

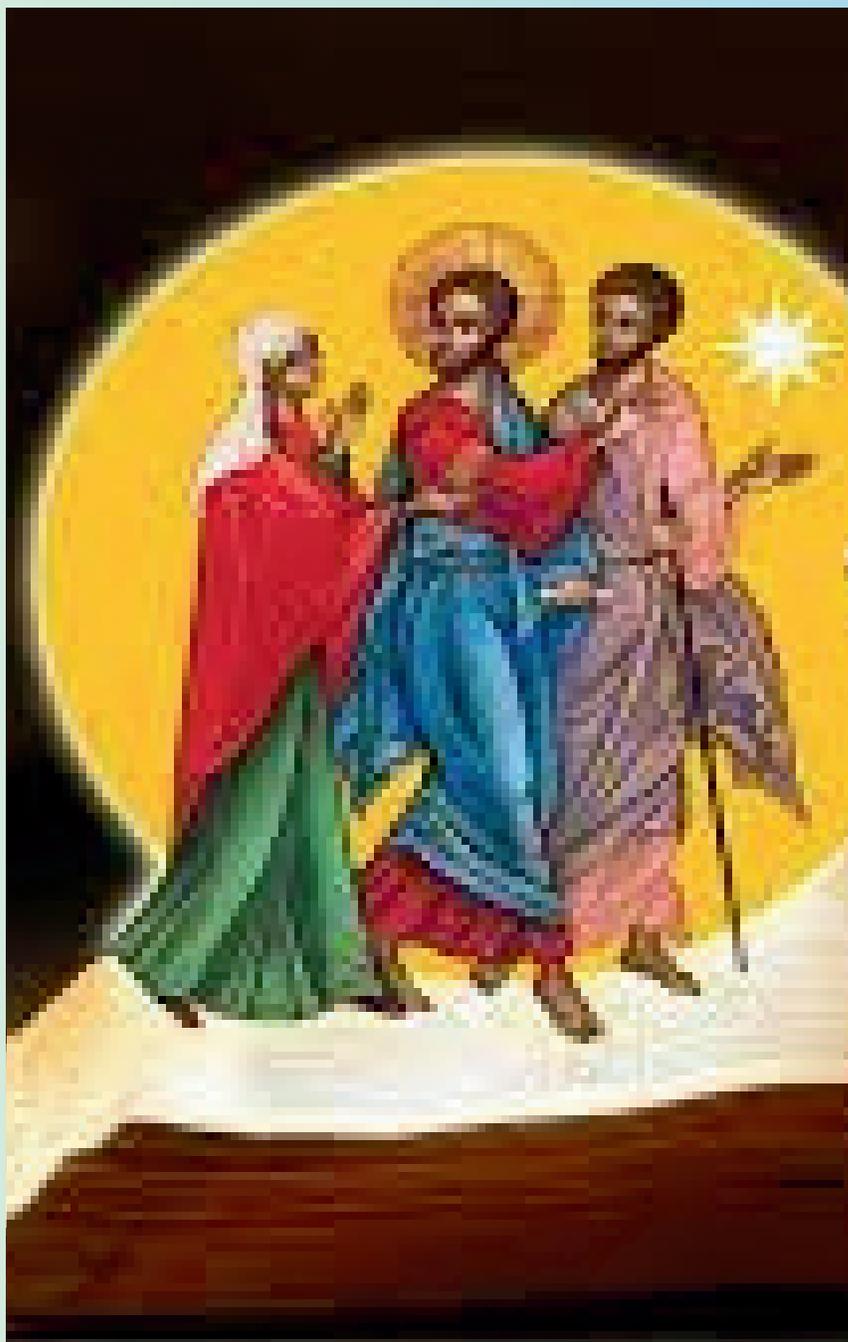
# Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church

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

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

January 25, 2026

3rd Sunday Ordinary Time  
Sunday Of The Word of God



## 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.

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

## Repentance and Unity for Mission

In last week's homily, I reflected on the need to live with purpose. In today's readings, we see Jesus begin his ministry by calling his first pair of apostles, proclaiming the kingdom of Heaven, and inviting us to repent. Jesus calls ordinary people to his mission and endows them with the graces they need to fulfill it. Across all the readings, we see a nexus of mission, repentance, and unity.

