

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time  
**Choosing to Follow Christ**  
August 23, 2009

Reading I: [Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b](#) We Will Serve the Lord  
Reading II: [Ephesians 5:21-32](#) The Mystery of Christ and the Church  
Gospel: [John 6:60-69](#) The Words of Eternal Life

**Gospel Summary** - It was very difficult for some of Jesus' followers to hear the words of today's gospel. Jesus pointed to himself as the one in whom God chose to reveal himself. But the people could not bring themselves to call Jesus by the titles they reserved for God alone. Jesus knew there would be those who would not believe & those who started to follow him but could not continue. It is clear from this gospel that we can't fully understand all that Jesus said. It is only through faith that we continue to follow him.

**Reflection for Families** - When our children overhear our words or see us when we think they are not looking, which people in today's gospel do they see? Are we the ones who grumble the ones with shallow faith who half-heartedly follow Jesus? Or, are we like the disciples who recognize Jesus as the one who offers us eternal life? It may be easy to be the latter when we speak directly to our children, or when we know they are watching us. The true test of our faith, however, may be what we do away from our children's presence.

**Bringing the Gospel into Your Family** - Help each family member trace their own foot print on a piece of paper and cut it out. On one side put the family member's name. Pass the foot prints around to other family members allowing each person to write down ways they see the foot print owner following Jesus. After everyone has contributed to each person's foot print, affirm one another in the ways you follow Jesus. (Take turns helping people who can't write or draw!)

#### CHAPEL CLOSING

Our chapel will close Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00PM for the Labor Day Holiday and re-open on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> after the 8:30AM Mass.

#### PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Let Jesus reveal his plan and power  
for your peace of mind and heart!

Consider the blessings we have here at SMM to have the Risen Jesus present in our Monstrance just waiting for a visit from YOU. We need an adorer for Saturday, 1-2 AM and there are many hours with only one adorer where two are preferred. Won't you prayerfully consider spending one hour per week or even every other week with the Lord who has done so much for YOU? Call Monica 891-9483 or Shelly 353-7739.

#### MASS INTENTIONS

##### SATURDAY, August 22

8:30AM Kenneth Barlow

5:30PM Margaret Mary Culin

7:00PM People of the Parish – OL of Guadalupe

##### SUNDAY, August 23

7:30AM Thanks to the Blessed Mother

10:00AM Jane Labrum

11:30AM Martha Gribbon

5:30PM Edward Feuerstein

##### MONDAY, August 24

6:30AM Robert Dieter

8:30AM Albert Postus

##### TUESDAY, August 25

6:30AM Int. of Jennie LaDonne

8:30AM Louis Anthony Procaccini

##### WEDNESDAY, August 26

6:30AM Vocations to the Priesthood

8:30AM Edward Kushner

##### THURSDAY, August 27

6:30AM Intentions of Laura Hill

8:30AM Martin Walsh

##### FRIDAY, August 28

6:30AM People of the Parish

8:30AM Daniel Cirotti

##### SATURDAY, August 29

8:30AM Martin Walsh

5:30PM Armando Spoto

##### SUNDAY, August 30

7:30AM Matthew Mullin

10:00AM Jack D'Orazio

11:30AM Arthur D'Orazio

5:30PM Desmond Murtagh

**We need lectors, cantors, musicians, and Eucharistic ministers for all masses, especially our 5:30 SUNDAY Mass when our new Youth Ministry will begin. Contact Deacon James to be trained.**

#### PASTORAL COUNCIL AND FINANCE MEETING TUESDAY, AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup> AT 7 PM IN SCHOOL

Please come to St. Katharine Drexel Room  
Fr. Chieffo will present how we are fulfilling our mission to build a family of faith through Catholic worship, education, and charity and how we can improve our labors of love through our increased ministries and organizations. Mr. Peter Federico will share how we can increase our resources so that we can continue to improve our parish services and be more effective in serving the needy within and outside our parish. As we begin school we ask your prayers for all our children and families that they will be formed with the mind and heart of Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life.



