

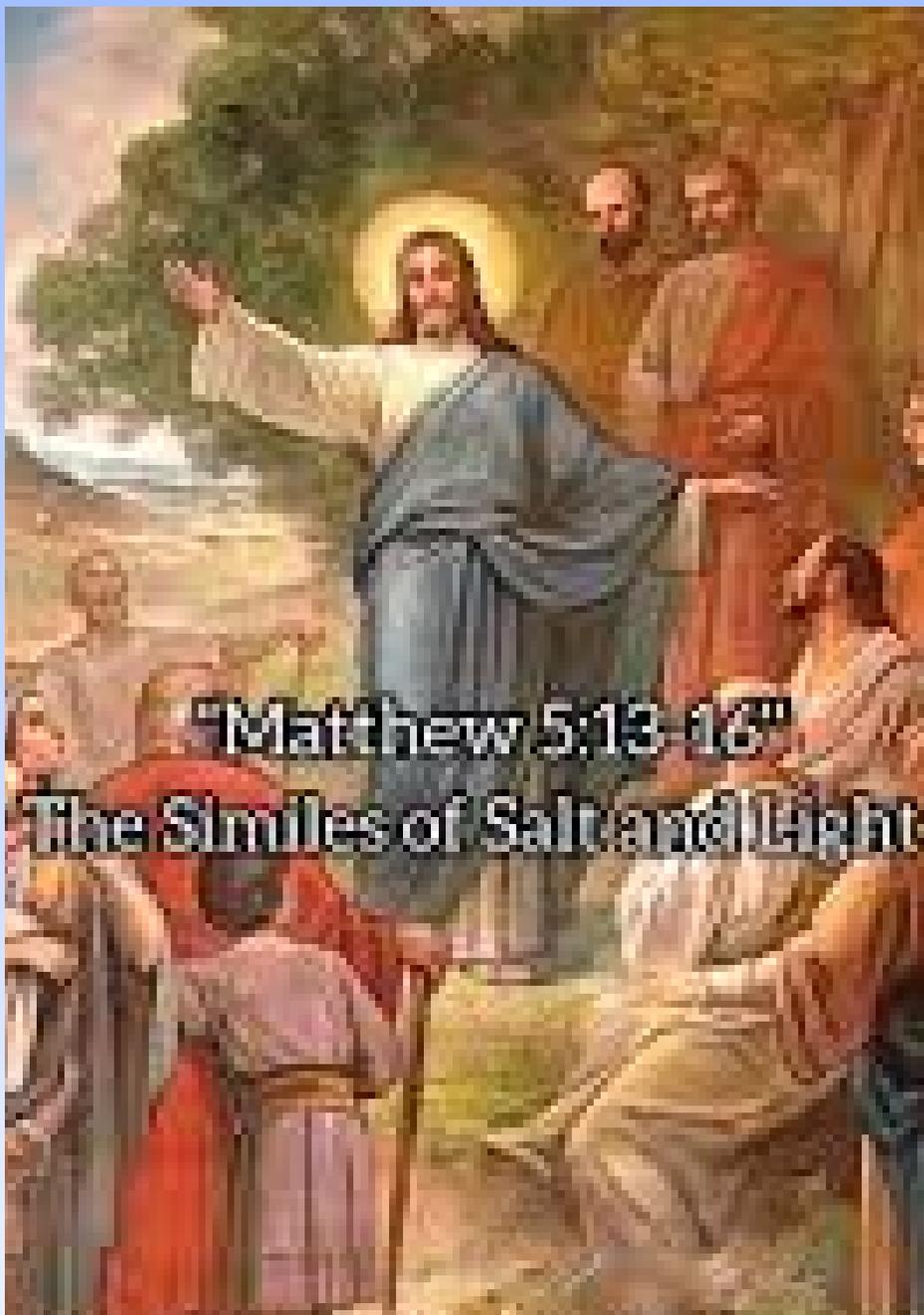
# Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church

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

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

February 8, 2026

5th Sunday Ordinary Time



"Matthew 5:13-18"

The Similes of Salt and Light

## 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 ?**

### **Living as Salt and Light in a World of Darkness**

Brothers and sisters, salt and light were essential to survival in a society without the modern conveniences of electricity and refrigeration. Light was essential for seeing at night and for cooking and food preservation. In the first century, people were dependent on their own sources of fuel. Salt and light were essential staples of first-century life. However, what does Jesus mean by asking the rhetorical question about hiding the light and salt losing its saltiness?

