

# Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

24 AUGUST 2025

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## THY WILL BE DONE

Some of you, particularly those with upstate PA connections, will know about the extraordinary life of Father Walter Ciszek, the Jesuit priest who spent years in solitary confinement and then in a labor camp in Russia. He was arrested in 1941 by the Soviets on false espionage charges while ministering to Catholics in Poland. When he finally came home in a prisoner swap coordinated by the administration of President John F. Kennedy, he wrote a book called *With God in Russia* which detailed his experiences. Then, he wrote a different book, a kind of spiritual meditation on what happened. It's called *He Leadeth Me*, and I consider it a modern spiritual classic. Its central theme is about accepting God's will and abandoning ourselves to divine providence.

At several points in the book, Father Ciszek talks about a common misunderstanding held by many people, including faithful Christians. God's will, some say, is just impossible to know. Father Ciszek would disagree with that statement. Let me give an example from my own life: one day, I woke up, prayed, celebrated Mass, had a cup of coffee, and attended to a few meetings and tasks in the parish office. Then, all of a sudden, we received a phone call that a longtime, active parishioner had been found dead. In response, I walked over to the house to offer prayers for her and comfort her family.

Now, in this situation, could I look back on the day and wonder what God's will for me was? No, I think it was blatantly obvious! Of course, how I responded to that will, how I accepted it—that is what I needed to examine. But God's will on that occasion came like a bolt of lightning.

Now, I know it isn't always as easy as that! Sometimes, there are two or three competing options that I am wrestling with. *Do I propose marriage to someone I've been dating or not? Do I attend this college or that one?* Here, God's will is not impenetrable, but also not as clear as in the first example. It requires some prayerful discernment to come to a decision. Note that I'm deciding between two good options. There is no discernment involved in the question *"should I steal \$1 million from my company or not?"* or *"should I undergo a medical procedure with the goal of preventing having more children?"* The answer is always, "No!" But faced with two options that are permissible and even praiseworthy in themselves, sometimes I need to ask the Lord for greater clarity.

*continued on page 3*



## CLERGY

610-566-8821  
stmarymagdalen.net

Rev. Eric J. Banecker  
*Pastor*  
freric@stmarymagdalen.net  
Extension 110

Rev. Msgr. Ralph J. Chieffo  
*Pastor Emeritus*  
frralph@stmarymagdalen.net

Rev. Robert A. Pesarchick  
*Parochial Vicar*  
frbob@stmarymagdalen.net  
Extension 123

Rev. Mr. Jude Opara  
*Transitional Deacon*

*Sacramental assistance  
is provided by*

Rev. Msgr. Francis Beach  
Rev. Richard Maisano  
Rev. Philip Lowe

Deacon James DiFerdinand, M.A.  
*Permanent Deacon*  
jamesdiferdinand@gmail.com

Deacon Joseph Boyle, M.Th.  
*Director of Parish  
& School Operations*  
deaconjoe@stmarymagdalen.net  
Extension 126

Deacon Bob Szipszky, M.Th.  
*Permanent Deacon  
OCIA Program*  
deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net

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.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuit order of which Father Cizek was a member, provides us with rules for discernment which are eminently useful in helping to navigate knotty decisions involving competing goods. One of his very practical methods is making a list of pros and cons between the two options and then bringing that list to prayer.

But in seeking the Lord's will for our lives, there is a classic mistake we can run into. Father Cizek states it very well in *He Leadeth Me*: "Ultimately, we come to expect God to accept *our* understanding of what His will ought to be and help us to fulfill *that*, instead of learning to accept His will in the real situations in which He places us daily." I don't know about you, but I do this all the time! How often I waste time in prayer telling God about my plans, my will. And then I wonder why He doesn't seem to be helping me do it! It's because He often doesn't want that thing for me. God knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows what will make us happy. Instead of building palaces in our minds, it is much better to embrace what He wills through the "sacrament of the present moment." Of course, as Father Cizek understood all too well, God's will as expressed in the concrete circumstances of our lives is not always easy to accept. At times, as it did for him, God's will involves tremendous suffering and self-renunciation. But if we

learn to accept it, no matter how confusing or difficult, then we can be sure He will help us get through it. God never allows anything to happen to us that He hasn't foreseen from all eternity and permitted for a good purpose that might not be apparent at first.

