

# 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 19, 2026  
Third 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 ?**

## Jesus on the Road to Emmaus

Our Scripture lessons today share a theme: no matter what happens, the risen Jesus is always with us. God is near those who seek Him and want to live in His presence. The Emmaus story shows God won't abandon us when we're hurt. As Francis Thompson said, He is 'The Hound of Heaven,' relentlessly following us. Today's readings remind us that followers of Jesus should stay connected with Him through prayer, the Eucharist, and the Bible. Our belief in Jesus' presence in the Bread and Wine helps us understand His presence in the Bible and community. His appearances to Emmaus and Peter show that Jesus wants Peter to be His spokesman, and that believers seeking Jesus should find Him in the Eucharist, prayer, community, and the Bible, guided by Peter and his successors.

Luke's Emmaus Gospel is a beautiful theological dramatization of one of the disciples' encounters with their risen Lord during the wonder-filled days following the discovery of the empty tomb (Mk 16:12-13). It tells how, on Easter Sunday evening, two disciples of Jesus, discouraged and devastated, set out on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus — about seven miles — and were overtaken by a stranger traveling the same road. They began to speak to him about all that had occurred in the Holy City during the previous week. Most probably, Cleopas and his companion were husband and wife, residents of Emmaus, and disciples of Jesus who had witnessed His crucifixion and burial.

The risen Lord meets us on the road to our Emmaus, both in the ordinary moments of our lives and in the places we retreat to when life is too much. We, too, have hopes and dreams for better health, healing, financial security, and family relationships. These hopes and dreams often shatter. The story promises us, however, that Jesus will come to us in unfamiliar guises to support and strengthen us when we least expect to encounter our risen Lord. Emmaus moments come to us when we meet the risen Christ on our life's journey through rough times.

Jesus, now freed from the space-time limits of his earthly life, is present among us and wants to be our Friend. The risen Lord desires that we walk with Him and with one another: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior" (Is 43:2-3). He wants to join us in our travels through life: "I am a Companion of all who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts" (Ps 119:63). "Where two or three are gathered in My Name, I am there among them" (Mt 18:20).

We meet Jesus daily on our life's journey. The Church instructs us to hear Jesus daily through faithful reading and meditation on the Bible; through participation in the Eucharistic celebration, where we receive Jesus as our spiritual Food and Drink; through personal and family prayers; and through family meals. When we meet our risen Lord through the Word of God, we commune with him. We renew our relationship with Jesus through prayer. These meetings prepare and enable us to encounter the risen Jesus in all the people we meet and to serve Him with humble, loving, selfless service in each of them.

Trusting in the divine presence and in the help of Jesus, may we never be discouraged in times of trial and tribulation, for He walks with us and remains with us.

# ROAD TO EMMAUS

## FAITH CORNER

### SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Solemnities are the celebrations of greatest importance. Each Solemnity begins on the prior evening with first vespers (evening prayer) and several of the solemnities have their own Vigil Mass. On these days, both the Gloria and the Creed are recited. Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation (which in the United States are the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, Ascension, Assumption, All Saints, Immaculate Conception, and Christmas) are always considered solemnities. Other examples of solemnities include the Solemnity of St. Joseph (March 19), the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Friday after the Feast of Corpus Christi), and the Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul (June 29).

The Ascension is a liturgical Solemnity celebrated by all the Christian Churches. It falls on the fortieth day after Easter Sunday. With His Ascension into heaven, the presence of the “historical Christ” comes to an end, and the presence of the Body of Christ, the Church, is inaugurated.

## 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.**

### 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.

### April is recognized as National Minority Health Month

Please see important brochure in back from our Health Awareness Team !

### A Special Thank You To Our Hospitality Team !

Thank you to Sheila Lee and the entire Hospitality Team for your hard work and generous donation of proceeds to SMDP from three successful Lenten Fish Fry's !

### 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.



# Third Sunday of Easter

### Mass Intentions

Sunday Mary (Farrell) Headrick

Monday - John Martin

Tuesday-John Havens

Wednesday -Sister Patricia Cashman, SSJ.

Thursday - Spec. Int. Joseph Patton Sr. - Living

Friday - Cecilia Rose Beiter

Saturday - Suso Platero, 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, James Mason

### 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 12, 2026

Thank you for your support !

In Church: \$ 1,961.00

Online: \$944.65

Total: \$ 2,905.65

### 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.