

Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

9 FEBRUARY 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Dear Friends in Christ,

Saint Paul the Apostle is known for his impassioned writing and memorable rhetoric. He used powerful images to communicate his fundamental message of God's salvation, which was announced to the whole world through the death and resurrection of Christ.

For this reason, it should be no surprise that Saint Paul used athletic imagery a lot. After all, in the ancient world as now, athletic pursuits can unite people in common admiration of human excellence and dedication.

My favorite of these Pauline sports passages comes from the ninth chapter of Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians:

I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I, too, may have a share in it. Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all run in the race, but only one wins the prize? Run so as to win. Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one. Thus, I do not run aimlessly; I do not fight as if I were shadowboxing. No, I drive my body and train it for fear that, after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

What is Paul saying here? He emphasizes the fact that following Jesus is—to use a turn of phrase—a contact sport.

It requires not just one hour of my week or a certain percentage of my income but my whole life. Monks who fast frequently and pray at all hours of the day and night exemplify this, but such action is meant to be a part of the life of all Christians. For Paul, who describes himself as “having been taken possession of” by Christ, Christianity involves a complete giving over of mind and body. For this reason, we should never water down Christian teaching. It is meant to engage our imagination and our intellect—even for those who are small children. Our bodies, as temples of the Holy Spirit, are not irrelevant to our Christian lives. While Catholics are often accused of despising the body, it is, in fact, the opposite that is true: because we honor the body, we believe that behavior carried out in our bodies matters.

Even how we treat the body of one who has died is an

continued on page 3

CLERGY

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Pastor Emeritus
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Parochial Vicar
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*Sacramental assistance
is provided by*

The Legionaries of Christ
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Rev. Richard Maisano
Rev. Philip Lowe

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Deacon Bob Szipszky, M.Th.
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OCIA Program
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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.

expression of this belief (which is why the Church has a long-standing preference that the funeral take place with the body present in church, not cremated remains).

Saint Paul’s memorable reference to shadowboxing tells us that our lives—and, indeed, all of human history—have a goal. Just as a baseball team opens every Spring Training with the goal of winning the World Series, every human person has the goal of sharing in eternal life with God, who created us and made us for himself. We have to keep this goal ever before us. Sometimes, people say they don’t have faith in Jesus or anything else. Eventually, I always ask them why they think we exist and what they think happens when we die. In other words, what is the goal of my life? Let us be clear: career success, fabulous wealth, luxurious travel, the honor and respect of many—none of that means a thing when our lives come to an end. To live for these things and to put them as the defining principles of our lives is shadowboxing. It is punching the air with no purpose other than entertainment. But a Christian sees that life’s goal is Christ, which means we are willing to bear our cross behind him so that we might share in his Resurrection. For that supernatural goal, we must seek to work diligently every day so that we might not be disqualified.

Of course, as you read this, the Philadelphia Eagles are preparing to play the Chiefs in New Orleans. The athletic abilities and hard work of so many players and coaches rightly fill us with a sense of awe and civic pride. But remember, there will be other football games after this one. But in the pursuit of heaven, there is no next year. May we run so as to win!

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY
TODAY'S 7 PM MASS HAS MOVED
TO 4:30 PM—FLY, EAGLES, FLY!



Not to be outdone by the Eagles, the Phillie Phanatic makes a prayer request to Fr. Eric for a great upcoming season!

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22 AT 6 PM IN ST. FRANCIS HALL

Join us for an adults-only evening with fellow SMM parents and young adults as we discuss ***"The Young Adult Playbook"***.

Meet with authors **Anna Moreland & Tom Smith**, from Villanova University, as they address the challenges of today's rough terrain.

The evening includes dinner & drinks.