Isn't that precisely what the Passion of Christ is about, good which comes from the worst evil? If God can make Christ's death the very means of our salvation, He surely can transform difficult situations in our lives into moments of grace as well. In Gethsemane, Jesus prayed with great fervor that his suffering might pass him by. Yet this prayer begins for Jesus with the word "Abba," the familiar Aramaic term which corresponds to our words "Dad" or "Papa." Already, this familiarity with his Father is an act of entrustment, so that He can say in the same breath "yet not as I will, but as you will" (*Mt 26:39, et al.*). Here we see Christ making this petition of His prayer perfect: not my will, but "thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." In heaven, we will all carry out God's will freely forever. Here on earth, amid the trials of this world, we can imbue the earth with God's glory by seeking His will and carrying it out.

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker



# 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 discussions with Deacon Bob and others this fall. A path for Catholics wanting a 'refresher' and non-Catholics considering becoming Catholic.

EACH JOURNEY BEGINS WITH AN INQUIRY.

To learn more scan the QR, or email  
[deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net](mailto:deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net)

NEW!

### Inquiry Sessions

IN THE GATHERING ROOM

SEPTEMBER 7

at 6:15 PM

Before 7 PM Mass

SEPTEMBER 21

at 10:30 AM



## PARISH

610-566-8821  
stmarymagdalen.net

Mrs. Gina Staiber  
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gina@stmarymagdalen.net  
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*PREP Administrator*  
jhinkle@stmarymagdalen.net  
Extension: 109

Mrs. Shelly Zeller  
Mrs. Jessica Savko  
Mrs. Mary Lou Mayer  
*Office Administrators*  
Extension: 107

## SCHOOL

610-565-1822  
stmarymagdalenschool.net

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

# PREP REGISTRATION

2025-2026

Our PREP Registration is open!  
We welcome new families to our catechetical programs, which begin in Grade 1 through Grade 7.

**Classes begin September 22**  
Mondays from 5 to 6 PM at SMM.

To register, please visit  
**stmarymagdalen.net**,  
or scan the QR Code below.

For more information, email  
**PREP@stmarymagdalen.net**



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Media, PA

Founded by Father Michael J. McGivney in 1881, The Knights of Columbus are a fraternity of men dedicated to the service of the Church and society through educational, religious, social welfare, and other public works.

Today, the Knights of St. Mary Magdalen remain true to their founding principles of **charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.**

Our council was formed in 2010 and offers men a place to lead their families and communities in faith and service by helping those in need and supporting local charities.



Scan the QR Code for more information on our council or visit **smmknights.org**



**NEW! THE VIRTUE OF HUMILITY**

As we gather together after the summer, our parish family, especially our 614 students in St. Mary Magdalen School and PREP, will continue to celebrate and practice a virtue each month, in part, through the continued use of the VIRTUE=STRENGTH® program. This September, we will concentrate on the virtue of **Humility**, which is the strength and wisdom to put God and others before ourselves. In John 13:1-17, we are led by Jesus' example, as he humbly washes the feet of His disciples, teaching us to serve others.

To serve is to have a heart of humility. It is the strength to recognize our gifts and talents as blessings from God and to humbly acknowledge that we are not superior to others. This teaches us to help others with a happy heart, even if it's a small job. Those who practice humility tend to have better and more meaningful relationships because they value and respect others. It offers a sense of peace because those who practice it do not seek affirmation regularly. Humility also opens the door to continuous learning and personal growth, as the practice of humility encourages us to seek improvement.

**Blessed Carlo Acutis**, who will be canonized on September 7, recognized the importance of humility in prayer and adoration from an early age. He demonstrated this by spending time in prayer and daily adoration, attending confession regularly, and receiving the Sacrament of Communion. He emphasized the importance of a relationship with God, stating, "Find God and you will find the meaning of your life." Each day, we can pray: "Lord, let humility guide me as I learn and interact today. Teach me to value others above myself and to seek wisdom with a humble heart, through Christ our Lord. Amen."

**NEW! MASS INTENTIONS**

Our Mass Intentions Book is closed for 2025. The 2026 Book will open in early October.

