

# Saint Mary Magdalen Church

Building a family of faith in Jesus Christ through Catholic Worship, Formation & Charity.

29 DECEMBER 2024

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



Dear Friends in Christ,

Merry Christmas! While the rest of our world has already moved on from the lights and Santa Claus, the Church has only begun to sing with the joy of the birth of Jesus, the Savior. The traditional “twelve days of Christmas” are filled with feasts which serve to unfold the beauty and richness of the mystery of the Incarnation. Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

This holy family of Nazareth was ordinary and extraordinary at the same time. To outward appearances, they would have appeared like the family of any other common laborer in the provincial town of Nazareth. They would have lived in simplicity (even poverty), ate together as a family and with extended family, and prayed to Adonai, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as faithful Jews. Jesus did not choose to be born into affluence and fame, but humility and obscurity. In fact, the Holy Family spent a significant amount of time living as exiles in Egypt. (A Coptic pilgrimage site that claims to be where Jesus took his first steps speaks to these years.)

How can our families be more like the Holy Family of Nazareth? Ultimately, it means putting God first in our lives, rather than filling that hole with other pursuits and concerns.

Many call ours a secular age: secular, from the Latin meaning “of the times.” That is, we focus so much on the here-and-now that we often fail to see the grace of God at work in our lives. The humility, silence, and prayerfulness of the Holy Family show us what this beautiful life is meant to be. Their persecution at the hands of Herod also shows the great need for our civil leaders to work diligently to protect the rights of the family. You know the list of threats is grave: widespread divorce, lack of openness to life, economic situations which leave children in poverty, and men who fail to assume their responsibility in caring for a wife and children. It takes courage to be like the Holy Family—I know. But God bestows his blessings upon all those who, amid their own struggles and burdens, seek to joyfully and faithfully live the beautiful vocation of the “domestic Church.”

May Mary, the Mother of God, and good Saint Joseph intercede for us all with Christ our Lord, whose birth brought them joy, just as it does for us in these days of Christmas.

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker

## CLERGY

610-566-8821  
stmarymagdalen.net

Rev. Eric J. Banecker  
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Rev. Msgr. Ralph J. Chieffo  
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Rev. Robert A. Pesarchick  
*Parochial Vicar*  
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*Sacramental assistance  
is provided by*

The Legionaries of Christ  
Rev. Msgr. Francis Beach  
Rev. Richard Maisano  
Rev. Philip Lowe

Deacon James DiFerdinand, M.A.  
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Deacon Bob Szipszky, M.Th.  
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Deacon E. Peter Zurbach, Ph.D.  
Permanent Deacon, Retired



## PARISH MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULE

### Sunday

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM & 7 PM

### Weekday

Monday thru Friday  
6:30 AM & 8:30 AM

### Saturday

8:30 AM & 4:30 PM Vigil

**Confessions from 9 to 10 AM on Saturdays,  
and 6:15 to 6:45 PM on Sundays.**

For a private confession time, please call the parish office.

## PARISH DEVOTIONAL SCHEDULE

Adoration Chapel: Monday from 7 AM to Friday until 1 PM.

Morning Prayer: 7:15 AM from Monday to Friday in the Chapel.

First Friday Holy Hour: 5:30 PM Adoration & Confessions,  
followed by Mass at 6:30 PM.

Legion of Mary: 9:30 AM on Tuesdays in the Gathering Room.

Rosary: 7:15 PM on Tuesdays in the Chapel.

Flame of Love Devotions: Noon on Fridays in the Chapel.

See ministries and parish services on our website.



## ELECTRONIC PARISH GIVING

Visit our website's 'Giving' page to make a one time gift or sign up for recurring electronic donations using the 'Parish Giving' secure link or scan the QR code.



## A MISSIONARY IMPULSE IN EVERY PARISH

—Pope Francis, *Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium* (27-28)

"I dream of a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language, and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation.

The renewal of structures demanded by pastoral conversion can only be understood in this light:

as part of an effort to make them more mission-oriented, to make ordinary pastoral activity on every level more inclusive and open, to inspire in pastoral workers a constant desire to go forth and in this way to elicit a positive response from all those whom Jesus summons to friendship with himself.

