

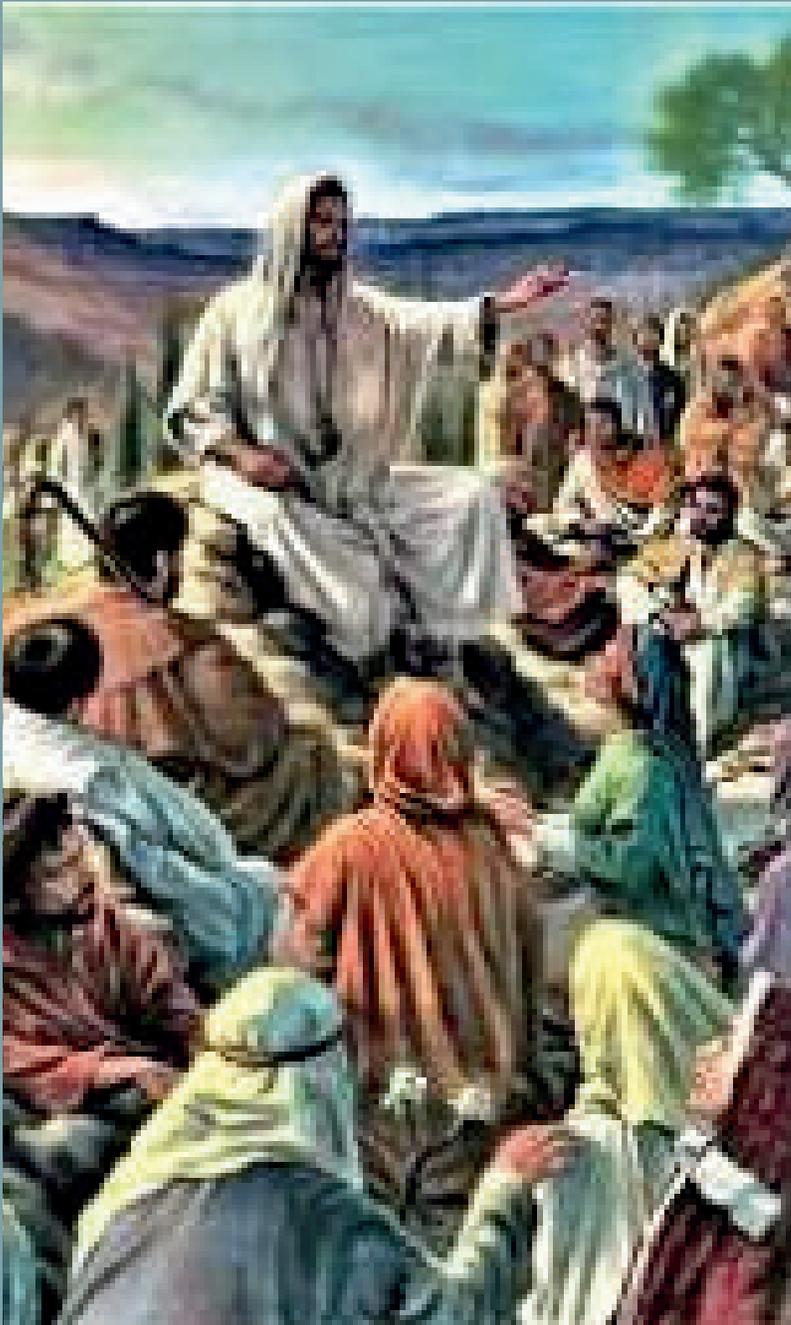
Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church

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.

February 15, 2026

6th 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 ?**

Choose Wisely for Heaven's Sake

Today's readings invite us to freely and wisely choose to follow the laws given by a loving and compassionate God. God revealed His commandments through Moses and the prophets in the Old Testament, and through His Son, Jesus, in the New Testament. For the Israelites, the Torah was not merely a set of rules but a guide to promote holiness and wholeness in each believer. It reflected the revealed will of a caring God for His Chosen People, with whom He had established His covenant.

The first reading from Sirach clearly affirms the God-given freedom of human will and absolves God of responsibility for evil in the world. "If you choose, you can keep the commandments... before you are life and death, whichever you choose shall be given you." In the second reading, Paul exhorts the Corinthian believers to recognize the wisdom of God's saving plan for His people, a plan hidden for ages but now revealed through the Spirit. In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges His disciples to live justly and righteously, surpassing the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees. He presents a new understanding of the Law given through Moses, going beyond the surface to address the true essence of commandments concerning murder, adultery, divorce, oaths, retaliation, and neighborly love.

