

Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

28 SEPTEMBER 2025

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Dear Friends in Christ,

I have one final installment in the series on the Lord's Prayer. But I'm going to save that for next week. Today, I want to spend a moment considering one of the greatest saints in the modern age, a woman who was canonized 100 years ago, and whose feast day is this Wednesday.

Thérèse Martin was born into a devout family in Alcenon, France. Her mother died when she was very young, and so her saintly father raised her and her sisters, relocating to Lisieux to be closer to family. She lived as normal a life as possible under such circumstances. To all outward appearances, she was a bit quiet, but studious, playful, and beautiful. She attended school and did very well, but also experienced frequent illnesses, and had the lingering melancholy which frequently comes to those who lose a parent at a young age.

She certainly went along with her father's spiritual leadership of his home, which involved Mass, the Rosary, and other pious practices. But this was not simply something forced or endured. Interiorly, young Thérèse had a profound dialogue with the Lord, taking place from a very young age. From as long as she could remember, she wanted to be a nun and always say yes to Jesus. Her writings, particularly her autobiography *Story of a Soul*, reveals a simple, childlike faith, one characterized by a deep trust in the Lord—that He loved her, and that she could love Him freely and in an unaffected way.

Once, when she was fourteen, she read the story of an Italian assassin who had been given the death penalty. Thérèse decided that she would pray fervently and make sacrifices for the intention of this man's conversion. A few months later, she read an account in *La Croix*, a French newspaper, about how this man had publicly kissed a crucifix and begged forgiveness before his execution.

God answered Thérèse's prayer!

That was her whole life: worship and prayer, a life of voluntary sacrifices done for love of Christ and in service to His people. While entering the Carmelite monastery at

continued on page 3

2 Mass & Devotions

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Permanent Deacon, Retired



PARISH MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Sunday

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM & 7 PM

Weekday

Tuesday thru Friday
6:30 AM & 8:30 AM

On Mondays Mass is at 8:30 AM.

Saturday

8:30 AM & 4:30 PM Anticipated Mass

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: 6:15 PM to 6:45 PM Confessions,
followed by Adoration, Vespers, & Benediction at 7 PM to 8 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.

See ministries and parish services on our website.



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.

fifteen (after great efforts to make an exception for her young age, including going all the way to Rome to ask Pope Leo XIII himself!) might strike us as a flight from the world, Thérèse's spirituality had none of this self-focused "me and God" attitude to it.

She was profoundly in love with the Lord, but saw no contradiction between being a cloistered nun and loving her brothers and sisters. She saw her life as a life for others. And this became the basis of her "little way," a path to sanctity which involves doing small things with great love. Her little penances were often so small and hidden that no one knew of them except her. It could be cleaning a floor when no one was looking, avoiding leaning against something when it would have been easier to do so, or even smiling with delight when encountering another nun whom she found difficult or irksome. These small acts done with great love were Thérèse's path to holiness. What makes this so beautiful is that every single one of us can do the same thing.

Thérèse, whose name given by her Carmelite superior (her own sister) was Sister Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, longed to be a missionary ("I would want to preach the Gospel on all the five continents simultaneously and even to the most remote isles") and even volunteered to move to a monastery far from her homeland in missionary territory. But her poor health meant that she never got that opportunity. Yet she saw her small, hidden life as very important to Jesus and of great good for souls. In particular, she was given two spiritual "brothers"—priests in missionary places whom she was asked to pray for in particular.

Probably the most famous section of *Story of a Soul* describes her coming to understand the nature of her special call from the Lord:

"I continued my reading, and this sentence consoled me: 'Yet strive after THE BETTER GIFTS, and I point out to you a yet more excellent way.' And the Apostle explains how all the most PERFECT gifts are nothing without LOVE. That Charity is the EXCELLENT WAY that leads most surely to God.

I finally had rest. Considering the mystical body of the Church, I had not recognized myself in any of the members described by Saint Paul, or rather I desired to see myself in them all. Charity gave me the key to my vocation. I understood that if the Church had a body composed of many members, the most necessary and most noble of all could not be lacking to it, and so I understood that

the Church had a Heart and that this Heart was BURNING WITH LOVE. I understood that it was Love alone that made the Church's members act, that if Love ever became extinct, apostles would not preach the Gospel and martyrs would not shed their blood. I understood that LOVE COMPRISED ALL VOCATIONS, THAT LOVE WAS EVERYTHING, THAT IT EMBRACED ALL TIMES AND PLACES... IN A WORD, THAT IT WAS ETERNAL!

Then, in the excess of my delirious joy, I cried out: O Jesus, my Love...my vocation, at last I have found it...MY VOCATION IS LOVE!

Yes, I have found my place in the Church and it is You, O my God, who have given me this place; in the heart of the Church, my mother, I shall be Love."