GET IN THE GAME! - REGISTER BY FEB. 18



PARISH

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Mrs. Jessica Savko
Mrs. Mary Lou Mayer
Office Administrators
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SCHOOL

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stmarymagdalenschool.net

Mrs. Amy Crawford Bauer
Principal
abauer@stmarymagdalen.net

Dcn. Joseph P. Boyle, Jr.
President
deaconjoe@stmarymagdalen.net

40 HOURS

St. Mary Magdalen
with Fr. Alex Gibbs

at 6:30 PM

on
March 11
Searching Love

March 12
Doubting Love

March 13
Burning Love

Adoration
All Day

Celebrate the glorious gift of Jesus in the Eucharist
in adoration, liturgy, and discipleship.

Healing the Wounds of Abortion

The psychological and spiritual wounds of abortion can be sharp, deep, and crippling. You may feel a profound numbness—or not be able to name the pain or recognize any of the symptoms. But you are not alone. Our weekend retreat will help you experience the mercy and compassion of God and discover hope for your future. In a safe, confidential, non-judgmental group environment, you can grieve your loss while understanding and releasing any feelings of anger, shame, or regret you may have. Our retreats also help fathers or grandparents of an aborted child transform pain into hope.

Experience healing and hope.

2025 Trenton, NJ, Weekend Retreats

- March 28 -30
- November 14-16

**For more information, contact
Judy Warenkiewicz at (732) 536-6871.
All inquiries are strictly confidential.**



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SOON! SENIOR SOCIAL CLUB EVENT WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12 AT 12:30 PM

Our Senior Social Club invites you to join them at their monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month from September through May from 12:30 to 3 pm in the St. Francis Hall, located on the church's lower level. Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 12**. They welcome you to come for entertainment, lively conversations, friendship, and refreshments.

NEW! KNIGHTS' FREE THROW WINNERS

On February 1, the SMM Knights of Columbus held its annual Free Throw Contest for all parish children ages 9-14. Approximately 70 Children participated, with a boy and girl winner in each age category.

The winners of each category were as follows—

Age 9: **Nate Hopper** and **Louie Mallon**;

Age 10: **Payton Grandieri** and **Luciano Votta**;

Age 11: **Will Barker** and **Chloe King**; Age 12: **Colin Lake** and **Gabriella Votta**; Age 13: **Brady Sirkin** and **Maggie McCarthy**; Age 14: **Joey Thompson** and **Peyton Martelli**. The winners are eligible to compete in the Knights' District Division at St. Kevin in Springfield on February 11 at 7:30 PM.

We wish the winners luck at the District Division as they advance to the State Championships. The Knights thank CYO, the contestants, and parents.



An Invitation from Archbishop Pérez

**Your voice and presence are essential
as we plan a new way forward**

In January, Archbishop Pérez published an Pastoral Letter. This important letter outlines his hopes for the Church of Philadelphia over the coming years. He invites us to participate in a conversation about the trail we will blaze together for our Church.

Learn more about the vision to unite and to build the best possible Church of Philadelphia, please visit trustandhope.org or scan the QR code below to access his letter and video.

Then, he asks you to sign up for a session near you to share your thoughts, including one soon at **O'Hara High School on Wednesday, February 12, at 6:30 PM.**

We will host a session at **SMM on Friday, March 7, at 9:30 AM and Thursday, April 3, at 6:30 PM.**



The Drs. John J. and Margaret T. Clark Memorial Scholarship

Dr. John J. and Dr. Margaret T. Clark were devoted members of St. Mary Magdalen Parish. The Clarks directed that a gift be made through their estate to endow scholarships for students who are members of Saint Mary Magdalen parish toward their post-secondary education.

Annually, one eligible student will be selected by the St. Mary Magdalen Scholarship Committee to receive a scholarship toward the first two (2) years of undergraduate tuition for their chosen college, university, or trade school. The annual scholarship amount is \$5,000 for up to two years. Eligible students must be active St. Mary Magdalen parish members and current high school seniors graduating in May or June of 2025.

The 2025 Application and information are available on the parish website under 'Clark Scholarship' or scan the QR code. Send questions to the scholarship committee at clarkscholarship@stmarymagdalen.net.





