

Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

16 MARCH 2025
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



Dear Friends in Christ,

Already, the Second Sunday of Lent is upon us, which every year focuses our attention on the Transfiguration, that mysterious event on Mt. Tabor when Jesus brought Peter, James, and John up the mountain and manifested his divinity to them. What is remarkable, of course, is not any substantial change in Jesus—he is always the divine Son of God, even if that divinity is veiled during his public ministry; rather, the real change takes place in the three apostles who see Jesus with new eyes, the eyes of faith. This transformation continues to unfold to his death and resurrection—and beyond, making them sharers in Jesus' same divinity. Does that sound amazing? Even more amazing is the fact that you and I are sharers in that divinity as well in Baptism. Do we recognize the great gift we have received? Lent is a great opportunity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ so that we might not lose this gift but be perfected in it.

This Thursday, our parish welcomes the Most Reverend Michael Fitzgerald, retired auxiliary to the Archbishop, who will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on our young parishioners. I have gotten to know them by teaching some of their classes in school and PREP.

My dear young friends, you fill me with a sense of hope for the future of the Church. I am grateful for your catechists and teachers, but especially to your parents, who have made good on the promise they made at your Baptism to raise you in the practice of the Catholic faith. Now, it is your opportunity to live the faith in a mature way, giving public witness by word and deed to the tremendous power of the Holy Spirit who dwells in our hearts.

May the Lord grant you peace!

— Father Eric Banecker

Fun Fact: I wrote my masters' thesis at Saint Charles Seminary on the Sacrament of Confirmation. That's right: 56 pages worth! The history and theological significance of this sacrament is deep but also confusing. First, what is Confirmation not?

continued on page 3

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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.

Confirmation is not a Catholic bar-mitzvah.

In some cases, they take place around the same time of age, and that has led many (including many Catholics) to connect the two together as a kind of “adulthood” ritual. But that isn’t quite right. For instance, did you know that in many places, Confirmation is conferred earlier, around 8 or 9 years old? In many traditions, including our Byzantine and other Eastern brothers and sisters, Confirmation occurs in infancy, at the same time as birth. That was common practice in medieval Europe: Francis of Assisi, for example, would have been Confirmed at that time. This tells us that we are dealing with a different kind of maturity than the physical maturity associated with adolescence.

In short, the word *Confirmatio* in Latin means perfection. Confirmation perfects and seals the graces given in Baptism, thus making those graces manifest not just in simple and private ways, but in public witness to the Gospel. Holding off Confirmation to adolescence—our common practice around here—emphasizes this new moment of being a public witness to the faith, while those other traditions emphasize the unity of Baptism and Confirmation, which is its seal. In any case, Confirmation does not add anything new, but it perfects what Baptism has already begun in us, imparting to us a spiritual imprint or mark. The Holy Spirit now works in a more intense way in us, making use of our natural qualities in order to carry out God’s will in the world—if we cooperate!

The action of the Holy Spirit in us is commonly summarized by this list of seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, courage, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. We see this all throughout the Scriptures, particularly in the *Acts of the Apostles*, when, after the descent of the Holy Spirit, the disciples of Jesus act in ways that transcend typical human abilities. Peter begins to preach boldly when before he had been hidden in fear (courage); Stephen refutes all the arguments of learned Jewish scholars about God’s salvation bestowed on us in Christ (knowledge); the Apostles discern Paul’s Gospel to the Gentiles and declare it to be in conformity with Christ (wisdom).

As baptized and confirmed Christians, we should see these gifts at work in our lives, too. The Spirit will be manifest in our prayer and works of charity for others. However, that will only take place if we remain close to Christ in the pinnacle of the sacraments: the Eucharist. Faithfully worshipping God in the Eucharist is the entire

goal and summit of the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. From the altar flows all the graces that fill our hearts in prayer and allow us to bless others in good deeds done for the love of Christ. How blessed will our parish be to add many young parishioners among the ranks of the Confirmed, not to mention the eight adults that will be Confirmed at Easter this year. We cannot see what amazing work the Holy Spirit coming in fullness will accomplish in them. Come Holy Spirit!



*'The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?*

*The Lord is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid?'*

—Psalm 27



Disciple Maker Index SURVEY

**How well is our parish supporting you?
Are you growing closer in your
relationship with Jesus and His Church?**



We need your help
to assess our progress!

The Disciple Maker Index (DMI) is an anonymous survey for the Archdiocese that provides insights into how well each parish is forming missionary disciples.

The DMI Survey is Open through April 10.

Scan the QR Code
or visit our website for
the survey link. We are
grateful for your input.