Sister Thérèse died in the monastery at Lisieux after suffering terribly from tuberculosis in 1897. She was only 24 years old. In 1914, her cause for canonization was officially begun by Pope Saint Pius X, who told a missionary bishop privately that the young nun was "the greatest Saint of modern times." She was canonized on May 17, 1925, with over half a million people present in Rome. In 1927, Pope Pius XI proclaimed Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus the principal patroness, equal to Saint Francis Xavier, of all missionaries, men and women.

Dear friends, in this new apostolic age, when the Church's mandate to announce the Gospel is more urgent than ever, we entrust ourselves to the intercession of Saint Thérèse, that each of us, in our own vocations, will radiate the burning love of God to all we encounter.

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker



NEW! MASS PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday, October 4

4:30 PM—Fr. Eric Banecker

Sunday, October 5

7:30 AM—Fr. Robert Pesarchick

9:30 AM—Fr. Eric Banecker

11:30 AM—Fr. Eric Banecker

7 PM—Fr. Eric Banecker

**This schedule may be subject to change without notice.*

PARISH

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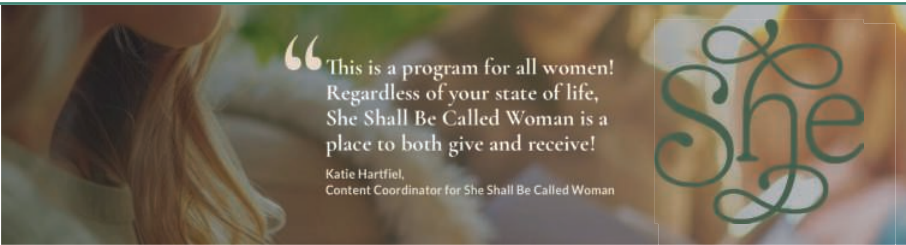
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Katie Hartfiel,
Content Coordinator for She Shall Be Called Woman

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A Catholic Series for Women

We are delighted to offer this free series on Mondays from 5 to 6 PM in St. Francis Hall.

Our program is a sanctuary for those seeking to be truly seen, known, and loved as they grow in their relationship with the Lord. It is open to all women, regardless of where they are in their spiritual journey.

To join us, scan the QR code.

To learn more, contact Patty at pszipszky@gmail.com, pick up a flyer in our narthex, or visit SheShallBeCalledWoman.com.



THAT MAN IS YOU! INVITES ALL MEN TO JOIN US FOR

TMIY

BECOMING A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

OUR FOUNDATIONAL SERIES THIS FALL

Combining the latest science with the teachings of the Church and the wisdom of the saints, this introductory program series from Paradisus Dei develops the vision of man. It makes an honest assessment of the challenges men face and provides a practical path to transformation by focusing on their relationship with God and introducing the 7 Steps to Superabundance.

Embark on this incredible journey with men in our community on Thursday mornings. Doors open at 6:15 am in St. Francis Hall. We end by 7:30 am. For men 18 years and up.

Join us anytime, or for more information, contact John Gill at jgill@stmarymagdalen.net.



NEW! SENIORS' SOCIAL CLUB MEETING WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

The Seniors' Social Club invites you to join them on **Wednesday, October 8th, from 12:45 to 3 PM** in St. Francis Hall, located on the church's lower level, which is handicapped accessible and has an elevator to the lower level. Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon of lively conversations, fellowship, and refreshments. This month's entertainment is provided by drummer and singer Greg Albert. **New members are welcome, and we look forward to seeing you.**

NEW! FALL COAT & HOODIE DRIVE OCTOBER 6 TO OCTOBER 17

Cleaning out your closets? Have extra coats or hoodies? St. Mary Magdalen Stewardship will host its annual Coat and Hoodie Drive from **October 6 to October 17**. Bins will be available in the narthex and outside the gym vestibule. Bring in gently used or new coats to donate to CityTeam. Donated hoodies will go to St. John's Hospice at the Boot Up Philly event.

NEW! 40 DAYS OF LIFE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

SMM parishioners are invited to act as prayer witnesses for the unborn from 7 AM to 7 PM on **October 18**. To register your vigil hour please visit Chester County 40 Days at 40daysforlife.com.

For more information or questions, please contact Deacon Bob at deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net.

NEW! BEREAVEMENT SESSIONS

St. Mary Magdalen offers our care and support to those who have suffered the loss of a loved one. Join us for four in-person group sessions with Deacon Jude Opara in St. Francis Hall on the following Wednesdays this fall: **October 8, October 22, November 5, and November 19**. All are welcome.

