

# Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

5 OCTOBER 2025

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DELIVER US FROM EVIL  
OUR FATHER, PART XI

Dear Friends in Christ,

The *Book of Revelation* is a message of hope written for a suffering and persecuted church. It is not some frightening gnostic codebook about the world's demise, as some people insist on reading it. Rather, it is a hope-filled promise that all history and all creation belong to God. In the end, while evil will strut for its brief hour, the victory of Christ is already assured. What we must do, then, is persevere in hope and remain faithful, even as we endure the suffering and evil with the mind of Christ.

Remember the Philippians hymn: *Jesus himself, though he was God, chose to "empty himself [Greek: kenosis], taking the form of a slave." While no one should seek suffering, neither should we fool ourselves into thinking we can avoid it. Through Christ, suffering is not meaningless, but the means of our sanctification.*

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is the great embodiment of hope. She is often invoked under the title "Our Lady of Hope." We see this in the event of the Visitation. Mary goes to see her cousin Elizabeth, who, though she is old and was thought to be barren, is suddenly expecting a child. That gift of new life amid what seemed to be barren is the definitive sign of God's work in every age. And so Mary, in response to the message of the angel, goes to see this sign of God's providence. Commenting on this passage, Pope Benedict XVI wrote that Mary is shown here to be the embodiment of the Church. Just as she bore the incarnate Word across the hill country of Judea, so the Church carries the hope of the nations across the mountains of history. Hidden within the womb of the Church, as it were, is God's answer to all the problems of history. It is Christ—whom Mary bore as mother and followed as disciple—who delivers us from evil.

It is fitting that one of the last scenes in the *Bible* is a "great sign" [*magnum mysterium/sacramentum*]"—"a woman clothed with the sun with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (Rev 12:1). Have you ever seen the

*continued on page 3*

## 2 Mass & Devotions

### CLERGY

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*Permanent Deacon  
OCIA Program*  
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Deacon E. Peter Zurbach, Ph.D.  
*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.



moon when it hangs low in the sky? It is so big and beautiful, it looks like you can reach out and touch it.

The Church has been invoked as the "*mysterium lunae*"—the mystery of the moon, who produces no light of its own, but reflects the light of Christ the sun. This heavenly lady in the *Book of Revelation* is standing on top of the moon—what could this mean?

In this case, the moon is seen not in the positive way of one who reflects the light of another, but as a fickle and impermanent thing which waxes and wanes. Unlike the sun, which shines brilliantly each day, the moon is always changing, at times even being completely hidden from our eyes. This sign then, of the woman standing on the sun, means that the new humanity and new creation is no longer subject to this waxing and waning. No longer is there the mysterious cycle of fidelity and sin of the Old Testament.

Instead, there is the eternal share in God's own life in Christ—a life lived first and foremost by Mary, assumed body and soul into heavenly glory. In her, we see a faithfulness that knows no bounds, a love for Christ which neither waxes nor wanes.

So for us who wax and wane, who mourn and weep in this vale of tears, Mary is indeed the great sign of hope. In the vision of Revelation, the woman, with child, "wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth" (Rev 12:2). Can we see the evil in our world for what it is: the birth pangs that come with the arrival of the kingdom? Didn't Jesus tell His disciples to expect rejection and resistance? Didn't He warn them that first and foremost we need to cast out that resistance from our own hearts?

Therefore, we can pray with confidence, "Deliver us from evil." The petition is not to prevent all evil from befalling us, which, I regret to inform you, is impossible in this life. Rather, this petition is that we be delivered from it, just as the child the heavenly woman bears was delivered safely despite the opposition of the dragon, so we desire to be delivered safely into the eternal joy of the Lord. That makes this petition a *memento mori*—a reminder of our own mortality, when we must make our final act of hope in God's promises. It points to the fact that right now, in our midst, the world as we know it is passing away, and God is mysteriously bringing about His great victory.

The woman's son "is to rule all nations with a rod of iron" (Rev 12:5). At the time of its writing, this seemed far-fetched, perhaps a wild optimism for people desperate for good news. And yet Rome, that most powerful empire, which was persecuting Christians while the Book of Revelation was being composed, collapsed. And so has every other empire, every false claimant to our loyalties—they all will collapse. Yet still the Son of the woman clothed with the sun reigns until the day when Christ will be "all in all." Until then, we wait in hope. We follow the example of Our Lady of Hope. And we continue to pray the words our savior gave us. Amen.

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker



## FIGHT HUNGER. FEED HOPE.

**Did you know?** In Delaware County approximately 10% of people (12% are children), are food insecure. Through your donations of non-perishable foods and staples placed in our narthex, we fight hunger and feed hope to those families who come to the Media Food Bank, Catholic Charities, and CityTeam in Philadelphia. We thank you for your continued support!