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NEW! VIRTUE=STRENGTH®
THE VIRTUE OF FORTITUDE

As we enter Lent this month, students in our school and PREP are practicing the virtue of fortitude, or courage. This cardinal virtue enables one to remain steadfast in pursuing good, especially when facing challenges, temptations, and fears. Students should practice fortitude in small ways by speaking the truth even when it is uncomfortable, giving up small comforts to build resilience against difficulties, and accepting minor inconveniences with a peaceful spirit.

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

We must practice through opportunities to rise above fear and do the right thing. Always speak the truth and stand up for your peers. Walk or run together as a family for a specific challenge or intention. Courage enables us to achieve our goals when life gets tough. Pray and Reflect by reading stories about martyred or persecuted saints, or find a Bible verse about fortitude and memorize it. Making sacrifices to serve God and our community teaches us how to control our emotions and fears.

'You shall receive the power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be witnesses for me to the ends of the earth.'

—Acts 1:8

AFTER MASSES THIS WEEKEND



Gaetano's Fresh Homemade

SAUCE SALE



SMM Knights of Columbus will offer Gaetano's of Clifton Heights famous Marinara Sauce (32 oz glass jars) after all our Masses on March 15 and 16 while supplies last. \$10 per jar.

Proceeds from sale and donations will go to
THE MEDIA FOOD BANK

NEW! PRAY FOR OUR CONFIRMANDI

Please pray for our fifty-eight students who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this week. On Thursday, March 20, at 4 PM, Most Reverend Michael Fitzgerald will confer this sacrament on these individuals. Please keep them, their families, and sponsors in your prayers. May the Holy Spirit continue to grow in and through them as God's witnesses and as His missionary disciples in the world.



Below are the names of our Confirmandi:

Matthew **Sebastian** Aichert
Brody **Joseph** Bondurant
Elliana **Grace** Brunetti
Gabriel **Thomas** Caldwell
Mairead **Ann** Cassidy
Callan **Jude** Chaffin
Mitchell **Isidore** Chin
Gianni **Gabriel** Cholmeley-Jones
Benjamin **Michael** Condrasky
Annabelle **Cecilia** Cullen
Harper **Elizabeth** Dobosz
Aidan **Lorenzo** Duffy
Alexis **Catherine** Duffy
Mikayla **Catherine** Dzara
Olivia **Catherine** Fedalen
Kameron James **Paul** Gerst
Landon **Jude** Gribbin
Eloise **Therese** Hartman
Kelsey **Rita** Henderson
Patrick **Joseph** Hopper
Shea **Lucy** Kelly
Finnegan **Philip** Kelly
Olivia **Theresa** Kelso
Francis **Matthew** Lake
Colin **Francis** Lake
Mary **Lucy** Landgraff
Justin **Francis** Lane
Vienna **Peregrine** Lubic
Santiago **Martin** Lucente
Isabella **Gianna** Mariano
Joshua **Francis** McCabe
Maggie **Grace** McCarthy
Grace **Bernadette** Mitros
Madeline **Maria Assunta** Murdolo
Matthew **Benedict** Oliver

Ryan **Francis** Pearce
Liam **Andrew** Pixley
Kayla **Ann** Quinn
Calvin **Michael** Rayfield, Jr.
Andrew **Sabastian** Reno
Ella **Cecelia** Rucci
Margaret **Elizabeth** Ryan
Stella **Ann** Sacunas
Josslyn **Elizabeth** Savko
Charlotte **Teresa** Schuler
Natalie **Brigid** Seedor
Brady **John** Sirkin
Ryan **Matthew** Spurio
Makayla **Cecilia** Stanislaus
Colin **Thomas** Stonelake
Grace **Bernadette** Tallon
Beatrice **Frances** Talluto
Thomas **Aloysius** Tashlik
James **Carlo** Valtos
Carson **Alphonsus** Victoria
Gabriella **Genevieve** Votta
Timothy **Michael** Young
Luke **Michael** Zola



Adults being confirmed on Holy Saturday (OCIA):

Christine Barker
Teresa Chialastri
Rachael Mealey
Danielle LeBon
Alison Taylor
Andrew Rumford
David Sim
Phil Solomon

TRUST

& hope



thursday **APRIL 3**
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 a Trust & Hope discussion at 6:30 PM in St. Francis Hall.

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

Scan the QR code to RSVP for **APRIL 3** at 6:30 PM.



For additional dates, go to TRUSTANDHOPE.ORG



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.

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.

Lenten Simple Supper

Friday, April 11

Join us for our homemade soup (plus, pizza) dinner from 5:30 and 6:45 PM. Donations to SMM Knights will benefit the Mothers' Home.