NEW! LITTLE CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Throughout the school year, Little Church School is available during the 9:30 AM Mass for ages 3 through 5. Join us in the **Gathering Room** beginning **October 5**, to learn about Jesus through stories, songs, games, crafts, and prayer. Parents can help support the program by volunteering for a session or two throughout the season. **For more information, please contact Elizabeth Logan at elogan26@gmail.com.**

NEW! BIOETHICS SEMINAR AT ST. MARY MAGDALEN OCTOBER 24 & 25

Join medical professionals dedicated to a tradition of compassion and care for the human person during the **National Catholic Bioethics Seminar** at St. Mary Magdalen on **October 24 and October 25**. This seminar is designed to benefit healthcare workers, clergy, medical researchers, and other professionals who provide spiritual support and counsel to patients and their families. Topics include Pregnancy-Related Complications, Assisted Reproductive Technologies, Gender Ideology & Medical Interventions, Determination of Death & Organ Donation. **Registration includes continental breakfast and lunch—a special rate is available for SMM parishioners. To learn more or to register, visit ncbcenter.org.**

INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLICISM

Our Catholic faith is the story of abundant life, love, and joy.



Are you considering becoming Catholic?

Our flexible hybrid experience will accompany you on your way to the profound gift of Jesus' love and truth of his Holy Church. Your faith journey will deepen as you traverse at your own pace through online videos and interactive face-to-face group discussions this fall. A path for Catholics wanting a 'refresher' and non-Catholics considering becoming Catholic.

A NEW SEASON BEGINS
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28.

To learn more scan the QR, or email deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net



ST. MARY MAGDALEN
WIN  PLACE  SHOW UP

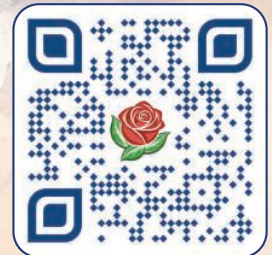


FRIDAY
April 17
2026

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THE DETAILS



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EVENT

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Are you interested in joining our parish? Visit our website or stop by our parish office to register. We welcome new parishioners weekly.
The Atwood Family, The Owen Family, Mark & Mary Zimmerman

CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of **Lynn Ciminera, Donald Frank, Catherine Quindlen, Ruth Seganti**, those souls who died due to wars or conflicts, including the Holy Land, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, those lost to natural disasters 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, Charlie Ayers, Charles Bastian, Anthony Biondi, Kevin Boylan, Joe Cahill, Christine Cavaliere, Mary Cichanowsky, Jean Cotter, Joseph DeFabio, James D'Amore, Kieran Doran, Theresa D'Orazio, Kevin Gallagher, Katie Garwood, Jacquelyn Gibbons, Bob Gentile, Rodie Henson, Mary Ellen Hoffman, Francis Iacovone, Gregory Lewis, Leonard Lombardi, Shellz Mangan, Floyd Marvin, Robin Marvin, Mary Jane & Pat McCloskey, Dorothy Milliner, Dorothy Moerman, Daniel Murphy, Joan Murphy, Mike Murphy, Michelle Okon, Carol Ortner, Bill Pace, John Pollera, Nicholas Quercetti, Sr., George Rodgers, Naomi Rouse, Agnes Ruggieri, Daught Ryan, Peter Salemo, Brendan Shain, Lisa Innaurato Shaine, Bill Snyder, Nancy Sowa, Amerigo Tomassi, Mark Torregosa, Forest Wheeler, Kathy Will, Roseann Yannacone, and Ernie Zappacosta.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to our newest newlyweds!
Daniel Sanchez & Melissa Beach

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to our newly baptized! For baptismal information, visit our website for an intake form, call, or email baptisms@stmarymagdalen.net.
Christian Beckham Willard



Our PREP students and their families enjoying the start of a new year—Welcome back!

Prayers & Mass Intentions 7

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

8:30 AM – Vince Zeller
4:30 PM – Ints. of Jody Minisci & Nicole Dolente

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

7:30 AM – Albert DiGregorio
9:30 AM – Vince Zeller
11:30 AM – Silvia Salera
7 PM – The People of the Parish

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

6:30 AM – No Mass
8:30 AM – Martin Donato

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

6:30 AM – James J. Clark, Jr.
8:30 AM – Cathryn Schumacher

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

6:30 AM – Ints. of Fr. Eric Banecker
8:30 AM – Ann Miniszak

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

6:30 AM – Ints. of Fr. Reuben Nuxoll
8:30 AM – William James Paffett, Jr.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

6:30 AM – James J. Clark
8:30 AM – Elizabeth Franco
& Bill Boylan

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

8:30 AM – Kevin Michael Glenn
4:30 PM – Ralph DiGiovanni

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

7:30 AM – Linda Romano
9:30 AM – Genevieve Giangiulio
11:30 AM – Theresa O'Boyle
7 PM – The People of the Parish



