

**Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Disciples of Christ - May 10, 2009**

Reading 1: [Acts 9:26-31](#) The Church Grew in Numbers  
 Reading II: [1 John 3:18-24](#) Love in Deed and Truth  
 Gospel: [John 15:1-8](#) Bearers of Fruit

**Gospel Summary** - By using the image of a vine and its branches, Jesus helped his listeners understand the interconnectedness of relationships between the Father, Jesus, and his followers. Jesus is the vine and we, the followers, are the branches that grow from the vine. The gardener, the one who provided the growth and did the trimming, was God. When we are living examples of God's love and act as Jesus did, we provide much fruit. When we fail to do this, we create a lot of dead wood and produce no fruit.

**Reflection for Families** - For many of us, there are certain things we enjoy in our lives. There's a good chance that some of our pleasures stem from days before we became parents such as a weekly golf outing, shopping, a night out with friends, or a short get-away... Of course it is healthy to take care of ourselves, but this reading gives us an opportunity to see if there are some things that no longer contribute to our growth on the branches. The fruit we bear is faith and love. Do we need to do some pruning in order to show our children that we are truly fruit-bearing branches on Jesus' vine?

**Bringing the Gospel into Your Family** - If your family can get to a real grape vineyard that would be great! Otherwise, go for a walk in a park or your own yard and notice how bushes grow. Point out the new branches and look for dead branches even parts of the bush that have fallen to the ground. Make connections as a family about what are the parts of your lives that are good, healthy, and fruit bearing. Look then at the dead wood and parts of the tree that have fallen away. What are those things in your lives? Take time to pray together as a family asking God to help you prune away the deadwood.

**HOPE MEAL & RIDE PROGRAM**

May 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> – Chris Sincavage – 610-892-9355

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**SATURDAY, May 9th**

8:30AM Intentions of Pauline Walsh  
 5:30PM Margueritte Broomall

**SUNDAY, May 10**

7:30AM William & Kathleen Gribble  
 10:00AM Barbara Dzwonczyk  
 11:30AM Dr. Harold Ciampoli  
 5:30PM PFC Paul E. Allard, USMC

**MONDAY, May 11**

6:30AM Alfonso Giliotti  
 8:30AM Al Postus

**TUESDAY, May 12**

6:30AM Fr. Chieffo's 34<sup>th</sup> anniv.  
 8:30AM John McGovern

**WEDNESDAY, May 13**

6:30AM Pray for SMM Vocations  
 8:30AM Mary McGowan

**THURSDAY, May 14**

6:30AM Sick of the Parish  
 8:30AM Anthony Elia

**FRIDAY, May 15**

6:30AM For parents who lost children  
 8:30AM Barbara Dzwonczyk

**SATURDAY, May 16**

8:30AM Louis S. Procaccini  
 5:30PM 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary for Deacon James & Classmates and our CYO Teams and Coaches

**SUNDAY, May 17**

7:30AM Deceased members of the Felizzi Family  
 10:00AM Elizabeth Manion  
 11:30AM Rose Carrozza  
 5:30PM Mike Doyle, Sr.

**5:30 SUNDAY MASS WILL CONTINUE!!!**

**Flowers in the Chapel - In memory of Patrick Cotter  
 Bread & Wine – In memory of Isabel Murphy**

**PRAISE THE LORD**

**Fr. Paul Stemson (class of 1998)** will be serving as our new Parochial Vicar starting **May 13<sup>th</sup>**. **Father John Mulgrew** will become our resident and will join us for Mass when he can.

**SMM SCHOOL REPORT**

We invite you to enjoy the blessings of a Catholic formation of your children by visiting our school. Contact Miss Miniszak at 610-566-8821 ext. 122. Our capacity is at 460 with no more than 20 students per class for Kindergarten, 25 for first to third grades, and no more than 27 for fourth through eighth.

