

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 29, 2026

Palm Sunday 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 ?

Holy Week, a time for deep self-reflection

The Church observes this Sixth Sunday in Lent as both Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. It is on Palm Sunday that we enter Holy Week, welcoming Jesus into our lives and asking Him to let us share in Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection. The Church pauses at this point in the Liturgical Year so that we can remember and relive the events that have brought about our redemption and salvation. The Holy Week liturgies present us with the actual events of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.

These liturgies allow us to experience, here and now, what Jesus endured then. Moreover, as we reflect on and relive everything we commemorate during this Holy Week—His Passion and death—we also examine ourselves deeply and pray that, through our penitence and His Mercy, we may rise in Him—healed, reconciled, and redeemed. Just as Jesus did, we are called to freely give our lives for Him by actively participating in the Holy Week liturgies. In doing so, we open ourselves to Jesus's forgiveness, His healing of the wounds caused by our sins and the sins of others, and His power to transform us more fully into the image and likeness of God.

In these ways, we will be able to live more fully the Divine life we received at Baptism. Attentive participation in Holy Week liturgies will also deepen our relationship with God, strengthen our Faith, and enrich our lives as disciples of Jesus. But let us remember that Holy Week can become “holy” for us only if we actively and consciously take part in the liturgies of this week. During this week of the Passion—passionate suffering, passionate grace, passionate love, and passionate forgiving—each of us is called to remember the Christ of Calvary and then to embrace and lighten the burden of the Christ whose passion continues to be experienced in the hungry, the poor, the sick, the homeless, the aged, the lonely, and the outcast.

Let us avoid causing Jesus to weep over us. Instead, let us repent and mourn our sins, “Heaven rejoices over a repentant sinner, and sheds tears over a non-repentant, hardhearted one.” We should imitate the prodigal son and return to God, our loving Father, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this last week of Lent and fully participate in the joy of Christ's Resurrection.

We need to be fruitful, not barren, fig trees. God expects us to bear the fruits of holiness, purity, justice, humility, obedience, charity, and forgiveness rather than lead empty spiritual lives. Let us not desecrate our hearts, causing Jesus to cleanse them with His whip. Jesus cannot tolerate the desecration of our souls, each a temple of the Holy Spirit, by our addiction to uncharitable, unjust, and impure thoughts, words, and deeds. We should welcome Jesus into our hearts more intentionally during Holy Week, just as Jesus' supporters did on Palm Sunday, by inviting Him into all areas of our lives as our Lord and Savior, singing “Hosanna!” and surrendering everything to Him.

Let us rejoice and sing as Jesus enters our lives today. Let us also weep and mourn as His death confronts us with our sin. The African American hymn asks the question, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they nailed Him to a tree?” The answer is yes, a definite yes. Yes, we were there in the crowd on both days, shouting, “Hosanna!” and later, “Crucify Him!”

Significance of Holy Week:

- 1) A week of remembrance and appreciation
- 2) A week of thanksgiving
- 3) A week of repentance and reconciliation
- 4) A week to keep Christ's New Commandment of Agape love
- 5) A week to deepen our Faith and strengthen our relationship with God.



FAITH CORNER

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week, the last Sunday in Lent, which celebrates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified.

Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey which is symbolic of arriving in peace as opposed to arriving on a strong horse signifying war. Crowds lay palm branches at his feet, crying out Hosanna in the Highest, recognizing him as the long-awaited Messiah. The symbolic act of laying down palm branches was a gesture of homage reserved for kings and dignitaries in Israel. A week later, Jesus Christ rose the dead on the first Easter.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Gift Card Bingo

Last Gift Card Bingo this school year will be April 18 in Church Hall. Doors open at 12:30. See Sheila Lee for tickets, \$ 20.00 early bird, and \$25.00 at the door.

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 !

Knights of Peter Claver

18th Annual Claver Awards Banquet Saturday: November 14, 2026 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
Annual Biblical Tea: November 29, 2026. More information to follow.

Palm Sunday

Mass Intentions

Sunday -Kendall Holbrook - Living
Monday - Spec. Int. - Joseph Patton Sr. - Living
Tuesday -Daniel Harry Comby
Wednesday -Sister Anita Maria O'Dwyer, SSJ.
Thursday - Sister Teresa McKenna, SSJ.
Friday - George D. Shaw, Jr.
Saturday - George D. Shaw, Sr.

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, Gwen Meekins

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Thursday April 2 Holy Thursday

-Mass of the Last Supper at 5pm.

Holy Hour at the conclusion of the Holy Thursday Mass (6 pm to 7 pm).
Parishioners and parish groups who would like to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament any time after 7 pm should sign up in the vestibule.

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 22, 2026

Thank you for your support !

In Church: \$ 2697.00

Online: \$ 582.21

Total: \$ 3,279.21

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.