

Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

19 OCTOBER 2025

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to thank everyone who has responded to my request last week to support this year's **Catholic Charities Appeal**. If you haven't had time to support those works of charity and evangelization carried out every day in the name of the people of the Catholic Church of Philadelphia, the QR code is on page 5. May God bless your generosity!

Thanks as well to those who have signed up to take an hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament during our **Forty Hours** devotions this week. As of this writing, there are still a couple of slots available—please check the boards in the narthex of the Church. Either way, I hope many will take advantage of this opportunity to spend some time in the silence and peace of the Eucharistic presence of the Lord.

Check out the full schedule in on page 4.

I assure you that it will be time well spent!

Finally, I want to invite all parishioners to **SEEK**—the annual conference organized by FOCUS. This year it will take place in three locations around the country from January 1-5, 2026. I and our FOCUS Missionaries will be attending SEEK in Columbus, Ohio. We have several parishioners signed up to attend already, but I wanted to make sure everyone knew of this opportunity. The events take place at the Convention Center in Columbus, and the schedule consists of Mass, keynote talks, topical breakout sessions, great music, and training in the Win-Build-Send model of FOCUS's ministry. It would not be an exaggeration to say that SEEK is inspiring and often transformative for all who participate. You can check out this video to get a glimpse of what the keynote talks are like—this is from Father Mike Schmitz's talk last year (he will be back this year):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DY9clf_c0eg.

Discounted registrations are available through our FOCUS team. Please contact Jake Barajas at jacob.barajas@focus.org to register, or for more information.

Today, in preparation for Forty Hours, I yield the balance of this space to a beautiful story of the history of the Forty Hours devotion in our Archdiocese and its connection to Saint John Neumann, originally written by Father Thomas McManus.

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker

2 Mass & Devotions

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Deacon E. Peter Zurbach, Ph.D.
Permanent Deacon, Retired

FOCUS

Jacob Barajas
FOCUS Missionary
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Tina Augustine
FOCUS Missionary
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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.

"The Feast of Corpus Christi, a holy day of obligation. We understand that on this day the devotion of the Forty Hours will commence in Saint Philip Church, Southwark. It will begin at six o'clock in the morning and will be continued through the remaining days of the week. The faithful are advised to visit that church to join in the devotions some time during its continuance." Those few sentences from the Catholic Herald, on 26 May 1853, mark an epoch in the history of a young American church. They signal one of the chief glories of the heroic career of Saint John Neumann, C.S.S.R., fourth bishop of Philadelphia.

Neumann is somewhat slighted in the traditional annals of American Church history. The sagas of the missionaries, the wrangling of the theologians, the jovian thunders of the Irelands, the Corriganes, and the Gibbonses tend to get star billing from the academicians. A sublimely, apostolically, simple pastor like Saint John does not always get his due.

But when the tumult and the shouting dies, we are left to this day with the enduring legacy of a saint in his introduction of the Forty Hours Devotion into the life of the American Church.

Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament was very close to the heart of Saint John—as it would be to any Redemptorist. Their founder, Saint Alfonso de Liguori, told his confreres: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." These saints valued and loved one treasure only—and their treasure was Jesus Christ; hence their hearts and all of their love went out to the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The sixteenth century devotion of the Forty Hours adoration of the Blessed Sacrament went deep into the European roots of Neumann's piety. From the beginning of his tenure as Bishop of Philadelphia, he wanted to bring this treasure of Eucharistic devotion into the American Church. The Forty Hours had been celebrated intermittently and locally in Philadelphia and other dioceses. Neumann would organize the Forty Hours as a diocesan program and eventually a national act of parish spirituality. He broached the matter informally with his priests early in 1853, and was met with a surprising amount of resistance. The Nativist riots of 1844, during which several churches in Philadelphia were destroyed or damaged, were still a green wound in local Catholic memory. The priests feared that so lengthy and so public an exhibition of Catholic piety would provoke further desecration. Neumann tabled the matter for the time being.

Then, late one night, while pondering and praying over the response of the priests, he fell asleep at his desk. He awoke to find that his candle had ignited the papers on which he had been working. He extinguished the blaze, and found that amid the charred remains of his correspondence, his papers concerning the Forty Hours had remained undamaged. As he fell to his knees in prayer, he tells us that he heard a voice saying within him: "As the flames are burning here without consuming or injuring the writing, so I pour out my work in the Blessed Sacrament without prejudice to my honor. Fear no profanation, therefore. Hesitate no longer to carry out your design for my glory."

And so it happened. In April of 1853, Saint John convened a synod of the Church of Philadelphia.

