

Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

2 FEBRUARY 2025

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Dear Friends in Christ,

February 2nd is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This year, it happens to fall on Sunday, which allows us all to celebrate it together at Sunday Mass. Also known as "Candlemas," we will bless candles at the 9:30 am and 7 pm Masses. Below is a meditation on this feast, which might be unfamiliar to many, as it only rarely falls on Sunday.

Of course, much of our attention this week is directed to our Philadelphia Eagles, who head to New Orleans next week to take on Kansas City in the Super Bowl. I have good friends in Kansas City, and I am happy to say that a flurry of text messages have been sent back and forth in recent days, expressing each other's—'opinions' about why our team will win. We have some members of our community who have been a part of this fantastic season. Congratulations, and bring home that Lombardi trophy!

In that light, I want to announce a scheduling change. For one night only, the 7 pm Sunday evening Mass will move to 4:30 pm next Sunday, February 9th. Confessions will begin at 3:45 pm. This is a one-time change due to the Super Bowl (you can call it the "Philly special"). The 7 pm will return to its usual time on Sunday, February 16th.

Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to respond to our Envisioning team's request for feedback on how our parish can help you grow as a disciple moving forward.

Your responses will be very helpful to us as we move forward in pastoral planning. If you haven't had a chance and would like to share your reflections, you can check out the QR code on page 9 in today's bulletin.

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker



The Feast of the Presentation celebrates the 40th day after Christmas, which also marks the halfway point between the winter solstice and the vernal equinox. That unique placement in the calendar meant that in Germany, this Christian feast was combined with two traditions: one of February 2nd beginning "second winter" and the other implementing how the sun's

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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.

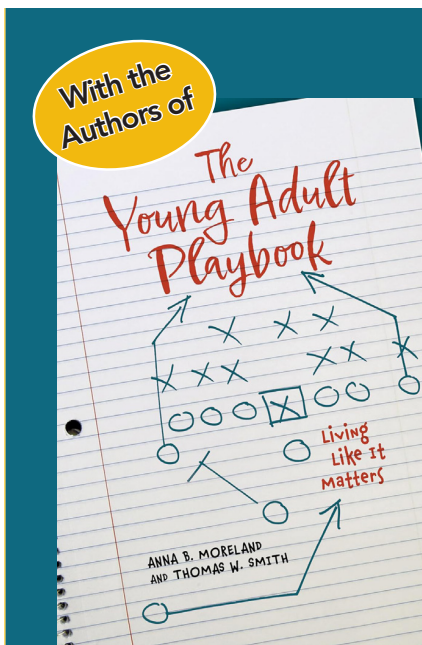
angle on February 2nd allowed a groundhog to see its shadow. German immigrants arriving here in the late 18th and 19th centuries brought this tradition with them, which has turned into a Pennsylvania tradition we know as Groundhog's Day. While we can question the wisdom in allowing a groundhog to do our weather forecasting for us, we can certainly enjoy this quirky holiday, as long as we meditate on its Christian origins.

The Jewish law (Torah) decreed that a first-born son was to be redeemed ("bought back") through an act of ritual sacrifice on the 40th day after his birth. This would have gone along with a traditional "mothering" or purification ritual of the mother called for by the same Jewish law (which is why this feast used to be called the Feast of the Purification). But, the Church rightly focuses on this unique act of offering sacrifice in thanksgiving for the birth of Jesus, who, after all, is Mary's first-born son. This finds its explanation in the great story of the Exodus, in which the first-born sons of Egypt all died on the night of Passover, while the Jewish homes were spared because of the blood of the lamb that had been sprinkled on the doorposts. Since then, in recognition of God's great mercy for his people, the tradition of presenting a first-born son and offering sacrifice served a reminder that every good gift is from God. Everything we have, everything we are, is given to us not for our own sakes only, but that we might offer ourselves back to him in love and in

service to his people. (It is interesting that 36% of newly ordained priests are the eldest sibling in their families!)

This background shows the deep Jewish roots of this event in the Gospel, which at the same time goes far beyond the Old Testament. As the Gospel of Luke recounts, Mary and Joseph bring the infant Jesus into the Temple in Jerusalem. That building, venerated by the Jewish people as the place where God dwelt on earth, really did become that on that day. Jesus, himself, the Incarnate Son of God, enters his Temple in glory. Of course, as it so often happens, this glory is veiled and mysterious: Jesus appears not as a conquering hero but as the tiny child held in the arms of his poor parents. Yet, this does not stop two prophets—Simeon and Anna—from recognizing in Jesus the long-awaited answer to the prayers of Israel. In this small child lies the hope of all the world and the salvation of the human race. In fact, the old man, on taking the child into his arms, is filled with the Holy Spirit. The words he speaks are prayed by many Christians every single night: "Now, master, you may let your servant go in peace. Your word has been fulfilled."

Do we dare take the child Jesus into our arms as well? If so, we can live entirely for him, who loved us and has redeemed us from sin, suffering, and death and calls us to share in his eternal light. As we bless and carry candles today, may that true light guide us to our heavenly home.