For the Scribes and Pharisees, merely outwardly fulfilling the Mosaic Law's precepts was seen as assurance of salvation. Jesus refutes this perspective in today's Gospel reading from the "Sermon on the Mount." He emphasizes that justification and sanctification are gifts from God, to which humans must respond with faithfulness. Jesus then describes the new moral standards for his followers. He clarifies that he did not come to abolish the Torah but to perfect it by unveiling its deeper meaning, since Jesus himself is the ultimate revelation of God and the Lawgiver. Additionally, Jesus explains the true significance of three Mosaic laws related to murder, adultery, and false oaths.

Let us prioritize obedience to God's laws over recklessness; while everything else passes away, God's Word endures forever. His Word serves as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. We should choose life over death, supporting and promoting life at all stages, from conception to natural death. Be patient with the elderly; assist and support them, for one day you too will become weak and helpless. Let us favor love over hate, recognizing that hatred is abundant in the world. Through loving one another as God loves us, we can make a meaningful difference.

Let us choose forgiveness instead of anger. Harboring anger can lead to physical ailments such as hypertension and mental health issues like depression. When anger rises, it is best to remain silent and pause before reacting, allowing time for it to subside and cool down. Pray for God's strength to exercise self-control and seek the Holy Spirit's guidance to view the situation through Jesus' perspective rather than through the lens of anger.

Choose honesty over falsehood. Everyone in your life deserves the truth. When you lie to a friend or partner, you not only withhold the truth but also commit an injustice. Speak truthfully and confront evil. In the end, let us allow God's word of truth to shape our minds and hearts, forming our consciences and making us men and women of integrity.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Doctor Edith Irby Jones(1927-2019)

Dr. Jones was a trailblazing, African American physician and civil rights pioneer Who's career spanned more than six decades. Born near Conway, Arkansas ,she overcame early hardships, including losing family members to preventable illnesses, and also an illness of her own ,to pursue a career in medicine.

In 1948, Jones became the first African-American student to attend the university of Arkansas school of medicine and the first black student to attend racially mixed classes in the south breaking significant Jim Crow barriers.

She earned her medical degree in 1952 becoming the first African-American graduate of that school.

After practicing in Hot Springs, Arkansas, she moved to Houston Texas, where she became the first black woman intern at Baylor College of medicine, affiliate hospital, and later opened a private practice in Houston's third ward to serve underserved patients.

In 1962 she became chief of cardiology at Saint Elizabeth's Hospital.

Deeply involved in professional and community organizations she was the first woman president of the national medical Association and the only female founding member of the Association of Black Cardiologists.

Her work included global health outreach and established clinics in Haiti and Mexico advocating for equitable healthcare access.

Her honors included induction into the Arkansas women's Hall of Fame and numerous awards for service and leadership.

She passed away in 2019 at the age of 91 leaving a legacy, of breaking racial and gender barriers in medicine.

Respectfully submitted by,
Angelina Parker



Heart Health Awareness Month

Heart health awareness month reminds us that caring for our hearts is an important part of caring for the life. God has given to us. Knowing your Health numbers, such as blood pressure, blood sugar(A1c), And kidney function can help prevent serious heart problems before they begin. Learn the warning signs of a heart attack, please see complete information on our flyer handout at back table.

Respectfully submitted by,
Angelina Parker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule

Ash Wednesday Service(Church)- 9: 00 am

Mass in Church 6:00 pm

Mass at Newman Center: 12:15 pm.

Newman Center 2129 N Broad St, Philadelphia, PA 19122

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

Gift Card Bingo

February 21, 2026 - \$ 20.00 Early Bird Doors open at 12:30 see flyer at back table.

Blacks In Wax - A Black History Month Celebration

Eighth grade students present on Friday February 27, 2026 at 6 pm in the church hall. Featuring Black Activists who made a difference ! See flyer at back table.



Mass Intentions

Sunday - Anna May Curran
Monday - Alicia Garner - Living
Tuesday - Lynne Ventrone
Wednesday - Mel Sedor
Thursday - Darius Cooper - Living
Friday - Rose Mary Robertson
Saturday - Gayle Sentman

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 February 8, 2026

Thank you for your support !
In Church: \$ 1,742.00
Online: \$ 931.59
Total: \$ 2,673.59

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.