He later wrote: "Last month I assembled all the priests of my diocese and gave them the spiritual exercises; then followed a synod; and I have reason to rejoice over the success of both... Besides several statutes enacted upon various points of discipline, it was also proposed to introduce into the larger churches of the diocese the Devotion of the Forty Hours so that there might be no week in the year in which the Blessed Sacrament would not be exposed for the adoration of the faithful."

It was surely no accident that Neumann chose Saint Philip Neri Parish in Southwark as the inaugural site for his program of Forty Hours Devotions. Saint Philip Neri is often credited as the founder of the Forty Hours in sixteenth century Rome. Also, St. Philip's was the last of the churches to be desecrated during the tragic summer of 1844.

So, with something between a prayer and a dare, Neumann launched a movement of piety that still lies very close to the heart of the American Church.

Saint John composed the manual for the celebrations himself. He spent the entire forty hours in the church rapt in prayer. There were no disturbances, and the devotions spread from parish to parish. A year later he wrote to his sister: "In the nearby church of Saint Paul, the Forty Hours were held on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. The church was always crowded.

Fourteen priests heard confessions, and about three thousand people received Holy Communion... and so it goes the whole year, almost without interruption."

And so it has gone for a century and a half. In the Eucharist, we live and move and have our being.

In the Forty Hours Devotion, the heart of St. John Neumann still speaks to the Church of Philadelphia. 

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Mrs. Jessica Savko
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Principal
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FORTY HOURS

at St. Mary Magdalen

Tuesday, October 21
Wednesday, October 22
& Thursday, October 23

Celebrate the glorious gift of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist in adoration and word at 6:30 PM.

6 PM Confessions • 6:30 PM Holy Hour
Thursday evening includes a procession.

Sign up in the narthex for an hour as an adorer.



THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER SEMINAR

October 24 & October 25

The objectives of our seminar include training those engaged in health care ministry and other interested individuals to effectively represent the Church's moral teaching in their various institutions, as summarized in the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services. Upon completion of the program, attendees will be able to do the following:

- Articulate the Catholic Church's understanding of the inherent dignity of the human person as the objective basis for its moral tradition in health care.
- Recognize the theological, moral, and medical dimensions of modern-day challenges in health care and bioethics.
- Apply Catholic moral teaching and the Church's authoritative guidance to resolve complex ethical dilemmas encountered in clinical education, medical practice, and research.



at SMM Scan the QR to register. Special Rate for SMM parishioners!

NEW! ALL SOULS' MASS
WE REMEMBER CANDLE CEREMONY
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 • 11:00 AM

On Sunday, November 2, our parish community will come together to remember those who have returned home to the Lord and were buried from St. Mary Magdalen between October 1, 2024, and September 30, 2025, during our annual 'We Remember' All Souls' Ceremony and Mass. In our Candle Lighting Ceremony, beginning promptly at **11:00 AM** before Mass, each loved one's name will be read, and their family member will place a lit candle on the altar in their memory. After the Mass, each family may take their loved one's remembrance candle home as a keepsake. Please know that the members of St. Mary Magdalen are holding all of you in our thoughts, prayers, and hearts.

NEW! BEREAVEMENT SESSIONS
WEDNESDAYS • 10:30 AM TO 12 PM

St. Mary Magdalen offers our care and support to those who have suffered the loss of a loved one. Join us for in-person group sessions with Deacon Jude Opara in **St. Francis Hall at 10:30 AM** until Noon on the following Wednesdays this fall: **October 22, November 5, and November 19.**

OCIA OCTOBER DISCUSSION DATES

The OCIA series on 'Catholicism' has just begun! Our upcoming discussion dates in October are **Monday, October 6, and Monday, October 20,** from 6:30 to 7:45 pm in St. Francis Hall, located on the lower level of the Church. To learn more about becoming Catholic, visit stmarymagdalen.net/OCIA or contact Deacon Bob at deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net.

SENIORS' SOCIAL CLUB
COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Our SMM Seniors' Social Club is having a Communion Breakfast after Mass on **Sunday, October 26 at 11 AM.** Join us at the Springhaven Club on Route 252 in Wallingford. Our topic will be "*Spirituality of Christian Witness*", with guest speaker **Fr. Eric Banecker.** The cost is \$25. For more information, or If you are interested in attending, please contact **Bette at 610-733-3949.**

HOME VISITS

Would you like Holy Communion brought to you in your home? Would you like your home blessed? We are here for you! Please call our parish office to schedule a visit.



Giving Hope
TO ALL

For more than 65 years, the Catholic Charities Appeal (CCA) has brought Christ's love to one in five people across our region.

