

Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

7 JUNE 2026

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am grateful to all who organized Thursday evening's Eucharistic procession at Nativity BVM in Media. This powerful act of Eucharistic piety—shared by both parish communities that call Media home—renews us as Catholics and is a powerful witness to all of the abiding presence of the Lord Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

We welcome this weekend students from Bishop Shanahan High School in Downingtown who are selling cannoli as part of a fundraiser for a school pilgrimage to Rome. Also, the Saint Anthony of Padua Society and the Verdi Band join us for the 9:30 AM Mass, as they do at this time every year.

Below, I share some of my previous reflections on the profound mystery of the Eucharist on this Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ.

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker



In the Old Testament, the most famous story about bread takes place in the sixteenth chapter of the Book of Exodus. The Israelites have just been liberated. They have crossed the Red Sea, and the Egyptian army has been defeated by its waters. Now, as they begin their journey to the promised land, the first sign of trouble shows itself. The trouble is not some external threat, but the people's lack of trust that God will take care of them. That distrust will become so profound as to lead to their worshipping a golden calf, thus adding forty years to their journey to the Promised Land. But that hasn't happened at this point in the story. Instead, we find that one of their first priorities after crossing the Red Sea is to complain about their hunger:

They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. And the whole congregation of the people of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in

continued on next page

Nicolas Poussin, The Institution of the Eucharist (1640)

2 Mass & Devotions

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. Jude Opara
deaconjude@stmarymagdalen.net



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

FOCUS

Tina Augustine
FOCUS Missionary
tina@stmarymagdalen.net

Jacob Barajas
FOCUS Missionary
jake@stmarymagdalen.net



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 Tuesday 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.

the wilderness, and said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

The people are hungry. Is this not a perfect description of our contemporary age? On the surface, we are the richest nation that has ever existed.

The luxuries enjoyed by even a working-class American in 2026 would have been unthinkable to the wealthiest people even a century ago. We all walk around with supercomputers in our pockets. And yet, are we not still hungry? Have we not learned first-hand that prosperity can become a demanding idol? We cannot fill the void in our lives with anything other than God. Nothing else will do for us, for He made us for Himself. Israel would have to learn that love always implies dependence. Even for the persons of the Trinity, their existence is always for the others and from the others—a perfect communion of mutual interdependence. We must learn anew how to receive everything as a gift from God, remembering Jesus' words to the apostles that "unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of God." (St. Thérèse of Lisieux, that is, St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, lived this mystery of spiritual childhood in a powerful and beautiful way. We would all do well to meditate on her life and teaching!)

Back to the Israelites in the desert. Moses intercedes with God on their behalf, and God responds mercifully, but also in a manner meant to build up in the people a spirit of dependence and trust: "*Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law or not'*" (Ex 16:4). The mysterious bread from heaven—called Manna, which in Hebrew means "what is it?"—would satiate the people in the wilderness, but only for a day. The people were only permitted to take what they needed for the day, except on Friday, when they could take enough for the Sabbath day as well. They had to eat, yes.

But more importantly, they also had to learn that their God would not abandon them. They could entrust themselves to him completely. He would always take care of them.

When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, He included this petition, which has this whole history in the background: *Give us this day our daily bread.*

This petition forms the center of the entire prayer, both in a literary sense and even more in a spiritual sense. Just as the Israelites needed bread after they crossed the waters of the sea, so the disciples of Jesus, who become sharers in the Divine nature through the waters of baptism, need their own spiritual sustenance during their pilgrimage.

On the one hand, then, this petition remains about the same issue the Israelites had: relying on God

to provide for all our needs, trusting that he knows us better than we know ourselves. But in the New Testament, this takes on a deeper meaning: the bread we ask for is not just foodstuffs but *arton epiousion*. Arton is the Greek word for "bread," and "epiousion" is a completely unique word, not found anywhere outside the Lord's Prayer in the Gospels.

What does this word mean? In Latin, this was translated as *panem nostrum cotidianum*, "our daily bread." And, indeed, with the collective Jewish memory of the daily distribution of Manna from above, "daily" is an appropriate translation. But we must recall Jesus' own words about the Manna in the desert, and how He Himself is the fulfillment of that mysterious event. After Jesus fed the crowd of 5000, they asked Him for a sign from heaven that He is the Messiah. This is how He responds:

So Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world" (Jn 6:32-34).

