

# Saint Martin de Porres

## Catholic Church

2340 W. Lehigh Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19132  
215.228.8330  
website: [stmartindpparish.org](http://stmartindpparish.org)

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

January 4, 2026

**The Epiphany of our 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 Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

“Epiphany” refers to God’s self-revelation and to the revelation of Jesus as His Son to all humanity. This is beautifully expressed in the second reading, where Paul affirms the mystery of God’s plan of salvation in Christ. Paul explains that this plan includes both Jews and Gentiles. That is why we have to proclaim the good news to the non-Jews, the Gentiles, the pagans, and to all peoples! Jesus implemented this Divine plan by extending membership in His Church to all peoples. Thus, the Jews and the Gentiles have become “coheirs, members of the same Body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.” That means there can be no second-class members of Jesus’ Body, the Church.

The gift of gold to the Christ Child symbolized His Divinity—God in flesh. Frankincense is highly fragrant when burned and was therefore used in worship as a pleasant offering to God (Ex 30:34). It is also a symbol of holiness and righteousness. The gift of frankincense to the Christ Child symbolized His willingness to become a sacrifice, wholly giving Himself up, analogous to a burnt offering. The High Priest used myrrh as an anointing oil (Ex 30:23). In ancient times, myrrh was used to embalm the dead before burial. It was a fitting “gift” for Jesus, who was born to die.

The Epiphany can be seen as a symbol of our pilgrimage through life toward Christ. The feast invites us to see ourselves as images of the Magi, a people on a journey toward Christ. Today’s Gospel also recounts the Magi’s encounter with the evil King Herod. This encounter symbolizes three reactions to Jesus’ birth: hatred, indifference, and adoration: a) a group led by Herod planned to destroy Jesus; b) another group, composed of priests and scribes, ignored Jesus; c) the members of a third group — shepherds and the Magi — adored Jesus and offered themselves to Him.

Let us make sure we belong to the third group by worshiping Jesus at Mass every day, if we can, with the gold of our love, the myrrh of our humility, and the frankincense of our adoration. Let us offer God our very selves, promising Him that we will use His blessings to do good for our fellow men. Let us plot a better course for our lives, as the Magi, obedient to the angel, found another way back home — and so avoided the wrath of Herod, who was intent on murdering the Baby. In the same way, let us choose a better way to travel through the New Year by abstaining from proud and impure thoughts, evil habits, and selfish behavior, and by actively sharing our love with others in acts of humility. Let us become stars, leading others to Jesus, as the star led the Magi to Him.

Like the Magi, let us offer to Jesus God’s own gifts to us on this feast of Epiphany. The first gift might be friendship with God. After all, the whole point of Christmas is that God’s Son became one of us to redeem us and call us friends. God desires our friendship in the form of wholehearted love and devotion. As we give our small, seemingly insignificant gifts to God, the Good News is that God accepts them! Like the Magi offering their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we offer what we have from our deepest hearts as we respond to the Divine Gift that Child offers us – Himself.



## FAITH CORNER

### New Year Blessings

May the new year bring you fresh beginnings and let God take care of the rest. Trust Him with all your heart, for God is always faithful to His promises. He will sustain and preserve you, ensuring the fulfillment of His divine purposes in your life, just as He graciously brought you into this new year. Do not over-rely on human or artificial intelligence, for human ingenuity is inherently flawed and God alone is omniscient and sovereign. Instead, seek the Lord diligently through prayer, Scripture, and spiritual discernment in every aspect of your life. Be intentional about refraining from anything that doesn't add value to your life, because it isn't meant for you.

In an age fraught with quick fixes, beware of superficial solutions. Understand that good things take time. If last year was challenging, be grateful that the worst did not happen. In times of uncertainty, remain faithful, be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently, for He will act in your best interest (Ps 37:7). Remember that all trials are temporary; this, too, shall pass. It may pass like a kidney stone, but it will pass nonetheless.

May God be merciful and gracious to you, guide your steps on the path of life, hope, peace, and grant you a blessed and prosperous New Year 2026! Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Father Wilfred E. Emeh

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Thank You April Caldwell!

The entire school community is SO SO grateful for the tireless work of APRIL CALDWELL! April, along with some of our support Churches such as St. Katharine in Wayne, St. Francis of Assisi in Springfield, St. Andrew in Newtown and a few others I will list next week. Many may not realize what a huge organizational job this is. April establishes connections with various Churches, receives deliveries, gets some strong men (feeds them) and these men help carry everything out to cars for pickup. She gives up several entire weekends and countless hours on the phone to BRING CHRISTMAS to our church, school and neighborhood. She is definitely "Mrs. Claus". April, we love and appreciate ALL you have done and do for all of us. Gratefully, Sister Nancy.

### Thank you to the Knight's of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary Counsel and Court 187

Thank you for your donation to Saint Martin de Porres !!!! \$ 1,130.00 was collected at the Biblical Tea. Ladies Auxiliary Court donated \$ 500.00. Total Donation to SMDP Church is \$ 1,630.00.

\* Save the date November 14, 2026 for the next Annual Claver Awards Banquet !

# EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



## Mass Intentions

Sunday: Vicente Velazquez Colon

Monday - Michael Pascarella

Tuesday - Holy Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday - Daniel Harry Comby

Thursday: Spec. Int. - Jeremiah Lynch - Living

Friday - George D. Shaw Jr.

Saturday - Elizabeth May Strine Henderson

## 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 28 2025

Thank you for your support !

In Church: \$ 2,443.00

Online: \$ 857.61

Total: \$ 3,300.61

## 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.