

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.

April 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Lent - Divine Mercy 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 ?**

Divine Mercy flowing in my soul

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. This feast was instituted by Pope John Paul II in 2000, following a series of revelations from Our Lord to Sr. Faustina Kowalska, a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland. The readings for this Sunday focus on God's Divine Mercy, the necessity of trusting Faith, and our need for God's forgiveness of sins. The opening prayer addresses the Father as "God of Mercy." The Response for today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 118) is "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His Love is everlasting!"

In the first section of that Psalm, we repeat three times, "His mercy endures forever." God revealed His mercy to the world, first and foremost, by sending His Only Begotten Son to become our Savior and Lord through His suffering, death, and Resurrection. Divine Mercy is offered to us in the Holy Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and the celebration of each Sacrament. The first reading (Acts 2:42-47) shows us how the early Church grew every day through acts of mercy and sharing, and through the sacrificial agape love practiced by the early Christians.

In the second reading (1 Pt 1:3-9), St. Peter glorifies God, the Father of Jesus Christ, for showing us His mercy by granting His Son, Jesus, Resurrection from the dead, followed forty days later by a glorious Ascension into Heaven, thus assuring us of our own resurrection, entry into Heaven, and "imperishable and unfading" Heavenly bliss. In today's Gospel, as we recall Jesus' appearance to the Apostles on that first Easter evening, we are vividly reminded of the Sacrament of Reconciliation – the power to forgive sins that Our Lord gave to His Apostles, saying, "Whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain, they are retained" (Jn 20:23).

Today's Gospel also emphasizes the importance of Faith in the risen Lord of Mercy's all-pervading presence. To "believe without having seen" is the experience of every later Christian. We are invited to find liberation from doubt and hesitation by surrendering our lives to the risen Lord of Mercy. Let us ask God our Father to open our hearts so that we may receive His Mercy in the form of the Holy Spirit, who abides in us from the moment of our Baptism.

One way the Church celebrates God's mercy throughout the year is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Another way to receive Divine Mercy is to find time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Gospel command, "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (Lk 6:36), demands that we show mercy to our fellow human beings always and everywhere. We radiate God's mercy to others through our actions, words, and prayers. It is mainly through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that we practice mercy in our daily lives and become eligible for God's merciful judgment.

Christ's mercy shines forth through us whenever we reach out to the poor, the needy, and the marginalized, as St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) did. C.S. Lewis once wrote that, next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbor is the holiest object presented to your senses, for in your neighbor, Christ's glory, Himself, is truly hidden. His mercy shines forth as we remain open to those who struggle in Faith, as did the Apostle Thomas in today's Gospel. We should be able to appreciate the presence of Jesus, crucified and raised, in our own suffering and in the suffering of our brothers and sisters, thus recognizing the glorified wounds of the Risen Lord in the suffering of others.



2026 First Holy Communicants, SMDP

Congratulations to our new parishioners who completed the Prep program and received the Sacraments of Initiation and First Holy Communion.

FAITH CORNER

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the process established for the universal Church for individuals to become Catholic and receive the sacraments of initiation — Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.

OCIA involves four stages, each marked by a special celebration, the person's deepening desire to say "YES" to living the Catholic faith: Inquiry, Formation, Enlightenment, Understanding.

We will start enrolling new candidates and catechumens in the Fall. If you are interested in joining Saint Martin de Porres OCIA team, or would like more information, kindly contact the parish office.

St. Faustina and Divine Mercy

St. Faustina Kowalska and the Image of Divine Mercy: St. Faustina of Poland is the well-known apostle of Divine Mercy. On the 30th of April, 2000, at 10:00 AM, on the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday, the Feast requested by Jesus in His communications with St. Faustina), His Holiness Pope St. John Paul II celebrated the Eucharist in Saint Peter's Square and proceeded to the canonization of Blessed Sister Faustina Kowalska.

By the witness of her life, Saint Faustina invites us to keep our Faith and Hope fixed on God the Father, rich in mercy, who saved us by the precious Blood of His Son, Jesus. The Lord Jesus assigned St. Faustina three basic tasks during her short life: 1. to pray for souls, entrusting them to God's incomprehensible Mercy; 2. to tell the world about God's generous Mercy; 3. to start a new movement in the Church focused on God's Mercy.

At the canonization of St. Faustina, Pope St. John Paul II said: "The cross, even after the Resurrection of the Son of God, speaks, and never ceases to speak, of God the Father, Who is faithful to His eternal love for man. ... Believing in this love means believing in mercy." "The Lord of Divine Mercy," a drawing of Jesus based on the vision given to St. Faustina Kowalska, shows Jesus raising his right hand in a gesture of blessing, with his left hand on his heart, from which gush forth two rays, one red and one white. The picture contains the message, "Jesus, I trust in You!" The rays streaming out have symbolic meanings: the red for the Blood of Jesus, which is the life of our souls, and the white for the water of Baptism, which justifies souls.



Mass Intentions

Sunday Sister Bernard Joseph Howe, SSJ
Monday -Spec. Int. Joseph Patton Sr. - Living
Tuesday- Denise Duffin
Wednesday -April Caldwell - Living
Thursday - Kendall Holbrook - Living
Friday - Francis V. Sabino
Saturday - Spec. Int. Edmund Neidert (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, Gwen Meekins, James Mason

Weekly Collection for April 5, 2026

Thank you for your support !
In Church: \$ 4,955.00
Online: \$ 603.70
Total: \$ 5,558.70

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.