

Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

23 FEBRUARY 2025

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Dear Friends in Christ,

We are officially in the season of Carnivale, which means "farewell to meat" in Latin. In other words, these are the final weeks of preparation before the holy season of Lent, when faithful Christians from time immemorial have dedicated themselves to prayer, fasting, and works of charity. The reason these weeks became such a big party (epitomized in our country in New Orleans) was because the fasting laws were so strict in the past. While things have been loosened up over the years, some Catholics are rediscovering what taking Lent seriously can do for our spiritual lives.

In a particular way, we can unite with those members of our community who have been journeying for many months now to prepare for the Easter sacraments. Our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving should be in union with them and for their intentions in a particular way.

In that light, I'd like to highlight several special opportunities for spiritual growth this Lent:

Father Bob will host a **Lenten Discussion Group** on Pope Francis' new encyclical *Dilexit Nos* on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The group will meet each Wednesday during Lent at 10 a.m. in the Gathering Room. If you wish to register, please email us at events@stmarymagdalen.net to sign up!

I lead a **Bible Study for Young Adults** each Monday evening at 7 p.m. in Saint Francis Hall. Singles, newly married couples, and engaged couples are welcome to join us. For more information, please contact me at freric@stmarymagdalen.net.

Every Monday through Friday, we gather for **Morning Prayer** in the chapel at 7:15 a.m. 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 a.m. in the chapel.

Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday during Lent at 7 p.m. (except on First Fridays, when it will be at 7:30 p.m.).

Finally, don't forget about **Confessions** every Saturday from 9 to 10 a.m. and Sunday from 6:15 to 6:45 p.m. Confessions are also available every First Friday during the 5:30 p.m. Holy Hour before 6:30 p.m. Mass. We will have additional opportunities during our **Advent Day of Mercy** on Monday, April 7th, as well as on Good Friday. *(continued)*

CLERGY

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Rev. Robert A. Pesarchick
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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
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.

On **Ash Wednesday**, we will have Mass with the distribution of ashes at 6:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., and Liturgy of the Word Service with the distribution of ashes at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.

Our parish **Forty Hours Eucharistic Devotions** will occur Tuesday, March 11th through Thursday, March 13th. Father Alex Gibbs will be the guest homilist all three evenings at 6:30 p.m. Check the bulletin for additional confession and prayer opportunities as these days approach.

Looking at that list, you might say to yourself (as I did), 'wow, that's a lot of prayer!' And indeed, is that not our first priority? We have many good things to pray for—I mentioned our catechumens and candidates who are preparing to receive the Easter sacraments. However, we also have many young parishioners who will be confirmed on March 20th and others who will make their first communion at the beginning of the Easter Season. We also know the struggles that need prayer: for those who suffer depression, anxiety, and addiction; for refugees and those exiled from their homeland; for those who are sick; for those who have fallen away from the Church.

We all know there are many ways to pray. Over the next few weeks, I would like to examine several of them. The first is praying with the psalms.

The Church took from Judaism the practice of reciting the psalms daily. This praying of the Psalms found its way to the Liturgy of the Hours, which is prayed by Catholics to this day (see above, or page 2, for opportunities for Morning Prayer and Vespers).

Why pray with the psalms? Because they—like all Scripture—are inspired by the Holy Spirit. Sometimes—perhaps you've experienced this—when I try to pray, I often end up "thinking" instead of speaking and listening to God. We can get lost in our own thoughts. Even when we really address God in mental prayer, there is still a need to return to the prayers we learned as children (Saint Ignatius of Loyola always told those in contemplation to close with an 'Our Father'). The psalms work this way: they express the full range of human emotions and involve a Spirit-led dialogue with God. One never has to wonder, "am I thinking or praying here?"

Let me give you an example. *Psalm 62 (61*)*, prayed most Sundays and feast days, begins this way:

*O God, you are my God, for you I long
For you, my soul is thirsting
My body pines for you like a dry,*

*weary land without water
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
To see you strength and your glory.*

Look at how evocative that prayer is! It is beautiful to meditate on the imagery: a soul that is thirsty, a body desiring God the way a dry land wants water. Remember the very dry autumn we just had? The grass was so brown, waiting for rain and moisture. We know that reality, so our hearts can comprehend this imagery, as well as the psalmist's solution to this holy longing: gazing upon the Lord in the sanctuary. Of course, in the psalm's original context, this was a Temple psalm, and the sanctuary was the holy of holies, the sacred inner space in the Temple where God dwelled spiritually with his people. This original context takes on a whole new meaning with the coming of Christ, in whom God dwells not just spiritually in a building but in flesh and blood before their eyes. In the Eucharist, reserved in the sanctuaries of our churches, Christ continues to dwell with his people in a substantial manner, the fulfillment of his promise to remain with us always.

While these meditations are beautiful, it is even more beautiful to pray them—to really mean them. If we truly express to God that our desire for him is like a dry land looking for water, will he not answer that prayer in a powerful way? Because of this, Christians since the time of the apostles have seen great value in praying the psalms. I hope you will find time to do so this Lent and beyond.

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker

**There are two different numbering systems for the psalms. Sometimes, they are counted as 150, and other times as 151. Therefore, many psalms actually go by two numbers (such as the one mentioned in this reflection).*



PARISH

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Mrs. Amy Crawford Bauer
Principal
abauer@stmarymagdalen.net

Dcn. Joseph P. Boyle, Jr.
President

at deaconjoe@stmarymagdalen.net

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.

