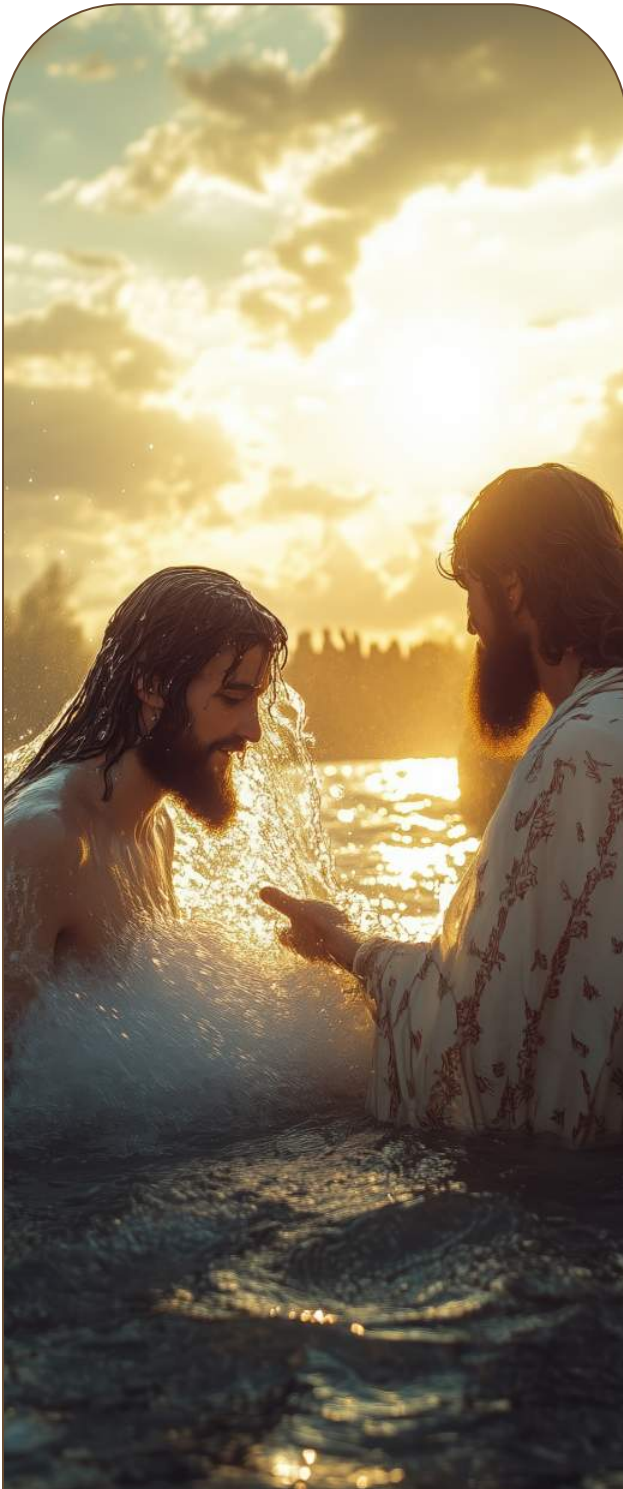


Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

12 JANUARY 2025
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to appeal to all parents in our congregation to join us for a special Parent Formation Night on Saturday, February 22nd, at 6 pm. This adults-only event will feature an elegant dinner and a special talk from Professors Anna Moreland and Tom Smith. They will talk about their latest book, *"The Young Adult Playbook,"* and how we can help our young people flourish in a challenging time. They will address questions of faith, technology, and coming of age with insights gleaned from teaching a popular course at Villanova about "adulting." Space is limited, so sign up now for this exciting opportunity. Our hope is to make these available twice per year to our parish families. Hope to see you there!

—Father Eric Banecker

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord serves as the bridge between the liturgical season of Christmas and Ordinary Time. Pope Saint John Paul II began the tradition of baptizing babies born to the lay employees of the Vatican each year on this Feast in the Sistine Chapel. I admit, that must be a very cool experience for those families!

But then again, every time baptism is celebrated, something remarkable, even otherworldly, takes place. I have baptized children who were dying in hospitals with just a few drops. I know people who (before becoming Catholic) were baptized by rivers or in storefront churches out West. Yet even without the grandeur of Michelangelo's frescos, we see something amazing about a small child or an adult, born naturally to his or her parents, now becoming a child of God through water and the Holy Spirit.

