

# Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church

2340 W. Lehigh Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19132  
215.228.8330  
website: [smartindpparish.org](http://smartindpparish.org)

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

April 5, 2026

Easter 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 ?**

## **Jesus is Alive, Alleluia, Alleluia**

When asked during an interview who the most influential person in his life was, Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York responded without hesitation, "Jesus Christ, of course." The puzzled reporter clarified, "I meant someone alive." The Cardinal replied confidently, with the certainty of firsthand experience rather than mere belief, "You know? Jesus IS alive!" (Fr. Bill Nicholas)

Easter is the greatest and most important feast in the Church. It marks the birthday of our eternal hope. "Easter" literally means "the feast of fresh flowers." The Resurrection of Jesus has certain special features. First, Jesus predicted it as a sign of His Divinity: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it." (Jn 2:19). Second, no other founder of a religion has an empty tomb like Jesus does. We see the fulfillment of Christ's promise in the empty cross and the empty tomb. The angel told the women at Jesus' tomb: "Why are you looking among the dead for One Who is alive? He is not here but has risen" (Lk 24:5-6).

However, the true evidence is not the empty tomb, but the lives of believers filled with His Spirit today. The third special feature is the initial disbelief of Jesus' own disciples in His Resurrection, despite His repeated appearances. This serves as strong proof of His Resurrection. It also explains why the apostles only began preaching the Risen Christ after receiving the Holy Spirit's anointing on Pentecost. Proclamation and witness are the main themes of today's readings.

The Resurrection of Christ forms the foundation of our Christian faith because it demonstrates that Jesus is God. That's why St. Paul writes: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain; and your faith is in vain... And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is a delusion, and you are still lost in your sins... But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor 15:14, 17, 20).

Easter is the promise of our own resurrection. Jesus assured Martha at Lazarus's tomb: "I am the Resurrection and the Life; whoever believes in Me will live even though he dies" (Jn 11:25-26). "Christ will raise us 'on the last day,' but it is also true, in a sense, that we have already risen with Christ. It is our belief in the Real Presence of the Risen Jesus — in our souls, in His Church, in the Blessed Sacrament, and in Heaven — that gives meaning to our personal as well as our shared prayers. Our trust in the all-encompassing presence of the Risen Lord gives us strength to resist temptations and freedom from unnecessary worries and fears. The prayer of St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland, reads: "Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ within me, never to part."

Easter, the feast of the Resurrection, offers us the joyful message that we are a "Resurrection people." This means we are not meant to lie buried in the tomb of our sins, bad habits, and dangerous addictions. It brings us the Good News that no tombs can hold us down anymore — not the tombs of despair, discouragement, doubt, or death itself. Instead, we are called to live a joyful and peaceful life, constantly experiencing the real Presence of the Risen Lord in every part of our lives. "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad" (Ps 118:24). Happy Easter!

# HE IS RISEN

## FAITH CORNER

### The Sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil

The Catholic Easter Vigil is the primary traditional time for celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation for catechumens as they enter full communion with the Church. Held on Holy Saturday night, this “mother of all vigils” unites initiation sacraments - - Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist - with Christ’s Resurrection.

Why the Easter Vigil: It is the “privileged occasion” where candidates often having undergone formation through Lent, unite their spiritual rebirth with the celebration of Christ passing from death to life.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Thank You

We thank the choir, lectors, altar Servers, PPC, and all parishioners who helped in the Easter ceremonies.

### Gift Card Bingo

Last Gift Card Bingo this school year will be Saturday, 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.

### Save the date Saturday, 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.

### Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary Saint Martin de Porres Court # 187

All women are warmly invited to a “CHAT AND CHEW” after Mass on Sunday April 19, 2026 for fellowship and light refreshments. Come and discover: Who we are / What we do / How we serve our church and community.

### Legion of Mary

There will be representatives from the Philadelphia Senatus of the Legion of Mary visiting our parish on April 26, 2026 to speak to us about the Legion of Mary. The first meeting date for the Legion of Mary will be Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 1:30 pm in the Rectory. Please see the back table for more information.

### Faith Corner Quiz and Prizes

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



### **Mass Intentions**

Sunday Brandon James Bennett  
Monday - Spec. Int. - Joseph Patton Sr. - Living  
Tuesday -Emma Kirk - Living  
Wednesday -Sister Roseann Treston, SSJ  
Thursday - Mary Farrell Headrick  
Friday - Jean S. Comby  
Saturday - Kelly Winkle

### **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

### **The Empty Tomb**

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. John 20:1-3

### **Weekly Collection for March 29, 2026**

Thank you for your support !

In Church: \$ 2,171.00

Online: \$ 514.60

Total: \$ 2,685.60

### **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.

HE IS RISEN!