

Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

26 JANUARY 2025

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Dear Friends in Christ,

In my Christmas letter, which was mailed to all parishioners' homes, I announced our parish envisioning process. I have gathered a small team of parishioners to help our parish continue to thrive into the future. I have asked them to consider this important question: who isn't here, and why? In other words, how can our parish be a home for everyone who seeks the light of Christ in our day?

As part of this process, the envisioning team would like to solicit your feedback as we plan for the future. We want to know your hopes and dreams for our parish, and how we can help you to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. The team has an essential survey for you to take which I will discuss at the conclusion of all Masses this weekend. Beneath my letter, in place of my weekly reflection column, you will find a note from the team on how to participate in this vital work.

Looking ahead, next week is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as "Candlemas." We will bless candles as part of the opening of Mass at the 9:30 AM and 7 PM Masses for this feast. Please place any candles you want us to bless on a table set up in the narthex before Mass begins.

In addition, beginning next weekend, the monthly Mass in Latin will move from the first Sunday of the month at 11:30 AM to the first Saturday of the month at the 8:30 AM Mass. Join us as we celebrate the traditional "First Saturday" devotions in this way!

Finally, today begins National Catholic Schools Week. We are privileged to have a thriving and faith-filled Catholic school here at Saint Mary Magdalen. Thank you to Mrs. Bauer and Deacon Joe for your leadership in our school, as well as to the parents who do so much to support its work. I am grateful to all benefactors who give their time and treasure to keep our parish school strong and to provide financial aid opportunities for our families. Please join us for the Open House after the 9:30 AM Mass today.

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker


continued on page 3

CLERGY

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stmarymagdalen.net

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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
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Rev. Richard Maisano
Rev. Philip Lowe

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jamesdiferdinand@gmail.com

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Pastoral Associate
deaconjoe@stmarymagdalen.net
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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.

Parish Envisioning Survey: We Need Your Help

As Fr. Eric mentioned in his cover message, we are embarking on a process to understand how St. Mary Magdalen parish can be more effective in forming disciples of Jesus Christ. Our first step is to more deeply understand the hurdles our parishioners face each day, and we are asking for your help.

Please take a few minutes to share your initial insights about how St. Mary Magdalen can support you in your faith journey. Please provide us with your insights by using the **QR Code** at the end of this message, visiting our website at stmarymagdalen.net/envision and using the link to access the feedback form, or typing the form's URL into your web browser: <https://forms.office.com/r/cLykYKXTPe>.

Additionally, we ask your assistance in getting this critical news out to others who might miss this message in the bulletin. Please share the link by texting it to your friends, neighbors, and family.

Regarding the next steps, the envisioning team will be in touch this spring with more opportunities to help us formulate a plan of action based on the insights we glean from our parishioners' feedback.

In the meantime, please also review vital information about an archdiocesan-wide effort from Archbishop Pérez (see page 5). Our parish-specific initiatives are related to but also distinct from the archdiocesan's plan, and we look forward to supporting the goals of the Archbishop.

Finally, if you want to become more involved with our envisioning efforts at SMM, please contact Father Eric or Deacon Bob. Thank you!



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

Scan the QR to RSVP.

PARISH

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stmarymagdalen.net

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Mrs. Jessica Savko
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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.

Healing the Wounds of Abortion

The psychological and spiritual wounds of abortion can be sharp, deep, and crippling. You may feel a profound numbness—or not be able to name the pain or recognize any of the symptoms. But you are not alone. Our weekend retreat will help you experience the mercy and compassion of God and discover hope for your future. In a safe, confidential, non-judgmental group environment, you can grieve your loss while understanding and releasing any feelings of anger, shame, or regret you may have. Our retreats also help fathers or grandparents of an aborted child transform pain into hope.

Experience healing and hope.

2025 Trenton, NJ, Weekend Retreats

- March 28 -30
- November 14-16

For more information, contact
Judy Warenkiewicz at (732) 536-6871.
All inquiries are strictly confidential.



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NEW! CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26 AT 3 PM

Violinist Eiko Ogiso will perform in a chamber music concert in our church on Sunday, January 26, at 3 PM. Eiko and the orchestra will perform Brahms *Violin Sonata, opus 78 (1st movement)*, Vivaldi's *Winter* from the *Four Seasons*, Mendelssohn's *Octet*, and a few smaller works. The concert should last about one hour and is free to the public.



NEW! CELEBRATE LIFE BANQUET
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AT 4 PM

Pennsylvanians for Human Life is grounded in 'Creating a Culture of Love & Life through Education and Formation.' They invite you to their annual Celebrate Life Banquet at the Springfield Country Club on Sunday, February 23, beginning at 4 PM. Join them in support and in celebration of life! Includes speaker John Bruchalski, M.D. Adults: \$90 (\$800 table of ten), Students: \$50 (\$400 table of ten). **To support, learn more or for tickets visit paforhumanlife.org, or call 610-696-0780.**



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.



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! 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! CYO CALL FOR TRACK & FIELD COACHES!