As John Paul II once said to the Bishops of Oceania: 'All renewal in the Church must have mission as its goal if it is not to fall prey to a kind of ecclesial introversion.'

The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. While certainly not the only

institution which evangelizes, if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be 'the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters.' This presumes that it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people, and does not become a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few.

The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach. We must admit, though, that the call to review and renew our parishes has not yet sufficed to bring them nearer to people, to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented."

With the  
Authors of

### The Young Adult Playbook

Living  
Like it  
matters

ANNA B. MORELAND  
AND THOMAS W. SMITH

## Parents' Night Out

### Saturday, February 22

**Live like it matters!** Come for an evening with fellow SMM parents and young adults as we discuss *The Young Adult Playbook*, a guide that delves into what makes life meaningful while addressing the struggles young adults face today.

**We will explore the topic of what constitutes a happy life** with our special guests—the authors, Anna B. Moreland and Thomas W. Smith. They will discuss the unprecedented challenges and offer ways to support parents and young adults as they navigate today's rough terrain.

The evening begins with food, drinks and fellowship, beginning at 6 PM in St. Francis Hall. We hope you join us!

Scan the QR to RSVP.



## PARISH

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Mrs. Shelly Zeller  
Mrs. Jessica Savko  
Mrs. Mary Lou Mayer  
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## SCHOOL

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Mrs. Amy Crawford Bauer  
Principal  
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Dcn. Joseph P. Boyle, Jr.  
President  
deaconjoe@stmarymagdalen.net



*The* Solemnity of Mary  
Holy Hour *and* Vigil Mass  
on New Year's Eve

Holy Hour  
Adoration *and* Confessions  
begins at 5:30 PM

Vigil Mass  
at 6:30 PM *with* a Social  
after Mass in St. Francis Hall

January 1 Masses  
*at* 8:30 AM, 10 AM & 6:30 PM



**TMIY**  
THAT MAN IS YOU!

**BECOMING A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART**

In the New Year, take a leap of faith with TMIY.

Do you want a transformative encounter and lasting relationship with Jesus Christ? Discover a new path to become a man fully alive among other men, wherever they are in their own spiritual lives, and take a few steps further on your own faith journey.

If so, join us for a **four-session TMIY introduction** on Thursday mornings from **January 9th** through **January 30th**, in St. Francis Hall. Come, check it out!

Then, our sessions return on February 6th with the continued theme of *Apostles of the New Springtime*.

To learn more, stop by any Thursday morning, contact John at [johngill@comcast.net](mailto:johngill@comcast.net) or visit us online.

*"This program has been a experience that helps you to open your mind, heart, and soul to understand the role of each one of God's children, by his mercy."*

**WWW.TMIY.ORG**



## **NEW! THE KNIGHTS ANNOUNCE ITS 'KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS' ESSAY WINNERS**

The St. Mary Magdalen Knights of Columbus are pleased to announce the winners of this year's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Essay Contest. Congratulations to 6<sup>th</sup> graders Gemma Heckler and Ella Knee on their winning essays. We also recognize the following finalists: Hailey Cottrell, Jackson King, Sammy Landgraff, Matthew Mita, Molly O'Shea, Charlotte Phillips, Brooke Richman, and Charlie Sobel. We are grateful to all the 6<sup>th</sup>-grade students who participated in this year's contest, who reminded us of the importance of keeping Christ in all we do this Christmas and throughout the coming year. The Knights wish you a blessed and Merry Christmas!



### **Keep Christ In Christmas**

*by Gemma Heckler*

When the word Christmas comes to mind, what do you think about? It may be the free gifts, freshly baked cookies, or Santa visiting one magical night in December. Well, did you know that Santa was based on St. Nicholas and that giving is the best feeling you can get this season?

