

Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

8 DECEMBER 2024 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ADVENT MEDITATION SERIES

Hail and Blessed be the Hour



Dear Friends in Christ,

We have a few calendar notes to help you make the most of these days. First of all, tomorrow, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, is normally a holy day of obligation. However, because of the way it falls this year, Archbishop Pérez has given a dispensation to all Catholics in the Archdiocese. We are not obligated to attend Mass tomorrow, but it is highly encouraged! We will have our usual schedule of 6:30 am and 8:30 am.

Next Monday, December 15, will be our Advent Day of Mercy. We will have the Sacrament of Penance for our school children at 1:30 pm, our PREP students at 5 pm, and all parishioners at 7 pm. We will have several guest priests assisting with confessions at those times. Adults, particularly parents, are also welcome at the school and PREP times, as well as at evening opportunities. These are in addition to our usual Confessions schedule—Saturday at 9 am and Sunday at 6:15 pm. In addition, we will offer the Sacrament of Penance at 9 am and 12 pm on Christmas Eve.

Speaking of Christmas Eve, we have an addition to our schedule this year! We are adding a new 10:30 pm Mass during the Night to complement our schedule of Masses. Therefore, our Christmas schedule will be as follows: 4 pm, 6:30 pm, 10:30 pm on Christmas Eve, and 7:30 am, 9:30 am, and 11:30 am on Christmas Day.

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker



Advent Meditation begins on page 3

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is provided by*

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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.



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.

(continued from the cover)

Second Sunday of Advent 3

Already, the Second Sunday of Advent is upon us. For this reason, we should embrace the urgency of the Lord's coming by putting aside the false and manufactured urgency of this season. The Lord invites us to keep vigil in silence and stillness, not busyness, which only leaves us exhausted and frustrated.

Maybe you were like me and had one of those Advent calendars growing up—the ones where you open a paper door every day to find a piece of candy or a nice message. Indeed, Advent is all about watching and waiting. It's about counting down. What makes it so comforting, I think, is that we know that our waiting will be fulfilled. And we know the exact time!

There is a Carmelite tradition of reciting this prayer every day leading up to Christmas: "Hail and blessed be the hour and the moment in which Christ our Lord was born in Bethlehem, at midnight, in piercing cold. At that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayers and grant my petitions through the merits of Jesus Christ and of his blessed Mother. Amen." What strikes me about the prayer is its specificity: God was born for us at this exact moment, on this exact day, in this very place.

In just the same way, the liturgical celebration of this world-altering event takes place on the same day every year—December 25. It isn't a moveable feast. Even Easter, the greatest of Christian feasts, bounces around the calendar according to the lunar cycles.

But Christmas does no such thing—it is fixed in our minds. Therefore, we know that the watching and waiting will not be interminable—even now, we can taste the joy of the feast.

The coming of the Lord at the end of time is different. In relation to that cosmic and momentous moment, we are like the people of Israel of old. They had been promised a Savior and Messiah. Yet they were asked to trust in God's promises even though they had no definitive knowledge of when, where, or in what manner it would take place. Even the most learned of Jewish scribes were perplexed when Jesus finally arrived on the scene!

His second coming will not be like that. While his first coming—extended into our lives through the Church's sacraments, especially the Eucharist—is veiled and mysterious, his second coming will be immediately apparent to the whole world. We are the ones who have been called out from the world to prepare and keep vigil for this coming. We are meant to glorify God with our lives—not because we want

to save ourselves alone, but because God wants to use us as he used Israel: to sanctify the world and open to all peoples the knowledge of the God who comes to dwell with his people.

Dear friends, as Advent moves forward, we should rejoice in the great gift we have to share in this work of redemption. Like the prophets, may we open the Advent calendars of our hearts, knowing that while we don't know the day or the hour of the Lord's second coming, we know for certain the moment when we can celebrate his first coming, which is the most definitive reason for us to trust him even now. Hail and blessed be the hour!



"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths."

—Isaiah 40:3



Handel's
St. Mary Magdalen
MESSIAH
DEC
15
3 PM
Hallelujah!
Enjoy the classic oratorio presented by the amazing Main Line Ecumenical Choir and gifted orchestra musicians. Conducted by Ralph Purri. All are welcome. This is a goodwill offering event.

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St. Mary Magdalen's

DAY OF MERCY

Experience God's forgiveness and peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation offered throughout the day on Monday, December 16, with our School and PREP students. Adults are welcome during any of our service times.

PENANCE

1:30 to 2:30 PM {School Students}

5 to 6 PM {PREP Students}

7 to 8 PM

MONDAY
DECEMBER 16



SMM Knights' Fundraiser

ONE HOPE

The Knights' ONE HOPE Winery fundraiser will benefit the Mothers' Home in Darby. Start your Christmas shopping or stock up for the upcoming holidays while benefitting a great cause in our area. So, let's pour it forward!

To place an order, please visit the Knights' digital storefront at onehopewine.com/event/208579.

The Knights of Columbus are grateful for your support!

Now Through December

UPCOMING ADVENT DATES

Monday, December 9

**Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Mass at 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM

Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year

Saturday, December 14

Mass in Italian at 7 PM

*Sponsored by Associazione Regionale Abrussese
Delco and the Celebrant is Fr. Eric Banecker*

Sunday, December 15

Blessing of Crèches

4:30 Vigil Mass and 9:30 AM Mass

*Bring your crèche or baby Jesus
from home to be blessed before Christmas.*

Handel's Messiah at 3 PM

*Enjoy this amazing musical event presented
by the Mainline Ecumenical Choir. (see pg. 3)*

Monday, December 16

Day of Mercy: Penance Services

1:30 to 2:30 PM, 5 to 6 PM, & 7 to 8 PM

All are welcome. (See pg. 2)

Wednesday, December 18

School Christmas Concert

6:30 PM in the church



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.