HOLY HOOPS

BASKETBALL 3X3 TOURNAMENT

FOR YOUNG ADULTS (18-39 YEARS OLD)

SATURDAY - MARCH 1ST

9:00 am Mass at Nativity of Our Lord in Warminster, PA

10:00 am - 3:30 pm Basketball 3x3 Tournament at Archbishop
Wood High School's gym in Warminster, PA

*The event includes pizza lunch and a vocation Q&A panel with
St. Charles Borromeo Seminarians, priests, and religious sisters!

Participate as a player or a spectator!

You can sign up your team or we
will pair you with other players!



**REGISTER BY
FEBRUARY 25TH**



03.08



2025

We encourage all en—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



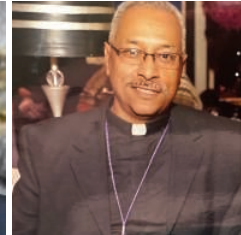
Ward Fitzgerald
CEO, Catholic Leadership Institute Board of Directors, CNBC Contributor



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



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.



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.

Join us for coffee after the 8:30 AM Mass in the Narthex. Then, join a Trust & Hope discussion at 10 AM in St. Francis Hall.

Your presence is essential to help plan a new way forward.

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



For additional dates, go to TRUSTANDHOPE.ORG

NEW! VIRTUE=STRENGTH LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

This month, students in our school and PREP will practice the virtue of love of neighbor, or charity. This divinely infused virtue gives us the strength to love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God. Students will practice the virtue of unselfish care and concern for others. We know Jesus calls us to love one another as He loves us, which means showing kindness, forgiveness, and compassion to everyone, even our enemies.

How can we embody this virtue in our family and community daily?

Practice Kindness: Always look for ways to help others, such as opening doors, sharing, and offering comforting words. **Forgiveness:** If someone hurts you, instead of holding a grudge, try to forgive them just as Jesus forgives you. **Empathy:** Try to understand how others feel by imagining yourself in their shoes. If someone is sad, what could you do to cheer them up? **Pray for Others:** Pray for your friends and those who might be challenging to love. Ask God to help you love them. **Avoiding Malice:** When you are angry or upset, take a moment to calm down before speaking or acting. Think of how you can respond with love instead of hurtful words or actions.

To learn more, visit virtuestrength.org

SIGN UP! SENIOR SOCIAL CLUB 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.

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 or pick up a flyer in our narthex.**



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 Gus DeSimone and 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.

Kristin McGoldrick & family, Kenneth & Laura Clark and family

CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of **Genevieve Giangiulio**, 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, 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.

Paul Joseph Fuhrmeister



Congrats to our repeat Religion Bee finalist, Brady S. as he heads to the finals on March 4th at the National Shrine of St. John Neumann. Way to go, Brady! (He is pictured with administrators from the Office of Catholic Education)

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

8:30 AM - Martin Sarkees

4:30 PM - Jennifer Vinci

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

7:30 AM - Restituta Magnarelli

9:30 AM - Paul Franco

11:30 AM - Frances Maria Iannucci

7 PM - The People of the Parish

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

6:30 AM - Genevieve Giangiulio

8:30 AM - Ints. of Tom Grzeczowski

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

6:30 AM - Yong Tae Tae

8:30 AM - Joseph A. McGowan

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

6:30 AM - Rose Anne Leonard

8:30 AM - Maria Gaglione

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

6:30 AM - Christine Shiiba

8:30 AM - Gavio Bisignaro Family

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

6:30 AM - John McConnell

8:30 AM - Ints. of Elise & Randy Hickman

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

FLOWERS

In memory of

BREAD & WINE

In memory of deceased parishioners

CANDLE

In memory of Genevieve Giangiulio

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.**

NEW! MISSIONARY DISCIPLE SKILLS
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27 AT 6 PM

This Thursday, join Nicky Verna at Mother of Divine Providence for a special skills session in which every missionary disciple should equip themselves to help us more intentionally accompany others into personal friendship with Jesus. One of those skills is the readiness to pray spontaneously with someone for their needs and intentions. Instead of saying, "I'll pray for you," we want to be ready to say, "Can I pray with you right now for that?" Join us for training that will teach you this skill and give you a greater comfort in praying with others. The session is in Providence Hall at 333 Allendale Road in King of Prussia.

More info and registration: phillyomy.org/event



*O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing
to the Lord, who has been bountiful with me.*

—Psalm 13

**TODAY'S READINGS BEGIN ON
PAGE 100 IN THE HERITAGE MISSAL**



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.

Family of Faith: Answering God's CallTogether



MALVERN RETREAT HOUSE

Sunday, March 16, 2025

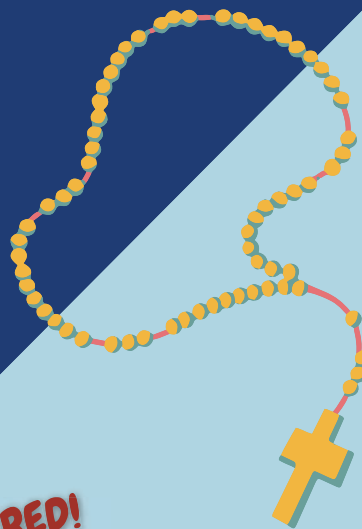
11:00 am - 6:00 pm

Includes Lunch and Dinner



We welcome Fr. Stephen Delacy to lead the day of events. Have fun on a family scavenger hunt, attend breakout talks, attend Mass, and Confession.

Breakout Sessions
Moms - "Mary's Yes"
Dads - "St. Joseph - Protector"
Students (1-8 grade) - "Carlo Acutis"
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