

Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church

2340 W. Lehigh Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19132
215.228.8330
website: smartindpparish.org

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

March 22, 2026

5th 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 ?**

Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life

Death and resurrection are central themes in today's Scripture readings. The Psalmist (Responsorial Psalm, Ps 130), singing, "I trust in the Lord, my soul trusts in His word. More than sentinels wait for the dawn, let Israel wait for the Lord," looks forward to Yahweh's redemption for Israel. In the first reading, Ezekiel shares his vision of the reanimation of Israel, which was considered dead, in preparation for the returning exiles to the Promised Land. Through Ezekiel, the Lord God promises His chosen people that He will someday bring them back to live in the freedom of the Promised Land, and not even death will prevent Him from fulfilling this promise. Yahweh states, "I will open your graves, have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel." In the second reading, St. Paul assures the early Roman Christians, who faced death through persecution (and us, surrounded by a culture of death), that the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead and dwells within us will raise our mortal bodies to Life on the Last Day.

In today's Gospel, John shows us Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead on the fourth day after his death. This miracle was the sixth Sign (out of seven) that Jesus performed to prove his identity as the Promised Messianic Deliverer. The raising of Lazarus is a symbolic story of Jesus' victory over sin and death, achieved at the cost of his own human life, and points to Jesus' own upcoming Resurrection on the third day after his death on the cross. Describing this great miracle, the Church assures us that we, too, will be raised to eternal life after we struggle with sin and death in this world. The readings remind us that our Faith in Jesus, who is "the Resurrection and the Life," guarantees our participation in Resurrection and new life.

We live in a world deeply affected by death. We kill each other through acts like murder, abortion, euthanasia, execution, war, terrorism, and reckless, drunken driving. We also harm ourselves with suicide, drug and alcohol addiction, smoking, overwork, stress, unhealthy eating habits, and physical neglect. Additionally, we observe passively as others die from poverty, hunger, malnutrition, homelessness, unemployment, poor education, disease, lack of healthcare, child abuse, human trafficking, arms proliferation, discrimination, pollution, environmental destruction, unsafe working conditions, and all the laws, policies, practices, and attitudes that sustain these issues. (Gerald Darring).

The most important question is: "Am I ready NOW to face my death?" We find a strange question and its truthful answer in the sacred scriptures of the Hindus. "What is the greatest wonder in the world?" The answer is: "All of us know that we will surely die, but each of us foolishly thinks that he or she will not die anytime in the near future." Let us not be foolish; let us be wise, well-prepared, and ever ready to meet our Lord with a clear conscience when the time comes. Thomas a Kempis wrote: "Every action of yours, every thought, should be those of one who expects to die before the day is out. Death would have no great terrors for you if you had a quiet conscience... Then why not keep clear of sin rather than run away from death? If you aren't fit to face death today, it's very unlikely you will be tomorrow..." (The Imitation of Christ, 1, 23, 1) (CCC #1014).

FAITH CORNER

First Reconciliation

Prior to receiving First Communion, Baptized Catholics make their First Reconciliation, also known as the Sacrament of Confession or Penance. This is the sacrament of mercy through which sins, especially mortal sins, are forgiven and penance is done, both to make up for those sins already forgiven and to help preserve the penitent from future falls. Remember the 5 Steps to make a good confession:

Find out your sins,
Be sorry for them,
Make up your mind not to sin again,
Confess your sins to the priest,
Do the penance he gives you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parents, Candidates and Sponsors of Catechumens

There will be a meeting after Mass today regarding upcoming Sacraments and procedures.

Feast of the Annunciation March 25, 2026

Wednesday, March 25 is the Feast of the Annunciation. Parishioners are encouraged to attend daily Mass in the Chapel at 9 am.

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.

Save the date April 25 Saint Katharine of Siena

Annual Feast day Mass with our sister parish St. Katharine of Siena. Mass at 5 pm followed by dinner. Please see sign up sheet in back of church so we know how many will attend and need bus transportation.

Next Fish Fry April 3

Cash only - please see menu and order forms on back table

Faith Corner Quiz and Prizes

Every 4th Sunday there be a Faith Corner Quiz - prizes will be handed out for correct answers so please pay attention to Faith Corner !

Live Streamed Masses

We have heard from one parishioner watching the livestreamed Masses. We would like to know and hear from other parishioners watching from home.

March Health Announcement from SMDP Health Awareness Team

Besides being aware of our kidney health, we must also keep in mind that during the month of March we should address the importance of colon screening for cancer. Regular colon cancer screening can be life saving. This disease often develops without symptoms in its early stages. Having screening tests can find and remove pre-cancerous polyps before they become cancer. The American Cancer Society recommends routine screening for adults which may include a colonoscopy, beginning at age 45 (Earlier if there is a family history of colon cancer). Speak with your healthcare provider about the options best for you. Taking these steps can help protect your health and add years to your life.

“ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit”

1 Corinthians 6:19



Mass INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions

Sunday -Sister Catherine Julia Reinhart, SSJ.
Monday -Spec. Int - Joseph Patton Sr. Living
Tuesday -Spec. Int. Jennifer Garner - Living
Wednesday -Sister Lawrence Elizabeth Sandoli, SSJ.
Thursday -Sister Barbara T. Kotzman, SSJ.
Friday - Jean S. Comby
Saturday - George D. Shaw, Jr.

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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sunday March 29 Palm Sunday

Mass Begins at 10am, with blessing of the Palms at the back of the church.

Thursday April 2 Holy Thursday

-Mass of the Last Supper at 5pm.

Friday April 3 Good Friday

Ceremonies begin at 3pm with Stations of the cross around the Church followed by Communion Service.

Saturday April 4 Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil Mass Begins at 7pm. Parishioners are encouraged to still attend Mass Easter Sunday.

Sunday April 5 Easter Sunday

Mass at 10am

Weekly Collection for March 15, 2026

Thank you for your support !

In Church: \$ 2,191.00

Online: \$ 624.58

Total: \$ 2,815.58

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.