

# Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

1 DEC 2024 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## ADVENT MEDITATION SERIES

Come, Lord Jesus

Dear Friends in Christ,

*Come, thou long expected Jesus  
born to set thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us  
Help us find our rest in thee.*

On this day, hymns like the familiar one quoted above greet us as we light the first violet candle and begin once again the Season of Advent and a new liturgical year.

The key word of these first weeks of Advent is *Maranatha*—Come, Lord Jesus. In singing and praying this way, we echo the voice of the first Christians, who, even in the first decades after the Resurrection, were already making this heartfelt prayer. After all, the last words of the Bible are “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Rev. 20:21)”

Yet, do we mean it when we say these prayers? Are we not all—and I’m preaching to myself here—more or less satisfied with life as it is? Sure, we often get upset about politics and world affairs; maybe a job isn’t going as well as we’d hoped, or there are strains and tensions in families. But really, in the end, we are the most affluent and powerful people who have ever lived. Our country’s economy is the envy of the world. In our community, we live in safe and comfortable homes, far from the arenas of war in Ukraine and the Middle East and even far removed from the rough streets of places like Kensington.

So, then, is “Come, Lord Jesus,” just a nice thing to say, a seasonal tradition like listening to Bing Crosby belt out “White Christmas?” Or is it the measure of what it means to be a Christian?

When we say those words and mean them, we are acknowledging the constant nearness of Christ. No one is far from God. All we have to do is invite him into our lives and homes. We have to be like Mary and Joseph,



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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.



## 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.



(continued from the cover)

who welcomed Christ even though it meant a radical reorientation of life. So often, we prefer to settle for the fragile and imperfect false peace that the world offers rather than the happiness and peace which Christ alone can bring. The prayer “Come Lord Jesus” has an immediate fulfillment in the Eucharistic sacrifice, when Jesus himself really does come among us under the appearance of bread and wine. In other words, the coming of Jesus is something that we should beg for earnestly every day—and recognize the amazing ways God answers it—every day.

Affluence and comfort don’t last forever. But the mercy of God does. (*I invite you to check out information about our upcoming Day of Mercy on page 4.*) This Advent, we ask the Lord to teach us how to receive him and how to live with an awareness of his closeness to us. We can pray “Come Lord Jesus” and mean it—come into our hearts, our lives, and our world, which, despite a veneer of happiness, is often full of sorrow and division. If we live this way, we will have nothing to fear when he comes again in glory and majesty.

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker



**A MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP NELSON J. PÉREZ  
REGARDING THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS  
AND BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI IN 2025**

My heart was filled with great joy to learn that Pope Francis will canonize Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati as saints next year!

This news ushers in great celebration for the Universal Church and especially for young Catholics. Blessed Carlo will be the first saint from the Millennial Generation and Blessed Pier Giorgio is a model of Missionary Discipleship for young adults leading busy lives while searching for true fulfillment.

Blessed Carlo, who died in 2016 at age 15, is an inspiration for children and adolescents through his passion for using technology to evangelize and share his devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist. Blessed Pier Giorgio, who died in 1925 at age 24, is a model for young adults through his dedication to serving the poor in urban areas while balancing university studies, social activism, and daily prayer.

Handel's  
MESSIAH  
DEC  
15  
3 PM  
Hallelujah!  
Enjoy the classic oratorio presented by the amazing Main Line Ecumenical Choir and gifted orchestra musicians. Conducted by Ralph Purri. All are welcome. This is a goodwill offering event.

Both of these saintly young men reflect the call for today’s youth and young adults to live out their Catholic faith with courage, compassion, and divine love. Blessed Carlo, in particular, holds a special place in the heart of our local Church. We were blessed to host his mother, Antonia Salvano Acutis, last fall when she spoke about her son’s love and devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist at our Eucharistic Congress. Her reflections filled us with wonder and awe. They still resonate as we strive to follow in the footsteps of her son.

I pray that the inspiration flowing from Blessed Carlo and Blessed Pier Giorgio will fuel the zealous hearts of our young people to serve others with Christ as their model. All Catholics should rejoice, as I do, in the canonization of saints for our time and for those who will inherit the Church on earth.

Blessed Carlo and Blessed Pier Giorgio, pray for us!

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Dcn. Joseph P. Boyle, Jr.  
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St. Mary Magdalen's

# DAY OF MERCY

Experience God's forgiveness and peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation offered throughout the day on Monday, December 16, with our School and PREP students. Adults are welcome at any service times.