Scan here to learn how you can Give Hope to All!



Dialogues

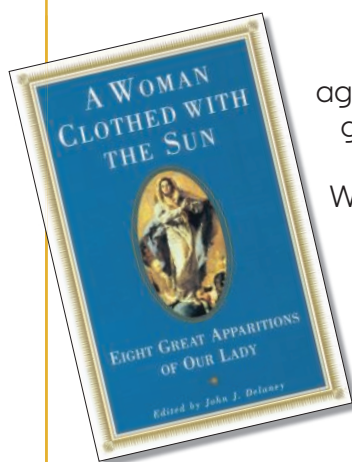
Deep in Our Lord's Vineyard

Throughout history, Our Blessed Lady has appeared with messages of warning, hope, and consolation, particularly during the last two centuries, known as the Marian Age. This period has seen numerous apparitions, each encouraging humanity to return to God through prayer, penance, and reparation for sins.

A Woman Clothed with the Sun explores the eight most significant apparitions of Our Lady: the Miraculous Medal in Paris, La Salette, Lourdes, Knock, Fatima, Beauraing, Banneux, and the sixteenth-century appearance at Guadalupe, which holds a profound message for Americans. The book provides historical context, describes the visions, and quotes Mary's messages from respected writers.

In the introduction, editor John J. Delaney examines the connections between these apparitions and their significance.

Our second book recommended by Dialogues—*Deep in Our Lord's Vineyard* is available online at multiple retailers.



'A book I've read and re-read over and over again. I've also bought it as gifts for friends and family. Well worth the read! When I visited the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, I knew more about Our Lady's appearance to Juan Diego than our guide did...all because of this wonderful book.'

—Online reviewer

Interested in a group discussion of this book or a previous book?

Scan the QR to fill out a short form, if there is enough interest, we will offer periodic book discussions!



NEW! VIRTUE OF THE MONTH • FORTITUDE

The Virtue of Fortitude, or Courage, is the strength to do the right thing in the face of fear and difficulties.

It is strength in adversity. Fortitude is having the courage and strength to do what is right, even when it's hard or scary. It's trusting that God is always with us. A model of this virtue might be when, confronted with anti-Catholic views, a Catholic exhibits fortitude by engaging in respectful, informed discussions that articulate the position of Truth. It requires courage to confront misunderstandings and misinformation while maintaining compassion for those who disagree.

The Crown of Thorns represents the suffering Christ endured during His Passion and His unwavering strength in fulfilling God's will. It is a powerful reminder that fortitude is not just about physical bravery but also about spiritual endurance, perseverance, and the courage to stand firm in faith despite hardships. Just as Jesus bore the crown with dignity and strength, we, too, are called to embrace our struggles with trust in God. For reflection, consider some situations in your life where you might be tempted to act out of cowardice rather than fortitude. How does the Bible's message of persevering to the end inspire you to act boldly in your faith and decisions? In what ways can you cultivate more fortitude in your daily life, and how can this virtue help you grow in your relationship with God and others?

CYO SPORTS REGISTRATION

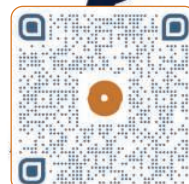
WINTER REGISTRATION
IS NOW OPEN.

ENJOY BASKETBALL
PROGRAMS FOR
ALL LEVELS!

LITTLE HAWKS
SKILLS CLINICS ON
SATURDAY MORNINGS
FOR K-4. A & B TEAMS
FOR GRADES 5-8, PLUS
HIGH SCHOOL CYO!

CYO is open to all girls and boys
in St. Mary Magdalen parish.

To register, scan the QR Code
or visit stmarymagdalen.net/cyo.



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.

Grant Mazmanian, The Cantando Family

CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of **Agnes Ruggieri**, 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 Ortnier, Bill Pace, John Pollera, Nicholas Quercetti, Sr., George Rodgers, Naomi Rouse, Daught Ryan, Peter Salemo, Brendan Shain, Lisa Innaurato Shaine, Kristin Ball Shortt, 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.

Theodore Robert Filson, Cameron George Hickey



Congratulations to the Sortino family on Francis Joseph's Baptism last Sunday!

Prayers & Mass Intentions 7

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

8:30 AM – Richard E. Donnelly, Sr.

