

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

Rejoice in the Lord—Always

Praising God overcomes sin and frees us to see the face of God in all that we love and serve. Jesus became one of us to show us the way and the truth and to have faith and hope in eternal life. Our destiny is to rejoice always and join the Communion of the Saints. The Holy Spirit consecrates us to be a channel of peace, while the devil condemns us for our sins. By trusting in the infinite love and mercy of Jesus, He enables us to forgive others as God forgives us.

A saint is a sinner who keeps on striving to be like Jesus. When we pray the 'Our Father,' we profess that by calling upon the name of Jesus, we can build a family of faith by trusting His will is our peace. We can strengthen our family and friends and build a culture of life by receiving the supernatural bread of heaven. Saint Augustine challenges us to believe, "We become who we receive." Each time we receive Holy Communion, we become the Body of Christ and companions on our journey to heaven.

Saint Francis de Sales teaches us: “The measure of love is to love without measure.” God will forgive us to the degree we are willing to forgive others. Jesus paid the price for our sins. There is no greater love than to sacrifice our time, talents, and resources for the good of another. We can rejoice always because whenever the devil tempts us, we can call upon God’s Powerful Spirit (GPS) to choose what is good and avoid evil.

Imitate the saints, especially our Servant of God,
Father Bill Atkinson, and remember JOY is Jesus,
Others, and then Yourself. Love Jesus with all
your mind and heart!

Love others the way God loves you! Love yourself, and you will be a joyful blessing to all you love and serve. How do you rejoice in the Lord?

—Rev. Msgr. Ralph J. Chieffo, Pastor

2023 Parish Appeal News



St. Mary Magdalen currently has 6,048 registered members or 1,670 parish families.

Last year, the average weekend
Mass attendance was 741.
That's approximately 12%
of our entire community.

Over the past five years,
our flock has seen a 38%
decline in Mass attendance.

The Body of Christ is made of many diverse parts—Yet a hand, a heart, a lung has no purpose without its body.

If you are among those who have been away, Jesus knows you and loves you, and so do we. Come, be in communion with Him, and find joy with others in His community.



2023 Fall Programs

That Man is You!

Thursday Morning at 6:30 AM

Our 'Worthy of the Call' series runs now through December 15. Join in anytime!

Walking With Purpose

Tuesday AM or Thursday PM

Our new season begins in October with three Bible series options for women.

Pray the Rosary

Tuesday at 7:15 PM

Join us in the Chapel to pray the Rosary every Tuesday at 7:15 PM.

Bereavement Series

Monday at 1:30 PM

Blessed are those who mourn—for they are not alone. Our support series runs all five Mondays in October.

See our website or bulletin for specific program details and other events.



Our Pilgrimage to God Begins with Three Ps

This year, in our PREP program, school, and parish, we are kicking off a three-year initiative called **Virtue=Strength**. Its motto, "Learn the Virtues. Love our Lord. Live the Faith," will be reflected throughout our campus by our catechists, teachers, and at home by the first educators of faith—our children's parents. While we are excited to begin this faith journey by consciously incorporating this platform into our lives, we can lay the path with these practices, or the three Ps, to assist us on our life-long pilgrimage toward God.

We must live **Purpose** driven lives.

Archbishop Pérez calls each of us to live as intentional Missionary Disciples. Living our lives with intention is a promising start. The next step is to live purpose-driven lives. Bishop Fulton Sheen said that the most significant difference between a life of quiet desperation and one without is the absence or presence of a goal or purpose. To live purposefully as Missionary Disciples, we must strive to better the lives of those close to us.

We must be **Present** to those around us.

If we are truly present to others around us, we will never have to worry or concern ourselves with meeting people where they are. If we constantly have to remind ourselves to meet people where they are, we are not being present to the people God has called us or them to be and the love we all might offer one another. The Lord, in his wondrous mercy, will meet and accept each of us as we are. Only when we are present and available to others do we follow our purpose and plan as our Lord's disciples.

We must take time for **Prayer**.

The gifts of purpose and presence are not possible without prayer. Indeed, the most efficacious prayer is the Mass. Communally, we celebrate our Savior's Life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension into heaven. As we recall where we began, "In the Eucharistic celebration, we already unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy and anticipate eternal life." When we live a purposeful and goal-driven life, we intrinsically become present to our neighbors through prayer. Prayer is the connector to our Lord, others, and ourselves.

These three Ps will sustain and strengthen us on our road toward sainthood as we follow and practice the 'virtue' signs along the pathway to our Lord.

—Deacon Joseph



All Around Our Campus

Jesus Shines His Light

The spirit of our parish resides with our families, and St. Mary Magdalen's collective heart rejoiced in the familial sights and sounds of students returning to class for a fresh and faith-filled academic year in our school and PREP.

Our new principal, **Mrs. Amy Crawford Bauer**, and the faculty and staff welcomed 374 eager learners back to our campus on September 6. Among the new faces were three teachers and several aides: **Ms. Kerri Finley** (*alumni*), **Ms. Mia Anthony** (*aide*), **Ms. Erica Braunlinger**, **Mrs. X-Hail Griswold**, & **Mrs. Vonnie Urbanski** (*aide*).