### From Mrs. Burke's Desk...

Welcome to the Saint Mary Magdalen 2009-2010 school year. We anxiously await the arrival of your child/children and hope the following information will prove helpful in the days to come: **Opening day for students in grades 5 through 8, only, will be Wednesday, September 9th. Students should arrive by 8:10 AM. Students in Grades 1 through 4, only, will begin classes on Thursday, September 10th with an 8:10 AM arrival. All students in Grades 1 to 8 should report to school on Friday, September 11th with classes beginning at 8:10 AM. The celebration of the Eucharist will begin at 8:30 AM. Dismissal on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> will be 2:55 PM. All Kindergarten students are invited to attend their orientation on September 11th from 10:45 to 11:45 AM. Kindergarten classes will begin with a full day on September 14<sup>th</sup>.**

### HOME AND SCHOOL MEETING SEPT. 17TH

At 7:15 PM in the Parish Center - Meet the faculty and join our Home and School organization.

### TRANSPORTATION

**SEPTEMBER 9, 10, and 11:** Rose Tree Media, Marple Newtown, West Chester, and Great Valley School Districts will provide bus transportation to and from school on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. If your child uses another district's bus service, we ask that you check with that particular school district for busing information. **Rose Tree Media School District Transportation bus schedules for our students will be posted on the Rose Tree Media website ([www.rtmsd.org](http://www.rtmsd.org)).** Enjoy the remainder of the summer!

### ADMISSION CRITERIA

St. Mary Magdalen School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality, and ethnic origin in its admissions policies, educational programs, or in the administration of student programs and benefits. For a child to be admitted to the school, the family must be registered, practicing their faith, and supporting of St. Mary Magdalen Parish.

Celebrate our vision for learning...moral awareness, academic excellence, responsible citizenship, and cultural development.

**Registration information: 610-565-1822**

**SMM Kentucky Derby:** contact Kelly and Joe Hassey (610-353-1750) to help in our Parish Social and Fundraiser on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Drexelbrook.

**CARDINALS THANK PETER LERRO AND US**  
Cardinal Justin Rigali and Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua sent a special thank you for Peter Lerro and our parish family for building an inspirational sanctuary and capturing it in our SMM Parish booklet. Quote from **Cardinal Bevilacqua: The people of St Mary Magdalen Parish have been faithful and generous members of the Church and have witnessed to Christ by the example of their lives. St. Mary Magdalen will have a special remembrance in my prayers at this special time in the life of the parish and always.**

**Cardinal Rigali:** This booklet reflects both the mission of the parish and your joy in completing the construction of the new parish church. I pray that the Lord will continue to build up the parish in faith, hope and charity.

### PREP NEWS

Our PREP school year for Grades 1 through 6 begins with a Parents Meeting on Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00 PM. Classes for students will start on Wednesday, September 23 at 4:00 PM. Registration forms and a schedule for the year can be found in the Church Narthex. We still need 1 or 2 teachers for the coming year. Call Deacon James 610-565-5782.

**First Holy Communion for Grade 3 is scheduled for Saturday, October 17 at 10:30 AM in the Church.**

### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

#### JOHN & KAREN HOEY

Attention all middle and high schoolers! Did you ever wonder why Catholics believe the things that we do?

Did you ever want to know why we do the Catholic things we do? We can't wait to share your ideas and ours to try and have it all make sense. We'll talk in a fun, laid back way about how the Catholic church started, who the important people were (and why they were so important), and where all of these rules came from! That way, when you are busy going to Mass, celebrating a holiday, or expected to follow a rule, at least you will know why you are supposed to do it and how it can help your life instead of getting in the way of your life. Then, it will be easier for you to do those things if you want to, because you will have a reason that is important to you. The first time we get together, we are going to figure out why there is a Pope, who all of them were, and what they have to do with us. Each week the things we talk about will be different but it will be directed by what you want to understand and how it can all fit into your life now.

We need lectors, Eucharistic ministers, greeters, musicians and singers for the Sunday 5:30 PM Mass. Please see me, John Hoey or Karen.

