

Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

21 SEPTEMBER 2025

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION OUR FATHER, PART X

The world, of course, has much to offer in the way of temptation. In fact, you might say the entire enterprise of advertising is about increasing our desires and tempting us with false promises. But I'd like to focus on temptation toward those great sins against the Holy Spirit: presumption and despair.

These often get the term "unforgivable sins," a term I don't really like, because it makes it seem like there are some sins that are too great for God, which is not true. Of course, what is meant by that term is precisely that we refuse to ask for forgiveness out of presumption or despair. And God respects our freedom too much to force His mercy upon us. He values our freedom as much as He desires our salvation. At any rate, whatever we call them, they are deadly serious and a cause of so much pain in the world. A quick glance at the news might make presumption seem like the greatest problem in the world today. And trust me, it's alive and well. But, actually, I believe we live in an age of despair.

The Book of Ezekiel is a strange book full of apocalyptic imagery—and chapter 37 is the strangest of all, but also the most memorable!

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he led me out in the spirit of the LORD and set me in the center of the broad valley. It was filled with bones.

He made me walk among them in every direction. So many lay on the surface of the valley! How dry they were! He asked me: Son of man, can these bones come back to life? "Lord GOD," I answered, "you alone know that."

Imagine this grotesque scene! The emphasis in the story is on how dry they were. In other words, these people are dead, and they've been dead for a while now. The vast plane has become a wasteland, a common theme in the Bible.

Recall that at the very dawn of creation, the author of Genesis describes the earth as a "formless wasteland." In addition, where did the Israelites wander for forty years in punishment? A desert! Finally, this is fulfilled in Christ who goes out to the wilderness to be tempted by Satan.

continued on page 3

CLERGY

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Rev. Richard Maisano
Rev. Philip Lowe

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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.

In other words, Ezekiel has a vision of a place of chaos, deadness, and temptation. Think of the story of the prodigal son. He takes his inheritance and goes off to a "distant country." We have all had the experience, perhaps, of wanting to set off on our own, to leave the stable roots behind and embrace the wide open possibilities. Yet, as the prodigal son finds out, this is a subterfuge! It is a temptation not to abundant life but to a wasteland where he finds himself in dire need when before he had plenty.

It is this trick that we pray to overcome when we say "lead us not into temptation."

Here's a statistic. In 1989, the year I was born, there were 124,000 religious—mainly sisters—in the United States. In 2023, there were about 38,000—a net loss of 90,000! The numbers across the board aren't much better: weddings, baptisms, Mass attendance, priestly ordinations. These numbers lead us to conclude that we have been in a period of decline and deadness. It is a field of dry bones.

And precisely into this situation, the question is put to the prophet: "Son of Man" (and this is the title Jesus uses for Himself more than any other), "can these bones come to life?"

We must stop here and allow ourselves to hear that question as addressed to us right now. As we look out at our cultural wasteland, as we are weighed down by loss of faith, lack of trust, clerical scandals, and mediocrity, can these bones come to life?

And then, the wind comes and reconstitutes the bones. Suddenly, they begin taking on the form of human beings again. This wasteland is filled with life by the Ruah, the Hebrew word for the "mighty wind" which hovered over creation. This Ruah, of course, is the Holy Spirit. And despair and presumption are sins against the Holy Spirit. They deny the Spirit's power to reconstitute the scattered dry bones of the People of God. Isn't this precisely what the Spirit has done for the last 2000 years? Benedict and Scholastica; Dominic, Francis, and Clare; Ignatius, Philip Neri, Saint Francis de Sales, Teresa of Avila, Catherine of Siena, Mother Theresa—again and again and again, when all hope seemed lost, when the barque of Peter seemed about to run aground: the dry bones come to life in unlikely places and through unlikely people!

Romans 8—Saint Paul's greatest chapter says this: "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through the Spirit who dwells in you." In every age, when

they say our bones are dried up and all is lost, the Spirit has come and renewed the Church, not with meetings, structures, or offices, but with holy men and women. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the vision of Ezekiel is fulfilled:

He said to me: Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel! They are saying, "Our bones are dried up, our hope is lost, and we are cut off." Therefore, prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: Look! I am going to open your graves; I will make you come up out of your graves, my people, and bring you back to the land of Israel. You shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and make you come up out of them, my people!

