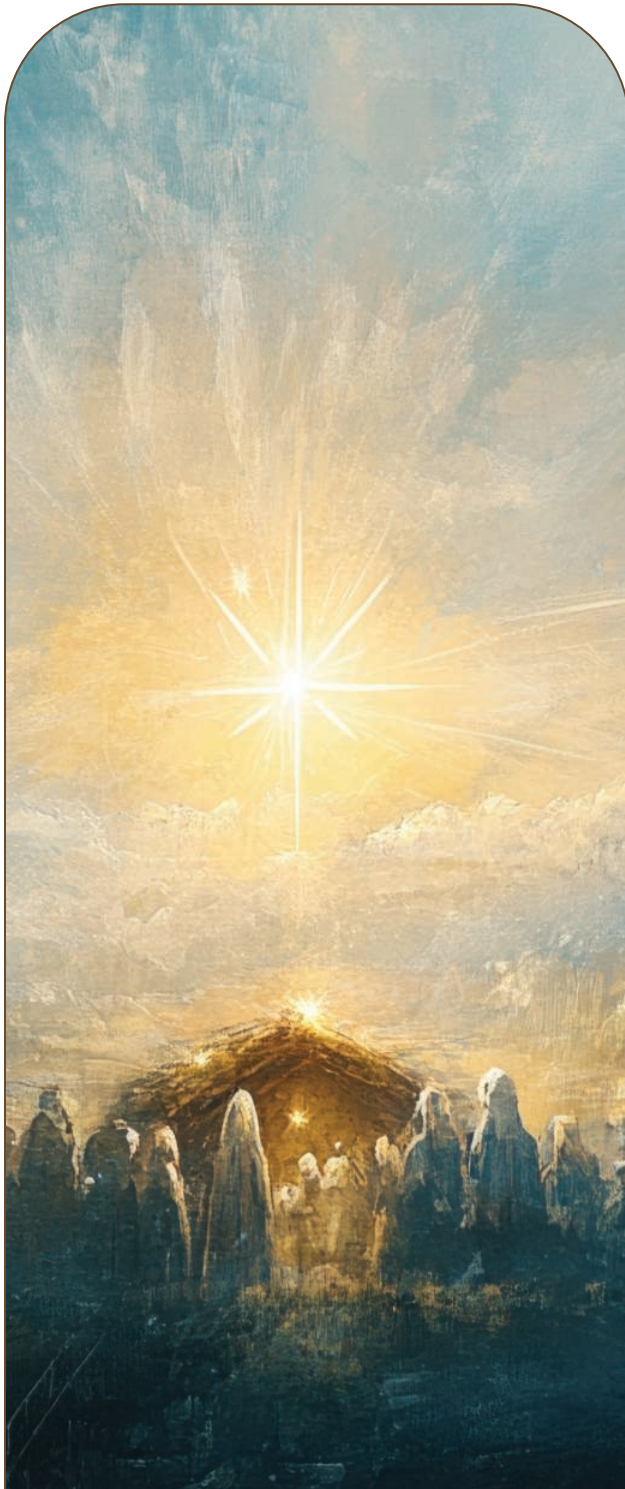


Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

5 JANUARY 2025

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year! Hopefully, your twelve days of Christmas have been filled with light and joy. Today, we celebrate one of the Church's great feasts, the Solemnity of the Epiphany.

As you might know, I grew up in Epiphany of Our Lord Parish in South Philadelphia. I was baptized, confirmed, and received my first holy communion in that church. I worked as a sacristan there in high school and celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving the day after I was ordained a priest. Behind the altar is a fresco of the arrival of the Magi to the stable at Bethlehem, with the star shining brightly in the sky. I grew up looking at that image. As a work of art, it's probably not all that great. I don't think crowds will line up to look at it in a hundred years. But it formed an important part of my youth—that image of the Holy Family huddled under the stable, with the three tall, kingly-looking men carrying their gifts.

In our own day, there are many like the Magi: many who are seeking after something, some real meaning and purpose in life. Let's be honest with ourselves: career success, money, houses, fame—all of these things leave us wanting more. All of that comes and goes in the blink of an eye. We have to be those who are seeking after those permanent things that don't depreciate or rust. In the God-made-man, we find the goal of our wanderings and the answer to our questions. And like the Magi, once we have discovered this extraordinary work of God, we have to put everything aside to go to him, to bring him the best of what we have, and, as they did, to "return to their home by another way."

