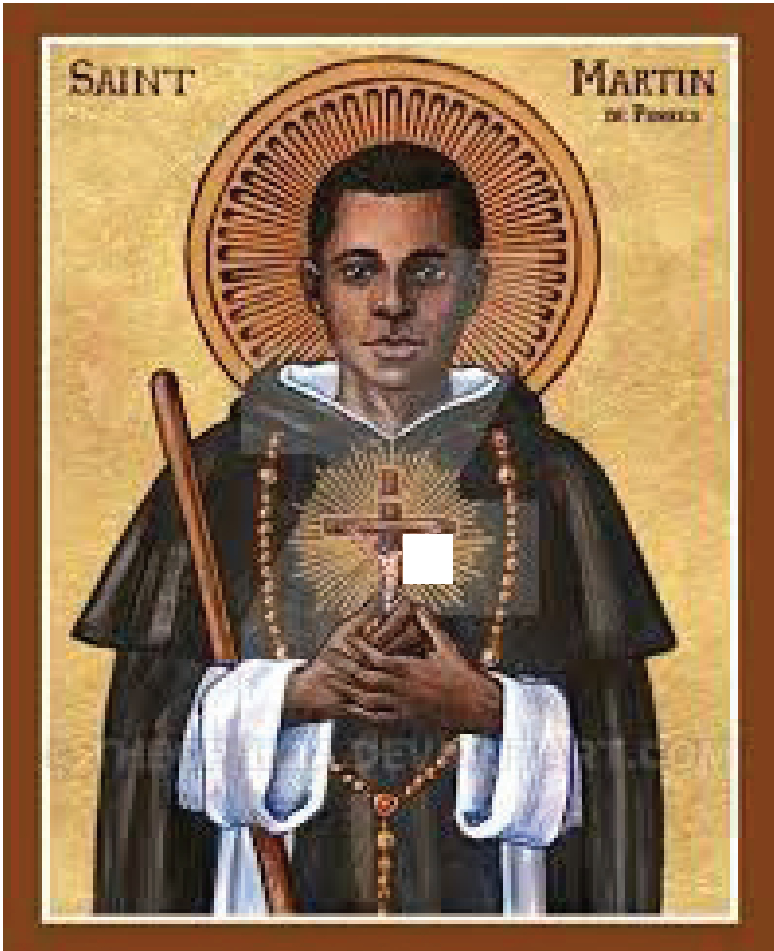


Saint Martin de Porres Parish

2020 GUIDE BOOK & DIRECTORY



615 Dunn Road | Hazelwood, MO 63042

Website: www.stmartindeporresstl.com

Phone (314) 895-1100

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Life of The Patron St. Martín de Porres

St. Martin de Porres was born in 1579 to a native Spaniard knight and a freed black slave from Panama. His father eventually abandoned Martin, his mother and siblings because the children resembled their mother who belonged to a lower caste.

Even as a child, Martin displayed the virtues of modesty, humility and charity for the poor, especially the sick and afflicted. He was generous to the needy even though his family were poor themselves. Eventually, he became an apprentice to a surgeon so he could help the sick and needy even more. Several years later, he sought admission to the Convent of the Most Holy Rosary and became a regular lay Brother of the First Order of St. Dominic. He never shrank from hard labor and performed the lowest of tasks with great joy.

During the next 36 years of his vocation, his virtues continued to flourish. He felt the need to help all of God's creatures, humans and animals alike, no matter how mean, despised or unworthy. St. Martin was convinced of the need for penance and he felt that any penances he inflicted upon himself were but tokens of his deep love for the Saviour. He denied himself most everything, eating only enough to sustain life and he fasted continuously. He slept very little and even went so far as to inflict pain and torture upon himself. By doing so, he hoped to make reparation for his own faults and merit the grace of conversion for sinners.