**PROJECTED SCHOOL ENROLLMENT  
2009-2010**

		Available
<b>Gr K</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Gr 1</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Gr 2</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Gr 3</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Gr 4</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Gr 5</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Gr 6</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Gr 7</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Gr 8</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>392</b>	

**BUDGET 2008-2009**

<b>School Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,027,650</b>
<b>School Expenses</b>	<b>1,805,700</b>
<b>Parish Subsidy</b>	<b>(\$778,050)</b>

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL  
WHO CARES, WE CARE AT SMM**

**Cardinal Rigali commended our parish family  
for donating beyond our goal last year - \$97,000.**

Our School Children have already contributed \$2,700 to this year's appeal. We ask all of you to do your best, so that God can do the rest in caring for our needy brothers and sisters in our own Archdiocese. Our goal is \$85,000. If we are hurting, imagine those who have lost jobs, handicapped, or mentally ill. Contact Ann or Rudi Chillemi to help us make telephone calls.

**MATTHEW MULLIN CHARITY FUND**

The Parish Family and I grieve the loss of our dear parishioner Matthew Mullin. Matt graduated from SMM school, St. Joseph Prep, and St. Joseph University. He was working in China and drowned while on a boating trip. Matt was 27 years old, most respectful, industrious, and a faith filled person. His parents are Mike and Sheila and he has a brother, Mark. He coached our CYO HS teams and loved rowing. Matt loved to care for the needy and a charity fund has been established in his honor. If you want to participate, you can write a check: **SMM Mullin Charity Fund** and send it to our church.

From Mrs. Burke's Desk...

Registration information: 610-565-1822

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

Our annual May Procession will be held on Friday morning, May 15 at 10:30 AM. Please join us as we honor Mary, Our Blessed Mother. Deanna Javage, in grade eight, will serve as May Queen attended by first grader, Ava Ferry. All are welcome! Please share the good news of our school which is academically challenging and passionately Catholic.

**SMM Alumni News:** *Our graduates continue to excel in medicine and law!*

Doctor Joanne Filicko O'Hara, MD, SMM Class of 1978 was especially honored recently by the Eastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey chapters of The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at their Annual Black Tie Gala at The Hyatt Regency Hotel in Philadelphia. Joanne was awarded their annual "Service to Mankind Award" for her service as a member of the Board of Directors of the organization, a speaker at patient and professional education programs, and a fund raiser for leukemia

and lymphoma related activities. Joanne is an Assistant Professor of Medical Oncology and Director of Hematology Medical Oncology Fellowship Training Programs at the Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. Joanne's twin sister Terry Filicko, also SMM 1978, is an Adjunct Professor of Political Science at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

**Lori Frio**, SMM Class of 1996, did her undergraduate studies and graduate studies at Saint Joseph's University and obtained her MBA in management. Then, Lori went on to graduate from Villanova Law School. While at Villanova Law School, she was Editor in Chief of the Women's Law Forum Journal and Associate Editor of the Journal of Catholic Social Thought. After law school, Lori sat for both the PA and NJ bar exams and is now both PA and NJ bar certified. She is currently working at Dilworth Paxson, LLP in both the Philadelphia, PA and Cherry Hill, NJ offices, and working in the litigation department, primarily on bankruptcy matters.

We would love to hear what our many graduates are doing. Please e-mail any alumni update to [presidentsmm@comcast.net](mailto:presidentsmm@comcast.net). Thank you again for the information for our alumni database. Our all class reunion I planned for will be on Saturday, November 28, 2009.

**EUCCHARISTIC 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.

Congratulations to **Barbara Eubanks** who will graduate from the Archdiocesan Ministries Program next Sunday.