FLOWERS

In memory of our deceased parishioners

BREAD & WINE

In memory of Bill Boylan

CANDLE

In memory of Anthony P. Carbo



Dialogues: Deep in Our Lord's Vineyard

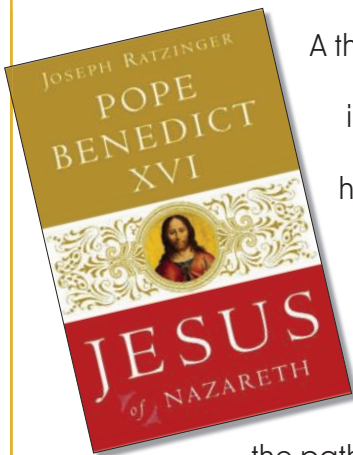
An SMM Parish Enrichment Book

Join us for an spiritually enriching journey centered on Jesus of Nazareth. Our aim is to deepen our knowledge and relationship with Him. Periodically, we will introduce a new book to enhance our personal relationship with God and grow in prayer life as we explore His abundant vineyard.

Jesus triumphed over the rebellion against His Father through His righteousness and the gift of divine love and mercy. His life and passion demonstrated that the way to eternal life is found by embracing the Way of the Cross. Through His disciples in the Bible, we learn about Jesus' public ministry, His frequent use of parables, and His instructions to pray and remain vigilant at all times. In John 15:1-17, it is clearly stated that pruning the branches of the vine is necessary to bear much fruit that will last. We are also instructed to love one another, as we are all part of "Our Lord's Vineyard."

If you are feeling stressed with life's demands, Matthew reminds us of the words of Jesus (11:28-30): "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

We begin with **Jesus of Nazareth, From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration** by Pope Benedict XVI.



A theological examination exploring Jesus's true identity through Gospel accounts, focusing on how He revealed God's nature to humanity and brought divine truth to Earth.

"He shows us the face of God, and in so doing he shows us the path that we have to take."

"Clearly written and engaging, this book helped me understand Jesus of Nazareth much better, way more than my catechesis or dozens of homilies."

—Online Reviewer



Scan QR to order the book.

SIGN-UP! SENIORS' SOCIAL CLUB TRIP THE SHORE CLUB

Our Seniors' Social Club invites you to join them on **Tuesday, November 11**, for a trip to The Shore Club in Spring Lake, New Jersey, for an afternoon of music, comedy, dancing, and good food.

The trip includes a deluxe coach to and from the venue, which departs and returns to SMM.

The day includes lunch with your choice of entrée, one hour of open bar, and a fabulous all-star show with tributes to amazing artists!

To reserve your seat, please contact Bill Moore at patbillbr4@comcast.net or call 610-742-3191.

Pick up the flyer in the narthex.

NEW! CARDINAL O'HARA OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Join us for our Open House at O'Hara on Sunday, October 5 from 12 PM to 2:30 PM.

Please register in advance at cohs.com.

Go Lions....and go Birds!

STEWARDSHIP & TITHING

August 2025	\$95,744
Collection:	\$22,128
Mail-in:	\$31,147
EFT:	\$42,469
August 2024	\$100,000
Collection:	\$26,064
Mail-in:	\$30,749
EFT:	\$43,187
School Annual Fund 2025	\$63,824
School Annual Fund 2024	\$58,730

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First Fridays

AT ST. MARY MAGDALEN



Friday, October 3

Join us for Family & Friends First Fridays—where we grow in Christ through fellowship, faith, and fun! Bring the whole family, invite your friends, and enjoy dinner and engaging activities for all ages. It's the perfect way to spend time with Jesus, build new friendships, and strengthen as a parish family.

Let's celebrate Mary, Our Mother, and the Rosary!

- Middle Eastern & Mediterranean Style Dinner
Includes kid-friendly options
- Kids' Craft Area: Make a Mini Rosary & More
- Virtue of the Month: Fortitude

All are welcome to join the day's activities, as they fit into your family's schedule.

Additional Dates

NOVEMBER 7 FEBRUARY 6

DECEMBER 5 MARCH 6

MAY 1

JUNE 5



An Envisioning Parish

6:30 AM

MASS

7:15 AM

MORNING PRAYER
CHAPEL

8:30 AM

MASS

AFTER, ENJOY A COFFEE &
SNACK IN THE NARTHEX CAFE.

9:45 TO 10:45 AM

PARENTS' RECOLLECTION
ADORATION & CONFESSIONS

11 AM

LIVE VERTICAL
TECHNOLOGY TALK
ST. FRANCIS HALL



5:30 PM TO 7 PM

DINNER & ACTIVITIES
ST. FRANCIS HALL

6:15 TO 6:45 PM

CONFESSIONS

7 TO 8 PM

HOLY HOUR
ADORATION, MUSIC,
VESPERS & BENEDICTION

8 PM

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6:00 PM Open House

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