Our Christian lives as salt and light are important to the world. Regardless of our career or status in life, our Holy Spirit-empowered lives are essential for seasoning and illuminating our relationships with people. Just as Jesus first directed His message in the Sermon on the Mount to His disciples, the place of training and fellowship is the Church. However, we are not to remain inside the Church to the point of becoming part of “churchianity.” Instead, just as the crowds in the Sermon on the Mount were curious about Jesus’ teaching, we too must go out and teach the world.

We will not only carry the light of the Gospel to the lost, but we are the light to the lost world.

The crucial difference between someone who has lost their saltiness and covered their light and someone who spreads salt and light is that the latter has accepted the free gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, who empowers them to accomplish those goals.

The Holy Spirit-directed life is the hallmark of a true believer. The ultimate goal of every believer should be to share your faith with others through word and deed. “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven” (v. 16).

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen said it best; “All love craves unity. As the highest peak of love in the human order is the unity of husband and wife in the flesh, so the highest unity in the Divine order is the unity of the soul and Christ, which is communion.”

That’s what Jesus is telling us today. Not to lose your saltiness but to stay in communion with him.

All we have to do is be salt and light and follow Jesus. We don’t have to be the meal. We just have to preserve it and season it with the love of Christ, because he is the meal. Every time we come together for Mass with our prayers, needs, and petitions, we receive his body and blood, soul and divinity. So let’s not lose our saltiness or hide our light, because the world needs both now more than ever. Jesus is counting on us all to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, to the glory of God. Amen

Deacon Melvin Burton Jr.

# MATTHEW

5:13-16 // SALT & LIGHT

## FAITH CORNER

Jesus used the concepts of salt and light a number of different times to refer to the role of His followers in the world. One example is found in Matthew 5:13: “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.” Salt had two purposes in the Middle East of the first century. Because of the lack of refrigeration, salt was used to preserve food, especially meat, which would quickly spoil in the desert environment. Believers in Christ are preservatives to the world, preserving it from the evil inherent in the society of ungodly men whose unredeemed natures are corrupted by sin (Psalm 14:3; Romans 8:8).

## 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.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH/AMERICAN HEART

### Vivien Theodore Thomas

Born August 29, 1910 in Louisiana. He was an American laboratory supervisor who in the 1940s played a major role in developing a procedure called the Blalock-Thomas-Taussig Shunt used to treat Blue baby syndrome(now known as cyanotic heart disease). Along with surgeon Alfred Blalock and cardiologist Helen B.Taussig. He was the assistant to Blalock in Blalock experimental animal Laboratory in Vanderbilt university in Nashville, Tennessee and later at John's Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland Thomas was unique in that he did not have any professional education or experience in a research laboratory; However, He served as a supervisor of the surgical Laboratories at John Hopkins for 35 years. In 1976, John Hopkins awarded him an honorary doctorate and named him an instructor of surgery for the Jon Hopkins school of medicine. Without any education past high school, Thomas rose above poverty, to become a cardiac surgery pioneer and a teacher of operative techniques to many of our country's most prominent surgeons. Vivien Thomas Died November 26, 1985 at the age of 75 in Baltimore, Maryland



### Mass Intentions

Sunday: Brian Caldwell - Living  
Monday - Holy Souls in Purgatory  
Tuesday - Lokia Moon - Living  
Wednesday - Eileen Johnson  
Thursday: Melody Cooper - Living  
Friday - Deborah Rose  
Saturday - Richard Retzback

### 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 1, 2026

Thank you for your support !  
In Church: \$ 1318.00  
Online: \$ \$557.87  
Total: \$ 1875.00

### 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 needs 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.