**PARISH MAY PROCESSIONS**

**School: Friday, May 15 at 10:30 A.M.**

**PREP: Wednesday, May 13 at 7:00 P.M.**

**In the Church. All are Welcome!!**

**NEXT MAY 5, 2010 at 7 PM our parish May Procession will involve our entire parish family.**

**A time to be baptized... Jonas Gregory Mersch, Anne Katherine Bellopede, Grace Elizabeth Crotty.**

**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 is **May 13, 7:00 PM**. 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, **Matthew Mullin, Patricia Dolente, Frances Nasella**, and 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, Robert Bonner, Fred Cambio, John Cammorato, Gianna Campbell, Terry Campbell, Chick Carman, Rosemary Casey, Daniel Casullo, Nancy Clay, Christina Connors, Sean Cosden, Regis Cronin, Gennela D'Orazio, Ann DiDonato, Marcella DiMaggio, Erin DiMartino, Eleanor DiPangrazio, Carla Donato, Sr. Michael Marie Donnelly, RSM, Frances Dougherty, Robert Franklin, Louis Gentile, Vincent Grasso, Margaret Greto, Dorothy Greenawald, John & Helen Hartman, Rev. James Hughes, Elliott Johnson, Henry Johnson, Richard Leighton, Richard Lucente, Joseph Manion, Michael Manganiello, Joe MacDonald, Theresa MacCombie, Elizabeth MacIntyre, Debra Marcoux,II, Joseph Maylish, Peggy Matthews, Joe McCarthy, Mary McDevitt, Ann Minizak, Lucille Noonan, William O'Brien, Fran Okon, Timothy Poole, James Ranieri, Sr, Bobby Ruggieri, Jean Quarto, Carolyn Rock, Billy Saar, John Scott, John Shea, Dan Shillington, Betty Tedesco, George Tyson, Samantha Johnston-Twining, Louise Veit, Catherine Walsh, Lindy Zwahlen

**Congratulations and God's blessings on the wedding of Jason Nydick to Missy McDonald, Richard Bondurant and Kellie Keegan, Lindsey Conan and Douglas Dryer, Hanyoung Park and Helselphoth Brett, Meng Tan and Christie Anne McGlone. WEDDINGS** need to be arranged 6 months ahead by contacting Fr. Chieffo or Fr. Stenson.

**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.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL –JUNE 22-26**  
**ADULT volunteers URGENTLY needed for Vacation Bible School 2009**, June 22 to June 26, 9:00 am until 12 noon. We need adults to lead age groups to different activities, take roll, etc. One morning or all 5 mornings, anytime you can give us is appreciated. In order for VBS to happen, it is required that we have proper adult coverage. We are seriously short of adult volunteers. Contact Nicky Verna [TNVerna@comcast.net](mailto:TNVerna@comcast.net), 610-627-2383 or check [www.stmarymagdalen.net](http://www.stmarymagdalen.net) for forms and details.

**WELCOME OUR NEW FAMILIES**  
**Charlotte Busacca, James & Lisa Kelly, Stephanie Doud & Nicholas Gallo. 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.**

**RELIGIOUS BOOK STUDY GROUP**  
Celebrate the year of St. Paul by joining the religious book study on **St. Paul & His Epistles**. The group meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday evening of the month from 7:35PM-9PM in our library. Please contact Gina Mesko at 610-872-0876: [gagm2002@comcast.net](mailto:gagm2002@comcast.net)

**PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:**  
**HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!**  
Our Lord, Jesus Christ, the same Jesus Christ that suffered and died for us and is now risen from the dead, is present every day and night in the Monstrance in our very own Chapel! Stop and reflect for a moment what that means. It has been said that if we truly believed in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, we would be crawling on our hands and knees to Church to visit with Him and to be near Him. As it is, the Lord of the Universe has one or two adoring Him most hours. Consider the blessing 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 Sat. 1-2 AM and there are many hours with only one adorer where two are preferable. 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.

**DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO THE QUANTITY OF MINUTES, BUT THE QUALITY OF TIME SPENT TOGETHER.**

### **Need a Huge Return on Your Investment?**

The many small Faith Sharing groups in our parish are **NOT** a Bible Study. They are more a discussion group with your fellow parishioners using the current Sunday Mass readings as a kick-off point. The time you invest, especially now that Lent is upon us, 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 one of the facilitators.