Our CYO Track & Field team is looking to continue the growth and success of its program. This spring, we need two assistant coaches to join the existing coaching staff and another individual to help build a Pee Wee Track program that we could offer to grades K through 3rd. **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED**—you will learn the ropes from the existing coaching staff. **If interested, please get in touch with Julie Stonelake at (610) 937-1945 or Tommy Lake at (215) 840-4479.**

NEW! SMM KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SUPER BOWL BLOCK POOL

The SMM Knights Council is offering its annual Super Bowl Block Pool to help with our continued support of charitable organizations, including Little Sisters of the Poor, The Mothers' Home, Coats for Kids, and Seminary support. To participate in this year's Super Bowl Block Pool, go to SMMknight.org or scan the QR code and pick a block or two. Each block is \$25, and a chance to win \$125 at the end of the first quarter, \$185 at the end of the second quarter, \$315 at the end of the third quarter, and \$625 at the end of the game. Payment can be made by Venmo (@Larry-Donato) using 4397 for the request of the last four digits of the cell phone.



If you don't use Venmo, please contact Larry Donato at 610.322.4397 to arrange payment.

The Knights appreciate your support of its SMM Council and its goal of helping those in our area.



She Shall Be Called Woman

This Monday!
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
pszipzky@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 Marianne Flick, Norman Kleinberg, Michael DeFino, 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, Mary Ellen Hoffman, Francis Iacovone, Cole Keith, 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, call or email baptisms@stmarymagdalen.net

Nora Anne Matheson



Students, parents, faculty, and staff gathered on Monday for a day of service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. They collected diapers and made sandwiches for CSS.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

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

4:30 PM - Janet Zurbach

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

7:30 AM - Joy Carideo

9:30 AM - Charlie LaSpada

11:30 AM - William Bricker

7 PM - Bill Virbitsky

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

6:30 AM - Charles R. Marra

8:30 AM - Jackie DiOttavio

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

6:30 AM - Hao Van Nguyen

8:30 AM - Mark Colgan

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

6:30 AM - Ints. of Monica Grzeczowski

8:30 AM - Frank Saporito

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

6:30 AM - The People of the Parish

8:30 AM - Martha Klausner

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

6:30 AM - The People of the Parish

8:30 AM - Lillian DiColli

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

8:30 AM - Glenn & Michelle Hard

4:30 PM - Nora C. Miley

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

7:30 AM - Denise Carrol

9:30 AM - Philip J. Cavalcanto

11:30 AM - Brendon Collins

7 PM - Ints. of Fr. Reuben Nuxoll, LC

FLOWERS

In memory of

BREAD & WINE

In memory of Norman Klienberg

CANDLE

In memory of Marianne Flick

8 Tithing News & Notes

NEW! MAGNIFICAT SUBSCRIPTIONS

After much consideration, we have made the decision to discontinue ordering the *Magnificat* through our parish office. The last issue delivered to the church will be in March 2025. We apologize for any inconvenience. To order or renew your subscription, you may use their order form inside your *Magnificat* or online at us.magnificat.net. If you have any questions, please get in touch with the office at 610-566-8821. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.



NEW! KNIGHTS' BASKETBALL FREE THROW CONTEST

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1 AT 5:30 PM

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor its annual Basketball Free Throw Shooting competition on Saturday, February 1, after the CYO Mass at 4:30 PM. The competition is open to all children ages 9-14 (as of January 1) and will be held at the SMM gym from 5:30 to 7 PM. The Knights will provide pizza and water to the children and their families. Please come out for this fun tradition and to support the children. All are welcome!



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.

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! PHILLY CATHOLIC SINGLES 30-45 WINE TASTING EVENT

Join other Catholic singles for fun events! We host friendly events for marriage-minded Catholics ages 30-45, including this upcoming **Wine Blending Event at Vino Bambino** in Broomall. Enjoy this delightful wine-tasting and blending event on Sunday, February 9, at 1 PM. \$85 covers a series of seven wines to taste, a private room, pizza, and your own bottle of wine. Upcoming events include Bowling (April), Nature Hike (May), and Art Museum (June). Our chaplain is Fr. DeLacy. **Email PhillyCatholicSingles@gmail.com to sign up for events, or visit PhillyCatholic.Singles.**

BETHESDA CASSEROLE COLLECTION

Our weekend collection is on February 15 & 16.

**TODAY'S READINGS BEGIN ON
PAGE 89 IN THE HERITAGE MISSAL**

STEWARDSHIP & TITHING

December 2024	\$123,744
Collection:	\$46,759
Mail-in:	\$27,591
EFT:	\$49,394
December 2023	\$ 92,252
Collection:	\$28,675
Mail-in:	\$20,103
EFT:	\$43,474
Christmas 2024	\$110,885
2023:	\$108,217
Parish Appeal 2024	\$ 48,530
2023:	\$71,155
Sound System	\$ 35,500

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.

Last Call!

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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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Welcome to Our Church!


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WINTER OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday
January 29, 2025
9:00 - 11:00 am

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