The temptation to despair is the temptation to deny the Lord's power. It is to wave the white flag in our souls when Christ wants to give us victory. Note that the bones don't just become individual persons: they are shown to be a vast army! The Church militant wields the weapons of love, mercy, and peace. It marches under the banner of Christ under the command of the Holy Spirit. Dear friends, as Gerard Manley Hopkins said so beautifully, "the Holy Ghost over the bent world broods." Indeed, this is true now and forever until the eternal victory we are already assured of comes to pass. May we embrace that great hope of our lives with joy.

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker



ALERT! PARISH TRAFFIC

On Sunday, September 28, route 252 will be shut down from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM for The Delco 10K. Our 7:30 AM Mass will continue as scheduled.



NEW! MASS PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 27

4:30 PM—Fr. Lowe

Sunday, September 28

7:30 AM—Msgr. Beach

9:30 AM—Fr. Eric Banecker

11:30 AM—Fr. Eric Banecker

7 PM—Fr. Eric Banecker

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

PARISH

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SCHOOL

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stmarymagdalschool.net

Mrs. Amy Crawford Bauer
Principal
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THAT MAN IS YOU! INVITES ALL MEN TO JOIN US FOR

TMIY

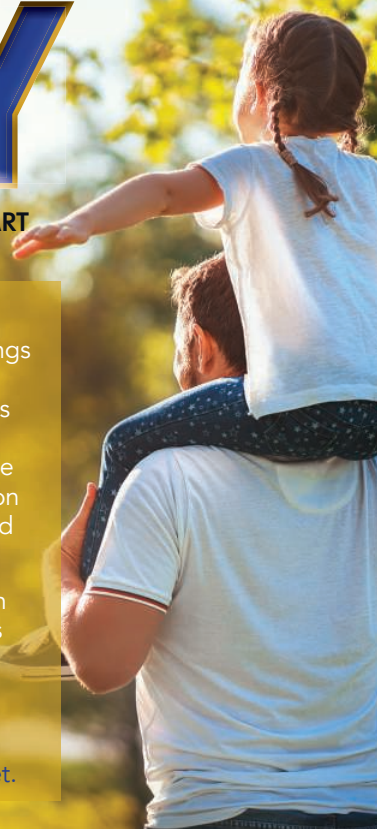
BECOMING A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

OUR FOUNDATIONAL SERIES THIS FALL

Combining the latest science with the teachings of the Church and the wisdom of the saints, this introductory program series from Paradisus Dei develops the vision of man. It makes an honest assessment of the challenges men face and provides a practical path to transformation by focusing on their relationship with God and introducing the 7 Steps to Superabundance.

Embark on this incredible journey with men in our community on Thursday mornings. Doors open at 6:15 am in St. Francis Hall. We end by 7:30 am. For men 18 years and up.

Join us anytime, or for more information, contact John Gill at jgill@stmarymagdalen.net.



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.

Want to learn more about this faith journey?

Come to our upcoming Inquiry Sessions in the Gathering Room located off the church's narthex.

Monday, September 22 at 6:15 PM

EACH JOURNEY BEGINS
WITH AN INQUIRY.

To learn more scan the QR, or email
deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net



NEW! ST. VINCENT DEPAUL NEWS

This week, we met with a young single mother who has a 14-year-old son and is facing eviction after falling 3 months behind on rent, totaling \$5,000, including late fees. Her story is one of heartbreak, marked by broken trust, fraud, and the complete loss of her savings following a relationship breakdown. Despite these hardships, she is working hard to rebuild her life and provide stability for her son. She is employed at a downtown hospital and, with careful budgeting, is committed to staying current on rent moving forward. We are working with her landlord to halt the eviction and help her get back on track, but we cannot do this without your support. One parishioner has already come forward to help. Please consider leaving a donation in our secure mental donation box, located next to the food bin in the Narthex, to help us keep this hardworking mom and her son safely housed and give them the lifeline they need to move forward.

For more information on how you can help, please contact Mike at msmullin@comcast.net.

“This is a program for all women! Regardless of your state of life, She Shall Be Called Woman is a place to both give and receive!”

