

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 15, 2026

4th 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 ?

Lord, Open the Eyes of My Heart

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is called "Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday," expressing the Church's joy in looking forward to the Resurrection of our Lord. Today's readings remind us that it is God who grants us proper vision in body and soul and teaches us to stay alert against spiritual blindness.

The first reading, taken from the First Book of Samuel, describes the anointing of David as the second king of Israel and shows how blind we are in our judgments and how much we need God's help. It also reminds us that those whom God calls to His saving plans are not always the ones the world sees as great. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 23), we celebrate God's care as our Good Shepherd, singing, "even though I walk in the dark valley, I fear no evil; for You are at my side with Your rod and Your staff that give me courage."

Jesus' giving sight to a blind man, reported in today's Gospel, teaches us the importance of opening our spiritual and mental eyes through faith and warns us that those who think they see the truth are often blind. At the same time, those who admit their blindness are given true vision. In this story, the most unlikely person—the beggar born blind—receives the light of faith in Jesus, while the religious, law-educated Pharisees remain spiritually blind. "There are none so blind as those who will not see." Today's Gospel reminds us that we should live as children of the light, seeking what is good, right, true, and beautiful. Our Lenten prayers and sacrifices should help heal our blindness so we can see others as children of God and love them as our brothers and sisters, saved by Jesus' death and resurrection.

Physiologically, the "blind spot" is the part of our eye where vision is absent. It is where the optic nerve enters the eyeball. A blind spot in a vehicle is an area around it that the driver cannot see directly. In real life, we all have blind spots — in our marriages, our parenting, our work habits, and our personalities. We often wish to stay in the dark, preferring darkness over light. It is even possible for religious people today to be like the Pharisees: religious in worship, in attending the Sacraments, in prayer, in tithing, and in knowing the Bible – but blind to the poverty, injustice, and pain around them. We need to ask Jesus to heal our blind spots.

Our culture also has blind spots. Often, it fails to see things like love, happiness, marriage, and genuine, committed sexual love within marriage. Our society has become numb to violence, sexual innuendo, and immense suffering around us. Our culture, media, movies, and values frequently overlook what it truly means to love selflessly and sacrificially. Despite scientific evidence, our culture remains blind to the truth that life begins at conception and callously promotes abortion.

Peter Marshall, a former U.S. Congress chaplain, prayed for clear vision to stand for what matters, warning that without it, we might fall for anything. Today's Gospel challenges us to see clearly: do we see terrorists in every member of a religion? Outcasts and sinners among people with an addiction? Do we overlook God's work because we see no miracles? Swift said, "Vision is the art of seeing invisible things." This gift belongs to those who see the good in suffering and failure, and who never lose hope. Let us pray for the grace to recognize God's loving and forgiving presence, and may God, in his love and mercy, open the eyes of our hearts that we may see as He sees.



Laetare

Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Lent

FAITH CORNER

Sacraments

"Christ instituted the sacraments of the new law. There are seven: Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist, Penance, the Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony. The seven sacraments touch all the stages and all the important moments of Christian life: they give birth and increase, healing and mission to the Christian's life of faith.



Choose the Correct Answer:

- Water baptism in scripture is explicitly and specifically said to be
 - a. a sign, symbol, rite, ritual, ceremony, tradition, token, and institution
 - b. a sacrament
 - c. an ordinance
 - d. the answer of a good conscience toward God

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Confession for Catechumens

First Confessions will be Sunday, March 22 at 9 am in the Church Confessional.

Lenten Confessions

Lenten Confessions will be held March 28, 2026 from 10 am to 11 am in Church.

Stations of the Cross during Lent

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

Fish Fry

Next Fish Fry is March 20 please text your order to 267-259-6689 - See order forms and flyer in back on table.

Live Streamed Mass

We want to know and hear from parishioners who watch the livestreamed Masses. In case there are no viewers, we will eventually end livestreaming Masses.



Mass Intentions

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Sunday - Sister Cynthia Ludwick, SSJ
Monday - Spec. Int. Joseph Patton Sr. Living
Tuesday - Special Int. Jennifer Garner Living
Wednesday - Sister Rose Christine Wagner, SSJ
Thursday - Sister Adele Solari, SSJ
Friday - Sister Mary Catherine Walton, SSJ
Saturday - Spec. Int. Jennifer 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 March 8, 2026

Thank you for your support !

In Church: \$ 2,275.00

Online: \$ 967.74

Total: \$ 3,242.74

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.