Just before the new year began, the Archdiocese notified the school that it was named a **'School of Distinguished Instruction'** for a second consecutive year due to the merits of our students' excellent *Terra Nova* test scores in areas of growth and for exceeding their potential. We were one of eighteen schools in the Archdiocese that achieved the highest mastery level. We congratulate our students, their parents, and teachers for achieving this high standard for the third time in five years. Mrs. Bauer shared, "This parish and school are steeped in history and tradition, and I am blessed to serve this community as it continues to build its legacy and further its mission of education and service following the teachings of our Catholic faith."

Our Religious Education team, guided by **Deacon Joseph Boyle, Jr.**, who also serves as the school's new president, along with **Mrs. Dorothy Brown**, **Mrs. Joanne Hinkle**, and dedicated catechists, received 180 PREP students from 1st through 7th grade. Many energetic families and teachers kicked off a new season of Catholic formation during a vibrant Catechetical Sunday, September 17. Deacon Joe remarked, "It was wonderful to see the multitude of faces in the pews at Mass, and we look forward to being with you for a wonderful year together."

Last year, prompted by several families, we launched **Sunday Class Masses** comprising of school and PREP students, who hosted a monthly Mass by grade and participated as lectors, greeters, altar servers, in the choir, as well as in the congregation with their families. Then, H&S offered a lively fellowship in St. Francis Hall with boxloads of delicious donuts and other refreshments. These parent-inspired and youth-driven Masses had overwhelming participation, and we look forward to offering them again this year.

New this year, the parish added a spiritual enrichment program, **Virtue=Strength**, to benefit all students, teachers, and catechists. This program incorporates weekly virtues to develop robust Catholic principles.



Seniors' Social Club

Second Wednesday, Monthly

Enjoy fun and fellowship the second Wednesday of each month from now through May at 1 PM in St. Francis Hall.

Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Monday 7 AM to Friday at Midnight

Come and adore Him—spend time with Jesus in our peaceful chapel.

Little Church School & CLOW

Sunday Mass at 9:30 AM

"Let the children come to me." Children's programs offered during the 9:30 Mass.

Legion of Mary

Tuesday at 9:30 AM

Join us in the Gathering Room for prayer and service to our blessed Mother.

How can we serve you? Email our staff or call the parish office at 610.566.8821.



Our Financial Report for 2022-23

Pastoral Revenue

Sunday Collections	401,657
Mailed & EFT Donations	939,245
5% donation to Charity account	(64,735)
Holy Days & Directed Donations	376,182
Prep Tuition and Other Fees	42,100
Total Pastoral Revenue	1,694,449

Pastoral Expense

Total Salaries & Benefits	605,458
Archdiocesan Assessment	190,900
Administrative Expense	249,833
Maintenance & Utilities	146,935
Total Pastoral Expenses	1,193,126
Total Pastoral Operating Income	501,323

Non-Operating Items

Endowment Donations & Interest	108,074
Unrealized Gains on Investments	205,201
Net Charity Account	6,263
Parish Capital Improvement Expense	(17,691)
Net Archdiocesan sponsored collections	(2,200)
Total Pastoral Extraordinary Items	299,647
Net Pastoral Income	800,970

School Revenue

Tuition Income	1,930,856
Fees, CARES and other Income	89,168
Total School Revenue	2,020,024

School Expenses

Total Salaries & Benefits	2,197,561
Administrative and CARES Expense	216,476
Maintenance & Utilities	232,147
Total School Expenses	2,646,184
School Operating Deficit	(626,160)

Development

Direct Fundraising	305,771
Fund Raising Expense	(13,081)
Net Direct Fundraising	292,690
Total School Operating Deficit	(333,470)

Non-Operating Items

Internal Transfer from Charity Account	25,000
School Capital Improvement Expense	(110,411)
Total School Extraordinary Items	(85,411)
Net School Income	(418,881)
Total Net Parish & School Income	382,089

Financial Overview

We remain immensely blessed by the support of our generous parishioners and school families. During the past fiscal year, donations to the parish through collection, mailed donations, and EFT have increased over the prior year. EFT donations are the preferred method to make donations, especially with school families. Overall donations have increased a modest one percent year over year.

Our parish was not immune to the broader issues we all faced, including higher costs and inflation. Maintenance and utility costs increased in the church and the school. School income increased by 4.2% while expenses increased by 3.9%, resulting in little impact on the operating loss. The combined normal operations of the church and the school were \$167,853 or \$214,943 less than last year. This fiscal year results, from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, does not include our biennial gala, scheduled for April 6, 2024.

Over the past five years, capital improvements and enhanced infrastructure for the campus topped \$1.8 million. This year, extensive church projects included updating our church lighting program and installing a new security camera system.

In the school, renovations to the basement included an additional classroom. We updated all classroom doors and locks to ensure the highest security for each. We doubled the size of our security camera system and now can view the entire school building, doors, and grounds. We have replaced our aging generator with a larger capacity unit. As always, we are thankful to the many who have supported and assisted us over the past year with their time and talent. We are especially grateful to those who help to guide us, volunteering their time to serve on the Parish and Finance Councils, the Endowment Board, and the School Board.

Especially during this year dedicated to Parish Renewal and Eucharistic Revival, we hope you and your family feel welcome and are renewed at Mass, and we hope you will partake in some of the many faith-based programs and events offered this fall and throughout the year. Again, we are grateful for your support and thankful to be your spiritual home.

To Give to the Appeal

For your convenience, please use the enclosed envelope, or scan our QR code to access a secure link to our Parish Giving.

We thank you for your support!