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



NEW! SMM SCHOOL SEEKS AN ADVANCEMENT DIRECTOR

St. Mary Magdalen School seeks a full-time Advancement Director to engage with our alumni, donors, and groups to plan events and support the school with its current and long term sustainability goals.



For more information about this dynamic position, or to apply, interested candidates should visit stmarymagdalenschool.net/advancement or scan the QR code.

NEW! THE HONOR ROLLS CARDINAL O'HARA HIGH SCHOOL

The following students in our parish community demonstrated academic excellence for the 2nd quarter of the first trimester:

First Honors: **Kara Hoy '25, Keara Mangan '25, Jane McAnally '25, Abigail Adolph '26, Connor Bray '26, Matthew Chin '26, Gianna Mariano '26, Avery Murphy-Costanzo '26, Jim Smith '26, Penelope Miller '27, Kathleen Rayfield '27, Isabella Tillilie '27, Colette Breen '28, Ella Eusebio '28, Alex Foster '28, Gwenn Mangan '28, Sienna Randazzo '28, & Kylie Sobel '28.**

Second Honors: **Kira Carroll '25, Chiara Mersch '25, Marina Mersch '25, Ryan Crowley '26, Ben Kalinchak '26, Molly Carroll '27, Alanna Phillips '27, Griffin Saleski '27, Harry Bastian '28, & Fiona Gribbin '28.**

We congratulate these students for their diligent efforts and wish them continued success.

NEW! CYO CALL FOR TRACK & FIELD COACHES!

Our CYO Track & Field team is looking to continue the growth and success of its program. This spring, we need two assistant coaches to join the existing coaching staff and another individual to help build a Pee Wee Track program that we could offer to grades K through 3rd. **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED**—you will learn the ropes from the existing coaching staff. **If interested, please get in touch with Julie Stonelake at (610) 937-1945 or Tommy Lake at (215) 840-4479.**



Young Adults

BIBLE STUDY

Mondays from 7 to 8 PM

Join us weekly at St. Mary Magdalen for faith and fellowship on the lower level of the church in St. Francis Hall with other young adults.

MASS & SOCIAL

Sundays at 7 PM

Come for Mass with music by Gus DeSimone and Sarah Thomas. Then stay afterward for food and fellowship in St. Francis Hall, or in nearby Media.

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 those souls who have died due to wars or conflicts including the Holy Land, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, those recently lost to natural disasters or acts of violence, those souls lost in the recent airline crashes, 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, Jim Clark, Jean Cotter, Joseph DeFabio, Kieran Doran, Rosemary Dougherty, Michelle Okon, Theresa D'Orazio, Phil Franco, Kevin Gallagher, Katie Garwood, Jacquelyn Gibbons, Bob Gentile, Rodie Henson, Mary Ellen Hoffman, Francis Iacovone, Cole Keith, Ray Kenney, Rita Klauder, Gregory Lewis, Leonard Lombardi, Shellz Mangan, Joe Malloy, Floyd Marvin, Robin Marvin, Marion McCarthy, Mary Jane & Pat McCloskey, Mary Theresa McDevitt, Michael McFadden, 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, Amerigo Tomassi, Mark Torregosa, Roseann Yannacone, and Ernie Zappacosta.

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to our newly baptized! For baptismal information, visit our website for an intake form, call or email baptisms@stmarymagdalen.net



Last Saturday, after the CYO Mass, our Knights Council hosted its annual Free Throw Contest. Here are some of this year's winners. See page 5 for more details.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