Katie Hartfiel,
Content Coordinator for She Shall Be Called Woman

She

Are you looking for a way to deepen your spirituality?

SHE IS TRANSFORMING WOMEN
& THEIR FAMILIES IN GOD'S LOVE.

LOVE UNVEILED

A Catholic Series for Women

We are delighted to offer this free series on Mondays from 5 to 6 PM in St. Francis Hall.

Our program is a sanctuary for those seeking to be truly seen, known, and loved as they grow in their relationship with the Lord. It is open to all women, regardless of where they are in their spiritual journey.

To join us, scan the QR code.

To learn more, contact Patty at pszipzky@gmail.com, pick up a flyer in our narthex, or visit SheShallBeCalledWoman.com.



Parents' First Friday



MORNING OF RECOLLECTION

October 3 after Mass

8:30 AM

MASS

9:15 AM

REFRESHMENTS

ENJOY A COFFEE & SNACK
IN THE NARTHEX CAFE.

9:30 TO 11 AM

PRAYER

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR
ADORATION & CONFESSIONS.



11 TO 11:45 AM

TECHNOLOGY TALK

JOIN US IN ST. FRANCIS HALL
FOR A CONVERSATION WITH
ALEX HAYNIE OF LIVE VERTICAL
ON RAISING CHILDREN IN THE
AGE OF TECHNOLOGY.



RSVP appreciated,
but not required to attend.

Scan the QR Code

ST. MARY MAGDALEN
WIN  PLACE  SHOW UP

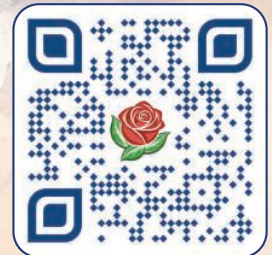


FRIDAY
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2026

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EVENT

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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.

Joanne Hirsh, Miriam Rogers, The Norton Family

CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of **Frank Campbell**, 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, Don Frank, 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, Ruth Seganti, 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!

Alec Funchion & Kirsten Villas

BAPTISMS

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

Keeley Anne Dougherty, Alexander Stanley Mielechowsky



First day of school—We welcome back our students & teachers! Have an amazing year!

Prayers & Mass Intentions 7

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

8:30 AM – Thomas Logan, Sr.

4:30 PM – Ints. of Dr. David Thomas

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

7:30 AM – Patricia “Pat” Gonzalez

9:30 AM – Ints. of Chris & Joseph Sincavage

11:30 AM – Jennifer Vinci

7 PM – The People of the Parish

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

6:30 AM – No Mass

8:30 AM – Peter Miniszak & Ints. of Michael D'Angelo

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

6:30 AM – Mary Grace Strittmatter

8:30 AM – Nancy Cicone

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

6:30 AM – John P. O'Malley, Jr.

8:30 AM – Bernard Brescia

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

6:30 AM – Raymond Kenney, Sr.

8:30 AM – C. Alan Rowe

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

6:30 AM – Vince Zeller

8:30 AM – Ints. of Vince & Mary Canzanese

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

8:30 AM – Vince Zeller

4:30 PM – Ints. of Jody Minisci & Nicole Dolente

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

7:30 AM – Albert DiGregorio

9:30 AM – Vince Zeller

11:30 AM – Silvia Salera

7 PM – The People of the Parish



FLOWERS

In memory of our deceased clergy

BREAD & WINE

In memory of Frank Campbell

CANDLE

In memory of Mary McDevitt



Dialogues: Deep in Our Lord's Vineyard

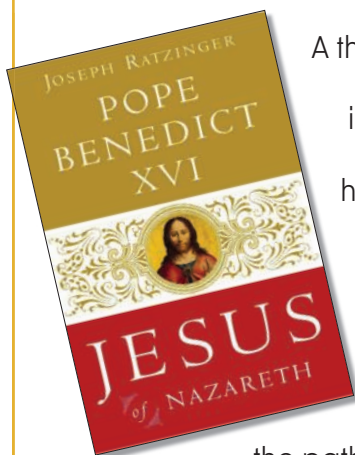
An SMM Parish Enrichment Book

Join us for an spiritually enriching journey centered on Jesus of Nazareth. Our aim is to deepen our knowledge and relationship with Him. Periodically, we will introduce a new book to enhance our personal relationship with God and grow in prayer life as we explore His abundant vineyard.

