

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 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter



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 - DRE
Tonya Dorsey - Music Director
Elizabeth Maitre - Office Mgr.

**EACH ONE CATCH ONE
CAN YOU LEAD SOMEONE TO CHRIST ?**

Following Jesus' example as the Good Shepherd

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, and, appropriately, it is also World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Today, the Church calls us to reflect on the meaning of God's call for each of us and to pray for generous responses to God's personal call (vocation) to the priesthood, the diaconate, and the consecrated life, because the entire Christian community shares responsibility for fostering religious vocations.

Both the Old and New Testaments use the image of a Shepherd and His flock to describe the unique relationship between God and Israel and between Christ and Christians. The first reading is from St. Peter's first sermon, delivered on Pentecost. Here, he exhorts his listeners, the Jewish people gathered for the Feast of Weeks, to know beyond any doubt that the One they allowed to be crucified is the true Shepherd whom God has made both Lord and Messiah. Peter then proclaims that the proper response to the Good News about Jesus is to repent and be baptized "in the name of Jesus Christ," thereby becoming members of the Good Shepherd's flock. Through the Sacrament of Baptism, they will receive forgiveness of their sins.

The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 23) introduces Yahweh as the Good Shepherd of Israel and describes all the things the Lord does for us, His sheep, in providing for our needs. The second reading, taken from Peter's First Letter to the Church, continues the "shepherd" imagery. Peter encourages the suffering Christians to follow in the footsteps of their shepherd ("the suffering servant") and to remember that he has claimed them. Peter also explains that Jesus, the innocent sufferer, was a model of patience and trust in God, and he reminds us that it is Jesus' suffering that has enabled us to become more fully the adopted children of God. In today's Gospel, two brief parables about sheep reveal Jesus as our unique means to salvation. He is the selfless, caring "shepherd" who provides protection and life itself, and he is the "sheep gate," the one gateway to eternal life.

Everyone entrusted with the care of others is a shepherd. Hence, pastors, parents, teachers, doctors, nurses, government officials, and caregivers, among others, are shepherds. We become good shepherds by loving those entrusted to us, praying for them, dedicating our time, talents, and blessings to their welfare, and guarding them from physical and spiritual dangers. Parents must be especially careful in fulfilling their duties toward their children, setting a good example and providing sound religious instruction. Above all, parents should pray for their children and, by living according to sound Christian moral principles, show them how to do the same.

Our local parish is our sheepfold, and our pastors are our shepherds. Hence, as the good sheep of the parish, parishioners are expected to hear and follow the voice of our shepherds through their homilies, Bible classes, counseling, and advice. Parishioners are to cooperate with our pastors by offering positive suggestions for the parish's welfare, encouraging them in their duties, offering loving, constructive counsel when they misbehave or fail in their duties, and, above all, praying for them.

On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, let us earnestly pray for continued conversion and perseverance in the Faith among our bishops, priests, deacons, those living a consecrated life, and all the laity, for we are One Body. What one member suffers, all suffer.



FAITH CORNER

TRANSUBSTANTIATION

The Catholic Church teaches that through transubstantiation during Mass, the bread and wine substantively change into the real Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ. While retaining the appearance of bread and wine, they become the living Christ, offered as spiritual nourishment and a renewal of his sacrifice.

Real Presence: Catholics believe in the Real Presence of Jesus, not just a symbol, in the consecrated bread (Host) and wine (Precious Blood).

Transubstantiation: This is the transformation of the entire substance of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ.

Communion Under One Species: While both are consecrated, receiving just the bread (host) is sufficient for receiving the full grace of the sacrament.

Catholics show profound reverence for the Eucharist, often fasting for one hour prior and ensuring they are in a state of grace (having confessed serious sins) before receiving

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Regina Caeli Prayer

During the Easter season, the universal Church prays the prayer Regina Coeli, or Queen of Heaven, to joyfully unite with the Mother of God in celebrating the Resurrection of her Son Jesus Christ, who conquered death in this way. Please see prayer on back page.

Queen of Heaven

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.

R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Extraordinary Minister Parish Appointment or Renewal

Extraordinary Ministers help with the distribution of Holy Communion at Sunday and Daily Masses. In addition, they bring Holy Communion to homebound parishioners. The next training workshop will be held:

Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at Maternity B.V.M. Church, Philadelphia, 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Transportation will be provided. Interested parishioners should contact the rectory office if interested in this ministry.

Anointing of the Sick/Homebound Parishioners

If you know a homebound parishioner who would like to receive Holy Communion and a visit, please get in touch with the parish office to schedule an appointment.

Leaders of Parish Apostolate Groups

Leaders of parish groups should take turns to present their groups to parishioners and plan to recruiting new members. We would like parishioners to be active in various parish apostolates.



Mass Intentions

Sunday Sister James Xavier Landi, SSJ.
Monday - Spec. Int. Mary Kate Stewart - Living
Tuesday-Neil Hall
Wednesday -Joseph Ellis
Thursday - John Martin
Friday -David Moon - Living
Saturday - Thomas Chesnick

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, Bienka Jean Charles

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 April 19, 2026

Thank you for your support !

In Church: \$ 2,455.00

Online: \$ 486.22

Total: \$ 2,941.22

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.