We have gotten used to calling ourselves "children of God." But that's because so much of our culture is influenced by Christianity. The fact is that many religions of the world do not claim such a reality—in fact, some would consider it blasphemous for a person to call himself a "child of God." Jesus himself was condemned to death precisely for this.

On trial before Caiaphas, the question is put to him directly: "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"

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stmarymagdalen.net

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Pastor Emeritus
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Parochial Vicar
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*Sacramental assistance
is provided by*

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Rev. Richard Maisano
Rev. Philip Lowe

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Permanent Deacon
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.

Jesus replies, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven" (Mk 14:61-62). This response is enough for the high priest to issue a summary judgment on the case: guilty of a capital crime.

We are all children of God because—and only because, we have died and risen with Christ in Baptism. We dare to call God our Father because, through the sacrament of Baptism, God adopts us and claims us as his own. In seeing us now, he sees his own beloved Son, who is God from God from all eternity.

In a sense, then, the Baptism of the Lord, so often forgotten, is the high point of the Christmas season. Christmas itself gets all the attention, of course. The beautiful Feast of Epiphany is very significant, too. However, the inauguration of Jesus' public life when John baptizes him parallels the beginning of our own new and divine life, which we received at our Baptism.

Do you know your baptism day?

If not, your homework today is to look it up, memorize it, put it on your calendar, and celebrate it like a birthday—only better! And if your parents were the ones who brought you to be baptized, give them a call and thank them—or pray in gratitude for them if they are no longer with us—because amid all the toys and games and vacations and schooling, that was the greatest gift they gave you.



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 ask you to sign up for a session near you to share your thoughts. We will host a session at **St. Mary Magdalen** on **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.



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Mrs. Shelly Zeller
Mrs. Jessica Savko
Mrs. Mary Lou Mayer
Office Administrators
Extension: 107

SCHOOL

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stmarymagdalenschool.net

Mrs. Amy Crawford Bauer
Principal
abauer@stmarymagdalen.net

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

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.

TMIY

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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 faith journey.

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

Then, our new season 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 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

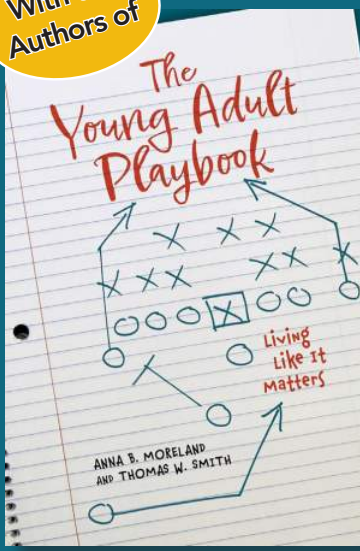
GO FORTH—EVANGELIZE WITH JOY!

—Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Paragraph #24

"The Church which "goes forth" is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:19), and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast. Such a community has an endless desire to show mercy, the fruit of its own experience of the power of the Father's infinite mercy. Let us try a little harder to take the first step and to become involved. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. The Lord gets involved and he involves his own, as he kneels to wash their feet. He tells his disciples: "You will be blessed if you do this" (Jn 13:17). An evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others. Evangelizers thus take on the "smell of the sheep" and the sheep are willing to hear their voice.

An evangelizing community is also supportive, standing by people at every step of the way, no matter how difficult or lengthy this may prove to be. It is familiar with patient expectation and apostolic

endurance. Evangelization consists mostly of patience and disregard for constraints of time. Faithful to the Lord's gift, it also bears fruit. An evangelizing community is always concerned with fruit, because the Lord wants her to be fruitful. It cares for the grain and does not grow impatient at the weeds. The sower, when he sees weeds sprouting among the grain does not grumble or overreact. He or she finds a way to let the word take flesh in a particular situation and bear fruits of new life, however imperfect or incomplete these may appear. The disciple is ready to put his or her whole life on the line, even to accepting martyrdom, in bearing witness to Jesus Christ, yet the goal is not to make enemies but to see God's word accepted and its capacity for liberation and renewal revealed. Finally an evangelizing community is filled with joy; it knows how to rejoice always. It celebrates every small victory, every step forward in the work of evangelization. Evangelization with joy becomes beauty in the liturgy, as part of our daily concern to spread goodness. The Church evangelizes and is herself evangelized through the beauty of the liturgy, which is both a celebration of the task of evangelization and the source of her renewed self-giving."