Jesus triumphed over the rebellion against His Father through His righteousness and the gift of divine love and mercy. His life and passion demonstrated that the way to eternal life is found by embracing the Way of the Cross. Through His disciples in the Bible, we learn about Jesus' public ministry, His frequent use of parables, and His instructions to pray and remain vigilant at all times. In John 15:1-17, it is clearly stated that pruning the branches of the vine is necessary to bear much fruit that will last. We are also instructed to love one another, as we are all part of "Our Lord's Vineyard."

If you are feeling stressed with life's demands, Matthew reminds us of the words of Jesus (11:28-30): "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

We begin with **Jesus of Nazareth, From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration** by Pope Benedict XVI.



A theological examination exploring Jesus's true identity through Gospel accounts, focusing on how He revealed God's nature to humanity and brought divine truth to Earth.

"He shows us the face of God, and in so doing he shows us the path that we have to take."

"Clearly written and engaging, this book helped me understand Jesus of Nazareth much better, way more than my catechesis or dozens of homilies."

—Online Reviewer



Scan QR to order the book.

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.

Pick up the flyer in the narthex.

NEW! CARDINAL O'HARA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1975 • 50TH REUNION

This year's 50th reunion will be held on **Saturday, October 11** from 7 PM to 11 PM at the Llanerch Country Club. Enjoy great food, cash bar, and a chance to reconnect with classmates!

To register or learn more about other reunions, please visit: cohs.com/alumni

STEWARDSHIP & TITHING

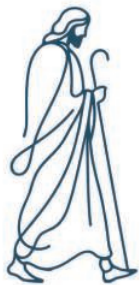
August 2025	\$95,744
Collection:	\$22,128
Mail-in:	\$31,147
EFT:	\$42,469
August 2024	\$100,000
Collection:	\$26,064
Mail-in:	\$30,749
EFT:	\$43,187

School Annual Fund 2025	\$63,824
School Annual Fund 2024	\$58,730

We are grateful for your generous spirit!



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St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

PARISH ENVISIONING PLAN

As a parish family, we strive to fulfill our mission continuing to build on the faithful's relationship to Jesus through Catholic worship, formation, and charity as his Missionary Disciples. Under the guidance of Fr. Eric, the Envisioning team set out to listen to parishioners' insights and feedback.

Then we strived to create a new set of parish priorities for the next three years to enrich our parish through outreach, offering new ways to engage, serve, and deepen our foundation of faith on an individual and communal level.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

As a parish community, we will:



Cultivate His Foundation.

We will provide parishioners with experiences to strengthen their faith and tools to deepen their relationships with Jesus, their families, and others.



Connect His Community.

Find new ways to build up our community of faith across all age levels.



Collect His Flock.

Offer dynamic programs and ministries to reach and engage those who have fallen away from the faith and parish life.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD IS CALLING

How Will You Answer?

Can you help grow our flock?
Are you interested in being part of our parish's hospitality team?
Would you like to learn about joining or supporting a service ministry? We want to hear from you! Scan the QR code or visit our Envision page online to join us in our parish's mission.



2026-2028
An Envisioning Parish

OUR ACTION PLAN

As a parish, we will create community through:



HOSPITALITY

We will build an atmosphere that makes anyone who enters the church feel welcome, and we will create a diverse hospitality team to engage and support those who join us for Mass.

In addition to our wide array of communal experiences and programs, we will offer enhanced monthly 'First Fridays.'

First Fridays will include dinner, confessions, Holy Hour, as well as delightful community-building activities for youth, adults, and families alike.

SERVICE

We will find intentional opportunities for Corporal Works and Spiritual Works of Mercy within our neighborhood and beyond. We will align our outreach efforts with area ministries throughout the PREP, School, and church ministries to maximize our impact.

FOCUS PARISH

As a FOCUS parish, missionaries will build relationships with parishioners.

They will get to know, engage, and invite members and others to grow in a personal relationship with Jesus and equip us to form others through various activities, including Bible studies, mission trips, and outreach events.



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