**BAPTISMAL PREP CLASSES:** Call **Peter or Mary Zurbach** to sign up for class at **610-565-5736**. Sponsor Eligibility Letters from the parishes are needed three weeks before the Baptism. Next **Pre Jordan will be September 16 from 7 to 8:00PM in the Gathering room**. We ask you to come for instructions before you give birth so that you can be prepared in choosing your date and sponsors. We remind all parents and Godparents that they must be registered and practicing Catholics. Godparents must be 16 years of age and have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**A time to die, pray** for the members of our SMM Faith Community who have died, **Lester Fry, Sr., Edward Belczyk and Rev. Peter U. Ekwenze** all victims of war, hurricanes, and the 4,100 daily abortions.

**A time to heal...PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK & OUR SOLDIERS in harm's way: Our Children:**

Constance Ashbach, Bernie Brill, Fred Cambio, John Cammorato, Giana Campbell, Rosemary Casey, Tony Chieffo, Daniel Casullo, Lily Ciocca, Dave Clark, Nancy Clay, Christina Connors, Sean Cosden, Regis Cronin, Gennela D'Orazio, Ann DiDonato, Marcella DiMaggio, Erin DiMartino, Eleanor DiPangrazio, Rose Dennin, Carol Desko, Carla Donato, Sr. Michael Marie Donnelly, RSM, Frances Dougherty, Robert Franklin, Vincent Grasso, Dorothy Greenwald, John & Helen Hartman, Elliott Johnson, Henry Johnson, Rose Kenny, Alaina Lafferty, John & Claire Laskas, Richard Leighton, Richard Lucente, Joseph Manion, Michael Manganiello, Joe MacDonald, Theresa MacCombie, Debra Marcoux, II, Peggy Matthews, Mary McDevitt, Patrick McFadden, William O'Brien, Timothy Poole, James Ranieri, Sr, Bobby Ruggieri, Carolyn Rock, Louise Saar, John Schad, John and Phyllis Scott, John Shea, Dan Shillington, Betty Tedesco, George Tyson, Louise Veit, Catherine Walsh, Lindy Zwahlen

**WEDDINGS** need to be arranged 6 months ahead.

**Please call the rectory if you are sick or want a priest** to visit you in the hospital or at home. Please pray and visit the sick & bring them consolation and companionship. You can contact Deacon James or Anita Morro also to provide Communion.

#### **NEW FAMILIES**

**Joseph & Rose Rigolozzo, Joseph & Patricia Cerritelli, Eugene & Theresa O'Brien & Family, Joshua & Luciana & Family.**

**See Fr. Chieffo for a Registration Form after Mass.** If you would like your family and home to be blessed, please call the parish office. If you are interested in

visiting our new families to share about our parish activities, please contact Joanne Hinkle at 610-892-3998

#### **RCIA**

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) will begin in September. Classes are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Parish meetings rooms. Individuals who are interested in becoming Catholic or those who have not received all the Sacraments are invited to attend the RCIA program which culminates on the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil.

Deacon Peter Zurbach conducts the classes. Deacon James and others assist. Please call Deacon James for more information 610-565-5782

#### **THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

**By Patricia Miniszak –**

Our wonderful Marketing Committee has assisted in publicizing our school and one of the results is we are welcoming 397 students of which 57 are new. We are in the process of planning an all class Alumni Reunion for the classes from the first graduating class to the class of 2005. Please pass on the word that the reunion will be on Saturday, November 28, 2009 beginning with our 5:30 PM Mass. If you are not on our alumni database and have not received information concerning it, please contact me at [presidentsmm@comcast.net](mailto:presidentsmm@comcast.net) or 610-566-8821 X122. In the Spring we will have a reunion for all of our high school students.

#### **INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK**

The families will be here at SMM this week of August 23rd. Please email Sue Fromhold at [sfromholddcihn1@verizon.net](mailto:sfromholddcihn1@verizon.net) if you can volunteer. Meals and supplies are needed. Please help us keep the IHN in Delaware County. Donations can be sent to: Delco IHN, P.O. Box 2384, Aston, PA 19014

#### **LEGION OF MARY**

**Come and pray for our Blessed Mother to grant you the peace of Jesus in your hearts and home.** We meet Mondays, 7:00PM, Parish conference room. Info: Call **Karen Kelly 610-565-6539**. Our Lady is calling you to this great work!

