

# 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.

February 22, 2026

1st Sunday of Lent Year A



## 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 ?**

## **Lent: Walking in Jesus's footsteps to conquer temptation**

Lent is primarily a time of intense spiritual preparation to overcome our temptations, using the means Jesus used during his forty days in the desert as he began his public life. It is also a time to repent of our sins and renew our lives so that we can celebrate Easter with our Risen Lord, who conquered sin and death through his suffering, death, and Resurrection. Today's readings teach us that we are always tempted by the devil, the world, and our own selfish interests. So we need to cooperate actively with God's grace if we are to overcome our temptations and practice prayer, self-control, and charity.

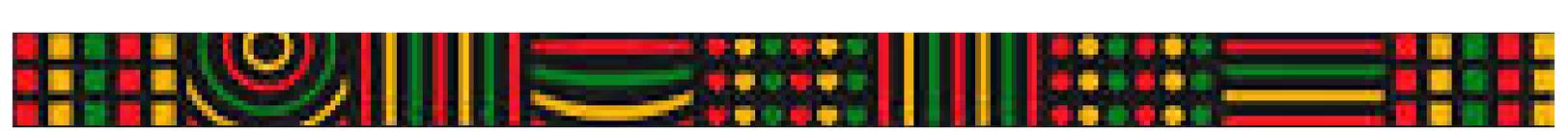
Today's Gospel teaches us that the "desert experience" of fasting, prayer, and soul-strengthening enabled Jesus to confront His temptations successfully and then to preach the Good News of salvation. The tempter urges Jesus to turn stones into loaves of bread. But Jesus rejects that temptation — mistrusting His Father to satisfy His own immediate, temporal needs — which would reduce His Divine mission to self-satisfaction! The tempter then suggests that Jesus prove He is the Son of God by jumping from the Temple parapet. Jesus rejects this as a temptation to act as God's superior and demand that He prove His Trustworthiness! Finally, Jesus rejects the temptation to idolatry, even though worshipping Satan would enrich and empower Him with all the kingdoms of the world.

Every one of us is tempted to seek sinful pleasures, easy wealth, and positions of authority, power, and glory, and to use any means, even unjust or sinful ones, to gain them. Jesus serves as a model for us in overcoming temptations by strengthening himself through prayer, penance, and the active use of the Word of God. Temptations make us stronger warriors of God by strengthening our minds and hearts.

By constantly struggling against temptations, we become stronger. Each time one is tempted to do evil but does good, one grows stronger. Further, we are never tempted beyond our power. In his first letter, St. John assures us: "Greater is the One Who is in us, than the one who is in the world (1 Jn 4: 4)." We may be strengthened by St. Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 10:13: "No testing has overtaken you, that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and [God] will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing [God] will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it." Hence, during this Lent, let us confront our evil tendencies through prayer (especially by participating in the Holy Mass), penance, and meditative reading of the Bible.

We are to grow in holiness during Lent through prayer, reconciliation, and sharing: a) by finding time to be with God every day of Lent, speaking to Him in fervent prayer and listening to Him through the meditative reading of the Bible; b) by offering penitential acts of reparation for our sins; c) by reconciling with God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and with others by asking their forgiveness for our offenses against them; d) by sharing our love with others through selfless, humble service, almsgiving, and helping those in need.

We can set aside a place and time each day to be alone with God, a time to distance ourselves from the many noises that bombard our lives, a time to hear God's word, a time to rediscover who we are before God, and a time to say yes to God and no to Satan, as Jesus did.



## **Black History Month Reflection**

“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything that you do flows from it.”  
Proverbs 4:23

### **Caring for the Human Heart**

As we conclude Black History Month, we honor African-American pioneers, who strengthened both the physical and spiritual heart through medicine, innovation, faith, and service. Their legacy reminds us to care for our health and to guard our heart in Jesus Christ.

**Dr Daniel Hale Williams**

Born: January 18, 1856

Died: August 4, 1931

Dr. Williams performed one of the first successful open heart surgeries in 1893. Also, he founded Provident Hospital- Advancing both Heart care and equality in medicine.

**Otis Frank Boykin**

Born: August 29, 1920

Died: March 26, 1982

Mr. Boykin Was an engineer and an inventor who developed an Improved component used in the Pacemaker’s control unit.

**Mary Elizabeth Lange**

Born: 1789 St. Dominique

Died: February 3, 1882- Baltimore, Maryland

Mother Mary Lange was an American religious sister who founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence in 1829. She dedicated her life to faith and education. A true servant of God.

Respectfully submitted By,  
The Health Awareness Team  
SMDP

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Stations of the Cross during Lent**

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

### **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.

### **Fish Fry**

Fish Fry, Friday March 6. \$20. Advanced orders preferred. See flyer for additional details.

### **Catholic Charities Appeal (CCA) In Pew Weekend**

Please see pews for Catholic Charities Appeal envelopes or visit the website [catholicchurchofphila.org/appeal](http://catholicchurchofphila.org/appeal).



# Mass Intentions

## Mass Intentions

Sunday - Gilbert Cooper

Monday - Mel Sedor

Tuesday - Stephen Turney

Wednesday - Gloria Impicciatore

Thursday - Robert Cummins

Friday - Spec. Int. - Dominic Pine - Living

Saturday - Spec. Int - Alicia Garner - 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, 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 15, 2026

Thank you for your support !

In Church: \$ 3,781.00

Online: \$ 510.60

Total: \$ 4,291.60

## 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.