

# Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

2 MARCH 2025

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Dear Friends in Christ,

The Church around the world is united in prayer for our beloved Holy Father. As of this writing on Tuesday, he is very ill in Gemelli Hospital in Rome. One of the titles of the Pope is "servant of the servants of God;" therefore, just as he has served the Church so well, it is an act of service to him to pray for him and those caring for him at this time. The traditional prayer for the Roman Pontiff is taken from *Psalm 41*:

*Blessed is he who considers the poor!  
The Lord delivers him in the day of trouble;  
the Lord protects him and keeps him alive;  
he is called blessed in the land;  
thou dost not give him up to the will of his enemies.  
The Lord sustains him on his sickbed;  
in his illness, thou healest all his infirmities.*



I wanted to give an update on our **Parish Envisioning** effort. First, a sincere thank you to the seventy-one people who took the time to respond to our online survey. I value every one of these contributions, and the committee will take them to prayer. Don't be surprised if you receive an individual invitation to further dialogue in the next couple of weeks.

A few general themes:

All wanted to grow as disciples and make living the Christian life a more central priority. However, there were concerns about how to live as a faithful Catholic amid the many questions and challenges of modern life.

Many requested more activities to engage families and youth in the parish.

Various suggestions were made regarding how to improve the parish offerings, including additional Confession times, evenings of recollection, periods of silence at Mass, and outreach to those who struggle with the Church's teachings on various subjects.

*continued on page 3*

## CLERGY

610-566-8821  
stmarymagdalen.net

Rev. Eric J. Banecker  
*Pastor*  
freric@stmarymagdalen.net  
Extension 110

Rev. Msgr. Ralph J. Chieffo  
*Pastor Emeritus*  
frralph@stmarymagdalen.net

Rev. Robert A. Pesarchick  
*Parochial Vicar*  
frbob@stmarymagdalen.net  
Extension 123

*Sacramental assistance  
is provided by*

The Legionaries of Christ  
Rev. Msgr. Francis Beach  
Rev. Richard Maisano  
Rev. Philip Lowe

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*Permanent Deacon*  
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Deacon Joseph Boyle, M.Th.  
*Pastoral Associate*  
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Extension 126

Deacon Bob Szipszky, M.Th.  
*Permanent Deacon*  
*OCIA Program*  
deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net

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.

Thank you for all these and other comments! We look forward to incorporating them into our pastoral plan, which we will work on in the coming months.

The following are opportunities to participate in our local envisioning efforts, as well as the Archbishop's **Trust and Hope** pastoral planning initiative at SMM:

Friday, March 7th, at 10 a.m. in Saint Francis Hall. See the ad on page 4 to RSVP using the QR code.

Thursday, April 3rd, at 7 p.m. in Saint Francis Hall. To RSVP for this session, visit [trustandhope.org](http://trustandhope.org).

The **Disciple-Maker Index Survey** will open on the First Sunday of Lent. All parishioners in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are invited to participate. To access the survey link, scan the QR or go to our parish website's main page.

Finally, check out our Ash Wednesday schedule below. Lent is upon us. I pray it may be a time of renewal for us all.

May the Lord grant you peace!

— Father Eric Banecker



**ASH  
WEDNESDAY**  
at St. Mary Magdalen

**3.5.25**

"Have mercy on me, O God, in accord with your kindness; in your abundant compassion wipe away my offenses. Wash me completely from my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin." —Psalm 51, 3-4

**MASSES:**  
**6:30 AM & 8:30 AM**

**LITURGY SERVICES:**  
**10:30 AM, 12:30 PM,  
4:30 PM & 6:30 PM**

Service: 20 minutes + All include distribution of ashes.

# My Lent at SMM

## The Sacred Heart of Jesus

Wednesdays, March 12 to April 16

Join Fr. Bob for insights on Pope Francis' new encyclical *Dilexit Nos* on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We will meet each Wednesday during Lent from 10 to 11 AM in the Gathering Room.

## Morning Prayer

Weekdays and Sundays

We gather in the Chapel at 7:15 AM. Praying with the psalms is a great way to begin the day. During Lent, we will also offer Morning Prayer on Sundays at 8:30 AM.

## Stations of the Cross

Fridays

Gather with our community at 2 PM and 7 PM on Fridays (First Fridays at 7:30) during Lent.

## Day of Mercy

Monday, April 7

Give yourself the gift of God's mercy and grace this Lent from 1:30 to 2:30 PM with the school, 5 to 6 PM with PREP, and 7 to 8 PM.