**Sunday evenings, 7:30PM:** Terry Campbell 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**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.

### **HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTER**

We are planning to hire **Karen and John Hoey** to replace **Paul Manion** after 5 years of great service as our Youth Minister. We thank Paul for his labor of love and wish him well for serving as an inspirational role model as a man of faith, husband and a proud Daddy.

### **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).

### **THE ROSARY & BENEDICTION**

Join us every Tuesday in the chapel at 7:15PM. Benediction will be on May 12th and Deacon James DiFerdinand will offer a scripture reflection and Benediction after the Rosary.

### **SMM MOMS IN TOUCH**

Meet for prayer hour on Tuesday mornings at 9:00AM in the St. Katharine Drexel Room in the school. Even if you are not comfortable praying in a group, just joining us and praying silently in your heart

will add to the strength of all our prayers! Small children are always welcome. Not sure if our group is for you? Call Dana Westby at 610-892-9680.

### **SMM MEN'S RETREAT AT MALVERN**

The Malvern Retreat League invites you to experience the benefits of a weekend retreat at St. Joseph's in the Hills. Retreats are conducted most weekends of the year at Malvern and information may be obtained by logging on to their website ([www.malvernretreat.com](http://www.malvernretreat.com)), or telephoning Dr. Jack Colombo (610-891-0731) or Vince Zeller (610-353-7739). Remember also, that several men from our own parish will be gathering for our special retreat weekend this year on June 12, 2009. Consider joining us and be pleasantly surprised.

### **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 3 to 5. Parents bring children to the Kindergarten room in the school. Children learn about God through stories and arts and crafts while parents are attending the 10:00A.M. Mass. A special request goes out to anyone who can be a leader for Little Church School starting next year in September. Anyone who has experience with Little Church School and can act as leader, please call Deacon James DiFerdinand 610-565-5782

### **ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE**

**Saturday – May 16th**

5:30PM – M. Narzikul, A. Wilson, M. Szipszky

**Sunday – May 17th**

7:30AM – B. Rennie, A. & J. Lombardi

10:00AM - A. Keith, R. Morro, G. Fitzgerald

11:30AM – M. Gilligan, S. McCabe, S. Byrnes

5:30PM – S. & K. Fulmer, J. Nolen

### **AND WE'RE OFF!**

Help us "Groom the Track" for the 2010 SMM Spring Auction and Social (save the date: **March 20, 2010**) "The Kentucky Derby... A Night at the Races" Step into the Winner's Circle by volunteering your time and talent on one of the committees. Contact [kellyhassey@msn.com](mailto:kellyhassey@msn.com) or 610-353-1750. The Parish Family and I are most grateful to Kelly and Joe Hassey.

### **LAUGH WITH THE PASTOR**

On Palm Sunday, Mass was a little too long for one grandchild who was getting fidgety. His Mom Mom leaned over and told the child he had only 5 more minutes to be still then Mass would be over. As soon as the last song was sung the 5 year old yelled out "Now we can get out of here".

## **THE GRIEVING PROCESS BY D. DONZE**

**DEATH** – the mere sound of the word conjures up uneasy feelings for which we have no control or clear answers. It comprises an upheaval of life as we know it; the finality of our... and our loved ones' humanness.

According to Stephen Levine, author of "Healing into Life and Death", "Grief is the rope burns left behind when what we have held on to most dearly is pulled out of reach, beyond our grasp." Our grief is our fear of loss, our fear of the unknown, our fear of death.

Losing a loved one is a pain like no other and wracks our total existence. It affects our mental, emotional, and even physical states of being. Each one of these states requires its own healing resources and its own timeframe for completion.

No, this process is never easy and the hurt may linger far beyond what one may think is even tolerable, but when the natural order of life is breached, and a child, no matter what age, is taken from us, the pain exceeds excruciating and sets us on a different recovery path. During this vulnerable time, the comfort of family and friends is invaluable, but so is an understanding of the intense emotional experience called the grief process and the many support systems available to help clarify these turbulent unfamiliar emotions.