#### **THE ROSARY**

Join us every Tuesday in the chapel at 7:15PM to pray the Rosary. Benediction will resume in September. The parish family thanks you for your prayers.

#### **BEREAVEMENT MEETING**

The next bereavement meeting will be held on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM in the Parish office area.

## CATHOLIC ADULTS LEARNING THEIR FAITH

### Need a Huge Return on Your Investment?

Our small Faith Sharing group is more a discussion group with your fellow parishioners using the current Sunday Mass readings as a kick-off point. The time you invest, especially will return to you a hundredfold in a deeper awareness of your own spirituality and that of your neighbors. Meetings are kept to an hour and a half and are in a relaxed, sociable setting. Facilitators and times of meetings are listed below. Please call **Bonnie Clark (353-7930)** or one of the facilitators.

**Mondays 2 PM:** Betty Mulhern 610-353-5035.

Twice monthly: Sue Mita 610-566-4819

**Tuesday 7:30PM** (monthly): Mary Ann Foster 610-566-1399.

**Men's Group:** Jim Dooley (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays) 610-892-9684 at 7:30PM.

**Wednesday 7AM** Men's Group: Don Saleski (610-566-3492) in Church Gathering Room.

**Monthly, 9:30AM**, toddler's welcome: Jeanne Barker 610-627-1009.

**Weekly, 3 PM:** Eleanor O'Rourke, White Horse Village 610-558-9128.

**Thurs 7:30PM:** Bonnie Clark (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> wks) 610-353-7930. If you would like to start a group, call Father.

## RELIGIOUS BOOK STUDY GROUP

The Study Group will start up again in October. Please contact Gina Mesko at 610-872-0876 or [gagm2002@comcast.net](mailto:gagm2002@comcast.net).

## EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY: Angel Visits

Our parish needs individuals who can visit private homes and Nursing Homes with Holy Communion and good cheer for those who are sick or can't come to Sunday Mass. Visits can be made on any day of the week. Some of these visits will be once each week, others may be for a short term only. If you can help us bring God to those in need, please call **Anita Morro and Deacon James** in a ministry that lets you bring spiritual aid and comfort to those in need.

## LITTLE CHURCH SCHOOL

Parents are reminded that **Little Church School** takes place most Sundays during the 10:00A.M. Mass. **Little Church School** is for children from ages 4 to 5. Parents bring children to the Gathering room in the church opposite the restrooms. Children learn about God through stories and arts and crafts while parents are attending the 10:00A.M. Mass. **We are forming a team for this ministry. We have a leader; volunteers are needed to assist her starting in September.** Please call Deacon James 610-565-5782.

## ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

### Saturday – August 29

5:30PM – K. Cardamone, M. Volpe

### Sunday – August 30

7:30AM – A. & R. Gargano

10:00AM – S. Jenson, J. McLarney

11:30AM – O. Patane, C. Mulhearn

5:30PM – S. & W. Weyler

## SMM CYO ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

### Edgemont Country Club

### October 1, 2009 1:00PM Tee Time

50/50 tickets will be available in the back of church starting September 5 through September 27. Hole sponsors (business or families) are available for \$100. For registration or sponsor info please contact. Jim Natale at 484-442-8314 or

Paul McCarthy at 484-574-3993

Please support SMM CYO

## SAFE ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOP

All volunteers at St Mary Magdalen School and Parish who have contact with children must meet the following requirements before any contact with children.

1. Attendance at a Safe Environment Workshop.
2. A current Criminal Background check.
3. A current Child Abuse clearance.

These requirements from the Philadelphia Archdiocese apply to all adult participants at St Mary Magdalen School, PREP, CYO, Scouts and anyone working with children in any capacity. St Mary Magdalen Parish will hold a seminar on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00PM in our school. Forms for the two background checks will be available at this session or at [www.epatch.state.pa.us/Hone.jsp](http://www.epatch.state.pa.us/Hone.jsp). This one time seminar will fulfill the Archdiocese requirements. Please register with Pierina Antonello at [www.smmnurse@comcast.net](mailto:www.smmnurse@comcast.net) or [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). Registration is needed to prepare for workshop materials.

