

Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church

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Philadelphia, PA 19132
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Our Clergy
Parochial Administrator: Fr. Wilfred Emeh
Parish Deacon: Melvin Burton Jr.

March 8, 2026

3rd 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 ?

Come to Jesus, the Living water.

The readings today emphasize Baptism and new life, with water symbolizing our relationship with God. Water signifies the Holy Spirit, who enters us through Baptism and reveals God's presence in all aspects of life. The Holy Spirit quenches our spiritual thirst. Just as water in the desert sustained the Israelites, true love with Jesus grants life to those who accept Him as Lord. We assemble to partake in this water of eternal life and salvation. The Holy Spirit, the Word, and the Sacraments serve as sources of Divine Grace, cleansing, renewing, and empowering us. The Gospel today encourages us to remain eager for the living water that only God can provide.

Today's Gospel recounts how Jesus stirred within the woman at the well a longing for completeness and integrity, qualities she had lost, longings which He came to fulfill. By revealing Himself as the Messiah to the Samaritan woman, Jesus speaks of the fountain of water He will provide—the life-giving waters of Baptism. The water Jesus promises is intrinsically linked to conversion and the forgiveness of sin. This account presents a woman who comes to faith and subsequently becomes a missionary, leading others to Jesus. Jesus acknowledges the gifts and ministries of women within His future Church. Additionally, this narrative illustrates God's act of wooing outsiders or, as Paul would describe, “the godless.” The Samaritans, often regarded as godless, ultimately profess Jesus as the Savior of “the world” in this town. This Gospel passage also reveals Jesus as the Source of Living Water and teaches us that we require the grace of Jesus Christ for eternal life, for He embodies that life-giving water.

Jesus always finds a way to enter our personal lives. When Jesus became personal with this woman and started asking uncomfortable questions about her five husbands, she cleverly tried to change the subject and talk about religion. She didn't want Jesus to get too personal. But Jesus wanted to set her free, forgive her, direct her life in a new direction, and transform her. He wanted to offer this woman Living Water.

A sign that God is active in our lives is His entering into our personal, “private” lives. Jesus wants to “get personal” with us, especially during this Lenten season. Jesus seeks to enter our “private” lives because this is the part of us that often opposes God's will. Christ desires to come into that “private” space not to embarrass, judge, or condemn us, but to reconnect us with God's will and our salvation by freeing us, transforming us, and offering what we truly need: “living water.” The “living water” refers to today's Gospel message, which challenges us to let go of attachments and evil habits that enslave us and turn us into idols.

Lent is a time to learn from our mistakes—whether it's over-indulgence in food, drink, drugs, gambling, promiscuity, or other addictions—that keep us from reaching the “living waters” of a right relationship with God. We all have our list of shortcomings, don't we? And we all honestly know what we need to leave behind before we can approach the “Living Water” and the Bread of Heaven. Let us earnestly strive to do so during this Lenten season: God the Holy Spirit, who enters the woman's soul through Jesus and His love.



FAITH CORNER

As we adjust our clocks for Daylight Saving Time, many of us experience a mix of emotions. Some welcome the longer days and the promise of spring, while others may struggle with the disruption to their routines.

Scripture says, “There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. (Ecclesiastes 3:1). In the Old Testament, God appointed a time for everything, and we had very little to say about it. There were exceptions to the rule, such as Hezekiah getting fifteen more years to live (Is 38:5,8) and Joshua making the sun stand still for a day (Jos 10:12-13). But generally, the timing of events was set, and we couldn’t do much about it. As Catholics, we recognize that time is a sacred gift from God and it is essential for our physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Yet, twice a year, we are faced with the disruptive reality of Daylight-Saving Time. As we prepare to “spring forward”, it is worth considering how this seasonal shift impacts our lives and whether it aligns with God’s design for human rest and flourishing.

This reminds us about our priorities as believers. It encourages us to seek God’s kingdom and righteousness first and foremost in our lives during Lent, and to reflect on the blessings he has given us. In our faith, our focus is supposed to be on Him. To understand the phrase “our faith in moving forward like daylight with God,” consider these points:

1. Emphasize trust in divine guidance and support.
2. Suggest a sense of hope and optimism in life’s journey.
3. Compares faith to the inevitability and brightness of daylight.
4. Highlight the importance of a strong relationship with God in decision-making.
5. Invites a reflection on the transformative power of your faith in your daily life.

As we consider moving forward with God, we must learn the importance of letting go of our past mistakes and regrets and embrace our future with Him. This step is crucial when we seek to move forward with His love and grace, which will fill the gaps of our sin that once held us back.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Day of Prayer Invitation to Saint Martin de Porres Parishioners

Father Wilfred will lead a day of prayer at St. Malachy Church on Saturday, March 14, from 9 am until 12 noon, followed by lunch. All Parishioners are welcome.

Lenten Confessions

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

This month is Kidney Health Awareness Month

We would like to address some topics regarding the importance of knowing the functions of our kidneys as well as ways to prevent kidney disease. Please see back table for flyer, thank you! SMDP Health Awareness Team.

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

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

LENT

prayer • fasting • almsgiving

Mass Intentions

Sunday - Sister Anne Elizabeth McCambley, SSJ.

Monday - Spec. Int. - Jennifer Garner - Living

Tuesday - Spec. Int - Alicia Garner - Living

Wednesday - Sister James Agnes Campbell, SSJ.

Thursday - Sister Margaret L. Garvin, SSJ.

Friday - George Dewey Shaw (Sr.)

Saturday - Daniel Harry Comby

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 1, 2026

Thank you for your support !

In Church: \$ 3,071.00

Online: \$ 567.98

Total: \$ 3,638.98

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.