His miracles were too numerous to relate. God was so pleased with Martin's good deeds and mercy that He made possible the impossible, at times, to enable Martin's ministry to the poor and sick. The remarkable life of this humble, yet mighty servant of God ended in 1639 in his sixtieth year. Miracles and good works continued in the name and honor of St. Martin de Porres until his canonization in 1962 by Pope John XXIII. *Shortly thereafter a St. Louis parish was established and named in honor of this wondrous miracle-worker.*

The Origin of St. Martin de Porres Parish and Timeline

The St. Louis Archdiocese purchased a tract of land west of Howdershell Road, but it was not in an ideal location for the church. The Joseph Knobbe family owned the tract of land where St. Martin de Porres Parish is now located, which was most ideal for its central location and beauty. The Knobbe family generously made a land trade. The parish thanked them for their kindness and acknowledged them a few years later by naming one of the church buildings, the former convent, the “Knobbe House”.

Fr. Joseph T. Schejbal was called upon by the Archbishop to start a new parish in Hazelwood and became the new pastor. A meeting was held with the new parishioners and, in September of 1962, the church officially became St. Martin de Porres Parish. The ground breaking ceremony for the church was held in January 1963. Over the next year and a half, the church, rectory, convent, gym and four classrooms were built. The formal dedication was held in August 1964. This dedication completed the final phase in the formation of the parish. The parish was blessed to have the School Sisters of Notre Dame assigned to teach the children in grades 1-4 and oversee the Parish School of Religion program.

St. Martin de Porres thrived under the leadership of Fr. Schejbal until June 1972. At that time, **Fr. Robert Muesenfechter** was welcomed as pastor. The number of parishioners and school children continued to grow resulting in an addition to the original school/gym which included four more classrooms, a library and music room, the concession stand, kitchen and the bus garage. During this building boom, Fr. Muesenfechter was very frugal with parish resources and was able to pay off the parish debt before he was reassigned at the end of 1984.

Fr. Michael Gibson became Pastor in 1985 and served until 1991. During this time, the rapid growth of the parish stabilized. The school enrollment was strong and, in 1986 a kindergarten class was added for the first time. Fewer nuns were teaching and lay teachers were added to the payroll. Fr. Gibson sought fundraising activities to keep the tuition affordable.

Fr. Dennis McClintock was pastor for 18 months and, in mid-1993 Fr. Timothy Vowels was welcomed to the parish. After nearly thirty years, the parish buildings and grounds were beginning to need attention. Fr. Vowels worked with the parish finance committee to oversee several maintenance projects: church roof replacement, exterior painting, parking lot paving, school roof repair, etc. During this time, the school enrollment started to decline and was staffed by lay teachers, including the principal. The increased salaries and declining enrollment meant that increased tuition was inevitable.

In September 2002, **Fr. Patrick Christopher** was welcomed as the Pastor and remained at the parish until June 2008. These were active years of gains and losses. After two more years of declining school enrollment and relying on parish funds to keep the school afloat, Fr. Christopher had to close the school in May 2004. St. Martin School was merged with St. Ferdinand School. However, in 2005 Our Lady of Mercy Parish was closed and merged with St. Martin de Porres Parish. The parish inherited some of the most wonderful, hard-working, faithful parishioners and they were welcomed with open arms. In order to make the new parishioners feel at home, the cross from Our Lady of Mercy was hung on the altar at St. Martin's and a new grotto was built for their statue of Mary. Fr. Christopher moved the parish offices from the rectory to the unoccupied school building and put in offices for the Coordinator of Religious Education, parish nurse/social worker and the new deacon. In June 2008, Fr. Christopher was reassigned.

Fr. Ferdinand Wesloh was appointed pastor in June 2008. He became ill in June of 2012 and was unable to continue as pastor.