## SACRED SONGS & ARIAS-CDs & DVDs

The CD and DVD recordings of the Sacred Songs & Arias recital performed at SMM on March 14th by Stephanie Piraino, Patricia Au and Patrick Davey are now available. Those who reserved CDs or DVDs can pick them up from Lee Gardella at the Script Table in the church lobby after the 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM Masses. For those who did not reserve a recording but would like to obtain one, a limited number of extra CDs and DVDs are available. Please provide your name and telephone number to Mr. Gardella and you will be contacted when your recording is ready for pick-up.

## HEALING AND HOPE PROGRAM

The Healing Ministry along with the HOPE program, by the power of the Holy Spirit, continued to serve the parish throughout the summer. In spite of decreased volunteers due to vacations, the necessary prayer, communion visits, guidance, counsel and meals were generously provided to our parish families who experienced crisis, death and illness. In September, The Healing Ministry and HOPE program will power up to recruit and train new volunteers. The ultimate goal is to have 100% of our families on the list. To be a volunteer you need only be willing to make a meal a year or stop in and check on a neighbor. Training for other acts of service will be provided as needed. This effort will ensure that when the Lord calls His people to Love and serve Him; we will be prepared to say "yes" to the call.

**Remember, "God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called.** Hope to have you join the effort. In His Timing, Anita Morro RN BSN 610-566-8821 ext 7.

## RESPECT LIFE

### GOVERNMENT "HEALTH CARE"

This remains the prime LIFE issue. We hope you are aware that it mandates abortion as health care. Medical professionals will be punished if they do not participate in abortion. It provides rationing of care for the disabled and elderly (the federal government will examine all citizens every 5 years beginning at age 55). Contraceptives, abortifacients and condoms will be provided for the married and unmarried. Essentially, it will install FOCA as health care. As we go to print, the House and the Senate have delayed a vote until at least September 2009. What other evil lurks in this 1,000 page assault on humanity cannot be determined by us at this point. We encourage all to contact and sign petitions addressed to our Representatives and to Senators Casey and Specter.

### SMM MEN'S MORNING OF RECOLLECTION

Enjoy the blessings of mass, spiritual talk, and sharing with brothers in Christ desiring a closer relationship with Jesus and other Christians. We meet the second Saturday of the month for Mass at 8:30 AM, followed by meeting until noon in the church meeting area downstairs. Contact Len Wroblewski at 353-3647.

## BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

The Bereavement Ministry would appreciate help in sending cards a few times a year to those who have lost a loved one. These cards reinforce the concept that we are a caring parish. They mean a lot to those who are grieving. If interested please contact **Dottie Donohue at [ddonohue@cohs.com](mailto:ddonohue@cohs.com)**.

St. Dorothy Parish, Drexel Hill, offers on 8-week Bereavement Support Program on Tuesday evenings beginning September 15 at 7:30PM. All are welcome, especially those who have lost a love one during the past 6-24 months. Call 610-789-9914 or 610-789-7257.

## MUSIC WORKS COMES AT SMM

MusicWorks is a nonprofit, music therapy service provider working with children (3-20) and young adults (21+) with autism spectrum disorders, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy and other special needs. In September 2009, SMM is offering small group music therapy sessions on Tuesday late afternoons & early evenings. We have been operating music therapy sessions at St. Denis in Havertown on Mondays and Saturdays & at Notre Dame de Lourdes in Swarthmore on Thursdays. New for 2009, MusicWorks will be offering financial assistance for families who qualify. MusicWorks also works with Magellan Behavioral Health Clients. Please call us at 610-449-9669 to register for sessions. For more info, go to [www.musicworkswonders.com](http://www.musicworkswonders.com) today!

## LAUGH WITH THE PASTOR

**FEEDBACK:** The inevitable result when your baby doesn't appreciate the strained carrots.

## ARE YOU READY FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

Christianity is losing the Spiritual Warfare to the secular world. We are approaching the Final Confrontation when Jesus will come again as the Divine Mercy to confront and conquer Satan. We need more apostles to spread the Divine Mercy message. For more information on how you can help in this battle, please call George Hudson at 610-565-8098.