## Confessions

Saturdays from 9 to 10 AM

Sundays from 6:15 to 6:45 PM

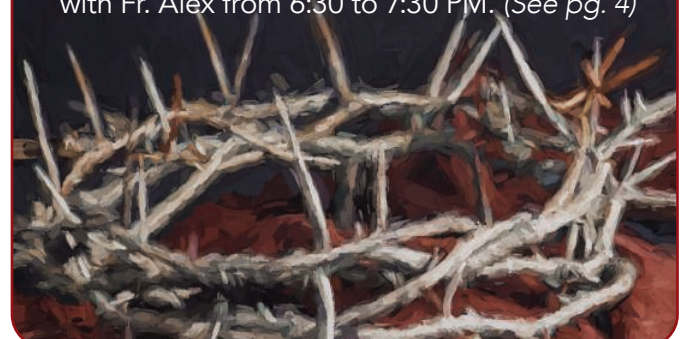
First Fridays from 5:30 to 6:15 PM

Good Friday from 9 to 10 AM  
and 12:30 to 2 PM

## Forty Hours Eucharistic Devotions

Tuesday, March 11 to Thursday, March 13

Explore God's boundless love in the Eucharist with Fr. Alex from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. (See pg. 4)



## PARISH

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**Mrs. Shelly Zeller**  
**Mrs. Jessica Savko**  
**Mrs. Mary Lou Mayer**  
*Office Administrators*  
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## SCHOOL

610-565-1822  
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**Mrs. Amy Crawford Bauer**  
*Principal*  
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**Dcn. Joseph P. Boyle, Jr.**  
*President*  
deaconjoe@stmarymagdalen.net



**TRUST** *hope*

*Friday* **MARCH 7**  
*at* **ST. MARY MAGDALEN**

Archbishop Pérez invites you to participate in a conversation to unite and to build the best possible Church of Philadelphia.

Have coffee after the 8:30 AM Mass in the Narthex. Then, join a **Trust & Hope** at 10 AM in St. Francis Hall.

Your presence is essential.

**Scan the QR code to RSVP for Friday, March 7 at 10 AM.**



For additional dates, go to [TRUSTANDHOPE.ORG](http://TRUSTANDHOPE.ORG)

# 40 HOURS


St. Mary Magdalen  
*with* Fr. Alex Gibbs  
*at* 6:30 PM

*on* **March 11**  
**Searching Love**

**March 12**  
**Doubting Love**

**March 13**  
**Burning Love**

**Adoration**  
**All Day**



Celebrate the glorious gift of Jesus in the Eucharist in adoration, liturgy, and discipleship.

# 03.08



# 2025

We encourage all men—fathers, sons, brothers, and friends—to join us for an inspiring day of faith and fellowship. Take part in the Holy Year by becoming a Pilgrim of Hope to your family, parish, and community.



**Brian Dawkins**  
NFL/Eagles Hall of Famer, Author, Motivational Speaker



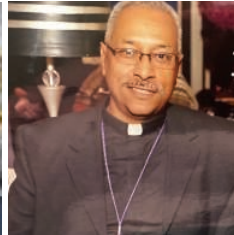
**Ward Fitzgerald**  
CEO, Catholic Leadership Institute Board of Directors, CNBC Contributor



**Ed Morris**  
Captain of Team Hope, Real Estate Entrepreneur, Founder of Edward A. Morris Family Foundation



**Mark Forrest**  
Internationally Acclaimed Irish Tenor



**Monsignor Federico Britto**  
Pastor of St. Cyprian Parish



**Archbishop Nelson Perez**  
Archbishop of Philadelphia

**SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER**

**VISIT [MANUPPHILLY.COM](http://MANUPPHILLY.COM)**



## The Drs. John J. and Margaret T. Clark Memorial Scholarship

**The 2025 Scholarship Deadline is March 15, 2025.**

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](mailto: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](http://eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one)



## NEW! THE HONOR ROLLS

### BONNER & PRENDERGAST HIGH SCHOOL

The following student received First Honors for the second quarter in the first semester: **Gavin DiRita**, Class of 2027. Congratulations, Gavin!

## NEW! SENIOR SOCIAL TRIP

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Our Seniors' Social Club invites you to join them for their trip to the Walnut Street Theatre to experience the unforgettable musical 'Dream Girls' on Thursday, April 24. The price is \$212 per person, including a deluxe motor coach transportation to and from SMM, 2 pm show admission, followed by dinner at the Positano Coast Restaurant in Philadelphia. For more information or to reserve your seat, please contact Bill Moore at [patbillbr4@comcast.net](mailto:patbillbr4@comcast.net) or call 484-420-4575.

## SIGN UP! SENIOR LENTEN RETREAT

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

All are welcome to join the Seniors' Social Club for their **Lenten Day of Reflection** on Tuesday, March 25 from 9:30 AM to 2 PM at the IHM Conference Center at 401 Bryn Mawr Avenue in Bryn Mawr, PA. The cost is \$45 per guest. If interested, email Bill and Pat Moore at [patbillbr4@comcast.net](mailto:patbillbr4@comcast.net).