As St. Martin's celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2012, **Fr. Raj Paul Sundararaj** was appointed Parochial Administrator and a year later Pastor. Fr. Raj came in like a "lion" and forced some parishioners out of their comfort zone. He spoke quickly and could think even faster. His catch phrase was "Synergize, Energize and Evangelize" and energize he did! Before long, the parish had committees and projects going on and people were getting involved as they had been in the past. By the time he was reassigned in June of 2017, the parish had several successful "Summerfests", many enjoyable parish social functions, active and effective parish and finance councils. The old, mostly unoccupied school building is now occupied by a rent-paying private school. Parishioners learned to look beyond the 50th anniversary to the next 25 years and they created a "Vision 25 Project" document to guide the way.

Since 2017, we have had the pleasure of working and praying with **Fr. Lijo Kallarackal**. He was appointed Parochial Administrator in June, 2017 and installed as our beloved Pastor in June 2018. He will continue to lead the parish into the next 25 years energizing parishioners to evangelize into the community in the hope that they become part of this loving, caring and generous parish.

ORDINATIONS

We have been fortunate to have two ordinations to the priesthood during our timeline. Fr. John (Jack) Siefert, son of Josie and the late Jack Siefert, was ordained in the Archdiocese of St. Louis in 1989 and more recently, Fr. Scott Wallisch, son of Betty and Bill Wallisch, was ordained in the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas in 2010. Their parish family here at St. Martin de Porres is very proud of them and continue to pray for them as they live out their religious vocations.



Rhonda Ware-Potts
Intake Coordinator

(314) 355-3679 Ext. 217 (North Office)

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Saint Martin de Porres Parish

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Phone (314) 895-1100

Pastor

Rev. Lijo Kallarackal.....Email: frlijostmartin@gmail.com
Office Phone (314) 895-1100 Ext. 7
Priests' Residence..... (314) 895-0172

Deacons

Rev. Mr. David Pacino, (Admin/Personnel Coordinator) (314) 895-1100 Ext. 4
Rev. Mr. Ed Beirne, (Ministry of the Sick and the Homebound
Coordinator) (314) 895-1100 Ext. 2

Parish Music Coordinator

Al Vigland - al.vigland@gmail.com

Sacramental Coordinator

Marilyn Saunders (314) 895-1100 Ext. 6

CRE/PSR Coordinator

Theresa Wright (314) 895-1100 Ext. 2
PSR Email:.....stmartinpsr@gmail.com

Parish Office Manager

Christie Alexander (314)-895-1100 Ext. 2
PSR Email:.....stmartinpsr@gmail.com
Parish Office E-mail:mdpparishmo@gmail.com

Youth Ministers

Emily Will.....emabe2013@gmail.com (314) 895-1100 Ext. 2
James Stallings.....james_stallings@yahoo.com

Maintenance

Joe Hoffman (314) 895-1100 Ext. 2

All Saints Academy (St. Ferdinand Campus) School Office

..... (314) 921-2201

Schedule of Holy Eucharist

Saturday Vigil	4:30 pm,
Sunday	8 am and 10:30 am
Weekdays	Monday through Friday ~ 8 am
Holy Days	8 am and 7 pm
“Youth Music” Mass	1st Sunday of month-10:30 am
“Children’s Liturgy” Mass	every Sunday except the 1st Sunday of the month-10:30 am (Sept. thru May)

Perpetual Help Devotions

Tuesdays following 8 am Mass

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday 8:30 am-6 pm with Benediction at 6 pm

Anointing of the Sick

1st Friday of the month following the 8 am Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:15-4:00 pm or by appointment

Communion or Anointing for the Homebound:

Contact the parish office to arrange Pastoral Care for the sick. Call
(314) 895-1100. Ext 2

St. Martin de Porres Mission Statement

Inspired by Saint Martin de Porres and the gospel values, our parish family seeks to provide for the spiritual needs of our diverse community through vibrant liturgies and ministries, thereby creating a supportive, loving, caring and accepting environment for all.