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 on Saturday at **6 PM** in St. Francis Hall. We hope you join us!

Scan the QR to RSVP.



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Save-the-Date

40 HOURS

at St. Mary Magdalen
with Fr. Alex Gibbs

March 11

March 12

March 13

Celebrate the glorious gift of Jesus in the Eucharist
in adoration, prayer, 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.



Rachel's Vineyard

Sensitive. Supportive. Confidential.

RachelsVineyard.org



NEW! SENIOR SOCIAL CLUB EVENT
WEDNESDAY 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! CELEBRATE LIFE BANQUET
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AT 4 PM

Pennsylvanians for Human Life is grounded in 'Creating a Culture of Love & Life through Education and Formation.' They invite you to their annual Celebrate Life Banquet at the Springfield Country Club on Sunday, February 23, beginning at 4 PM. Join them in support and in celebration of life! Includes speaker John Bruchalski, M.D. Adults: \$90 (\$800 table of ten), Students: \$50 (\$400 table of ten). **To support, learn more or for tickets visit paforhumanlife.org, or call 610-696-0780.**

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY! 7 PM MASS
ON FEBRUARY 9 MOVED TO 4:30 PM



An Invitation from Archbishop Pérez

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

Archbishop Pérez published an important Pastoral Letter on January 5th. This letter outlines his hopes for the Church of Philadelphia over the coming years. He invites each of us to participate in a conversation about the trail we will blaze together for our Church.

Learn more about the vision to unite and with open hearts to build the strongest 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. We will host a session at St. Mary Magdalen 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! 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.**

NEW! SMM KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SUPER BOWL BLOCK POOL

The SMM Knights Council is offering its annual Super Bowl Block Pool to help with our continued support of charitable organizations, including Little Sisters of the Poor, The Mothers' Home, Coats for Kids, and Seminary support. To participate in this year's Super Bowl Block Pool, go to SMMknight.org or scan the QR code and pick a block or two. Each block is \$25, and a chance to win \$125 at the end of the first quarter, \$185 at the end of the second quarter, \$315 at the end of the third quarter, and \$625 at the end of the game. Payment can be made by Venmo (@Larry-Donato) using 4397 for the request of the last four digits of the cell phone.

If you don't use Venmo, please contact Larry Donato at 610.322.4397 to arrange payment.



The Knights appreciate your support of its SMM Council and its goal of helping those in our area.



She Shall Be Called Woman

MONDAYS at 5 PM

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

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 Marianne Flick, Norman Kleinberg, 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, 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



Catholic School's Week: Graham as Fr. Eric. Congratulations to this year's Religion Bee finalists and all the participants. What a fun week!

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

8:30 AM - Glenn & Michelle Hard

4:30 PM - Nora C. Miley

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

7:30 AM - Denise Carrol

9:30 AM - Philip J. Cavalcanto

11:30 AM - Brendon Collins

7 PM - Ints. of Fr. Reuben Nuxoll, LC

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

6:30 AM - Ints. of Diane Laderman

8:30 AM - Kathy LaRue

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

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

8:30 AM - Joseph P. Mylotte

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

6:30 AM - Matthew Mullin

8:30 AM - Kames Walsh

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

6:30 AM - Albert DiGregorio

8:30 AM - Jacqueline DiOttavio

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

6:30 AM - Frances Brandell

8:30 AM - Eileen Banham

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

FLOWERS

In memory of

BREAD & WINE

In memory of deceased parishioners

CANDLE

In memory of deceased clergy

8 Tithing News & Notes

NEW! 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! KNIGHTS' BASKETBALL FREE THROW CONTEST

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1 AT 5:30 PM

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor its annual Basketball Free Throw Shooting competition on Saturday, February 1, after the CYO Mass at 4:30 PM. The competition is open to all children ages 9-14 (as of January 1) and will be held at the SMM gym from 5:30 to 7 PM. The Knights will provide pizza and water to the children and their families. Please come out for this fun tradition and to support the children. All are welcome!



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.

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.**

NEW! PHILLY CATHOLIC SINGLES 30-45 WINE TASTING EVENT

Join other Catholic singles for fun events! We host friendly events for marriage-minded Catholics ages 30-45, including this upcoming **Wine Blending Event at Vino Bambino** in Broomall. Enjoy this delightful wine-tasting and blending event on **Sunday, February 9**, at 1 PM. \$85 covers a series of seven wines to taste, a private room, pizza, and your own bottle of wine. Upcoming events include Bowling (April), Nature Hike (May), and Art Museum (June). Our chaplain is Fr. DeLacy. **Email PhillyCatholicSingles@Gmail.com to sign up for events, or visit PhillyCatholic.Singles.**

BETHESDA CASSEROLE COLLECTION

Our weekend collection is on February 15 & 16.

**TODAY'S READINGS BEGIN ON
PAGE 92 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.