That "other way" is the way of humility, smallness, and simplicity. God shatters our categories about what matters in life by sending his Son to be born in an animal stall in the family of an obscure laborer. If we want to be his disciples—and I know you do! Then, we have to manifest his love to others, so often in small and unnoticed ways. May those who are wise still seek Him in these days, that the newborn King of the Jews may reign in our hearts and in our world.

Merry Christmas!

—Father Eric Banecker

CLERGY

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stmarymagdalen.net

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freric@stmarymagdalen.net
Extension 110

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Pastor Emeritus
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Parochial Vicar
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Extension 123

*Sacramental assistance
is provided by*

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Rev. Richard Maisano
Rev. Philip Lowe

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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.

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**Registration due by:
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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Principal
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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.

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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 **January 9th** 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!

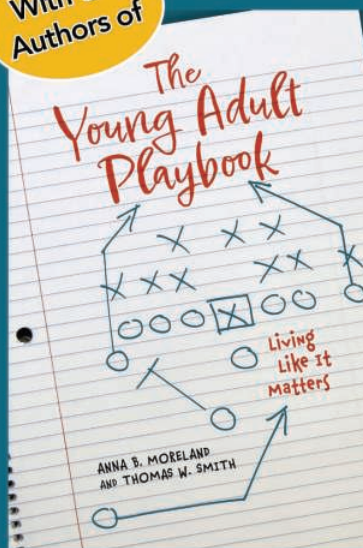
—Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Paragraph #24

"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



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, beginning at 6 PM in St. Francis Hall. We hope you join us!

Scan the QR to RSVP.





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 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 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.

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.

NEW! BETHESDA CASSEROLE COLLECTION

Our weekend collection is on January 18 & 19.



Happy New Year!

SHE returns on January 26, 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 Rosemary T. Dougherty, 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, 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,

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

Eloise Julia D'Ambrosio



The 8th Grade Nativity during the School's Christmas Concert on December 18.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

8:30 AM - The People of The Parish

4:30 PM - Janet Zurbach

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

7:30 AM - Mary Eisner Conrad

9:30 AM - Ron Register

11:30 AM - Rev. Edward D. Lyons

7 PM - The People of The Parish

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

6:30 AM - Concetta Lemme

8:30 AM - Ints. of the Matt Family

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

6:30 AM - Joseph Michael Russell

8:30 AM - Helen Duczman

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

6:30 AM - Matthew Mullin

8:30 AM - William Burke

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

6:30 AM - The People of The Parish

8:30 AM - Laurence Reynolds

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

6:30 AM - Mary Baldini

8:30 AM - Herb Phillips

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

FLOWERS

In memory of

BREAD & WINE

In memory of deceased parishioners

CANDLE

In memory of Rosemary Dougherty

8 Tithing News & Notes

NEW! A NOTE OF THANKS FROM OUR SVDP CONFERENCE MEMBERS

Dear Benefactors,

It is with sincere gratitude that we reach out to you for your faithful and generous contributions to our St. Mary Magdalen Saint Vincent de Paul Conference. Your interest and compassion for the less fortunate is a tribute to your dedication to helping others through faith and action. Your donations continue to support our mission of service to the poor through personal contact and needed assistance with quality of life-sustaining services such as food deliveries, emergency shelter, rent or mortgage assistance in time of need, utility bill payments, medical prescriptions, and more. Your goodwill, financial and otherwise, directly to our SVDP conference and also indirectly to our clients is both personal and communal. Every time we help someone, it directly brings good news to their door through your kindness. On behalf of our Vincentian members of St. Mary Magdalen, we are forever grateful to you for being our advocate with your generous sponsorship and your loyal prayers. Grace and Peace to you during this Advent Season!

NEW! 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 January 8th meeting, we will play Crazy Bingo—Bring a wrapped gift (\$5) and enjoy the fun. We hope you can join us.

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.



During Advent, students from SMM School shared an afternoon of crafts and Christmas carols at Divine Providence Village.



**TODAY'S READINGS BEGIN ON 83
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!



Giving Hope TO ALL

Did you know 1 in 5 people in the Philadelphia area count on the Catholic Charities Appeal for help and hope throughout the New 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, no matter the amount, matters more than you know.



We thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many, let's continue to bring hope throughout 2025!

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

2024 Fundraising Goal: \$10 Million

\$8,127,737 RAISED

Amount updated every Friday.

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