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

NEW! THE HONOR ROLLS

VILLA MARIA ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

The following students received honors for the first semester.

Distinguished Honors: **MaryGrace Coyne, Anna Vickers**; First Honors: **Caroline Naughton**
Second Honors: **Reagan Martelli**

Congratulations to all these dedicated students.

NEW! SENIORS' SOCIAL CLUB 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 or call 484-420-4575.

SOON! 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.

SIGN UP! 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.



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.

The Cranston Family, Kevin Gross & Alana D'Ambrosio and Family

CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of **John Gill, Sr., Joseph Paolino, James Murphy, Lien Nguyen, Thomas Logan**, 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, 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, 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, Joanne Pagliei, 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.

MARRIAGE

Congratulations to our newest newlyweds!

Ashley Bross & Colin McDermott

BAPTISMS

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

Brayden Matthew Stempler



Some of St. Mary Magdalen's young men and their dads attending ManUp met NFL Hall of Fame Eagle Brian Dawkins along with Archbishop Pérez.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

8:30 AM - Ann & Peter Miniszak

4:30 PM - Martin Sarkees

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

7:30 AM - William Virbitsky

9:30 AM - Patrick, Eleanor
& Joyce Bizzari

11:30 AM - Ken Ryan

7 PM - The People of the Parish

MONDAY, MARCH 17

6:30 AM - Robert O'Connell

8:30 AM - Joseph P. Mylotte

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

6:30 AM - Fran Jackson

8:30 AM - Jim Jagodzinski

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

6:30 AM - Norman Kleinberg

8:30 AM - Casey Mortellite

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

6:30 AM - Anthony D'Angelo

8:30 AM - Ints. of Msgr. Ralph Chieffo

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

6:30 AM - Genevieve Giangiulio

8:30 AM - Josephine
& Francis Gavio

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

8:30 AM - Ints. of Brian Morley

4:30 PM - Julia Harkins

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

7:30 AM - Robert O'Connell

9:30 AM - Patricia "Pat" Gonzalez

11:30 AM - Lester Fry

7 PM - The People of the Parish

FLOWERS

In memory of John Gill, Sr.

BREAD & WINE

In memory of Thomas Logan

CANDLE

In memory of Kathleen Mullen

8 Tithing News & Passing Notes

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.

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.**

PARISH SCAM ALERT

Recently, we have experienced an uptick in email and text scams trying to masquerade as parishes, priests, or other parish leaders throughout the Archdiocese. Do not respond to or click links from any suspicious emails or texts. When in doubt, contact our parish office or any staff member using the emails listed in our bulletin or on the website at stmarymagdalen.net.



NEW! KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

On March 8, the 129th Exemplification of the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree was held at the National Shrine of Czestochowa in Doylestown. Please congratulate S.K. **Dr. David Thomas** (*on right*) as our newest 4th Degree Knight!

TODAY'S READINGS BEGIN ON PAGE 110 IN THE HERITAGE MISSAL

STEWARDSHIP & TITHING

February 2025	\$94,315
Collection:	\$27,229
Mail-in:	\$19,962
EFT:	\$47,124
February 2024	\$109,101
Collection:	\$31,475
Mail-in:	\$31,985
EFT:	\$45,641

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.



Monica prayed for Augustine.
Ambrose accompanied him.
Who will you walk with?



GO WALK WITH ONE

Everyone is called to evangelize, and it's not as hard as you might think. *Walk With One* is your opportunity to be God's instrument in the life of another person—someone whom Jesus longs to bring into relationship with himself and his Church. Learn more about this initiative, access resources, and receive prayer support at eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one.

A photograph of a blue ceramic bowl filled with a hearty soup, garnished with fresh green herbs. To the left of the bowl is a loaf of golden-brown bread, sliced into several pieces. In the background, there are blurred images of fresh vegetables, including green bell peppers and orange carrots.

A St. Mary Magdalen Parish
& Knights of Columbus Council Event

A Lenten

Simple Supper

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

5:30 to 6:45 PM  **St. Francis Hall**

Join us for an evening of goodwill and fellowship that begins with a prayer and a Lenten meal of homemade soups, salad, bread, and pizza.

Goodwill offerings will benefit The Mothers' Home.

7 PM  **Main Church**

Afterword, we invite you to stay to journey with Jesus during the Stations of the Cross on the last Friday before the Passion of our Lord.



RSVP by Sunday, April 6

Click the QR Code or email events@stmarymagdalen.net by April 1 with your name and number in your party.

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