In my family, we keep Christ in Christmas by donating to less fortunate people who don't have a lot. We take ornaments from the Giving Tree in the Narthex or donate twenty dollars to get toys for kids who don't have many. Right now, I am keeping an Advent journal in school to remind myself to be thankful for everything I have. Some kids get focused on the presents and the feeling of the holidays, and that's joyful, but that's not the real reason for the season. Jesus was born; he was the savior promised by God. He is the main focus of Christmas because He is the reason we are redeemed from sin and why we even celebrate Christmas. He didn't have much at that time, and the Wise Men gave to him. This Christmas, Jesus encourages us to do the same. You could get a gift for someone else or a Nativity to remember why we celebrate Christmas. When I give

to someone, it feels like nothing else matters, and giving makes me want to keep on giving. Even if it's a small gift for your brother, sister, or family member, you never know how much they will appreciate it.

So try to focus on others this Christmas. Remember, Jesus is the reason for the season, and JOY stands for Jesus, others, and yourself.



### **Keep Christ in Christmas**

*by Ella Knee*

People always forget the real meaning of Christmas. The real meaning of Christmas is not the candy, presents, or the star on the Christmas tree. The real meaning of Christmas is Jesus. Christmas revolves around him. He is the center of the world.

Here are three things my family does at Christmas time. We go to church, pray, and sing at Mass. Then, we purchase food and gifts for the food drive and Giving Tree at our school. We also do something called adopt a family at our school. You get a family who can't afford Christmas gifts for each other, and you get presents for them. We wrap them and put a name tag on each gift. Then we send the gifts to the family, and they have the best Christmas. The last thing my family does is, on Christmas Eve, my mom's entire family comes to our house, and we sing Christmas carols like "Joy to the World" and "Away in a Manger" around the tree. When we start to gather around the dinner table, my Uncle John says a prayer that he wrote ahead of time. We all pray together before enjoying our home-cooked Christmas meal. That is what my family does for Christmas every year. It is especially special because my grandmother's family came here from Iran. Christians there were not allowed to celebrate Christmas the way we do, and so they all make it an extra special celebration of Jesus' Birthday.

Christmas is all about Jesus and our joy in being able to celebrate his birth. You should still have fun with all the candy, presents, cookies, and more...but you should always remember the real meaning of Christmas Day!





NATIONAL  
Eucharistic  
Revival

# It only takes *one* encounter.

## GO WALK WITH ONE

Someone in your life is waiting for a moment that will change everything. God is ready to deliver, and he wants YOU to be a part of that story. This is your opportunity to be God's instrument in the life of someone you know and love. It only takes one encounter with Jesus to change their life forever.

You don't need to have all the answers—you just need to be present and walk with them. Grace will do the rest. Scan the code to get started.

[eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one](http://eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one)



## NEW! A NEW SOUND SYSTEM FOR THE CHURCH IS ON THE WAY!

When gathered in faith, we are reminded of our profound connection and the deep affinity worship plays in our lives. Nothing should impede our experience as we encounter God and others in communion with Him. However, while it has served us well, our current sound system can no longer support our vibrant community. It regularly impacts many in our congregation, who must strain to hear, which causes a less-than-optimal worship experience.

Since Fr. Banecker's arrival, he has listened to your concerns and wishes, including the church's current sound system, which needs an upgrade. During this season of Advent, we are pleased to announce that plans for a new system are on the way.

We want every voice—every song, and every prayer, to be heard clearly in our sanctuary. We have a generous benefactor who has pledged fifteen thousand towards our goal. We are asking our community to help us match this gift. Your support is essential in making this a reality, and it will be a blessing to all in our community. Let's ensure our worship experience is vibrant, uplifting—and accessible to everyone who walks through our doors.

We hope this 'sounds' appealing and know that we are deeply grateful for your consideration. Your support, no matter the amount, will make a significant difference. If you are able to donate, please contact Deacon Joe at [deaconjoe@stmarymagdalen.net](mailto:deaconjoe@stmarymagdalen.net), or designate your gift to the 'Sound System' on the envelope or through our online giving.