## PENANCE

1:30 to 2:30 PM {School Students}

5 to 6 PM {PREP Students}

7 to 8 PM

MONDAY  
DECEMBER 16



## SMM Knights' Fundraiser

# ONE HOPE

The Knights' ONE HOPE Winery fundraiser will benefit the Mothers' Home in Darby. Start your Christmas shopping or stock up for the upcoming holidays while benefitting a great cause in our area. So, let's pour it forward!

To place an order, please visit the Knights' digital storefront at [onehopewine.com/event/208579](http://onehopewine.com/event/208579).

The Knights of Columbus are grateful for your support!

**Now Through December**



**NEW! ADVENT DATES**

**Thursday, December 5**

**Knights of Columbus' Mass at 6 PM**

**Friday, December 6**

**First Friday Holy Hour: Adoration & Confessions  
at 5:30 PM, Mass at 6:30 PM**

*Enjoy a light hospitality after Mass in St. Francis.*

**Monday, December 9**

**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
6:30 AM & 8:30 AM Masses**

*Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year*

**Saturday, December 14**

**Mass in Italian at 7 PM**

*Celebrant: Fr. Eric Banecker*

**Sunday, December 15**

**Blessing of Crèches**

**4:30 Vigil Mass and 9:30 AM Mass**

*Bring your crèche or baby Jesus  
from home to be blessed before Christmas.*

**Handel's Messiah at 3 PM**

*Enjoy this amazing musical event presented  
by the Mainline Ecumenical Choir. (see pg. 3)*

**Monday, December 16**

**Day of Mercy: Penance Services**

**1:30 to 2:30 PM, 5 to 6 PM, & 7 to 8 PM**

*All are welcome. (See pg. 2)*



**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](mailto:clow@stmarymagdalen.net).**



**Come on a Spiritual, Cultural, and Culinary Journey to Sicily with Fr. Eric from October 15 to October 25, 2025!**

*Trips to Italy with Laura*, a native Italian who moved to America and now specializes in small, customizable group trips to Italy. Join her and Fr. Eric to explore Sicily's ancient temples and magnificent Baroque basilicas. Enjoy its rich and diverse culinary tradition while exploring cities and monuments with Greek, Roman, Arabic, Norman, and Spanish influences.

Highlights include Palermo—visit the Duomo and Palazzo dei Normanni, explore Mercato di Balarò, and experience Palermo's food and lively nightlife.

See Alcamo and Selinunte with its Valley of the Temples. Enjoy a day in magical Siracusa, which includes a visit to the Basilica, Greek amphitheater, and the island of Ortigia.

We will visit the top of Mount Etna and end the day with a volcanic wine tasting.

Enjoy a night in Taormina, then head to Catania, Sicily's fanciest city, filled with a blend of Baroque and Liberty architecture and fantastic food.

We will visit the mountain town of Castelbuono, famous for its Panettone, and stay the night.

Before we head home, we will marvel at the Byzantine mosaics of the Cathedral of Monreale, complete with a Benedictine monastery and garden.

Plus, Mass is offered daily with Fr. Eric!

Scan the QR Code below or visit website for trip details, rates, inclusions and exclusions, itinerary, deposit schedule, and more!



[tripstoitalywithlaura.com](http://tripstoitalywithlaura.com)





*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 by St. Francis Hall. Begins November 4th.

## MASS & SOCIAL

Sundays at 7 PM

Come for Mass with music by Gus DeSimone and Sarah Thomas. Then stay afterward for food and some fun in St. Francis Hall or in nearby Media.



# 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)



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**For more information, scan the QR Code 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.

Gregory Moppert & Juliette Gabriel, Thomas & Antoinette Torrence,  
David & Yvet Opperman

## CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of Robert O'Conner, Gerald Halt, Sr., Julia Harkins, 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, Francis Iacovone, Cole Keith, Ray Kenney, Gregory Lewis, Leonard Lombardi, 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.

## MARRIAGES

Best wishes and many blessings to our newest newlyweds.

Ashley Mendicino & Ricardo Pereira

## BAPTISMS

Congratulations to our newly baptized!

For baptismal information, call or email [baptisms@stmarymagdalen.net](mailto:baptisms@stmarymagdalen.net)

Richard Earl Hazelton IV, Brooks Cater Ditch



On November 18, the 8th graders in the school got to experience history at Gettysburg.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

8:30 AM - Caitlyn & Collin Thomas

4:30 PM - Vincent Zeller

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

7:30 AM - Frances Bradley

9:30 AM - Vincent Zeller

11:30 AM - Vincent Zeller

7 PM - The People of the Parish

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

6:30 AM - Joanna Murphy

8:30 PM - Ints. of Mary Ann Foster

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

6:30 AM - Antoinette LaRocca

8:30 AM - Ints. of Patt Sarkees

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

6:30 AM - The People of the Parish

8:30 AM - Matthew Hallihan

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

6:30 AM - The People of the Parish

8:30 AM - Margaret Bisignaro  
DiMaggio

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

6:30 AM - The People of the Parish

8:30 AM - Joel Brady Feddish

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:30 AM - Bill Bricker

4:30 PM - Charles F. Edelman, Jr.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