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

Scan the QR to RSVP.



Celebrate
with us!



All Are Welcome!

Catholic Schools Week

at St. Mary Magdalen

Sunday, January 26

9:30 AM
Opening Mass

10:30 AM to Noon
Open House

Refreshments, Science Fair,
Art Display & More

Learn more at
stmarymagdalenschool.net

NEW! A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

Dear Fr. Eric and Parishioners,
Thank you for your generous contribution of \$1,450 in gift cards and for so many of other thoughtful gifts for babies, children, and families. Your selfless giving reflects the true spirit of love and compassion, and it has touched the hearts of so many in our community.

We are overwhelmed with gratitude by your generosity and kindness. These gifts will bring joy and comfort to families who truly need them, and your support means more than words can express.

Since 1974, the Delaware County Family Service Center offers hope and a sense of belonging for hundreds of individuals that battle poverty and addiction. Last year, thanks to you, we provided 13,000 meals, 1,000 showers, and 800 free laundry services. We also distributed 35,000 diapers to 700 babies, 50 babies received formula, and 250 moms attended parenting and prenatal classes. In total, 5,000 people visited our family services center for guidance and support services.

May you continue to be blessed as you bless others.

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! PARISH SCAM ALERT

There has been 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 asking for gift cards or emergency funds.** Any parish events or fundraisers are posted publically on our website, bulletin, or newsletters. Do not respond to or click links from any suspicious emails or texts.

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



She Shall Be Called Woman

Happy New Year!

SHE returns on January 27, 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
pszipzsky@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 Dr. Eleanor Tiongson, Sharlene Neelan, 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, Document shared with you: "Mass Intentions (1/5/25)" 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, Shellz 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, Amerigo Tomassi, Mark Torregosa, Roseann Yannacone, and Ernie Zappacosta.

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to our newly baptized!

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

Nora Anne Matheson



Time flies! The SMM's Class of 2014 recently got together in Media to celebrate their 10 year reunion. Our special thanks to Grace Grassi for planning this fun night!

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

8:30 AM - Joseph Izzo, Jr.

4:30 PM - Jo Ann Winchester

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

7:30 AM - Ints. of Ro D'Angelo

9:30 AM - Loretta & Martin Donato

11:30 AM - Deceased Members of the Keane & Hennessy Families

7 PM - The People of The Parish

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

6:30 AM - Marie Stinson

8:30 AM - Charles Foster

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

6:30 AM - Patricia & Thomas Brogan

8:30 AM - Mary Phillips

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

6:30 AM - Mary & Pat Durante

8:30 AM - Regina Feeney

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

6:30 AM - Ints. of Brian McCarthy

8:30 AM - Ints. of Kathleen Leopardi

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

6:30 AM - Ints. of Steve McClatchy

8:30 AM - Regina Feeney

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

8:30 AM - Ints. of Tom & Nancy Caramanico

4:30 PM - Margaret Nilan Kennedy

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

7:30 AM - Mary Francis Scott

9:30 AM - Regina & Edward Brennan

11:30 AM - Janet Zurbach

7 PM - Irene Loder

FLOWERS

In memory of Dr. Eleanor Tiongson

BREAD & WINE

In memory of deceased parishioners

CANDLE

In memory of Sharlene Neelan

8 Tithing News & Notes

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. We are pleased 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 dollars 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 difference. If you are able to donate, designate your gift to the 'Sound System' on 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.

SOON! BETHESDA CASSEROLE COLLECTION

Our weekend collection is on January 18 & 19.

JOIN US! SENIORS' SOCIAL CLUB

Our Seniors' Social Club invites you to join their monthly meetings, held on the second Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 3 PM in the St. Francis Hall on the church's lower level. Enjoy entertainment, conversations, friendship, and refreshments.

At our next meeting was rescheduled for this Wednesday, January 15, we will play Crazy Bingo—Bring a wrapped gift (\$5) and enjoy the fun.



SMM kicked off the New Year at the annual SEEK Conference.

TODAY'S READINGS BEGIN ON PAGE 85 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!

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January 30, 2025**

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Day 2: Alcamo (1 night)
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Day 7: Castelbuono (1 night)
Day 8: Palermo (1 night)

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January 29, 2025
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