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD IS IN URGENT NEED OF VOLUNTEERS

We urgently need volunteers for Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW), which provides an age-appropriate Liturgy each week during the school year to children in grades 1 to 3 during Sunday's 9:30 AM Mass. Can you volunteer a handful of times from now to June? The readings are provided with ideas and suggestions for discussing the Gospel reading. Then, together, you assist them with reciting the Apostles' Creed and the Prayer of the Faithful. Children share their special petitions for special loved ones.

**If you have questions or want to meet in the chapel to review the material, please email Carol at [clow@stmarymagdalen.net](mailto:clow@stmarymagdalen.net).**

## CHAPEL POINSETTIAS

In loving memory of Matthew R. Hallinan.



She  
Shall Be  
Called  
Woman

## Happy New Year!

**SHE returns on January 26, 2025**

*SHE is a transformative journey designed to meet the deepest longings of the feminine heart. Join us for food, fellowship, and faith on Mondays from 5 to 6 PM in St. Francis Hall. Doors open at 4:45—All are welcome. It's never too late to bring a friend!*



**Want Information?**  
Contact Patty at  
[pszipzky@gmail.com](mailto:pszipzky@gmail.com)

## WELCOME NEW FAMILIES

Are you interested in joining our parish? Visit our website or stop by our parish office to register. We welcome new members weekly.

Kristin McGoldrick & family, Kenneth & Laura Clark and family

## CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of **Brian Marshall**, those souls who have died due to wars or conflicts including the Holy Land, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, those recently lost to natural disasters, famine, or acts of violence, and the 4,000+ babies aborted daily.

## A TIME TO HEAL

Please pray for our sick. Call the Parish Office if you or a loved one is ill.

Carol Austin, Charles Bastian, Danielle Bastian, Kevin Boylan, Bill Boylan, Joe Cahill, Anthony Carbo, Tricia Carmen, Christine Cavaliere, Mary Cichanowsky, Jean Cotter, Joseph DeFabio, Kieran Doran, Rosemary Dougherty, Theresa D'Orazio, Phil Franco, Kevin Gallagher, Katie Garwood, Jacquelyn Gibbons, Bob Gentile, Rodie Henson, Francis Iacovone, Cole Keith, Ray Kenney, Gregory Lewis, Leonard Lombardi, Schellz Mangan, Joe Malloy, Floyd Marvin, Robin Marvin, Marion McCarthy, Mary Jane & Pat McCloskey, Mary Theresa McDevitt, Dorothy Milliner, Dorothy Moerman, James Moerman, Joan Murphy, Mike Murphy, Carol Ortner, Bill Pace, John Pollera, Nicholas Quercetti, Sr., George Rodgers, Naomi Rouse, Daught Ryan, Peter Salemo, Angelina Scarpa, Brendan Shain, Lisa Innaurato Shaine, Bill Snyder, Susan Sowa, Eleanor Tiongson, Amerigo Tomassi, Mark Torregosa, Roseann Yannacone, and Ernie Zappacosta.

## MARRIAGES

Best wishes and many blessings to our newest newlyweds.

Christine Pelletier & James Woods

## BAPTISMS

Congratulations to our newly baptized!

For baptismal information, call or email [baptisms@stmarymagdalen.net](mailto:baptisms@stmarymagdalen.net)

Grant Tyson Cryer, Colin Kevin Boyle



Operation Santa Claus: Our Giving Tree team thanks you for your generous hearts.