In the late 60's, Elizabeth Kubler-Ross developed the five stages of grief in an attempt to explain and understand the mourning process. Kubler-Ross was a trailblazer who allowed us the opportunity to explore a topic which had been previously ignored (swept under the carpet if you will) due to its complicated and uncomfortable nature. We thank her for her much needed insight.

Kubler-Ross's model is a linear one moving from denial to anger, bargaining and depression...then finally to acceptance. In subsequent grief models, we now find that mourners do not necessarily completely satisfy one stage before venturing into the next. One can feel multiple layers of emotion. For a time it may seem as if healing is progressing well and then some trigger hits and the bereaved feels the pain as deeply and raw as a freshly cut wound. It is important to realize that this is a normal part of the process and does not necessarily impede overall progress. New models are taking this complexity into account. One such model which is gaining acceptance in the field of Grief Counseling is a 4 Step Model which ties each phase to an associated task or outcome.

### **Phase#1 Initial shock and denial**

**Task- to accept the reality of loss.**

### **Phase#2 - Facing the painful truth**

**Task- to experience the pain of grief.**

### **Phase#3 - Putting the pieces together**

**Task- to adjust to an environment in which the deceased is missing – spiritual issues start to emerge at this phase.**

### **Phase#4 - Saying "yes" to life**

**Task - to emotionally and mentally relocate your deceased loved one and hold them close to you in another spiritual plane.**

Please allow me to recount a personal story to further exemplify this. When I was first dating my husband, his parents shared the fact that they had a two year old son, Donny, who died of trachitis seventeen years earlier. I was curious how they had overcome this tragedy since they were such vital, active people. But I chose to forego questioning them, and merely offered my condolences. After I was married I had the opportunity to ask my mother-in-law how she was able to cope with such loss. Her answer was simple yet profound. She told me that Donny wasn't lost. She knew exactly where he was. He was always next to her, guiding and helping her. She needed to believe this to go on. Then she explained that it wasn't easy getting to that point. There were months which turned into years where she suffered intense mental and physical anguish, often waking in the middle of the night with a feeling that she was choking. But with enough time and care she was able to assign Donny a spiritual place next to her which gave her comfort. It was only then that she was able to give herself permission to continue living her life.

I feel there is no hard and fast timeframe for these phases to transpire even though some grief books give a suggested time for each. The only advice I give you is to honor your comfort level, practice self-care, and be proactive in identifying any auxiliary resources you feel you need during this difficult time.

One such resource might be a grief counselor. The role of this specific kind of therapist is not to eliminate any of the bereavement phases and tasks (he/she couldn't nor would he want to) but rather to facilitate, clarify and journey with you during this time... that is to say... to help articulate what is incomplete. The goal during session is to provide a safe haven for you to emote, share, vent, pray, remember, express feelings, or just join together in silence knowing that there is a higher presence in the room helping with healing.

This is what you should experience on a therapeutic visitation, but I'm going to give you a bird's eye view into what a counselor is looking for during these visits. The therapeutic bond is very important. Our clients have to feel they have made a connection with someone who has empathy and sympathy. The counselor offers a supportive, nurturing environment conducive to the healing of pain and loss, and does this while assessing progress and looking out for stumbling blocks. He or she becomes a yardstick for progress reminding you that what you are feeling is normal. If there are any signs that additional help is indicated, the counselor will then suggest adjunct resources such as support groups, reading material, spiritual advisors, physicians, and /or other clinicians depending on the need. In this way the grief counselor and the grieving person can be part of a team whose mission is to honor and respect the pain of grieving and the personal journey of the mourner.