**A St. Mary Magdalen Corporal Works of Mercy Ministry.**



## PARISH

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*Office Administrators*  
Extension: 107

## SCHOOL

610-565-1822  
stmarymagdalschool.net

Mrs. Amy Crawford Bauer  
*Principal*  
abauer@stmarymagdalen.net



# 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.

Thursday evening includes a procession.

Sign up in the narthex for an hour as an adorer.  
Enjoy all day adoration in the main church.



## LEGION OF MARY

**Our Lady, Queen of Angels**

**Every Tuesday at 9:30 AM  
in the Gathering Room**

We invite Catholics who would like to draw closer to Jesus through Mary to give Legion a try. Our members meet weekly to pray, plan, discuss, and perform Spiritual Works of Mercy within the parish and local community.

**Pray with our Blessed Mother**

SMM's Legion of Mary invites you to host their blessed Marian Statue in your home for a week. To arrange your Marian statue visit, please email James Fawcett at jamesfawcett400@verizon.net

**Mary, Our Lady,  
Queen of Angels, Pray for Us!**



**NEW! 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](http://stmarymagdalen.net/OCIA) or contact Deacon Bob at [deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net](mailto:deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net).

**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.

**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](http://40daysforlife.com)**. For more information or questions, please contact Deacon Bob at [deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net](mailto:deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net).

**LITTLE CHURCH SCHOOL  
BEGINS THIS SUNDAY**

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](mailto:elogan26@gmail.com).



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LARRY DONATO

**FRIDAY**  
**April 17**  
**2026**

SCAN FOR  
THE DETAILS





# Penn & Drexel

## CATHOLIC NEWMAN CENTER

& The Collegium Institute for Catholic Thought and Culture

# Saturday, October 11

## STUDENT PANEL & RECEPTION

5:30 TO 7:30 PM AT ST. MARY MAGDALEN

## *Catholic Life, Secular Universities?*



The staff & students of the Penn & Drexel Newman Center and the Collegium Institute for Catholic Thought and Culture invite you to join them on **Saturday, October 11**, for an evening reception & student panel, entitled: "**Catholic Life, Secular Universities?**" in St. Francis Hall at St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Media. The group will discuss and make the case that Catholic students can not only survive, but thrive as they practice their faith on a secular college campus.

The Newman Center serves students at the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University, welcoming over 600 students to Sunday Masses and having more than 350 students in weekly small group Bible studies. With so much good news to share, they are delighted to host this insightful conversation with a panel of student speakers who share their experience.

Enjoy light refreshments and drinks.  
All are welcome to attend.

To RSVP, please scan the QR.



## 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 Mingone Family, Ian McLaughlin, Caitlin Coughlan

## 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, 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](mailto:baptisms@stmarymagdalen.net).

Rory Kit Jablonowski, Theophilus Francis Mahoney,  
Grayson Rae Melvin, Michael Christopher Vergari



SMM's 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Community Service Corps at the Fr. Bill Atkinson Pilgrimage.

## Prayers & Mass Intentions 7

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### 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

#### MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

6:30 AM - No Mass

#### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

6:30 AM - Ellen Curran

8:30 AM - Joseph Conan

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

6:30 AM - Matthew Mullin

8:30 AM - David Franklin

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

6:30 AM - John Quindlen

8:30 AM - Lester Fry

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

6:30 AM - James J. Clark, Jr.

8:30 AM - Holy Souls in Purgatory

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

8:30 AM - Ints. of Thomas Verna

4:30 PM - Stephen Wiley

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

7:30 AM - Ints. of Ralph Purri

9:30 AM - Patrick Hennessy

11:30 AM - Lester Fry

7 PM - The People of the Parish



### FLOWERS

In memory of our deceased parishioners

### BREAD & WINE

In memory of Donald Frank

### CANDLE

In memory of Anthony P. Carbo

## **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 are in the narthex and outside the gym. 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! BIOETHICS SEMINAR AT SMM** **OCTOBER 24 & 25**

Join medical professionals dedicated to a tradition of compassion and care 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. To learn more or to register, visit [ncbcenter.org](http://ncbcenter.org).



## **NEW! MASS PRESIDER SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, October 11**

4:30 PM—Fr. Eric Banecker

**Sunday, October 12**

7:30 AM—Fr. Eric Banecker

9:30 AM—Fr. Eric Banecker

11:30 AM—Fr. Robert Pesarchick

7 PM—Fr. Eric Banecker

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

## **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](mailto:patbillbr4@comcast.net) or call 610-742-3191.

Pick up the flyer in the narthex.



## **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.

## **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.

## 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](http://stmarymagdalen.net), or Scan the QR Code.



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Tuesday  
**OCTOBER 7**  
6:30 PM

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Friday  
**NOVEMBER 20**  
7 PM

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**OCTOBER 22, 2025**

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