

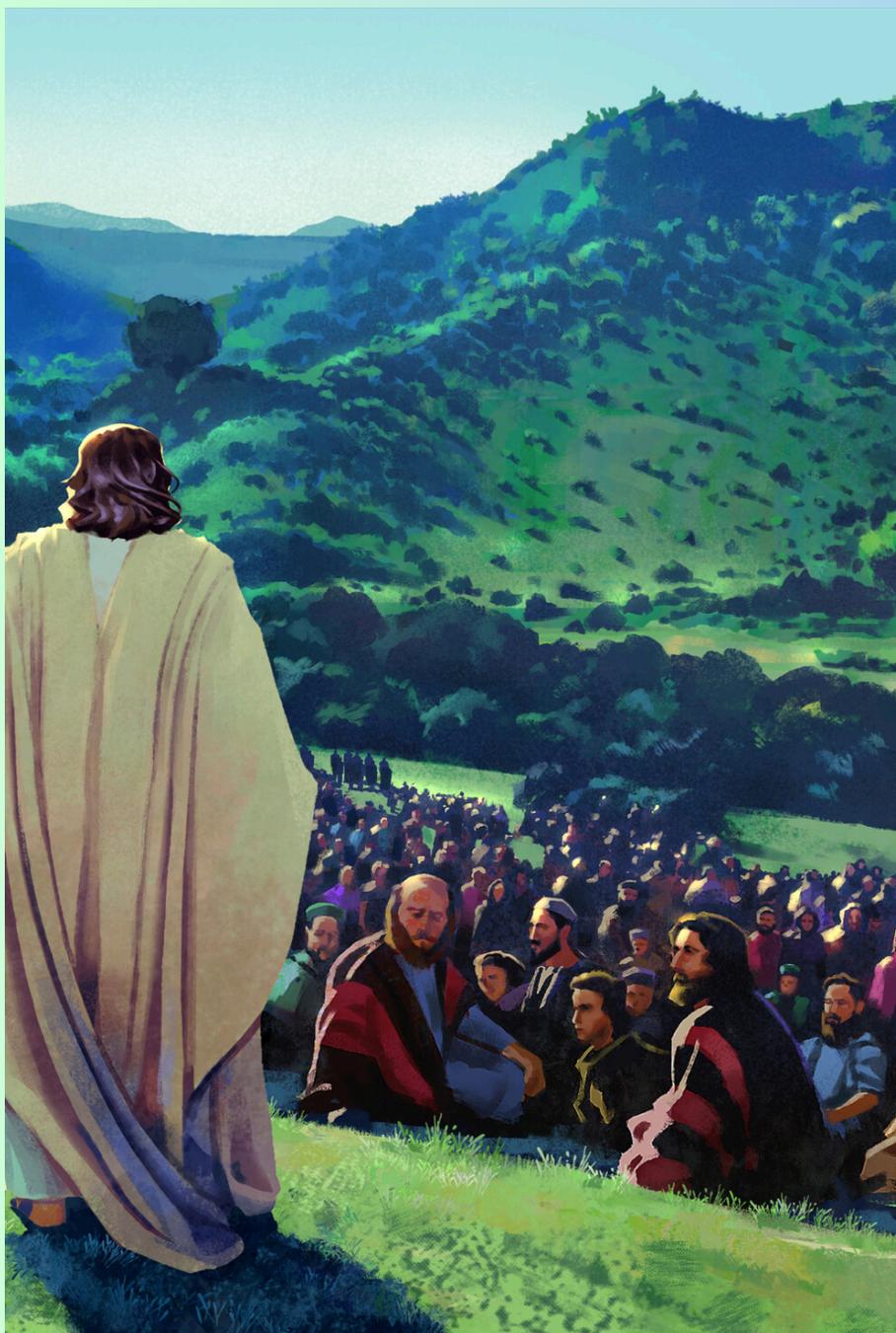
Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church

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

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

February 1, 2026

4th Sunday Ordinary Time



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 ?**

The Source of Genuine Happiness

Today's readings highlight our Christian pursuit of eternal happiness and outline the attitudes and actions required to attain it. In the Beatitudes, Jesus details the core values and attitudes essential for entering and experiencing God's kingdom: humility, a longing for justice, compassion, meekness, mercy, integrity, peacemaking, and readiness to suffer persecution for justice's sake. These teachings encompass the fundamental aspects of Christian conduct that must become habitual for us to live the truly Christ-like lives of love, obedience, and compassion He desires for all believers.