When the crowds then ask Jesus to give them this bread, this is what He says: "*I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst" (Jn 6:35).*

In other words, the daily bread we need is Christ Himself. He is the one who comes down from heaven in the womb of the Virgin (hence the famous chant: "Ave Verum Corpus natum de Maria Virgine") and gives life to the whole world through His self-offering on the Cross. Indeed, this central petition of the Lord's Prayer reveals that the entire prayer is begging for Christ Himself to dwell in our hearts and remain with us always: that His Kingdom may come; that in union with Him we may do the Father's will on earth; that He may forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

This desire for Christ to remain with us recalls the words of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus on the Day of Resurrection. With their hearts burning within them after hearing Christ explain how all the Scriptures referred to this moment, they say, still unaware to whom they are speaking, "*stay with us, for it is nearly evening, and the day is almost over" (Lk 24:29).* Then, only after Jesus carries out the gestures of the Eucharist which He instituted at the Last Supper, are their eyes open. They finally know him through the Breaking of the Bread, the Bible term for what we today call the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This petition, then, is about the Eucharist, the sacramental encounter with Christ, crucified and risen from the dead, which the Church will celebrate without ceasing until he comes again.

For this reason, the Lord's Prayer is an essential part of every Mass, for those who call upon God as Father are then invited, as the priest says just after the prayer, "to the supper of the Lamb." ✎

PARISH

610-566-8821
stmarymagdalen.net

Mrs. Gina Staiber
Office Manager & Notary
gina@stmarymagdalen.net
Extension: 111

Mr. Ralph Purri
Director of Sacred Music
rpurri@stmarymagdalen.net
Extension: 128

Mrs. Dorothy Brown
Director of Religious Education
dbrown@stmarymagdalen.net
Extension: 125

Mrs. Kerry Boyle
Director of Communications
kerry@stmarymagdalen.net

Mr. John Gill
Director of Advancement
jgill@stmarymagdalen.net

Mrs. Daniela DiCandilo
Finance Manager
daniela@stmarymagdalen.net
Extension: 124

Mrs. Jessica Savko
Communications Coordinator
jessica@stmarymagdalen.net

Mrs. Joanne Hinkle
PREP Administrator
jhinkle@stmarymagdalen.net
Extension: 109

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

SCHOOL

610-565-1822
stmarymagdalenschool.net

Mrs. Amy Crawford Bauer
Principal
abauer@stmarymagdalen.net

AFTER MASSES ON JUNE 13 & 14



Gaetano's Fresh Homemade

SAUCE SALE



SMM Knights of Columbus will offer Gaetano's of Clifton Heights famous Marinara Sauce (32 oz glass jars) after all Masses on June 13 and June 14 while supplies last. \$12 per jar.

Pre-order to guarantee availability by emailing your name, phone number, and quantity to smmgaetanos@gmail.com.

Proceeds from sale and good will donations will go to **LOCAL FOOD BANKS & CHARITIES**



SUNDAY JUNE 14

To learn more about this non-profit and its mission go to accesschester.org.

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BEFORE MASSES

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DONATIONS WILL GO TO

ACCESS CHESTER

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2026



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2026!

We are delighted to announce that the following students have completed the necessary academic requirements and will graduate during a Commencement Ceremony in St. Mary Magdalen Church at 4 PM on Wednesday, June 10, in the presence of their parents, family, friends, and our faculty, staff, and community. Please continue to pray for our graduates. They are:

Brody Bondurant

St. Joseph's Prep

Mairead Cassidy

Cardinal O'Hara

Callan Chaffin

Archmere Academy

Mitchell Chin

Cardinal O'Hara

Annabelle Cullin

Notre Dame de Namur

Aidan Duffy

St. Joseph's Prep

Alexis Duffy

Notre Dame de Namur

Landon Gribbin

Cardinal O'Hara

Olivia Fedalen

Cardinal O'Hara

Eloise Hartman

Merion Mercy Academy

Kelsey Henderson

Cardinal O'Hara

Patrick Hopper

Episcopal Academy

Colin Lake

Cardinal O'Hara

Francis Lake

St. Joseph's Prep

Justin Lane

Salesianum School

Maggie McCarthy

Notre Dame de Namur

Isabella Mariano

Cardinal O'Hara

Liam Pixley

Archmere Academy

Calvin Rayfield

St. Joseph's Prep

Josslyn Savko

Sacred Heart Academy

Charlotte Schuler

Notre Dame de Namur

Brady Sirkin

Episcopal Academy

Ryan Spurio

Chichester High School

Makayla Stanislaus

Bishop Shanahan

Colin Stonelake

St. Joseph's Prep

Beatrice Talluto

Villa Maria Academy

Thomas Tashlik

St. Joseph's Prep

Carson Victoria

Archmere Academy

Gabriella Votta

Notre Dame de Namur

Luke Zola

Penncrest High School

CLASS OF 2026 SCHOLARSHIPS

The following students from our Class of 2026 have earned scholarships to various private and archdiocesan high schools. We're so proud of you!



Cardinal O'Hara High School

Presidential Academic Scholarship: Brady Sirkin, Colin Stonelake; Academic Merit Scholarship: Mairead Cassidy, Mitchell Chin, Aidan Duffy, Patrick Hopper, Landon Gribbin, Justin Lane, Josslyn Savko, Charlotte Schuler, Carson Victoria, Luke Zola; Excellence in Art Merit Scholarship: Landon Gribbin; Excellence in Community Service Merit Scholarship: Mairead Cassidy, Maggie McCarthy; Merit Scholarship for Educational Impact: Mitchell Chin; Excellence in Leadership Merit Scholarship: Isabella Mariano

Archmere Academy

Academic Scholarship: Liam Pixley, Carson Victoria; Leadership Scholarship: Callan Chaffin, Carson Victoria; Rev. Joseph McLaughlin Jubilee Memorial Scholarship: Callan Chaffin

Devon Preparatory School

Academic Scholarship: Liam Pixley, Carson Victoria

The Academy of Notre Dame

St. Julie Scholarship: Maggie McCarthy, Charlotte Schuler, Gabriella Votta; Academic Merit Scholarship: Beatrice Talluto, Gabriella Votta

Merion Mercy Academy

Alumnae Scholarship: Eloise Hartman

Sacred Heart Academy

Class of 1964 Memorial Scholarship: Josslyn Savko

Salesianum School

Salesian Scholarship: Justin Lane

St. Joseph's Preparatory School

Howley Scholarship: Calvin Rayfield; Ignatian Scholarship: Brady Sirkin; Xaverian Scholarship: Colin Stonelake; Principal's Scholarship: Aidan Duffy; Magis Scholarship: Landon Gribbin, Patrick Hopper; Affinity Scholarship: Thomas Tashlik

Villa Maria Academy

Academic Merit Scholarship: Mairead Cassidy; The IHM Charism Scholarship: Beatrice Talluto

6 New & Events

NEW! A LETTER FROM FR. OPARA

Dear Fathers, Deacons, and parishioners,
With a grateful heart, I sincerely thank you for your presence, prayers, love, and support during my Priestly Ordination. Your encouragement and kindness made this joyful occasion even more meaningful.

I am especially grateful to you, Father Eric and Father Bob, for your guidance, mentorship, and fatherly support throughout my stay in the parish. Thank you for believing in me and for your constant prayers.

To all our parishioners, thank you for celebrating this special day with me. Your prayers and support have been a source of strength and inspiration. I ask that you continue to pray for me as I begin this sacred ministry, that I may faithfully serve God and His people.

May the Lord bless you abundantly for your generosity and love.

With gratitude and prayers,
Fr. Jude Opara



NOTE! MSGR. CHIEFFO'S NEW ADDRESS SAME PLACE, DIFFERENT LOCATION

Msgr. Ralph Chieffo
White Horse Village, PCU 234
535 Gradyville Road
Newtown Square, PA 19073



NEW! ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTER MOVES TO NEW LOCATION

Beginning Monday, June 8, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center will open at its new location at 1601 Cherry Street, Suite 1100. Visitors will continue to use the same parking lot shared with guests of the Cathedral, located at 222 North 17th Street.