7:30 AM - Guiteras & Dever Families

9:30 AM - Ints. of the DiMedio Family

11:30 AM - Mary McDevitt

7 PM - Janet Zurbach

### FLOWERS

In memory of Stephen Phillips

### BREAD & WINE

In memory of Josie Keane

### CANDLE

In memory of deceased clergy

**NEW! SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

Since December 2023, we have been assisting a family in Marcus Hook, who has had many emotional, physical, and economic crises. They currently need further rent assistance as well as food and Christmas gifts. Are you able to help them by making a contribution to our ministry or providing them with some gifts this Christmas? Even the smallest contribution is helpful and appreciated. Kindly mark your financial contribution as "Marcus Hook Family," so we may specifically direct those gifts to this family. For a Christmas wish list, contact Jackie at jackiedooley44@gmail.com.

**NEW! THE HONOR ROLLS  
CARDINAL O'HARA**

The following students earned the following academic honors from the first quarter. We congratulate these diligent students!

First Honors: Kira Carroll '25, Kara Hoy '25, Keara Mangan '25, Jane McAnally '25, Abigail Adolph '26, Connor Bray '26, Matthew Chin '26, Ryan Crowley '26, Ben Kalinchak '26, Gianna Mariano '26, Avery Murphy-Costanzo '26, James Smith '26, Penelope Miller '27, Kathleen Rayfield '27, Isabella Tillilie '27, Colette Breen '28, Ella Eusebio '28, Gwenn Mangan '28, Sienna Randazzo '28, & Kylie Sobel '28.

Second Honors: Kara McLaughlin '25, Chiara Mersch, 25, Marina Mersch '25, Molly Carroll '27, Owen Flowers '27, Alanna Phillips '27, Harry Bastian '28, Alexa Bondurant '28, Alex Foster '28, Fiona Gribbin '28, Michael Quinn '28, Max Sutcliffe '28, & William Wolfe '28.



12-5  
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www.familycircus.com  
"Putting Baby Jesus in swaddling clothes was the first Christmas present wrapping."

**URGENT! SCAMS TARGET PARISHIONERS**

There is an uptick in email and text scams trying to masquerade as parishes, priests, or other parish leaders throughout the Archdiocese. You will not receive 'private' texts or email requests from Fr. Eric, clergy, or parish staff asking for gift cards, cash, or emergency funds. Any parish events or fundraisers are posted publically on our website, bulletin, or newsletters. Do not respond to or click on links in suspicious emails or texts. When in doubt, contact our parish office or ask any staff member using the emails listed in our bulletin or on the website at stmarymagdalen.net.

**PHILLY ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS**

It is the fervent desire of the Archdiocese to encourage the faithful to pray before the Most Blessed Sacrament on the day the Eucharist and the Priesthood were instituted by Christ to pray for our priests, seminarians, and an increase in vocations. Join us as the designated Chapel in Delaware County for Vocation Adoration every Thursday from 9 AM to 4 PM throughout the Archdiocese. For more about vocations, visit [heedthecall.org](http://heedthecall.org).

**TODAY'S READINGS BEGIN ON 58  
IN THE 2025 HERITAGE MISSAL**

**STEWARDSHIP & TITHING**

<b>October 2024</b>	<b>\$115,528</b>
Collection:	\$30,054
Mail-in:	\$30,638
EFT:	\$54,836
<b>October 2023</b>	<b>\$106,050</b>
Collection:	\$39,169
Mail-in:	\$24,963
EFT:	\$41,918



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 Tree

Now to December 13

# 2024

Please stop by and grab an ornament to support our fellow neighbors in need this Christmas.

We will collect the gifts on **Sunday, December 15.**

Collections will be before and after the 7:30, 9:30, and 11:30 AM Masses—No collection at the 7 PM Mass.

Plus, we have some children in nearby parishes in need of 'Secret Santas'

Contact us directly if you can assist with this, and we will pair you a child, children, or a family.

Your donations bring hope and joy to:

**Catholic Social Services**  
**St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Chester**  
**BVC Church in Darby**  
**CityTeam**  
**Bethesda Project**

We appreciate your support this Advent.  
Thank you, and God Bless!

**Ginger Victoria**

gingervictoria8@gmail.com \* 484-639-3048

**Ryan Cassidy**

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