

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.

March 1, 2026

2nd 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 ?

Leave Your Comfort Zone.

Personal growth is a lifelong journey; you die without growing. However, self-improvement always requires moral courage to move away from places, things, and habits that hinder our growth. This can be uncomfortable and messy, but it is worth it because if you keep doing what you have always done, you will always be where you have always been.

When Jesus takes Peter, James, and John to the mountain to pray, he shows them a foretaste of heaven through his transfiguration. Peter requested an extended stay because it was the most beautiful and cozy site (Lk 9:28-36). Heaven is real, but Jesus denied it because there is no easy or cheap route to heaven. No one goes to heaven on a couch, but we must all sit up and go through purification, self-denial, and hardships to attain heaven. That is why Jesus reveals that the secret of heaven lies in carrying our daily crosses and following him.

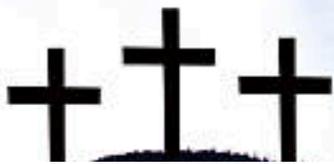
St. Paul's letter to Timothy explains the Lenten life transformation expected of us. We should be ready to bear hardship for the Gospel's sake and to be thankful to God for our call to holiness, not trusting in our own merits but in His grace to live obedient, loving, faith-filled lives: "Bear your share of hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God."

It is impossible to leave your comfort zone without pain or suffering, but that is nothing compared to the glorious life ahead. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. The butterfly would never reach its full potential if it stayed in the cocoon forever. You can become the best version of yourself only by stepping out of your cocoon. It takes willpower to say no and move away from proposals and offers that derail the ultimate destination, heaven. It may require you to relocate from a toxic environment and close some doors simply because they lead nowhere. Remember, you are not alone on this journey. God is with you, guiding and protecting you every step of the way.

One major obstacle to leaving our comfort zone is laziness. Laziness is not a virtue. It is the habit of resting before you get tired. If you want to eat breakfast in bed, stay in the kitchen. Some people are so lazy that they would sleep on the floor if there were work to be done on the bed.

A girl's prayer card read: Dear God, if you cannot make me thin, make my friends fat. It is a lousy prayer. By the way, the only person you should try to be better than is the person you were yesterday. Lazy people often make excuses. You don't get thin by praying but by exercising and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Lazy people pray for good luck rather than work hard.

Another obstacle to leaving your comfort zone is fear of the future. Remember, God holds the future. Leave your comfort zone and trust him, for he will take care of you. Without total trust in God, we would never leave our comfort zones. When God asks Abraham to leave his homeland, Abraham trusts God completely, and in the end, God fulfills His promise. Those who leave everything in God's hands will see God's hands in everything. When God pushes you to the edge of a cliff, trust him fully, because only two things can happen. He will catch you when you fall or teach you how to fly. Trusting in God's guidance is not just a suggestion; it's a promise of a better future.



FAITH CORNER

The Journey of Lent is a path paved with opportunities for renewal and deepening our faith. As we embark on this sacred time, it becomes essential to reflect upon and rejuvenate our commitment to our spiritual beliefs and practices. A prayer for the renewal of faith and commitment serves as a bridge, reconnecting us with the divine and reaffirming our dedication to walk in the light of Christ.

Heavenly Father, in this holy season of Lent, we come before you with open hearts, yearning for the renewal of our faith and the deepening of our commitment. Like the winter ground welcomes the spring rain, let our souls receive your grace, ever fresh, ever transformative.

Renew within us, O Lord, a steadfast spirit, to embrace your teachings with eagerness, to live out your commandments with fervor, and to love you and our neighbors with all that we are. May the light of your love dispel the shadows of doubt and complacency that so often seek to settle within our hearts.

In the quiet moments of prayer and reflection, rekindle the flame of faith that draws us closer to you, and reignite our commitment to serve your kingdom with humility, with joy, and with an unwavering trust in your divine plan.

The essence of this prayer for the renewal of faith and commitment lies not only in the words we speak but also in the action it inspires within us.

Pros:

Strengthens spiritual connectivity and recognition of God's constant presence.
Enhances humility and appreciation for life's blessings, big and small.
Encourages a positive mindset by focusing on the gifts rather than the hardships.

Cons:

May be challenging for individuals going through difficult times to fully resonate with.
Risk of becoming complacent by taking God's love as a guarantee without acting in faith.

In this season of Lent, our hearts turn towards reflection and deeper understanding. A key facet of this period is recognizing and giving gratitude for God's unfailing love. This prayer seeks to open our hearts to this divine affection, acknowledging its relentless presence in our lives and fostering a deeper sense of community and compassion with those around us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stations of the Cross during Lent

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

Mother's In Charge - Easter Egg Hunt

18th Annual William O. Ward Jr., Easter Egg Hunt. Please see flyer in back on table or contact Sheila Ward.

Fish Fry

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

Pastoral Council Meeting

Next PPC meeting is March 8, 2026. All members have been sent an email invite along with last month's minutes. If you have not received an email please contact the office.

LENT

prayer • fasting • almsgiving

Mass Intentions

Sunday - Theresa Hart

Monday - Alicia Garner - Living

Tuesday - Jennifer Garner - Living

Wednesday - Sister Mary Dacey, SSJ

Thursday - Sister Grace D. Pino, SSJ

Friday - Marion L. Lyons - Living

Saturday - Aiden Baker - 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 22, 2026

Thank you for your support !

In Church: \$ 2,765.00

Online: \$ \$462.06

Total: \$ 3,227.06

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.