Parish Council Members

Parish Council

Those that advise the Pastor on matters affecting the parish and its members

Please call Parish Office for Members' Contact Information 314-895-1100, ext. 2

Rev. Lijo Kallarackal (Pastor)	Kathleen Ptak
Deacon Edward Beirne.....	Annette Ray
Deacon David Pacino	Marilyn Saunders
Earl Arseneau (Chairperson).....	Patty Stallings
Christy Galvan	Gary Steyer
Teresa Gann	Emily Will
Brian Lohman	Theresa Wright

There are suggestion boxes near the vestibule doors in church where you may register questions, ideas, complaints, etc. The council will address those at an upcoming meeting and respond. Only those that are signed will be considered. Meetings are usually held monthly. See the calendar in the bulletins for specifics.

Worship

Liturgy Committee

The Pastor, Deacons and volunteer parishioners meet regularly to plan the liturgical celebrations at St. Martin's, especially for the seasons of Advent and Christmas and Lent and Easter, our patron's feast day and other special days. Music, decorations and the number of liturgical minister volunteers needed are considered all to better enhance our worship experience. Scheduled meetings are posted in the bulletin calendar.

Liturgical Ministers

Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters, Lectors, Servers and Ushers are dedicated volunteers who serve in these capacities for daily, weekend and holyday liturgies. Men and women adults serve at our funeral masses and our PSR, high school and even some college students serve at our other liturgies. If you are interested in volunteering for one of these ministries, please contact the Pastor or one of the Deacons or call the office at 895-1100.

Music Ministry

St. Martin de Porres music ministry provides support for our three weekend Mass liturgies and Holydays. If you are interested in joining the choir to sing, to play a musical instrument or for more details please contact the parish office. Remember, singing is praying twice.

Established 1946

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Sunset Hills PetSmart Adoption Event
Every Saturday 11am-2pm



Sacristans

These volunteers are responsible for weekly cleaning of the church and upkeep of vestments, altar linens, candles and other items used for our liturgies. There are several two member teams that clean, others that wash and iron purificators and perform other duties as needed, all under the direction of Chris Beirne and Pat David. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Chris at 314-839-0625.

Scheduling of Liturgical Ministers

Schedules are generated seasonally in at least two month increments through the parish office. Please make sure you keep your contact information and mass time preferences up to date. Schedules are available on the parish website or hardcopies available in the back of church.

Education

Baptism and Marriage Preparation

Baptisms are done on Sundays after 10:30 pm Mass or by appointment *after* participation in the Baptism Preparation Program. Baptismal Classes for the parents are usually scheduled bi-monthly on Wednesday at 7 pm. See weekly bulletin for specific dates. Call 895-1100 to register.

Weddings: Contact the Pastor at least six months prior to the wedding to begin preparations.

Catholic Grade School

St. Ferdinand Campus of All Saints Academy became our merged school in 2004. For information about the school and registration, please call 314-921-2201.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Every Sunday, September through May, during the 10:30 Mass our younger children are invited to join in their own Liturgy of the Word. The children are dismissed from the church after the introduction and led by their two teachers to the rectory basement where they participate in activities to make the day's readings relevant to them. The children return to their families in church at the Offertory. No preregistration is required. Men and/or women volunteers are always needed and welcomed. The current schedule is on duty one Sunday every 5 weeks. For information, call the office at 895-1100, ext. 2.

Parish School of Religion

Classes meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:45 to 8 pm for our children, grades 1 through 8, who attend public grade school for instructions on our Catholic Faith and preparation for receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. Classes are taught by dedicated parishioners who give their time and talent to help the children. For information about registration or to volunteer, please contact Theresa Wright, CRE, at 314-895-1100, ext. 2.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

This program is the process in the church by which adults become fully initiated as Catholic. The classes usual begin sometime in September and culminate in Baptism or Full Reception into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening. If interested, please contact the Pastor, Deacon or CRE Theresa Wright at 314-895-1100, ext. 2.

