

Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

28 DECEMBER 2025

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH



Dear Friends in Christ,

All are welcome to join us on New Year's Eve for Solemn Vespers at 6 PM followed by Mass at 6:30 PM for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Our Masses on New Year's Day are 7:30 AM and 11 AM.

I am grateful to all of you for your faithfulness to Christ and your support of our parish community this Christmas season and throughout the year! On behalf of all of our clergy and staff, thank you for the many cards, cookies, and gifts.

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker

ALL ARE WELCOME ♦ 2400 N. PROVIDENCE ROAD ♦ MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19063

2 Mass & Devotions

CLERGY

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stmarymagdalen.net

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Permanent Deacon, Retired

FOCUS

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FOCUS Missionary
jake@stmarymagdalen.net

Tina Augustine
FOCUS Missionary
tina@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 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.



NEW! THE KNIGHTS ANNOUNCE ITS 'KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS' ESSAY WINNERS

The St. Mary Magdalen Knights of Columbus are delighted to announce the results of the 16th Annual 'Keep Christ in Christmas' Essay contest. Congratulations to 6th graders **William Tashlik**, **Jude Kenney**, and **Michael DiGiantomasso** on their winning essays. We also recognize Finalists **Maximus Lomas**, **Marin McCampbell**, **Maria Malatesta**, **Luciano Votta**, **Eliza Heckler**, **Anna Saleski**, **Bridget Buckson**, **Emma Rudolph**, **Emma Henry**, **Elissavet Ginis**, **Kendal O'Donnell**, and **Madalyn Jeffries**. We extend our thanks to all the 6th-grade students who participated in this year's contest and remind us to keep Christ in Christmas. Please enjoy the winning essays below.

Keeping Christ in Christmas

by William Tashlik

Christmas is a time of giving as well as a time of receiving. However, the most important things we can give and receive are not items, but rather the gift of love from Jesus Christ. I love the season of Christmas because it is when our world feels so connected and bright.

We are giving and receiving forgiveness and love. We are spreading joy, hope and peace. It is a time to slow down and be grateful and thankful for the best gift we will ever receive, Jesus Christ, who brings us all together every year to celebrate his birth.

One of my favorite traditions at Christmas is going to the city with my family to see the Christmas lights. It is not the lights that make it so special but it is being together doing something so simple that we love.

After seeing the lights, we drop off blessing bags to those who we see on the streets in need. This makes my heart sad to know they are without a home on Christmas, but it also makes me feel good to know that my family and I are brightening

their day and making them feel loved at that moment. It is a gentle reminder that it is not about how you celebrate this season but who we are celebrating, Jesus is the reason for the season. Merry Christmas TO EVERYONE!

Keeping Christ in Christmas

by Jude Kenney

It's Christmas morning. My alarm sounds, but I've been awake for at least an hour waiting for the time Mom and Dad approved to wake them. My brother, sister and I rush to the Christmas tree. The sound of ripped wrapping paper fills the air. In a few short minutes, all the gifts are opened, but my family's excitement remains high. Today, we finally place baby Jesus in the manger!

In our family, keeping Christ in Christmas is about traditions that begin during Advent. The Church gave us Advent to help us prepare for Christmas. We use the Advent Wreath to remind us that the Christmas season brings hope, peace, joy, and love. Each week, when we light a candle, we consider how to bring these qualities to life. The Hope candle is my favorite because it means we set up our Nativity scene and begin to decorate. The empty crib reminds us of the hopeful waiting for baby Jesus to arrive. We think about how hard it must be to live without hope, and we pray for people who are hopeless. The holiday season gets very busy, so lighting the Peace candle helps us slow down. Each night after dinner, we play relaxing Christmas music and think about what we can do to ensure our relationships bring peace. The excitement is really starting to build when the third week of Advent begins, so it's easy to prepare for lighting the Joy candle. My favorite way to share joy is by visiting the elderly and singing Christmas Carols. The last week of Advent is marked by the Love candle. We spend this week thinking about how much Jesus loves us, and looking for opportunities to spread love by making people feel special.