## CHARISMATIC RETREAT

A powerful **Charismatic Retreat, titled "Called to Holiness, Called to Mission: Living as Catholics Today!"** is in the works to cap off the summer of 2009 here at **Malvern Retreat House on Friday, August 28 through Sunday, August 30.** Catholic TV and radio hosts/evangelists/authors Ralph Martin and Sister Ann Shields as co-directors, as well as Fr. Larry Hess of the Diocese of Allentown. The retreat is open to men, women, teens, as well as religious and clergy. For registration call Jane Schneider 484-321-2562.

## LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Deepen your relationship with Christ! Take part in a Spirit-filled weekly series of six Life in the Spirit Seminars at Nativity BVM's Conference Room (adjacent to the rectory), September 22 through October 27, 2009 at 7:30 PM. All are welcome. Any questions, please call Paul or Betty at 610-627-1581.

### STEWARDSHIP AND TITHING

**It is truly more blessed to give than to receive.**

May God bless your family-team spirit for providing for our material and spiritual needs. Our business manager, Mr. Tony Antonello reported that our fiscal year report is outstanding due to your continued generosity and goodness for the betterment of our parish family. Tony volunteers his time and talents and saves our parish about \$50,000 a year. I praise God and thank all who volunteer with the love of Jesus.

Jesus loves you and so do I, Fr Ralph

**August 16th - \$19,426.00**

**Last Year - \$17,336.00**

**ARCHDIOCESAN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:** We thank four parishioners for pledging \$3.1 million. Our parish capital campaign for the benefit of the Archdiocese and our parish will begin January 2010. If you would like to serve on the committee, see Fr. Ralph

### SMM FISCAL YEAR REPORT 2008-9

Each time I think of your deep faith, hunger for an intimate relationship with Jesus, and your many acts of charity and compassion, I praise God and thank you for the joy of serving as your pastor. In collaboration with our deacons, principal, president, wellness coordinator, business manager, musicians, cantors, and parish leaders, we certainly are **building a family of faith in Jesus Christ through Catholic worship, education and charity.**

Hope you are enjoying the booklet capturing the inspirational beauty of our new church which gives glory to God and lifts our minds and hearts to intimacy with our Lord and the saints. Please offer your personal thanks to Peter Lerro for photographing and writing this book. Also, thank Cecilia & John Hallinan, Diana & Joseph Naselli, Kimberly & David Panichi, JoAnne & David Thomas and Marie & Bill Murphy for covering part of the cost. Extra copies are available in the parish office for \$5 each or at the SCRIP Table on Sundays.

I am especially grateful to our charitable outreaches as we share our collections, host our homeless, and provide meals and food for the needy. This year in addition to meeting all of our parish expenses, we donated \$318,561.00 to help the mission of our Catholic faith within and outside our Archdiocese. We are truly tithing the tithe and sharing our blessings with others. We hope in the future to have a dedicated fund for the poor.

In this Year of the Priesthood, please pray for all priests and especially for Fr. James Hughes, Fr. John Mulgrew, Fr. William Chiriaco (our resident teaching at Cardinal

O'Hara HS), and your pastor so that in the words of Pope Benedict we can be **“the heart of Jesus for you.”**

**Love and prayers, Father Ralph**

### SSM FINANCIAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR ENDING - JUNE 30, 2009

	Church	School	Total
Income	\$1,457,488	\$1,026,561	\$2,484,049
Op Exp	<u>675,066</u>	<u>1,653,985</u>	<u>2,329,051</u>
Exp-Inc \$	782,422	(\$627,424)	\$ 154,998

Parish subsidy to school \$627,424 (40%)  
Parish Debt \$291,175

Extra Parish Donations \$197,461  
Archdiocesan Assessment \$121,100  
Parish Stewardship \$318,561

Parish Cash \$221,450  
Endowment \$853,523

Due to you, our generous parishioners we have greatly reduced our church debt to \$291,175 and all our contractors are paid to date. For that we are most grateful. Church pledges remaining to collect total \$265,843. There are still some commemoratives available and you can contribute any amount towards our lovely St Mary Magdalen statue. Please contact Mary Lou in our parish office if you are interested.