## NEW! THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

### DISTRICT FREE THROW FINALISTS

The Knights are pleased to announce the following children from our parish have won the Knights' District Free Throw Shooting Competition held at St. Kevin's and will advance to the Regionals at Gwynedd Mercy University. They winners from SMM are **Louie Mallon, Payton Grandieri, Chloe King, Luciano Votta, Colin Lake, and Joey Thompson**. The Knights congratulate all the participants and wish luck to those as they advance to regionals and possibly state finals! *(photo below)*



## 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 in St. Francis Hall with other young adults.

### MASS & SOCIAL

Sundays at 7 PM

Come for Mass with music by Sarah Thomas. Then stay afterward for food and fellowship 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.

## CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of **Raymond Kenney, Michael McFadden**, those souls who have died due to wars or conflicts including the Holy Land, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, those recently lost to natural disasters or acts of violence, those souls lost in the recent airline crashes, 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, Jim Clark, 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, 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.

## MARRIAGES

Best wishes and many blessings to our newest newlyweds.

Laura Orr & Colin Dabagian

## BAPTISMS

Congratulations to our newly baptized! For baptismal information, visit our website for an intake form, call or email baptisms@stmarymagdalen.net.

Michael Dominick Liciardello, Hazel Jane Carrigan



*Last week, the Knights of Columbus made and served dinner to the men residing at the Connelly House in Philadelphia.*

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, MARCH 1

8:30 AM - Ann Ciritano

4:30 PM - Ints. of JoAnne Thomas

### SUNDAY, MARCH 2

7:30 AM - Ruth Benesta

9:30 AM - Adele Page

11:30 AM - H. Joseph DiCandilo

7 PM - The People of the Parish

### MONDAY, MARCH 3

6:30 AM - Julia Russell

8:30 AM - Ints. of Monica Grzeczowski

### TUESDAY, MARCH 4

6:30 AM - Mildred Verzella

8:30 AM - Rosemary Palena

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

6:30 AM - Matthew Mullin

8:30 AM - William Tovey

### THURSDAY, MARCH 6

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

8:30 AM - Ints. of Fr. Eric Banecker

### FRIDAY, MARCH 7

6:30 AM - Ints. of Bishop Efren Esmilla

8:30 AM - Angelo Vinci, Sr.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 8

8:30 AM - Francis X. "Frank" Eccles

4:30 PM - Judy Baker

### SUNDAY, MARCH 9

7:30 AM - Restituta Magnarelli

9:30 AM - Mary Z. Tinucci

11:30 AM - William Virbitsky

7 PM - The People of the Parish

## FLOWERS

In memory of deceased parishioners

## BREAD & WINE

In memory of Michael McFadden

## CANDLE

In memory of Raymond Kenney, Sr.

**THAT MAN IS YOU**  
**THURSDAYS AT 6:25 AM**

Join us in St. Francis Hall for *Apostles in Springtime*.  
 Doors open at 6 AM. Learn more at TMIY.org.



**BETHESDA CASSEROLE COLLECTION**

Our weekend collection is on March 15 & 16.



**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.**

**TODAY'S READINGS BEGIN ON  
 PAGE 103 IN THE HERITAGE MISSAL**

**REGISTER! MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT DAY**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 29**

*Marriages of Grace*, part of the Archdiocese, offers a day for Engaged and Married Couples of all ages to renew, strengthen, and enhance their relationship and marital bond. Come with your spouse or fiancé and listen to nationally acclaimed Catholic speakers who will inspire you to live out your marriage with greater fervor, love, and joy. The enrichment day runs from 9 AM to 4 PM. The event includes breakfast and lunch, followed by the Saturday Vigil Mass at St. Helena's Church, located at 1489 Dekalb Pike in Blue Bell. **To register, visit [PhillyCatholicLife.org](http://PhillyCatholicLife.org) or pick up a flyer in our narthex.**



*'The Lord became my protector.  
 He brought me out to a place of freedom;  
 he saved me because he delighted in me.'*

—Psalm 18





## LEGION OF MARY

*Our Lady, Queen of Angels*

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

We invite Catholics who would like to draw closer to Jesus through Mary to give Legion a try. Our members meet weekly to pray, plan, and discuss as a group. We perform Spiritual Works of Mercy within the parish and local community with our spiritual director Father Pesarchick.

- The Legion of Mary is an international association of volunteers serving the Catholic Church. Our Legion goes to the lonely and isolated in nursing homes, hospitals, and prisons to befriend and pray for them.

Discover more by visiting one of our weekly Tuesday meetings.

*Mary, Our Lady, Queen of Angels, Pray for Us!*

## STEWARDSHIP & TITHING

January 2025	\$145,832
Collection:	\$33,443
Mail-in:	\$54,205
EFT:	\$58,184
January 2024	\$142,337
Collection:	\$45,036
Mail-in:	\$44,082
EFT:	\$53,219
Christmas 2024	\$113,675
2023:	\$108,217
Parish Appeal 2024	\$ 52,880
2023:	\$71,155
Sound System	\$ 36,700

**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.





# *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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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, visit [catholiccharitiesappeal.org](http://catholiccharitiesappeal.org), or pick-up an envelope in the church narthex. CCA thanks you!

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