Keeping Christ in Christmas is fun when it's part of your family traditions. The Advent Candle is a great way to create traditions based on hope, peace, joy, and love to prepare our hearts and homes for Christmas Day.

continued on page 5

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FRIDAY

April 17

HELP SUPPORT OUR
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ITEM OR SERVICE
TO OUR GALA'S
UPCOMING AUCTION.



LEGION OF MARY

Our Lady, Queen of Angels

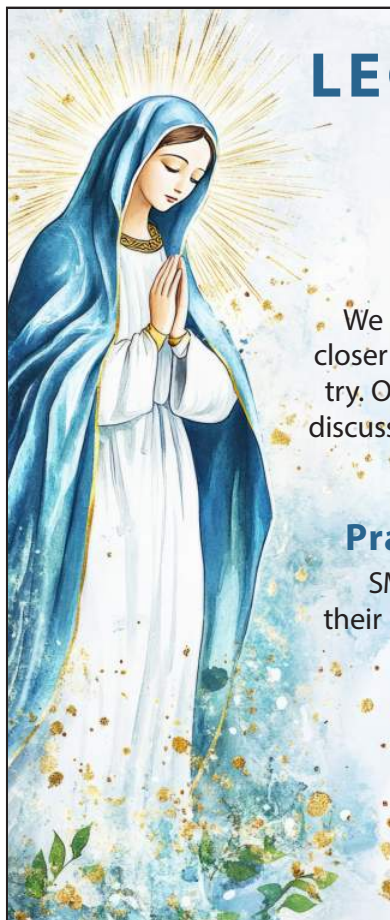
**Every Tuesday at 9:30 AM
in the Gathering Room**

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!*



Keep Christ in Christmas

by Michael DiGiantomasso

Keeping Christ in Christmas is a great focus to have this Advent season! Most kids and some adults are worried about material items. Presents are great to have, but that's not the main reason why we celebrate Christmas. At St. Mary Magdalen, Monsignor Chieffo taught us a word that doubles as an acronym - "JOY". This means Jesus, Others, and Yourself. JOY should be our fundamental focus during the Christmas season. There's a big difference between giving gifts to others vs giving time to Jesus. When we give time to Jesus, it strengthens our faith, while getting gifts for others brings temporary material happiness.

When we devote our time to Jesus, we are practicing the J in JOY. The O in JOY is giving gifts to others. The Y in JOY is putting ourselves last.

My family has a tradition where we go to church on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. We also donate used and new clothes to a donation bin, and we donate food to food drives. The JOY of giving is a great feeling! We should all give back the materials/items we do not need. So this Christmas, we should all give back to God by praying, donating, and more. My wish for this Christmas is that everyone prays and does good deeds. I hope everyone has a safe and great holiday!



NEW! WINNERS OF THE KNIGHTS KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST

The artists winning posters from the top down:

Landon Gribbin, Category I (Grades 6, 7 & 8);

Madelyn O'Shea, Category II (Grades 3, 4 & 5);

Melanie O'Shea, Category III (Grades 1 & 2);

Elie Heverly, the Knights' Overall Pick (All Grades).

The Knights thank all the talented students who participated in this year's Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest. We are thankful to each of you for the fantastic job you did in bringing the true meaning of Christmas to all of us. We are also grateful to the parish family for their very generous support of this program, which enabled us to give a \$700 donation to the School's Art Department. Thank you, and we wish you a Merry Christmas.



NEW! A MESSAGE OF LOVE AND GRATITUDE FROM MSGR. CHEIFFO

This Christmas season, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Msgr. Ralph is ever grateful to each of you for your continuous prayers, visits, and thoughtful kindnesses. Please know, you stay in his daily prayers. Please contact him at fralph@stmarymagdalen.net, or by mail to his home in White Horse Village, located at 535 Gradyville Road, Apt. A-223, Newtown Square, PA 19073.

