

# Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

15 DECEMBER 2024 **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

## ADVENT MEDITATION SERIES

God's Forgiveness—The Sacrament of Penance



Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you to everyone who has helped these days to enliven our Advent, either liturgically or through service opportunities and other initiatives. I am continually amazed at the generosity of so many in our parish who contribute to the life of our community. Know that your contributions are noticed, and I am very grateful.

Check out the bulletin for upcoming events in the parish.

One note is the pilgrimage to Sicily, which I am organizing from October 15 to October 24 of next year.

The registration deadline is January 30, so feel free to contact me, if you would like to do that.

In anticipation of our Advent Day of Mercy, I offer a small meditation today on the beautiful gift of God's forgiveness, which he gives us in the Sacrament of Penance.

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker



In ten short days, it will be Christmas Day. Does that sentence fill you with dread or joy? As I mentioned in my homily last week, "Holidays, Inc." can fill us with anxiety as we max out our schedules (*and our credit cards!*) trying to make the season "perfect."

But it doesn't have to be that way!

The good news is that Christ has come; yes, Christ has been born for us in history. Our world can never be the same. It is that fact which should be the source of all the joy and festivity of these days. That is why on this Third Sunday of Advent, the Introit of the Mass bids us "REJOICE"! ("*Gaudete*") at the nearness of Christ, the

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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.



## 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.

Incarnate Word of God. The priest dons rose vestments to add to the anticipation as well. It is a kind of return to spiritual childhood: just as children become almost giddy in anticipation of Christmas morning, so we too can allow ourselves to be filled with joy that, indeed, the greatest gift we will ever receive has come and will come again.

At the same time, the shortness of the Advent season bids us to that urgency to conversion. In other words, we need to be properly disposed to receive such a great gift. We must enter into the silence and prayer to which these final weeks of Advent call us. In particular, I encourage you to make the Sacrament of Penance part of your spiritual preparation in these final weeks.

Now, I know what some of you might think: going to Confession is about as pleasant as getting a root canal done. Of course, no one likes to admit when they're wrong—I certainly don't. But if we're honest with ourselves, we know that our world is not what it is meant to be, nor how God has ordered it to be. And that disordering of the world is a result of sin—not just my sin, of course, but mine too! What are we going to do about it? Political and technological solutions are not the answer—they often make things worse!

God has done something about it: he has sent his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, who on the Cross redeems fallen humanity and inaugurates the new creation. That salvation is made present in our lives in Baptism. But what happens when we fail to live up to that new covenant, which includes the commandment to love one another as Christ has loved us? I know I have walked into confessionals in my life filled with dread about the things I would say to the priest. Once, when I was on an eight-day silent retreat in Nebraska, I even made a "general confession" which went back over the previous 20 years or so. Yet, every single time, it was a beautiful and powerful experience. As a priest, I have had the tremendous joy of welcoming back into the state of grace a person who had been away from Confession for many years. There is no more humbling experience for me than that.

When we go to Confession, we aren't merely saying out loud the sins we have committed; instead, we are really confessing the goodness of God, in whose mercy we have great confidence and hope. We bring to the Lord not the gift of our sins, but the gift of true

sorrow for those sins and the firm resolution to make amends and live in a manner worthy of our Christian call. That act begins with God's grace, and in the absolution of the priest, our contrition is made perfect, our sins are forgiven, and we are filled with the grace to begin anew the journey of discipleship. Is there any greater gift we can receive this Christmas?



"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near."

—Philippians 4:4-5



This Monday, December 16, we have opportunities for Confession from 1:15-2:30 pm, 5-6 pm, and 7-8 pm. We will also have confessions on Christmas Eve morning from 9 am-10 am and from noon to 1 pm. I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities. Indeed, the Lord is near! Let us rejoice and run out to meet him.