NEW! LITTLE CHURCH SCHOOL SESSION ENDS JUNE 14

The current session of The Little Church School ends June 14. For information about our program, or to inquire about volunteering in the fall, please contact Elizabeth Logan at elogan26@gmail.com.

ADD YOUR VOICE TO THE CHOIR

It's More Than A Choir—It's a Community

One of the most meaningful ways to grow in faith is to share your gifts in service to others—and our parish music ministry is a place where community, prayer, and friendship come together every week.

Whether you sang in a choir years ago, played an instrument in school, or simply love music and worship, there is a place for you here. Our Adult Choir and Handbell Choir welcome new members of all experience levels, and training is always available—even if your skills feel a little rusty.

For parents, our Children's Choir is a wonderful way to help young people grow in confidence, friendship, and faith through music.

If you have been looking for a deeper connection to God, a stronger sense of belonging, or a meaningful way to become more involved in parish life, we invite you to join us. The music ministry needs you—and we would love to welcome you. You don't have to be perfect—just willing.

Choir members will be available today, Sunday, June 7, after the 9:30 Mass to answer any questions you may have.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

ADORATION HOURS

Adoration hours are available Tuesday at 9 AM to Thursday at 2 PM from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The chapel will remain open during its regular hours for personal prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, present in the tabernacle.



CORRECTION! WEEKDAY MASSES

In last week's bulletin, we misprinted summer details about our Weekday Morning Masses. Our regular Mass schedule remains unchanged, including the 7 PM Mass on Sundays.



PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Our parish office is closed on Fridays from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

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 Bushong Family, Dan Fitzgerald, The Hermansen Family,
Joseph Whelan, The Meindl Family



CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of Carmela Ward, Robert Auclair, those souls who died due to wars or conflicts, including our Service Members recently lost in the Middle East, 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. If you or a loved one is ill and would like to be included for the quarter, please call the Parish Office.

Paul Berenato, Mary Cichanowsky, Jean Cotter, Diane Delaney, Betty Diedrich, Lynn Finelli, Jean Godorecci, Penny Henwood, Rodie Henson, Judy Larkin, Fr. Alan Okon, Michelle Okon, Nicholas Quercetti, Sr., Naomi Rouse, Cynthia Sannutti, Quintin Sarne, Mark Scaleri, Bill Snyder, Maria Johnson Twining, Roseann Yannacone, and Ernie Zappacosta.



MARRIAGES

Congratulations to our newest newlyweds!
Vincent Luciano & Kerry Lynch

BAPTISMS

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



Our 8th graders in their high school sweatshirts—Congratulations Class of 2026!

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

8:30 AM - John J. Robins
4:30 PM - Margaret "Daught" Ryan

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

7:30 AM - Philip J. Mullen
9:30 AM - Benjamin Lehman
11:30 AM - Margaret "Daught" Ryan
7 PM - The People of the Parish

MONDAY, JUNE 8

6:30 AM - No Mass
8:30 AM - Mary Ellen "Mel" Sedor

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

6:30 AM - Ints. of Bill Hagan
8:30 AM - Diane Thornton

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

6:30 AM - Robert Salankiewicz
8:30 AM - Margaret "Daught" Ryan

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

6:30 AM - Ints. of Bill Hagan
8:30 AM - Eugene Duffy

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

6:30 AM - Carmela Ward
8:30 AM - Donna Kennedy

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

8:30 AM - Betty Tomczyk
4:30 PM - Marianne C. White

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

7:30 AM - Cathie-Ann Manigly
9:30 AM - Michael Ciavardini
11:30 AM - William J.
7 PM - The People of the Parish



FLOWERS

Ints. of our Service Members

BREAD & WINE

In memory of Donna Kennedy

CANDLE

In memory of Carole Kern,
Richard Robus

**COLLECTION COUNTERS NEEDED
TUESDAY MORNINGS**

We are currently seeking volunteers to help count the Sunday collection. Volunteers meet on Tuesday mornings at 9 AM, and participation frequency is based on your availability and discretion. Coffee and snacks are provided, along with the appreciation of the Parish Community!

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Daniela DiCandilo at daniela@stmarymagdalen.net.



**NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE
"ONE NATION, UNDER GOD"**

FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND

To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the USA, the United States Bishops are sponsoring a Eucharistic Pilgrimage that will bring our Eucharistic Lord along the east coast, ending in Philadelphia the weekend of July 4th. The culminating events, hosted by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, will take place at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Adorers are needed for the Continuous Eucharistic Adoration at the Cathedral from July 2 to July 4, or serve as a Procession Marshall from the Cathedral to the Shrine of St. John Neumann on July 5.

For more information on events, or to sign up as a volunteer, please visit archphila.org/underGod.



NEW! MASS PRESIDER SCHEDULE

Saturday, June 13

4:30 PM—Fr. Eric Banecker

Sunday, June 14

7:30 AM—Fr. Robert Pesarchick

9:30 AM—Fr. Eric Banecker

11:30 AM—Fr. Eric Banecker

7 PM—Fr. John Okpara

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



NEW! CAR MAGNETS

St. Mary Magdalen car magnets are available for a donation of \$5 in the Parish Office.



NOTE! MASS INTENTIONS

Our Mass Intentions Book is available on our homepage, or scan the code.

St. Mary Magdalen Church Offers Venmo:
[@StMaryMagdalenParish](https://www.venmo.com/StMaryMagdalenParish)

We are grateful for your support!



venmo

Don't forget to add your gift type e.g., Mass Collection.

STEWARDSHIP & TITHING

April 2026 \$95,084

Collection: \$22,227

Mail-in: \$28,862

EFT: \$43,995

April 2025 \$126,290

Collection: \$43,494

Mail-in: \$30,875

EFT: \$51,921

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.

PRAY FOR OUR SERVICE MEMBERS

As we pray for peace in the Middle East and around the world, for an end to strife, let us pray for our veterans, all those currently serving in our military, their families, and especially those in our SMM family:

Timothy Brown, 1st Lieutenant USMC,
C-130 Pilot, stationed at Iwakuni, Japan.

Mick Horrocks, Lieutenant, US Navy.

Thomas Kerr, Petty Officer 2nd Class, US Navy,
stationed in Rota, Spain, deployed on USS Bulkeley.

Michael Macdonald, US Navy Ensign,
studying to instruct nuclear propulsion to officers,
stationed in Charleston, South Carolina.

Evan Rosenberg, 1st Lieutenant, US Army,
1st Battalion, 41st field artillery regiment
stationed at Ft. Stewart, Georgia.

Fernando Sommo, Lieutenant, US Navy, Nuclear
Power Officer, deployed on USS George H W Bush.

Brian Szipszky, US Navy Ensign,
stationed in Norfolk, VA, serving on the USS Ross.

Jack Szipszky, US Air Force Captain, 21st Special
Operations Squadron. He is a CV-22 Osprey pilot
based in Yokota Air Base in Tokyo, Japan.

Mikayla Szipszky, US Space Force Captain,
(wife of Jack), based in Yokota Air Base in Tokyo.

Eli Volk, Lieutenant, US Navy.

If you have a loved one or friend currently serving,
or a veteran in need of prayers, please let us know
by emailing Jessica at jessica@stmarymagdalen.net.



LET'S CELEBRATE! OUR PARISH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

We are grateful to all our Servants of God for
their devotion and service to our parish community.
As a parish community we pray for you and wish
each of you a very blessed and happy Ordination
Anniversary! We thank you for answering His Call!

Rev. Eric J. Banecker – May 19, 2018

Rev. Msgr. Ralph J. Chieffo – May 17, 1975

Rev. Robert Pesarchick – May 18, 1991

Deacon E. Peter Zurbach – June 6, 1992

Deacon James DiFerdinand – June 2, 2007

Deacon Joseph Boyle – June 12, 2021

Deacon Robert Szipszky – June 8, 2024



SATURDAY
JUNE 27

This family-fun event will raise funds to provide
Unexpected Amazingness to local Families with cancer.
Take this opportunity to get outside and celebrate our
12th year of STOMPing Cancer while supporting those



who are battling cancer. Unable to
join us in Sea Isle? We have a virtual
option, too! To sign up or learn
more, scan the code or visit:

BringingHopeHome.org

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