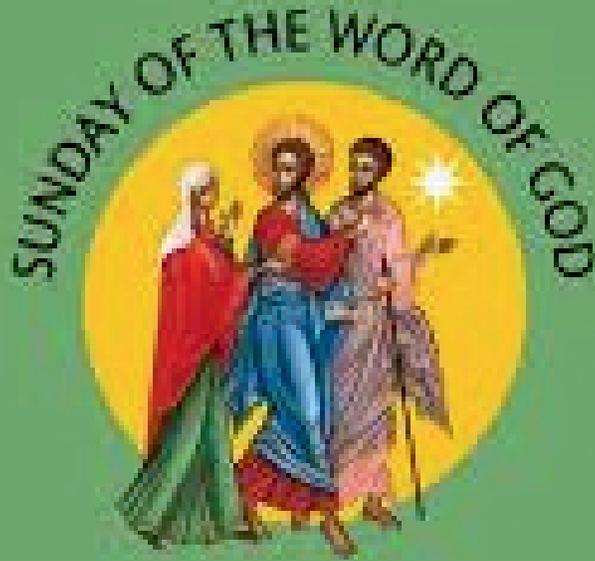
Jesus began his ministry at the fringes of society, places that weren't significant on the global map at the time. Thus, he started among the seemingly small and insignificant places and people who, nevertheless, were central to God's purposes. We, too, need to bring Christ's Light into the darkness of prejudice, war, abuse, social injustice, hunger, poverty, ignorance, greed, anger, vengeance, and apathy. We can do this by seeking and walking in the Light of God, the Good News. God's Light breaks our yoke. It shows us the Way. It clears our doubts and fears and increases our confidence in God and in ourselves, too.

From this comes the universal call to "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near." The word "repent" usually means to be sorry for or regret past wrong actions. Jesus, however, is asking for much more than that. The call is not just to be sorry for past sins and avoid them in the future. It is a call for a change of direction from now on and into the future, a right-about-turn from sin to God. The Greek word for repent is "metanoia," which implies a radical change in one's thinking. It means looking at life in a completely new way.

After the universal call to repentance, he calls his disciples. How did the first four disciples respond to Jesus' call? In St. Matthew's words, "At once they left their nets and followed him." They put their total trust in him, leaving everything — their fishing nets, their parents and families — not knowing where it would all lead. Given the relatively small size of Lower Galilee and the proximity of the Galilean places named in the Gospel, there is no need to assume that those who followed Jesus never returned home. The Church responds to Jesus by reminding us that his call is "personal" for each one of us. It is then the responsibility of each of us to be a personal witness within the common mission of spreading the good news (CCC#878).

In the second reading, St. Paul warns the early Christians against divisive tendencies, in which they seemed to adore their teachers rather than recognize that they were all messengers of Christ. Throughout this letter, he is deeply concerned with preserving the unity of the Christian community. Several factions have arisen among the Corinthians, each claiming allegiance to its first Christian teacher or to a particular Apostle. Paul urges the Christians to rise above these immature rivalries and to follow the humility and obedience of Jesus, who emptied himself for them all.

This Sunday is dedicated to the Word of God, also known as Word of God Sunday. The Word of God is a lamp for our steps and a light for our path (Ps. 119:105). We are reminded that whenever we listen to the readings or read the Bible, God speaks to us. Every Christian must own a copy of the Bible and read it daily. Reading the Bible draws us closer to Christ and wards off the devil's temptations. Above all, we must live as children of the light, reflecting biblical values at all times.



## FAITH CORNER

### Sunday of the Word of God

Pope Francis proclaimed “Word of God Sunday” on September 30, 2019, in an apostolic letter Motu Proprio, titled *Aperuit Illis*, Latin for “He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.” The title of the apostolic letter alludes to an account in the final chapter of Luke’s Gospel when—shortly before His Ascension—Jesus opens the apostles’ minds to the meaning of the Scriptures to prepare them for their mission to proclaim and carry out the Gospel.

“With this Letter,” Pope Francis said, “I wish to respond to the many requests I have received from the people of God that the entire Church celebrate, in unity of purpose, a Sunday of the Word of God.”

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Liturgy Committee

The church would like to create a Liturgy Committee with the main responsibility being to help with liturgical planning and other initiatives regarding the liturgy. Interested parishioners please see the sign up sheet in back of church.

### Blood Drive

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

### New SMDP Website and Catholic Church of Philadelphia Planning Survey.

Please be sure to view our new website [smartindpparish.org](http://smartindpparish.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.

### 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: Joan Darby  
Monday -Holy Souls in Purgatory  
Tuesday -George D. Shaw, Jr.  
Wednesday -Barbara Daller - Living  
Thursday: Barry Gartside  
Friday - Jean S. Comby  
Saturday - Emma Kirk - Living

### 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 18, 2026

Thank you for your support !

In Church: \$ 1050.00

Online: \$ 458.33

Total: \$ 1,508.33

### 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.