Now I am going to go one step farther in this journey. After enough healing has taken place and our grieving individuals are at a point where they can see a future for themselves, the grief counselor can then become a life coach. One of the hardest parts of grieving is not being able to see yourself in the future without the one you have lost. This is particularly difficult for parents who have lost children because we, as parents, place our future with theirs... our dreams for them become our dreams for ourselves. We not only long for their physical presence, but we mourn their unrealized potential. Now we have to redefine our own futures and make them worthwhile. This is anything but easy. There will be days where you can clearly see into the future and have a direction, and days where there seems to be only bleakness ahead. But with the help of professionals, loved ones, and time you will come to see that the hurting heart and the healing heart are the same heart.

Thank you for your kind attention. I hope some of this information was helpful to you. In the final analysis, we know that none of us is immune to the fragility of life at any age. My prayers go out to all of you who are walking the difficult road to healing. Be assured that you are not alone. There are other travelers journeying as well, and you won't have to look far to find a helping, sympathetic hand reaching out to embrace yours.

Dr. Deborah Donze is a Psychotherapist specializing in trauma therapy. She holds a Masters Degree in Pastoral Counseling from Neumann College and a Doctorate in Natural Health from Arkansas College of Natural Health. Dr. Donze is also a licensed Life Coach, and has advanced training in Rational Emotive Behavioral Therapy, Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing,

and Grief Counseling. She is a member of St. Mary Magdalen parish. Contact Dr. Donze at 610-363-1844 or [debdonze@hotmail.com](mailto:debdonze@hotmail.com)

### CHURCH PLEDGES

**901 Families have pledged to date and our parish debt is \$400,000. Please join us!**

Dear Parishioner,

We celebrated the One Year Anniversary of our new church in April, 2009. The Parish Picnic on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> was one of the ways we expressed our thank you to all of our parishioners. I especially want to thank the parishioners that gave so generously. To those parishioners who were not able to make a pledge during the Capital Campaign or the Building phase, I ask you to consider doing so now if it is at all feasible. Again I thank you for partnering with me and with Christ, Father Ralph and all our parish leaders.

### NEW CONTRIBUTIONS

**Fred "Sid" and Pat Dolente – a pew  
In Memory of Marian Vadino  
Patricia Pettinati  
Caryl Schaefer**

### COMMEMORATIVES AVAILABLE

STATUE OF ST MARY MAGDALEN- \$50,000  
WINDOWS IN CHAPEL - \$25,000  
#10 The Ascension #14 The Last Day  
CHANDELIERS & PEWS - \$10,000  
MEMORIAL BOARD- \$5,000  
RESTORED PEW IN NARTHEX - \$1,000 each  
CHOIR FRONTALS - \$600  
CHURCH CHAIRS - \$500  
CHOIR AND SERVER ROBES- \$100  
CRUCIFIXES FOR OFFICES - \$100  
Call Mary Lou at 610-566-8821 X109.

### STEWARDSHIP AND TITHING

In these times of financial crisis, may God bless your family-team spirit and for providing for our material and spiritual needs. Jesus loves you and so do I, Fr Ralph

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$26,227.00**

**Last Year - \$22,401.00**

**Catholic Charities - \$19,755.00**

**School children- \$2,700**

**Please consider using Electronic Fund Transfer or donate by mail or collection by a monthly donation to help us budget our income.**

**CYO TEAM MASS**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 16<sup>TH</sup> AT 5:30 PM**  
**CELEBRATE THE GREAT YEAR FOR OUR**  
**TEAMS, COACHES, AND PARENTS**  
**DEACON JAMES AND HIS DEACON CLASS**  
**WILL JOIN US WITH FR. CHIEFFO**

**CYO FALL SPORTS REGISTRATION**

Open for on-line only registration  
Must register by May 22, 2009  
Cross Country, Varsity & JV Soccer, Varsity & JV Field Hockey, Varsity & JV Volleyball  
Please register on-line at [www.eteamz.com/smmcyo](http://www.eteamz.com/smmcyo)