CHAPEL POINSETTIAS

The chapel poinsettias in our Adoration Chapel were gifted by the Hallinan Family in loving remembrance of **Matthew Ryan Hallinan**.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

The chapel is closed over Christmas, it will reopen on Monday, January 5, after our 8:30 AM Mass. We wish you and yours a safe and happy 2026!

2026 PARISH CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

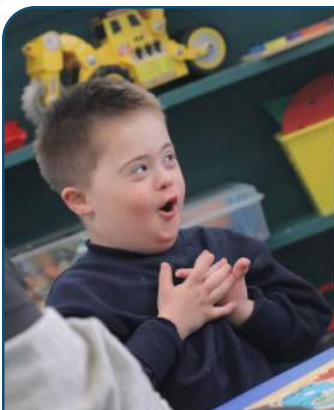
Please pick up our 2026 Parish Calendar, with essential Catholic dates for the new year, in the narthex or the parish office. Bring one to a homebound neighbor or friend! Available while supplies last. We are grateful to fellow parishioners, **Gigi and Bill Hagan of Rigby, Harting & Hagan Funeral Home**, for sponsoring our annual calendars. We wish you and yours a Blessed Christmas and a

NEW! PRAYER LIST 2026

In the new year, we will place names on our prayer list by quarter. If you or a loved one needs prayers, contact us to have names added anew each quarter.

NEW! SENIORS' JANUARY MEETING

Our Senior's Social Club cordially invites you to join them in St. Francis Hall on Wednesday, January 14, from 12:45 to 3 PM. Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon and enjoy some lively conversations, fellowship and refreshments. Our entertainment is David Gettes on the Steel Drums. We hope to see you.



Can you help?

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!



SMM is at 79% of our annual goal—Can you help us exceed our goal?

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 Campo Family, The Cusanno Family, Joshua McNally

CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of **Edwina Lotka, Philip Mullen, John Robins**, those souls who died due to wars or conflicts, 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, Kevin Boylan, Joe Cahill, Christine Cavaliere, Mary Cichanowsky, Jean Cotter, Joseph DeFabio, James D'Amore, Kieran Doran, Theresa D'Orazio, Kevin Gallagher, Katie Garwood, Bob Gentile, Rodie Henson, Mary Ellen Hoffman, Francis Iacovone, Gregory Lewis, Kay Greiser, Leonard Lombardi, Shellz Mangan, Floyd Marvin, Robin Marvin, Steve McCarthy, Mary Jane McCloskey, Dorothy Milliner, Dorothy Moerman, Daniel Murphy, Joan Murphy, Mike Murphy, Michelle Okon, Carol Ortner, Bill Pace, John Pollera, Nicholas Quercetti, Sr., George Rodgers, Rosemary Rogers, 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!

Jacob Bohm & Megan Horan

BAPTISMS

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

Penelope Devereaux Larrimer



The Seniors' Social Club celebrated the season with a special visit from Santa!

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

8:30 AM – Ints. of Pat Sarkees

4:30 PM – Ann & Peter Miniszak

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

7:30 AM – Iksuk "Stephanie" Kim

9:30 AM – Henry Vincent Lyons

11:30 AM – Angelo Vinci, Jr.

7 PM – The People of the Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

6:30 AM – No Mass

8:30 AM – Frank D'Angelo

& Mildred Verzella

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

6:30 AM – No Mass

8:30 AM – Ints. of Jean & John Scott

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

6:30 AM – No Mass

8:30 AM – Anthony P. Carbo

6:30 PM – The People of the Parish

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

7:30 AM – The People of the Parish

11 AM – The People of the Parish

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

6:30 AM – No Mass

8:30 AM – Nancy Cicione

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

8:30 AM – The People of the Parish

4:30 PM – Johanna Sarkees

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

7:30 AM – The People of the Parish

9:30 AM – Theresa Kilcur

11:30 AM – Alexander R. Pedicino, MD

7 PM – Robert P. Seitter

FLOWERS

In memory of our parishioners

BREAD & WINE

In memory of Edwina Lotka

CANDLE

In memory of John Robins

NEW! A PRAYER OF APPRECIATION

In this holy season and new year, we thank you
for serving others in the name of the Lord.