**NEW! MASS PRESIDER SCHEDULE**

- Saturday, August 30**  
4:30 PM—Fr. Eric Banecker
- Sunday, August 31**  
7:30 AM—Msgr. Francis Beach  
9:30 AM—Fr. Eric Banecker  
11:30 AM—Fr. Robert Pesarchick  
7 PM—Fr. Eric Banecker

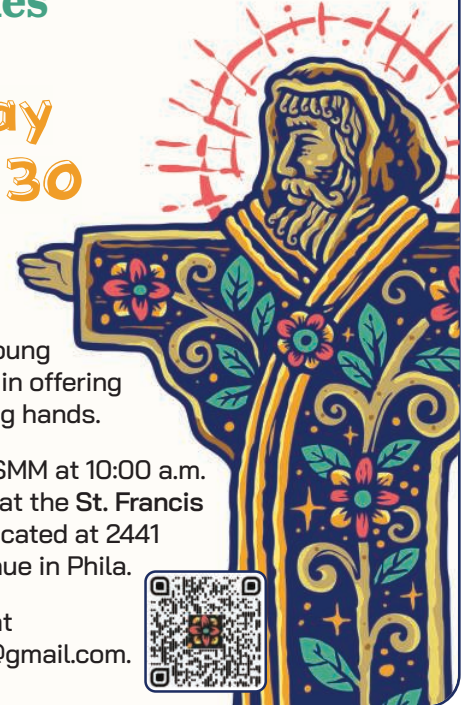
*\*This schedule may be subject to change without notice.*

**Young Adult Service**

at  
**St. Francis Inn Ministries**

**R.SVP. Now!**

on  
**Saturday**  
**August 30**



We are calling young adults to join us in offering comfort & helping hands.

We will meet at SMM at 10:00 a.m. and serve lunch at the **St. Francis Inn Ministries**, located at 2441 Kensington Avenue in Phila.

Email Kathleen at [kathleenrlogan@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenrlogan@gmail.com).



**ST. SHARBEL**  
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**LEBANESE**  
**SEPT. 2025**  
**FESTIVAL**

<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
<b>SEPT 5TH</b>	<b>SEPT 6TH</b>	<b>SEPT 7TH</b>
<b>4PM-11PM</b>	<b>12PM-11PM</b>	<b>1PM-9PM</b>

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- HOOKAH + BAR
- KIDS' GAMES + MORE



# First Fridays

AT ST. MARY MAGDALEN



## September 5

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.

At 6 PM, enjoy the amazing movie *'Carlo Acutis: Roadmap To Reality'* (1 hr 22 mins) downstairs, in celebration of his canonization on September 7th.

Additionally, a kid craft table will be available to learn about Carlo, the Eucharist, and new ways to build on our Virtue of the Month—Humility. All are welcome to join the day's activities, as they fit into your family's schedule. Faith is best lived in community!

## Save these Dates

SEPTEMBER 5    FEBRUARY 6

OCTOBER 3    MARCH 6

NOVEMBER 7    MAY 1

DECEMBER 5    JUNE 5



An Envisioning Parish

## EVENTS



6:30 AM

MASS

7:15 AM

MORNING PRAYER  
IN THE CHAPEL

8:30 AM

MASS WITH SCHOOL  
+

AFTER, ENJOY A COFFEE &  
SNACK IN NARTHEX CAFE.



5:30 PM TO 7 PM

DINNER & ACTIVITIES  
IN ST. FRANCIS HALL.

6:15 TO 6:45 PM

CONFESSIONS

7 TO 8 PM

HOLY HOUR  
ADORATION, MUSIC,  
VESPERS & BENEDICTION

8 PM

DESSERT HOSPITALITY  
IN THE NARTHEX CAFE.

## 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 DeCaro Family, The Corbridge Family, Jaclyn Fratini

## CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of **Joseph Gosalves, Anthony Carbo**, those souls who died due to wars or conflicts including the Holy Land, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, those lost to natural disasters, including in Texas and New Mexico, those lost from 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, Charles Bastian, Danielle Bastian, Kevin Boylan, Joe Cahill, Tricia Carmen, Christine Cavaliere, Mary Cichanowsky, Jean Cotter, Joseph DeFabio, Kieran Doran, Rosemary Dougherty, Theresa D'Orazio, Kevin Gallagher, Katie Garwood, Jacquelyn Gibbons, Bob Gentile, Rodie Henson, Mary Ellen Hoffman, Francis Iacovone, Rita Klauder, Gregory Lewis, Leonard Lombardi, Shellz Mangan, Floyd Marvin, Robin Marvin, Mary Jane & Pat McCloskey, Dorothy Milliner, Dorothy Moerman, Daniel Murphy, Joan Murphy, Mike Murphy, Carol Ortner, Bill Pace, John Pollera, Nicholas Quercetti, Sr., George Rodgers, Naomi Rouse, Daught Ryan, Peter Salemo, Angelina Scarpa, Brendan Shain, Lisa Innaurato Shaine, Bill Snyder, Nancy Sowa, Amerigo Tomassi, Mark Torregosa, Kathy Will, Roseann Yannacone, and Ernie Zappacosta.