Last year our Sponsor a Student program (again with your aide) allowed us to help 6 families keep their children in our wonderful school. We are in the process of offering assistance to another 4 – 5 families for this coming school year. Please contact Mary Lou if you can see your way to help this year.

Our parish family presently stands at:  
1716 families  
5927 members

### SPONSOR A STUDENT

St Mary Magdalen School is asking for donations to the **Sponsor a Student Program.** Over the past few years we have been able to assist some of our parish families with financial aide who have fallen on bad times. This year we are especially in need of help for 4 or 5 families. We know many of our parish families have suffered set backs over the last couple years but if you can, we would be most grateful to anyone who is able to help a needy student attend our parish school. Any amount is appreciated. Please forward your donation to the parish office attention Mary Lou. We assure you that the families receiving this aid are truly needy and practicing our Catholic Faith.

## DEACON'S CORNER

As many of you know, I had hip replacement surgery this summer. I had been experiencing pain in that area of my body for several years and the doctor advised me that surgery would be the solution. While recovery from any surgery can be difficult, joint replacement surgery on the hip and knees are challenging because the patient has to learn to walk on a limb that is brand new. Progressing from walker to cane to normal is a project. Getting back to natural walking is not an easy task.

While in therapy, I was blessed with some free time this summer to think about God's gifts. I wasn't able to walk without assistance for a while and it led me to think of how dependent on God we really are for our whole being. He's given us the gift of life and intellect, the capacity to love and be loved, the chance to get to know Him intimately through prayer and meditation. But one of the greatest gifts He's given us is a Parish Community where we can help one another physically and spiritually.

I am grateful to our SMM Community for the many prayers, cards, e-mails and gifts which aided me so well during re-hab. As I progressed in therapy, I could almost feel the prayers and thoughts of our Parish Community lifting me up along the way. In a special way, I want to thank my wife who had to add "Professional Nurse" to her life long profession of Dental Hygienist. I forced her to hold down two jobs this summer.

The time off also let me appreciate our Wellness and Healing Ministry. To those who are ill or disabled, a helping hand is just so comforting. I'm almost fully recovered now. So thank you to all who helped me in any way, especially those who prayed for me. - Deacon James

## PARTICIPATE AND SING AT MASS

BY MSGR. ARTHUR ROGERS

PASTOR OF ST. MATTHIAS, BALA CYNWYD

The gospel passages at Sunday Mass will be taken from the Gospel of Saint John, and the theme of these readings is the Bread of Life. Foreshadowed in the Old Testament by the many occasions when God provided food for the people of Israel as they wandered in the desert and foreseen by the miracle performed by Jesus in the feeding of the thousands with just a few pieces of bread and a few fish. These weeks ahead call our attention to the spiritual food that we are given in the Eucharist.

As you listen to the gospel readings over these next few weeks, I strongly encourage you to consider the great

gift of the Holy Mass and the Holy Eucharist. As human persons we realize the importance of food in order to sustain our physical lives. As spiritual persons we must grow to realize the utmost importance of the spiritual food that comes to us in the Holy Eucharist as the necessary element for our spiritual life and growth.

The Holy Eucharist, the Bread of Life, is often called the Sacred Banquet. It is indeed a banquet in so far as it is the fullness of spiritual food that will sustain us, strengthen us and encourage us to grow in our relationship with Jesus, who is truly present in this Eucharist, in this Sacred Banquet.

On a very practical level, consider what you would do to prepare yourself if you were invited to a banquet. Your mode of dress, your whole attitude would announce that something special is about to happen at this special banquet. Your whole person responds. Your attention is directed entirely to what will be involved.

When you come to Mass, when you come to receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist, your whole person should be directed toward this great act. Your attitude should be directed to the reality of the Eucharist that you are to receive. You must be properly prepared. Freedom from serious sin and a time of fasting from all food and drink are elements of preparation for the Sacred Banquet.

Consider what you are about to receive. Consider who you are to receive. Prepare well. Appreciate fully. It is Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

## ELECTRONIC TITHING – EFT

**Back in December we established an electronic Funds Transfer program for Sunday giving.** Several families have signed up for the program. It is a monthly withdrawal on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. This program provides a simple, convenient and time saving service for you and us. Please consider using this method of contributing. Forms are available in the Narthex or you may call Mary Lou in our office at 610-566-8821 X109.