Parish Organizations and Activities

Athletic Association

In 2005 the Catholic elementary school at St. Martin de Porres merged with St. Ferdinand Parish. Consequently, St. Martin de Porres no longer sponsors its own athletic teams. Children in our parish play on teams in neighboring parishes. In the fall the fields are rented out to Pop Warner's football league for football practices.

Car Raffle and Car Show

The past few years we have raffled a car from a Bommarito Dealership. This year we have a 2020 Nissan Rogue SUV. Ticket sales start in February at \$25 each or 5 for \$100 until mid-August when the price goes up to \$30 each or 4 for \$100. The winning ticket is drawn at our **Annual Car Show** on September 19th. Watch upcoming bulletins for more information.

Coffee & Donut Sunday

We usually have Donut Sunday on the first Sunday of the month in the gym after both morning masses from September through May. Various parish organizations are asked to host these gatherings. We serve a variety of donuts, bagels, coffee, orange juice and water. All are welcome to enjoy visiting with fellow parishioners. For more information call the office 314-895-1100, ext. 2

Craft Group

We create a variety of crafts to be used at our annual Summer Fest, which is our major fund raiser. Check the parish calendar for our regular Craft making events. We are always welcoming new volunteers/crafters of any skill level to join our group for fun and camaraderie. For more information, please call the parish office at 314-895-1100 or Anne Frese at 314-691-5209.

Evangelization Ministry

This is a newly formed group of dedicated parishioners who have taken on the task of visiting all homes within our parish boundaries: Catholic, non-Catholic, parishioners or not. Their mission is to spread the “Good News”, invite people to our church, pray for them and see if there are any needs that we could possibly meet. Visits usually take place on Saturday mornings and /or Saturday afternoons with a partner. More volunteers are always needed for the actual visits and for prayer warriors to pray for the success of their endeavors. Call the office at 895-1100, ext. 2 to volunteer or for more information.

Finance Committee

These committee members are selected by the pastor and deacons and help advise the pastor on matters affecting the financial health of the parish including capital expenditures and budgets, etc.

Funeral Lunch Ministry

This ministry serves lunch after a funeral or memorial mass for deceased parishioners or close relatives here at St. Martin’s either at the Knobbe House or Parish Center depending on the number expected. Parish covers the cost of ham, cheese, bread, drinks; volunteers prepare side dishes and desserts. There is no charge; however, donations are accepted from the family. Currently there are three teams and @ 60 volunteers. Arrangements to have a luncheon are usually made through our Sacramental/Funeral coordinator, Marilyn Saunders at 314-895-1100, ext. 6. Call the parish office at ext. 2 if you would like to volunteer to help.

Men’s Club

The St. Martin de Porres Men’s Club is an organization consisting of parish men dedicated to the needs of the Church and community and who like to come together to enjoy a good meal, a few drinks and camaraderie. The meetings are normally the second Wed of the month in the gym. This is a great opportunity for fellowship and meeting your other parishioners. Join us for cards, washers, and great discussions after the meeting and meal. Contact Tony Clawson at 314-680-5475.

Neighbor To Neighbor Program

Our Mission: To reveal the loving, compassionate presence of God to one another in the ordinariness of our everyday lives through specific programs which:

- Enable our senior parishioners to continue to live safe, independent lives of high quality, in their own homes, for as long as possible.
- Enable any parishioner to maintain his/her accustomed quality of life during periods of high stress, illness, family crisis, etc.

Parish Benefactors

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Call the program coordinator for the service that fits your needs:

- **Helping Hands:** This program provides help with minor household jobs such as: Changing air conditioner and furnace filters; installing/changing batteries in smoke detectors; changing light bulbs; weatherizing; trimming bushes; doing yard work; cleaning gutters; washing a load or two of clothes, dusting/vacuuming, Computer help, carpentry (repairs), plumbing, exterminating (pest control), window washing. Coordinator: Charlie Wiswall 314-731-0933
- **Martin's Kitchen:** This program provides an occasional meal(s) during times of extra individual/family stress, regardless of the reason. During those times when you are weary and long to just "sit at the feet of Jesus" like Mary in the Gospel, and become refreshed, the volunteers from St. Martin's will be your Martha and prepare a warm meal to soothe you in body and spirit. Coordinator: Barbara Krings 314-731-1893
- **Transportation:** This program offers rides to church, medical appointments, grocery shopping, pharmacy pickups and filling small grocery orders. Coordinator: Linda Spencer 314-731-0479

