

Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

22 DECEMBER 2024 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Dear Friends in Christ,

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

This beautiful poem by Christina Rossetti is often sung by choirs, sacred and secular, this time of year. The haunting tune many of us are familiar with evokes the sense of these days when everything seems cold, grey, and dark. These darkest evenings of the year make us long for the warmth and light of summer. Yet we know that after every summer comes another winter, no matter what we do. But is there another way? Can we break out of that endless cycle?

The next stanza of the poem offers a way out:

*Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

Jesus Christ, born in the flesh, is the hope of the world. He is the one whose coming brought the fire of God's love into the long, cold winter of our world.

Sadly, as it was then, so it is now: many have "no room in the inn" for Jesus. His presence among us, especially in the Eucharist, can be easily ignored for seemingly more important matters. But knowing him, loving him, and being with him forever is the goal of our lives. Nothing is more important. Everything else pales in comparison to receiving his sacrificial love into our lives and responding by living no longer for ourselves but for him. That is the significance of the final, most beautiful stanza:

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.*

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker



CLERGY

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is provided by*

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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.



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.

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth."

John 1:14



The catechists and staff of the Religious Education Office wish you and your family a Merry Christmas! May the peace of Jesus be in your hearts—now and always.



CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRISTMAS DAY

4 PM
4th Grade Nativity
at 3:40 PM
Children's Choir

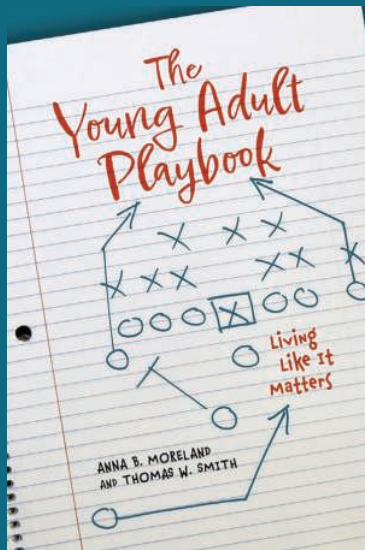
7:30 AM
9:30 AM
11:30 AM
No 7 PM Mass

6:30 PM
Prelude Music at 6:15 PM

SOLEMNITY
of MARY

10:30 PM
Prelude Music
and Carols at 10 PM
Adult Choir and Hand Bell

Vigil 6:30 PM
Holy Hour at 5:30 PM
& Reception at 7:30 PM
8:30 AM, 10 AM, 6:30 PM



Parents' Night Out Saturday, February 22

Live like it matters. Enjoy 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, while searching for fulfillment through a lucrative career, meaningful work, and intimate relationships. The authors provide a concrete map through unprecedented challenges to help young adults navigate the rough terrain of today's world.

We will have live music, food and drinks. The evening begins at 6 PM in St. Francis Hall. We hope you join us!

Scan the QR to RSVP.



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Principal
abauer@stmarymagdalen.net

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



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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? To become a man fully alive among other men, wherever they are in their spiritual lives, and take it a step further on your faith journey?

If so, join us for a **four-session TMIY introduction** on Thursday mornings from January 9th through January 30, 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 johnhill@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



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



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 15th Annual Essay Contest. Congratulations to 6th 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 6th-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!



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! 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, or designate your gift to the 'Sound System' on the envelope or through our online giving.

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 wishlist, contact Jackie at jackiedooley44@gmail.com.**

CHAPEL POINSETTIAS

Our chapel poinsettias have been graciously donated by the Hallinan Family in loving memory of Matthew R. Hallinan.



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.



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.

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to our newly baptized!

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

Theodore Rhys Fatscher



Last week, our 7th graders hosted an Ecumenical Gathering with our friends from the Congregation Beth El-Ner Tamid in Broomall.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:30 AM - Elizabeth & Philip Franco

4:30 PM - Colin Tipping

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:30 AM - John Thomas Scott

9:30 AM - William Tierney, Sr.

11:30 AM - Matthew Bowen

7 PM - John J. List

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

6:30 AM - Joelle Bricker Morris

8:30 PM - Ann & Peter Miniszak

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

6:30 AM - The People of The Parish

8:30 AM- The People of The Parish

4 PM - The People of The Parish

6:30 PM - The People of The Parish

10:30 PM - The People of The Parish

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

7:30 AM - The People of The Parish

9:30 AM - The People of The Parish

11:30 AM - The People of The Parish

No 7 PM Mass

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

8:30 AM - C. Alan Rowe

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

8:30 AM - Mel Fenerty

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:30 AM - Vince 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

FLOWERS

In memory of Matthew R. Hallinan

BREAD & WINE

In memory of deceased parishioners

CANDLE

In memory of deceased clergy

NEW! KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

'KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS' CONTEST

The winning posters are pictured below with their winning artists from the top left: **Molly O'Shea**, Category I (Grades 6,7, 8); top right: **Sophia Behrle**, Category II (Grades 3, 4, 5); bottom right: **James Dryer**, Category III (Grades 1, 2); and bottom left: **Adriana Martinelli**, The Knights' Overall Selection (All Grades).

The Knights thank all the talented students who participated in this year's Keep Christ contest. Each student did a wonderful job bringing the real reason for Christmas to our hearts. We also thank the parish family for their generous support of this program, which provided a collective donation of \$700 to the School's Art Department.



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 68
IN THE HERITAGE MISSAL**

STEWARDSHIP & TITHING

November 2024	\$108,598
Collection:	\$36,738
Mail-in:	\$29,875
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**

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)

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