**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DEPAUL** - Clothing Drive to be held on September 12, 2009. 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The truck will be located at Our Lady of Charity, 231 Upland Road, Brookhaven, PA 19015.

St. John Chrysostom Parish is looking for a church custodian (part-time). Contact Rosemary Endres at the Parish House, 610-874-3418, ext. 108

## **YEAR OF THE PRIEST**

We ask Ever-living God and father of us all, You give to Your Church the Priesthood of Your Son, Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, You provide holy priests for holy people. We pray for all our priests, who announce the Word of God and celebrate the Sacraments, for those who are young and those who are old, for those who serve in difficult and trying circumstances, for those who are faithful and those who are faltering, and for those who have died. We entrust all our priests to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary that they may persevere with fidelity to You and to Your Church. With Saint John Vianney, patron of priests, we pray that our priests may never fail to lead us to You through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **COMMEMORATIVES AVAILABLE**

**Reconciliation Room - \$15,000**

**Chandeliers & Pews (\$10,000)**

**Windows in Chapel (\$25,000)**

**Memorial Board- \$5,000**

**Belltower pews- \$1,000 each**

**Processional Candle(s) - \$300 each**

**Robes, Crucifixes - \$100**

**Be part of our new statue of SMM with any donation you can afford. Call Mary Lou at 610-566-8821 X109**

### **COMMEMORATIVE BOARD**

**All donors for our new church and offices are recorded in our BOOK OF GRATITUDE Located in the narthex.**

**For those who made a significant donation and their names are not on a plaque (for instance our pews and chairs), we will install a BENEFACTOR BOARD in the Narthex.**

### **CHURCH BOOKLETS ARE AVAILABLE**

**For \$5 at the parish office or SCRIPT table.**

### **ACME RECEIPTS**

**DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR Acme receipts with you to church and place them in the box in the Narthex. These receipts help our school obtain new equipment. Thank you for all who do so faithfully.**

### **CATHOLIC LIFE CONGRESS 2009**

**Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> - 8:30AM – 4:00PM  
Archbishop Carroll High School, Radnor, PA  
Keynote Address – Joe Paprocki**

**Over 70 Major Presentation and Workshops – Eucharist Liturgy & Exhibits. Call 215-587-5667**

## **LIFE IS A GIFT**

Today...Before you say an unkind word – Think of someone who can't speak

Before you complain about the taste of your food – Think of someone who has nothing to eat.

Before you complain about your husband or wife – Think of someone who's crying out to GOD for a companion

Today...Before you complain about life – Think of someone who went too early to heaven

Before shinning about the distance you drive – Think of somehow walks the same distance with their feet.

And when you are tired and complain about your job – Think of the unemployed, the disabled, and those who wish they had your job.

And when depressing thoughts seem to get you down – Put a smile on your face and think; you're alive and still around.

**DO YOU KNOW YOUR TRIBUNAL?** The Tribunal is a group of specially qualified priests, sisters, and lay persons whose responsibility is to come to the help of people who experienced divorce.

When divorce occurs, the Catholic Church always seeks to balance two realities. One is the unbreakableness of the bond of marriage. This is God's law. It cannot be broken by human intervention. On the other hand, the Church is concerned about the spiritual welfare of the people involved. Was this a true marriage? Even though a Catholic marriage was celebrated, was there perhaps some weakness in the consent of the parties involved? The annulment procedure addresses this problem without affixing blame on either party.

If you are divorced or married outside the Catholic Church, please telephone the Tribunal Office. Have no fear. All interviews are private and confidential. THE TRIBUNAL, 222 NORTH 17<sup>TH</sup> ST., PHILA., PA 19103 (215)587-3750.

### **LADIES NIGHT OUT**

Our 5<sup>th</sup> annual evening has been scheduled for Friday, November 13, 2009. If you or anyone you know would like to fill our vendor tables, please contact Nicky Verna at [tverna@comcast.net](mailto:tverna@comcast.net) or 610-627-2383. Please mark your calendars for this fun and friend-filled evening.