## MASS INTENTIONS

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28**

8:30 AM - Vincent Zeller

4:30 PM - Chris Lamoureux

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**

7:30 AM - Frank D'Angelo & Mildred Verzella

9:30 AM - Sonny Vinci

11:30 AM - Marcella Quirk

7 PM - The People of The Parish

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 30**

6:30 AM - Timothy Collins

8:30 AM - Donald Brian Chamberlain

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31**

6:30 AM - The People of The Parish

8:30 AM - The People of The Parish

6:30 PM - The People of The Parish

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1**

8:30 AM - The People of The Parish

10 AM - Angelina DeMario

6:30 PM - The People of The Parish

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 2**

6:30 AM - Gladys Enright

8:30 AM - The People of The Parish

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 3**

6:30 AM - Julia & Joseph Russell

8:30 AM - William Virbitsky

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 4**

8:30 AM - The People of The Parish

4:30 PM - Janet Zurbach

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 5**

7:30 AM - Mary Eisner Conrad

9:30 AM - Ron Register

11:30 AM - Rev. Edward D. Lyons

7 PM - The People of The Parish

## FLOWERS

In memory of Brian Marshall

## BREAD & WINE

In memory of deceased parishioners

## CANDLE

In memory of deceased police



## 8 Tithing News & Notes

### NEW! A NOTE OF THANKS FROM OUR SVDP CONFERENCE MEMBERS

Dear Benefactors,

It is with sincere gratitude that we reach out to you for your faithful and generous contributions to our St. Mary Magdalen Saint Vincent de Paul Conference. Your interest and compassion for the less fortunate is a tribute to your dedication to helping others through faith and action. Your donations continue to support our mission of service to the poor through personal contact and needed assistance with quality of life-sustaining services such as food deliveries, emergency shelter, rent or mortgage assistance in time of need, utility bill payments, medical prescriptions, and more. Your goodwill, financial and otherwise, directly to our SVDP conference and also indirectly to our clients is both personal and communal. Every time we help someone, it directly brings good news to their door through your kindness. On behalf of our Vincentian members of St. Mary Magdalen, we are forever grateful to you for being our advocate with your generous sponsorship and your loyal prayers. Grace and Peace to you during this Advent Season!

### LEGION OF MARY

#### How Does It Work?

Our members meet weekly to pray, plan, and discuss as a group. Then, we go out in pairs to perform Spiritual Works of Mercy within our parish and local community under the guidance of a Spiritual Director, usually a priest or deacon. We call all Catholics who would like to draw closer to Jesus and His Mother to give the Legion a try.

#### How Do I Start?

Be a guest at our meeting! We invite you to come and see the Legion from the inside. All you need is to offer a little of your time and energy to serve Mary and your love of God! Join us any Tuesday.

**Every Tuesday at 9:30 AM in the Gathering Room.**

### PHILLY ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS

It is the fervent desire of the Archdiocese to encourage the faithful to pray before the Most Blessed Sacrament for our priests, seminarians, and for an increase in vocations. Join us as the designated Chapel in Delaware County for Vocation Adoration every Thursday from 9 AM to 4 PM throughout the Archdiocese.



Above: Giving Tree Helpers; Bottom: Fr. Eric, Mrs. Brown, & Mrs. Hinkle during the Ecumenical Gathering with 7th grade students.



TODAY'S READINGS BEGIN ON 79  
IN THE **HERITAGE MISSAL**

### STEWARDSHIP & TITHING

**November 2024** **\$112,375**

Collection: \$36,738

Mail-in: \$33,652

EFT: \$41,985

**November 2023** **\$128,380**

Collection: \$39,637

Mail-in: \$37,265

EFT: \$51,478



Scan our QR Code for a secure link to our 'Parish Giving' link for Weekly & Special Collections, Annual School Fund, In Memory, Single Gifts, Stewardship, School Fund, and more.

**We are grateful for your generous spirit!**



# TRIP TO ITALY WITH FATHER ERIC

*Give yourself the gift of a trip to Sicily*



**October 15 - 24, 2025**

- A spiritual, cultural, and culinary journey, enriched by experiences with local traditions, daily Mass, and shared meals
- Stay in four centrally located hotels across Sicily, featuring all comforts
- Includes breakfast, dinners of Sicilian cuisine, and choice of bed types
- Comprehensive transport for the entire trip
- Guided tours with free time to explore
- Professional local guides, entrance fees, wine tasting, and more

**Registration due by:  
January 30, 2025**

## ITINERARY

- Day 1: Palermo (2 nights)
- Day 2: Alcamo (1 night)
- Days 3-6: Taormina (4 nights)
- Day 7: Castelbuono (1 night)
- Day 8: Palermo (1 night)

For more information visit [www.TripsToItalyWithLaura.com](http://www.TripsToItalyWithLaura.com)

[LauraStohlman@gmail.com](mailto:LauraStohlman@gmail.com)

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