**SMM CYO Coaches Needed**

Please volunteer to coach one of our many teams  
Cross Country, Soccer, Field Hockey, Volleyball, Basketball, High School Basketball, Track, Lacrosse, Golf, High School Volleyball, Softball, Baseball  
Coaching applications must be sent to one of our Athletic Directors by May 8, 2009. You can download the application at [www.eteamz.com/smmcyo/handouts/](http://www.eteamz.com/smmcyo/handouts/)

**COMFORT CARE PACKAGES**

If anyone would like to donate items for those serving in the military, here are some suggestions: Spring, summer & early fall temperatures are very warm. Desired items are: chapstick, sun block, insect repellent, white cotton tube socks (can be cheap), travel pillows, baby wipes in soft packaging, soap. For games/entertainment: Frisbees, cards, dominoes, dice, music CDs...make a copy, movies...any kind, books, magazines: sports, Hollywood, local papers, snack packs, candy, gum, canned chips. If you would like to assist with the cost of packaging and shipping there will be a basket for donations. Call Marian Moran at 610-892-0255 or email [marianLmoran@hotmail.com](mailto:marianLmoran@hotmail.com)

**FATHER CHIEFFO ON THE RADIO**

Each **Thursday on AM Radio 800, 5:00 – 6:00 pm. Fr. Chieffo** explains the **Catechism of the Catholic Church on In His Sign Radio**. If you would like to donate for a program, make a check to IN HIS SIGN Ministries and give to Fr. Chieffo

**ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER**

“EFT” electronic fund transfer is available to parishioners who wish to make regular **Sunday** contributions on a **monthly** basis. Bank forms are available in the church narthex. Complete the form and turn it into our church office, located under the church. Call Mary Lou for information, 610-566-8821 X109, if needed. Your **monthly** contribution will be electronically transferred on the **15<sup>th</sup>** of every **month**.

**GIFT CARD PROGRAM**

For over 80 local and popular merchants. Please log onto [www.stmarymagdalen.net](http://www.stmarymagdalen.net) to print an updated order form or you may pick one up at our Scrip Sales table. This is an on-going program and orders are taken monthly. Merchants return on average 7% of our sales and all monies go directly towards our school tuition fund. Any questions contact Nicky Verna. [tnverna@comcast.net](mailto:tnverna@comcast.net) or 610-639-3816.

**LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR**

The Little Sisters of the Poor want to extend our warmest thanks to you for allowing us to plan a visit to your parish the weekend of May 23-24 to make an appeal after the Masses.

**IRENA SENDLER**

There recently was a death of a 98 year old lady named Irena. During WWII, Irena got permission to work in the Warsaw Ghetto, as a Plumbing/Sewer specialist. She had an “ulterior motive”... she KNEW what the Nazi’s plans were for the Jews. (Being German). Irena smuggled infants out in the bottom of the tool box that she carried and she carried in the back of her truck a burlap sack. (For larger kids.) She also had a dog in the back that she trained to bark when the Nazi soldiers let her in and out of the ghetto. The soldiers of course wanted nothing to do with the dog and the barking covered the kids/infants noises. During her time of doing this, she managed to smuggle out and save 2500 kids/infants. She was caught, and the Nazi’s broke both her legs, arms and beat her severely. Irena kept record of the names of all the kids she smuggled out and kept them in a glass jar, buried under a tree in her backyard. After the war, she tried to locate any parents that may have survived it and reunited the family. Most of course had been gassed. Those kids she helped got placed into foster family homes or adopted. Last year Irena was up for the Nobel Peace Prize...She was not selected. Al Gore won, for a slide show on Global Warming. LET’S SEND THIS ONE AROUND THE WORLD!!!! GOD BLESS HER, May she rest in Peace.

Dear Father Chieffo,

I loved the picnic; I hope we can do this every year. Thank you from Pdraig Casey.

I really enjoyed the picnic. Thank you for making my day great. I loved everything like the food, games and the moon bounce. I think everyone had a great time. Thank you so much. Sincerely, Fiona Casey