Know that everything you do for others, you do for Him. Thank you for generously offering your time to those who need your talents. May God bless you for every act of love and kindness you provide in service to others. We hope you know that we appreciate you, all you do for others, and the difference you make in faithful service to the Lord, our God. May the Lord bless you abundantly. Amen.

DONATE! ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

This month, we are helping several area families struggling with their rent payment and are facing eviction. This happens often at this time of year as they purchase Christmas presents for their children and have little left for their bills. If you can help them, please leave donations in our metal donation box, next to the food bin in the Narthex.

Thank you for your support!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) is in need of volunteers to lead children from 1st through 3rd grades to the chapel during the 9:30 AM Mass from September to June. The readings are provided with ideas and suggestions for discussing the Gospel. Please, prayerfully, consider volunteering for this vital children's program. The time commitment is minimal, and the reward is infinite! **If you have questions please email Carol at clow@stmarymagdalen.net.**

MASS INTENTIONS

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



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

FIGHT HUNGER. FEED HOPE.

A St. Mary Magdalen Corporal Works of Mercy Ministry.

Did you know?

In Delaware County approximately 10% of people (12% are children), are food insecure.

Join us in fighting hunger this holiday season by feeding hope to those in need.

Donations of non-perishable foods and staples, placed in our narthex, support families who come to the Media Food Bank, Catholic Charities, and CityTeam in Philadelphia.



STEWARDSHIP & TITHING

November 2025 \$131,677

Collection: \$50,969 (5 weeks)

Mail-in: \$20,294

EFT: \$60,414

November 2024 \$112,375

Collection: \$36,738

Mail-in: \$33,652

EFT: \$41,985

Parish Appeal 2025 \$34,377

Parish Appeal 2024 \$56,795

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.

She Shall Be Called Woman

A PROGRAM FOR ALL WOMEN BY
PARADISUS DEI

SEASON FOUR RESTORED to RADIANCE

In a world where the prevalence of darkness often seems overwhelming, it's easy to feel discouraged, fearful, or even weighed down by the struggles of our culture. Yet, Scripture offers us a powerful image of light that not only calls us to turn to Christ in our need for conversion, but also reminds us that He has already won the victory. This season, we are invited to embrace the Light of Christ, allowing it to penetrate every corner of our lives and shine brightly into the world, bringing hope and transformation to all we encounter. Join us as we ask the Lord to Restore us to His Radiance as a light to our families, friends, and the world.



HEATHER KHYM
Co-Founder of Life Restoration Ministries &
Co-Host of *Abiding Together* Podcast



DEBBIE HERBECK
Founder of *Be Loved Revolution*
Pine Hills Girls Camp



EMILY STIMPSON CHAPMAN
Best Selling Author



KATIE HARTFIEL
Content Coordinator
She Shall Be Called Woman



ALI HOFFMAN
Catholic Evangelist & Artist



MARK HARTFIEL
Vice President
Paradisus Dei



REGINA BOYD
Licensed Mental Health Counselor &
Marriage & Family Therapist



RACHEL BULMAN
Author & Speaker

EMBRACE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

EACH SESSION OFFERS:

- ENCOUNTER:** "SHE is truly a cup-filler! The topics and ideas are so validating, and the recommendations are uplifting to hear."
- MESSAGE:** "I wish every woman could hear the things discussed in SHE! I came away feeling so good about being a daughter of God."
- FELLOWSHIP:** "I loved the time I spent with other women from our parish who want to share the struggles, challenges, and joys of our faith."

TWO NEW SEASONS
AVAILABLE FOR NEXT YEAR

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Mondays in St. Francis Hall
January 12, 26
February 2, 9, 23
March 2, 9, 16, 23

SCHEDULE:

4:45 doors open
5:00 video
5:30 small table discussions
6:00 closing prayer

REGISTRATION:

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For more information, contact
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