8:30 AM - Matthew R. Hallinan

4:30 PM - The People of the Parish

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

7:30 AM - Joy Carideo

9:30 AM - Mary J. Kelly

11:30 AM - Ints. of Shelly Zeller

7 PM - The People of the Parish

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

6:30 AM - Christopher Felix

8:30 AM - Lester Fry

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

6:30 AM - Donald & Mary Grace

8:30 AM - Anna & Sam Pane

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

6:30 AM - Ints. of Frances Jackson

8:30 AM - Ints. of Leo & Joan Doyle

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

6:30 AM - Holy Souls in Purgatory

8:30 AM - Dorothy & Scott McNeila

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

6:30 AM - The People of the Parish

8:30 AM - John Santangelo

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

8:30 AM - Ints. of Catherine
& Don Curran

4:30 PM - Jack McKeown

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

7:30 AM - Patricia Gonzalez

9:30 AM - William Joseph Bricker

11:30 AM - Clotilde & Giovanni
Liberatore, and Silva Salera

7 PM - The People of the Parish

FLOWERS

In memory of our deceased military

BREAD & WINE

In memory of deceased parishioners

CANDLE

In memory of deceased clergy

8 Tithing News & Passing Notes

THAT MAN IS YOU THURSDAY AT 6:25 AM

Join us in St. Francis Hall for *Apostles in Springtime*.

MAGNIFICAT SUBSCRIPTIONS

After much consideration, we have made the decision to discontinue ordering the *Magnificat* through our parish office. The last issue delivered to the church will be in March 2025. We apologize for any inconvenience. To order or renew your subscription, you may use their order form inside your *Magnificat* or online at us.magnificat.net.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with the office at 610-566-8821. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

NEW! MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT DAY SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Marriages of Grace, part of the Archdiocese, offers a day for Engaged and Married Couples of all ages to renew, strengthen, and enhance their relationship and marital bond. Come with your spouse or fiancé and listen to nationally acclaimed Catholic speakers who will inspire you to live out your marriage with greater fervor, love, and joy. The enrichment day runs from 9 AM to 4 PM. The event includes breakfast and lunch, followed by the Saturday Vigil Mass at St. Helena's Church, located at 1489 Dekalb Pike in Blue Bell. **To register, visit PhillyCatholicLife.org or pick up a flyer in our narthex.**

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.**

NEW! SENIOR SOCIAL CLUB RETREAT TUESDAY, MARCH 25

All are welcome to join the Seniors' Social Club for their Lenten Day of Reflection on March 25 from 9:30 AM to 2 PM at the IHM Conference Center at 401 Bryn Mawr Avenue in Bryn Mawr.

The cost is \$45 per guest. If interested, email Bill and Pat Moore at patbillbr4@comcast.net.

PRAY FOR PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

Please encourage and pray for priest vocations. To aid us in our prayers, we have a blessed traveling Chalice from the Holy Land to enthrone in your home for a week. **To host our Blessed Chalice, please contact Deacon Joseph.**

SOON BETHESDA CASSEROLE COLLECTION

Our weekend collection is on February 15 & 16.

TODAY'S READINGS BEGIN ON
PAGE 95 IN THE HERITAGE MISSAL

STEWARDSHIP & TITHING

December 2024 \$123,744

Collection: \$46,759

Mail-in: \$27,591

EFT: \$49,394

December 2023 \$ 92,252

Collection: \$28,675

Mail-in: \$20,103

EFT: \$43,474

Christmas 2024 \$112,625

2023: \$108,217

Parish Appeal 2024 \$ 48,530

2023: \$71,155

Sound System \$ 35,600

We are grateful for your generous spirit!



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.

An Envisioning Parish

How can our parish be a home for everyone who seeks the light of Christ? As we plan for the future of our parish, Fr. Eric and the Envisioning Committee want your feedback. We want to know your hopes and dreams for our parish, and how we can help you to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

In 2025, we are embarking on a process to better understand how St. Mary Magdalen can be more effective in forming disciples of Jesus Christ—and this process begins with you.

Your feedback and insights are vital in assisting us in becoming the best parish community we can be.

We need to hear from a broad array of parishioners about the hurdles they are experiencing in their faith journeys and how we might be able to assist them.

Please provide your insights by scanning the **QR Code** below, or by visiting our website at stmarymagdalen.net/envision.

Thank you for your participation—We will share insights and plan updates as we move forward.

Please share this message or text the form link to your friends, neighbors, and family.

If you want to become more involved with SMM's envisioning efforts, please contact: **Father Eric at freric@stmarymagdalen.net** or **Deacon Bob at deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net**.



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