Respect Life Group

Through periodic written communications and involvement in Respect Life events, the committee works to educate parishioners about Pro-Life issues. The group sponsors events to promote awareness and fundraisers like the sale of roses on Mother's Day and the Baby Shower to help support local Pro-Life organizations. Members are informed of current issues through continual communication with the Archdiocesan Office. Any Parishioner who believes that all life is precious is encouraged to join the group. Contact Rose Reddy 314-831-8292.

Quilters

St. Martin de Porres Quilters meet on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:30-Noon in the Knobbe House. We are always looking for new people and encourage anyone to join us for fellowship as well as the quilting. We make quilts to raffle at our annual Summerfest and also for our bi-monthly quilt raffle. Raffle tickets are good for the entire year and give the buyer a chance to win a beautiful hand quilted queen size quilt every other month. All proceeds from the raffle tickets goes to support the parish. For more information contact Mary Griffith at 314-731-3706.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

St. Martin's conference was started in April, 1987. Volunteer members meet bi-monthly with the aim to help those in need by assisting with rent, utilities, medicine and money for food. Recipients need not be parishioners or even Catholic, but must live within our parish boundaries. Calls for assistance come into the parish office and are directed to an extension number where they leave their contact information and someone from the SVDP will get back to them, thereby leaving members identity & phone numbers confidential. A contribution envelope is included in your regular packets for your donations or you may donate through online giving. If you would like to volunteer, call 314-895-1100 ext. 2. If you need assistance choose ext. 3.

St. Augustine Wellston Center

Several parishioner volunteers help out weekly in their food pantry, thrift store, etc. and here at St. Martin's we have Sharing Sunday once a month where we collect non-perishable food items, household supplies and paper products that are delivered to the Center. We also have our **Annual Clean Coat Collection** and we donate gifts from our **Christmas Giving Tree** to the Wellston Center. Contact: Tom Hughes 314-895-3026.

Social Justice Committee

This is a fledgling committee formed to help the parish become better informed about and more involved with people in the wider community so that we may overcome our the fears and misconception that exist. Contact David Kirchner at 314-359-3690.

Summerfest

This is our major fundraiser for the year. Usually scheduled in May, it runs on Friday evening, Saturday late afternoon and evening and Sunday from noon until 7 pm. We have rides, games for big kids and little kids, chicken dinner on Saturday, and concession stand food all weekend. There's always plenty of beer and other refreshments with live music and DJs. We count on our many reliable volunteers to carry this off. Watch for details in the bulletin starting in early spring.

Youth Group

Our youth ranges from 7th grade to seniors in high school. We meet at least twice a month on Wednesdays from 8-9:15 pm. In addition, we also have at least one service or social activity per month. The teens have a lot of input into the schedule for the year. Most importantly, over the past few years, we have really made our spiritual growth a priority. Although Jesus is at the center of everything we do, we have implemented many activities that are designed to help the teens deepen their relationship with Jesus. Our teens are really the best, have a great time together and have formed friendships that they will hold onto long after they have moved on to college. We hope all the 7th/8th graders and high schoolers will come to check out our group! Our Youth Ministers, Emily Will and James Stallings, are alumni of our PSR program and are now PSR teachers; so they are familiar faces to many of the kids. The major fundraiser for the Youth Group to cover some of the expense associated with their various activities is the **“Annual Trivia Night”** usually in February. Watch the bulletin for more details. Contact Emily at 314-895-1100, ext. 2 or emabe2013gmail.com.

