christ's coming, and ends with the final Saturday of Ordinary time.

Within the standard calendar year, the Church year starts in early December (or sometimes the end of November) and goes through the following November.

The Church year consists of six liturgical seasons: Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time after Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time after Pentecost. Seasons begin or end based on a movable feast and so some seasons vary in length from year to year, and vary as to the calendar dates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Second Collection Jan 11. 2026 is for Catholic Relief Services

Anointing of the Sick / Homebound Parishioners

If you know a homebound parishioner who would like to receive Holy Communion and a visit, please contact the parish office to schedule an appointment.

Gift Card Bingo

January 17, 2026 12:30 pm entry. See table for flyer.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Mass Intentions

Sunday: Mary Alice Snyder
Monday -Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday - Jean S. Comby
Wednesday - George D. Shaw Jr.
Thursday: Mary Elizabeth Glassford
Friday - Margaret H. Shaw
Saturday - Scott C. Shaw

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

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 4, 2026

Thank you for your support !

In Church: \$ 2,250.00

Online: \$ 445.87

Total: \$ 2,695.87

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.