4:30 PM – Robert McCullen

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

7:30 AM – Barbara Dzwonczyk

9:30 AM – Ints. of Ann & Bill Tierny

11:30 AM – Antonette J. LaRocca

7 PM – The People of the Parish

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

6:30 AM – No Mass

8:30 AM – Anthony Skubish

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

6:30 AM – Julia & Joseph Russell

8:30 AM – Raymond Kenney

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

6:30 AM – Mary A. DeMaria

8:30 AM – Mary Blake

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

6:30 AM – Ints. of Fr. Reuben Nuxoll

8:30 AM – Robert Stahl

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

6:30 AM – Delores Lerro

8:30 AM – George Monaghan

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

8:30 AM – Jane Mensack

4:30 PM – Joann Pagliei

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

7:30 AM – Joseph Malloy

9:30 AM – Ints. of Ann & Bill Tierny

11:30 AM – Thomas Logan, Sr.

7 PM – The People of the Parish



FLOWERS

In memory of our deceased parishioners

BREAD & WINE

In memory of Michael Santone

CANDLE

In memory of Agnes Ruggieri

TODAY! WORLD MISSION SUNDAY
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

World Mission Sunday, held every year on the second to last Sunday of October, is a day set aside when Catholics around the world unite in prayer and solidarity to support the Missionary work of the Church. Coordinated by the **Pontifical Mission Societies**, this year's theme is *'Missionaries of Hope Among The Peoples'*. To donate, envelopes are available in the narthex, or visit phillymissions.org.

LITTLE CHURCH SCHOOL
SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM

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** 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! MASS PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday, October 25

4:30 PM—Fr. Eric Banecker

Sunday, October 26

7:30 AM—Msgr. Beach

9:30 AM—Fr. Eric Banecker

11:30 AM—Fr. Robert Pesarchick

7 PM—Fr. Robert Pesarchick

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Our Mass Intentions book for the first quarter of 2026 is open, and now available online.



To make a request visit stmarymagdalen.net, or Scan the QR Code.

ROOTED IN GRACE
A BAPTISMAL RETREAT

First-time parents and new SMM parents preparing for their child's Baptism are encouraged to join us for a Pre-Jordan Retreat offered on the following dates from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM.

November 2

February 1

April 12

August 2

Includes Fellowship & Food.

Registration is required, please contact Stephanie at stephaniepdavey@gmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP & TITHING

September 2025 **\$128,779**

Collection: \$47,662

Mail-in: \$34,328

EFT: \$46,789

September 2024 **\$103,817**

Collection: \$38,373

Mail-in: \$19,485

EFT: \$45,959

School Annual Fund 2025 **\$70,924**

School Annual Fund 2024 **\$58,730**

We are grateful for your generous spirit!

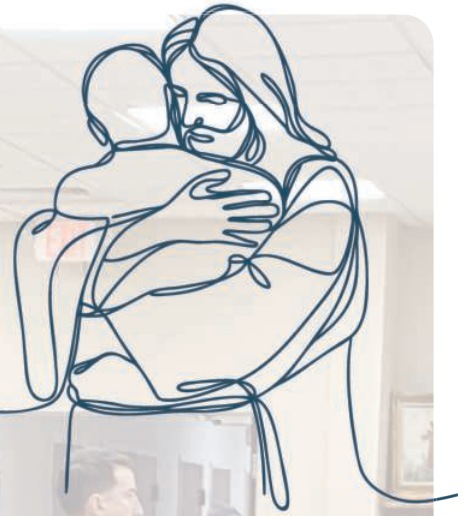


Scan our QR Code for a secure link to our 'Parish Giving' link for Weekly & Special Collections, Annual School Fund, In Memory, Single Gifts, Stewardship, School Fund, and more.

First Fridays

AT ST. MARY MAGDALEN

PARISH VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: LOVE FOR NEIGHBOR



Friday, November 7

Many of our parish family and friends have enjoyed being together for our 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.

- ♡ Enjoy a Barbecue Inspired Dinner
- ♡ Bring a non-perishable item for the Food Pantry
- ♡ Kids' Craft Area: Care Cards for local Veterans, Help Us Make Giving Tree Ornaments & More
- ♡ Children's Storytime, Family Games & Activities

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

6:30 AM

MASS

7:15 AM

MORNING PRAYER
CHAPEL

8:30 AM

MASS

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



5:30 PM TO 7 PM

BARBECUE INSPIRED
DINNER & ACTIVITIES
CHILDREN STORYTIME
& EASY SERVICE CRAFTS
ST. FRANCIS HALL

6:15 TO 6:45 PM

CONFESSIONS

7 TO 8 PM

HOLY HOUR
ADORATION, MUSIC,
VESPERS & BENEDICTION

8 PM

DESSERT HOSPITALITY
NARTHEX CAFE

Dates

DECEMBER 5

FEBRUARY 6

MARCH 6

MAY 1

JUNE 5



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