EXCITING NEWS! A NEW SOUND SYSTEM FOR THE CHURCH IS ON THE WAY!

Since Fr. Banecker's arrival, we have 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—Yes, the pun is intended!

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.

We want every voice—every song and every prayer—to be heard clearly in our sanctuary. We are pleased to announce 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 or send or submit your gift marked "Sound System."**



Students collected food and assembled Thanksgiving baskets.



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 by St. Francis Hall. Begins November 4th.

MASS & SOCIAL

Sundays at 7 PM

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

Giving Tree



2024



Please stop by and grab an ornament to support our fellow neighbors in need.

We will collect the gifts on

Sunday, December 15.

before and after the 7:30, 9:30, and 11:30 AM Masse- No collection at the 7 PM Mass.

Plus, we have some children in nearby parishes in need of 'Secret Santas'. Contact us directly if you can assist with this, and we will pair you a child, children, or a family.

We appreciate your support.

Thank you, and God Bless!

Ginger Victoria

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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.

Gregory Moppert & Juliette Gabriel, Thomas & Antoinette Torrence,
David & Yvet Opperman

CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the family of Peter DiPlacido, 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, 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.

Ashley Mendicino & Ricardo Pereira

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to our newly baptized!

For baptismal information, call or email baptisms@stmarymagdalen.net

Sophia Margaret Salvino, Kalina Mae Fritsch



SMM families attended the annual and important 'Stand Up for Life Dinner' last week.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:30 AM - Bill Bricker

4:30 PM - Charles F. Edelman, Jr.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

7:30 AM - Guiteras & Dever Families

9:30 AM - Ints. of the DiMedio Family

11:30 AM - Mary McDevitt

7 PM - Janet Zurbach

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

Immaculate Conception of the BVM

6:30 AM - Ints. of Fr. Reuben Nuxoll

8:30 PM - Janet Zurbach

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

6:30 AM - Ints. of Fr. Eric Banecker

8:30 AM - Joann Flocco

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

6:30 AM - The People of the Parish

8:30 AM - Robert Pizio

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

6:30 AM - Louis Tramantana

8:30 AM - The Souls in Purgatory

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

6:30 AM - John Lewis Baker

8:30 AM - Michael Ciavardini

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

8:30 AM - Ints. of Msgr. Ralph Chieffo

4:30 PM - Robert Verna

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:30 AM - Frances & George Burkhardt

9:30 AM - Carla Donato

11:30 AM - Dottie Campbell,
Judy Campbell & Jackie Simms

7 PM - The People of The Parish

FLOWERS

In memory of deceased parishioners

BREAD & WINE

In memory of Peter DiPlacido

CANDLE

In memory of deceased clergy

8 Tithing News & Notes

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Since December 2023, we have been assisting a family in Marcus Hook, who has had many emotional, physical, and economic crises. They currently need further rent assistance as well as food and Christmas gifts. Are you able to help them by making a contribution to our ministry or providing them with some gifts this Christmas? Even the smallest contribution is helpful and appreciated. Kindly mark your financial contribution as "Marcus Hook Family," so we may specifically direct those gifts to this family. For a Christmas wish list, contact Jackie at jackiedooley44@gmail.com.

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—if you wish, you can go as our guest on one of the work assignments with an experienced member.

All you need is a willingness to offer a little of your time and energy for the most significant reason in the world—your love of God!

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



URGENT! SCAMS TARGET PARISHIONERS

There is an uptick in email and text scams trying to masquerade as parishes, priests, or other parish leaders throughout the Archdiocese.

You will not receive 'private' texts or email requests from Fr. Eric, clergy, or parish staff asking for gift cards, cash, or emergency funds. Any parish events or fundraisers are posted publically on our website, bulletin, or newsletters. Do not respond to or click on links in suspicious emails or texts.

When in doubt, contact our parish office or ask any staff member using the emails listed in our bulletin or on the website at stmarymagdalen.net.

PHILLY ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS

It is the fervent desire of the Archdiocese to encourage the faithful to pray before the Most Blessed Sacrament on the day the Eucharist and the Priesthood were instituted by Christ to pray for our priests, seminarians, and 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.

For more about vocations, visit heedthecall.org.

TODAY'S READINGS BEGIN ON 60
IN THE HERITAGE MISSAL

STEWARDSHIP & TITHING

October 2024 **\$115,528**

Collection: \$30,054

Mail-in: \$30,638

EFT: \$54,836

October 2023 **\$106,050**

Collection: \$39,169

Mail-in: \$24,963

EFT: \$41,918



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!



Giving Hope TO ALL 2024

Did you know 1 in 5 people in the Philadelphia area count on the Catholic Charities Appeal for help and hope this Advent and throughout the year?

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Those in need of CCA's mission are in every county, town, parish, and neighborhood—including our SMM community.

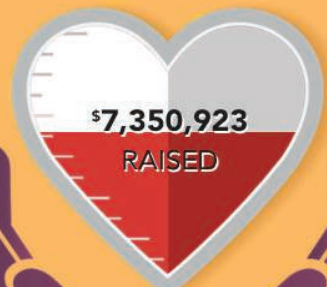
Catholic Charities Appeal impacts nearly one million lives annually. They cannot do this vital work without you—Your gift matters more than you know.



This Advent, make a difference in the lives of many, and together, let's bring hope where it is needed most.

To give, scan the QR Code or go to catholiccharitiesappeal.org.

**2024
Fundraising Goal:
\$10 Million**



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We hope we can help you get all your ducks in a row. 


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