The Beatitudes outline the personal qualities expected of Jesus' followers and the lifestyle they should adopt. They reflect the values that Christ emphasizes. Essentially, the Beatitudes both fulfill and complete the Ten Commandments. While the commandments given to Moses on Mount Sinai, as recorded in the Book of Exodus, are a series of "Thou shalt nots," Jesus presents the Beatitudes positively, as virtues to pursue—not in this world, but in the next.

Zephaniah, in the first reading, describes the "blessed" moral minority among the Jews of his era as those who pursue justice, humility, truth, and righteousness, thereby demonstrating their reliance on God. In the second reading, Paul encourages the Corinthian Christians to utilize their spiritual gifts and blessings from Heaven for the benefit of the community, acknowledging that God has granted them life through Jesus, by whom He has justified, sanctified, and redeemed them.

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples about the paradoxical blessings of poverty, hunger, sorrow, and persecution. Through poverty, we acknowledge God's reign; through hunger, His providence; through sorrow, genuine happiness; and through persecution, true joy. Essentially, those blessed in Jesus' words are the poor in spirit, compassionate, meek, merciful, pure of heart, peacemakers, and willing to endure insult and persecution for their faith in Him. The authors of today's readings—Zephaniah, Paul, and Matthew—urge each of us to consider making a personal Declaration of Dependence on God and to let His grace guide us toward a holier and more joyful life.

The Beatitudes present a way of life, inviting us to identify with the poor, those who mourn, the meek, and those who hunger and thirst for justice. They challenge us to be compassionate, to be men and women pure in heart, and to become peacemakers in our dealings with one another, in our families, and in society at large, even when this path exposes us to ridicule and persecution. Let us remember that each time we reach out to help the needy, the sick, and the oppressed, we share with them a foretaste of the promises of the Beatitudes here and now.

"There are two Ways, one of Life and one of Death, and there is a great difference between the two Ways." These are the opening lines of the Didache, a first-century Christian catechism that taught new Christians the essence of the Christian Faith. The Way of Life is the Way Jesus IS. And JESUS IS the only Way that leads to eternal life. The challenge of the Beatitudes is: "Are you going to be happy in the world's way or in Christ's way?" God wants us to love Him with our entire soul and body, mind and heart, and to love each other and everyone else selflessly as brothers and sisters of Jesus, whose Father, God, has adopted us into His Family.



FAITH CORNER

The Sermon on the Mount

The Sermon on the Mount is an advanced guide from God to His people for their salvation. There is a resemblance between the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount but there is a difference in degree and perspective. On Mount Sinai, Almighty God appeared in clouds and thunder. In the Sermon on the Mount, God is incarnate in a human form. On Mount Sinai guidance was given in ten utterances negative in form, touching only the obligations of every society for its sustainment. In the Sermon on the Mount, guidance was given in the affirmative, uprooting evil intention rather than waiting to destroy its fruits.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ash Wednesday and Stations of the Cross

February 18 is Ash Wednesday. There will be a Mass at 10 am and 7 pm (please note* 7 pm may change to a Service depending on schedule).

During Lent, we shall pray the rosary every Sunday at 9.30am before Mass

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

February is American Heart Month. The focus is on cardiovascular health and stroke prevention, with "National Wear Red Day" on February 6, 2026.

Those who can are encouraged to wear Red on Sunday February 8.

NOSYS: Nurses of Save Your Soles have agreed to come to the church on February 15 to give FREE blood pressure screenings and other biometric screenings that will give indications of an individual's heart health

18th Annual Claver Awards Banquet

Save the date Saturday, November 14, 2026 12-4 pm. Awards Banquet, sit down luncheon.

New SMDP Website and Catholic Church of Philadelphia Planning Survey

Please be sure to view our new website 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.

Request for Volunteers for Church Cleaning

February 7 (monthly church/grounds) weather permitting. Please see Sheila Lee for more information.



Mass Intentions

Sunday: Melody Cooper - Living
Monday - Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday - Dorothy "Dot" Hafner
Wednesday - Margaret H. Shaw
Thursday: Mary E. Glassford
Friday - Jean S. Comby
Saturday - Lillian Florence Clark

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 25, 2026

Thank you for your support !
In Church: \$ 1,745.00
Online: \$ 433.14
Total: \$ 2,178.14

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.