CHRISTMAS EVE CHRISTMAS DAY

4 PM  
4th Grade Nativity  
at 3:40 PM  
Children's Choir

6:30 PM  
Prelude Music at 6:15 PM

10:30 PM  
Prelude Music  
and Carols at 10 PM  
Adult Choir and Hand Bell

7:30 AM  
9:30 AM  
11:30 AM  
No 7 PM Mass

SOLEMNITY  
of MARY

Vigil 6:30 PM  
Holy Hour at 5:30 PM  
& Reception at 7:30 PM  
8:30 AM, 10 AM, 6:30 PM



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Dcn. Joseph P. Boyle, Jr.  
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THIS MONDAY!

# 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 during any of our 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**

## EXCITING NEWS! A NEW SOUND SYSTEM FOR THE CHURCH IS ON THE WAY!

When gathered in faith, we are reminded of our profound connection and the deep affinity worship plays in our lives. Nothing should impede our experience as we encounter God and others in communion with Him. However, while it has served us well, our current sound system can no longer support our vibrant community. It regularly impacts many in our congregation, who must strain to hear, which causes a less-than-optimal worship experience.

Since Fr. Banecker's arrival, he has listened to your concerns and wishes, including the church's current sound system, which needs an upgrade. During this season of Advent, we are pleased to announce that plans for a new system are on the way.

We want every voice—every song and every prayer—to be heard clearly in our sanctuary. We have a generous benefactor who has pledged fifteen thousand towards our goal. We are asking our community to help us match this gift. Your support is essential in making this a reality, and it will be a blessing to all in our community. Let's ensure our worship experience is vibrant, uplifting—and accessible to everyone who walks through our doors.

We hope this 'sounds' appealing and know that we are deeply grateful for your consideration. Your support, no matter the amount, will make a significant difference. If you are able to donate, please contact Deacon Joe at [deaconjoe@stmarymagdalen.net](mailto:deaconjoe@stmarymagdalen.net), or designate your gift to the 'Sound System' on the envelope or through our online giving.

### 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 wishlist, contact Jackie at [jackiedooley44@gmail.com](mailto:jackiedooley44@gmail.com).**

### CHAPEL POINSETTIAS

Our chapel poinsettias have been graciously donated by the Hallinan Family in loving remembrance of Matthew Hallinan.

## ADVENT DATES

**Today! Sunday, December 15**

### Giving Tree Gift Collection

**7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, & 11:30 AM Masses**

*Please drop off your gift donations for our Giving Tree. No collection at the 7 PM Mass.*

### 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.*

**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. 4)*

**Wednesday, December 18**

### School Christmas Concert

**6:30 PM in the church**

*Handel's*  
**MESSIAH**  
St. Mary Magdalen  
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.





## SICILY with FR. ERIC

**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)



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# It only takes *one* encounter.

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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)



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.

## 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 Elaine Boorman, Rev. Joseph M. Glatts, Peter DiPlacido, 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, Schellz Mangan, 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.

## BAPTISMS

Congratulations to our newly baptized!

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

Benjamin Scott Bell, Brooks Carter Ditch



*The joyful and beautiful baptism of Brooks Carter Ditch!*

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

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

4:30 PM - Robert Verna

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:30 AM - Frances & George Burkhardt

9:30 AM - Carla Donato

11:30 AM - Dottie Campbell, Judy Campbell & Jackie Simms

7 PM - The People of The Parish

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

6:30 AM - Restituta Inise Magnarelli

8:30 PM - John Francis Johnson

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

6:30 AM - Mary Stevenson

8:30 AM - Stephen Lanoy

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:30 AM - The People of The Parish

8:30 AM - Maria Tramantana

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

6:30 AM - Ints. of Denise Winkler

8:30 AM - James Phillips

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

6:30 AM - Matthew Mullin

8:30 AM - Lucia Cahill

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:30 AM - Elizabeth & Philip Franco

4:30 PM - Colin Tipping

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:30 AM - John Thomas Scott

9:30 AM - William Tierney, Sr.

11:30 AM - Matthew Bowen

7 PM - John J. List

## FLOWERS

In memory of deceased parishioners

## BREAD & WINE

In memory of Peter DiPlacido

## CANDLE

In memory of deceased clergy









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To give, scan the QR Code or go to [catholiccharitiesappeal.org](http://catholiccharitiesappeal.org).

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