## MARRIAGES

Congratulations to our newest newlyweds!

Dante Ardite & Ashley Borie

## BAPTISMS

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

Luna Victoria Rehoric



Congratulations! Mrs. Bauer was honored to accept the Archdiocese of Philadelphia School of Distinguished Instruction Award for 2025 on behalf of our school community.

## Prayers & Mass Intentions 7

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

8:30 AM - Christopher J. Lamoureux

4:30 PM - Mary Pat Tansey

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

7:30 AM - Al Mestichelli

9:30 AM - Thomas Logan, Sr.

11:30 AM - Mary Feola

7 PM - The People of the Parish

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 25

6:30 AM - No Mass

8:30 AM - Margaret Mary Culin

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

6:30 AM - Deacon John Ellis, Sr.

8:30 AM - Thomas Logan, Sr.

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

6:30 AM - Jim Clark

8:30 AM - Laura Tomassetti  
& Mary Fera

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

6:30 AM - Joseph Del Sordo

8:30 AM - Anne Regina Creamer

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

6:30 AM - Ints. of Fr. Reuben Nuxoll, LC

8:30 AM - Ints. of Jeanie Gosseaux

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

8:30 AM - Tony Antonello

4:30 PM - Margaret &  
Bertram Stevenson

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

7:30 AM - Sarina Sanfelice

9:30 AM - Philip Franco

11:30 AM - Geraldine Bergen Marra

7 PM - The People of the Parish



### FLOWERS

In memory of our deceased clergy

### BREAD & WINE

In memory of Joseph Gosalves

### CANDLE

In memory of Anthonly Carbo

**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. For more information, pick up the flyer in the narthex.



**FR. BILL ATKINSON PILGRIMAGE**

**Thursday, September 25**

Registration at 3 PM  
Prayer Service 3:30 PM

at **ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA CHURCH**

Followed by a 4-mile accessible walk  
to **OUR LADY OF ASSUMPTION**



For more information or to register visit us at [friendsoffatherbill.org](http://friendsoffatherbill.org)



**REGISTER! CATHOLIC WOMEN'S  
CONFERENCE IN DOYLESTOWN  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18**

Join Catholic women from around the Archdiocese for a day of fun, friendship, faith, and prayer at the Catholic Women's Conference. This year, our theme is "Women on Mission: The Feminine Genius in the New Apostolic Age."

We will explore the beauty of our feminine genius and the unique position of Catholic women, transformed by Christ, to bring the light of the Gospel to a society that no longer recognizes its need for Him. Many outstanding speakers, including Mary Ann Wiesinger-Puig, Sr. Faustina Maria Pia, SV, Bishop Joseph Perry, Fr. Sean Loomis, Fr. Thomas Viviano, Dr. Delia Larrauri, and Elizabeth Leon.

Saturday, October 18, 2025, 9 am to 4 pm,  
at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA (Jubilee site). Tracks available in English and Spanish. Register today, as the event may sell out at [catholicwomensconference.org](http://catholicwomensconference.org).



**STEWARDSHIP & TITHING**

July 2025	<b>\$96,456</b>
Collection:	\$28,590
Mail-in:	\$14,560
EFT:	\$53,306
July 2024	<b>\$104,981</b>
Collection:	\$23,495
Mail-in:	\$30,668
EFT:	\$50,818
School Annual Fund 2025	<b>\$63,824</b>
School Annual Fund 2024	<b>\$58,730</b>

**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.

# THE 2025 CARDINALS' FORUM

a discussion on

## *UNITY IN THE CHURCH*

“I would like that our first great desire be for a united Church ... which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world.”



AUGUST 26, 2025



7:00 PM



SAINT CHARLES BORROMEIO SEMINARY  
1400 EVANS RD, AMBLER, PA 19002



## PANELISTS:



**BRENDAN TOWELL**

NATIONAL CATHOLIC  
REGISTER



**DR. JOHN HAAS**

CARDINAL KROL CHAIR  
OF MORAL THEOLOGY



**DR. NATHAN KNUTSON**

LUCILLE FRANCESCO CHAIR  
OF SACRED MUSIC



<https://www.scs.edu/the-cardinals-forum/>

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**OPEN HOUSE**  
 Sunday, October 5 • 10 am  
 opening Liturgy at 9:30 am  
 udapa.org/openhouse

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