

Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

27 APRIL 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



Pope Francis at St. Charles Seminary in 2015.

Dear Friends in Christ,

On Monday morning, I woke up, as you did, to the news that our beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis, had died.

For his entire life, he served the Church tirelessly as a priest, a Jesuit superior, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Cardinal, and, since March 13th, 2013, Bishop of Rome and successor of Saint Peter.

His death brought many memories to mind, as I'm sure it has for you. For those of us privileged to be a part of it, his visit to Philadelphia in 2015 surely stands out as a highlight. Many remarked on his gestures of humility and simplicity, which endeared him to so many. But for me, the most lasting memory of Pope Francis will probably be his famous Urbi et Orbi blessing in an empty St Peter's square during the COVID-19 pandemic. With torrential rain coming down, the pope prayed fervently for an end to that terrible calamity which was still so new and little understood. He gave benediction with the blessed sacrament to many who were watching from home, including me at my family's house during my second year as a priest. That scene will forever be etched in the minds of those who watched it.

As we continue to mourn his death, I would like to offer here some excerpts of his homily on that historic occasion.

May Pope Francis, servant of the servants of God, rest forever in the perpetual light of Christ.

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Bancker



"When evening had come" (Mk 4:35). The Gospel passage we have just heard begins like this. For weeks now, it has been evening. Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets, and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void that stops everything as it passes by; we feel it in the air, we notice in people's gestures, their glances give them away. We find ourselves afraid and lost. Like the disciples in the Gospel, we were caught off guard

continued on page 3

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PARISH MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Sunday

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM & 7 PM

Weekday

Monday thru Friday
6:30 AM & 8:30 AM

Saturday

8:30 AM & 4:30 PM Vigil

**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: 5:30 PM Adoration & Confessions,
followed by Mass at 6:30 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.



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by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are in the same boat; all of us are fragile and disoriented, but at the same time, we are important and needed. All of us are called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying, "We are perishing" (v. 38), we too have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this.

Let us try to understand. In what does the lack of the disciples' faith consist, as contrasted with Jesus' trust? They had not stopped believing in him; in fact, they called on him. But we see how they call on him:

"Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" (v. 38).

Do you not care: they think that Jesus is not interested in them, does not care about them. One of the things that hurts us and our families most when we hear it said is: "Do you not care about me?" It is a phrase that wounds and unleashes storms in our hearts. It would have shaken Jesus too. Because he, more than anyone, cares about us. Indeed, once they have called on him, he saves his disciples from their discouragement.

The storm exposes our vulnerability and uncovers the false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, projects, habits, and priorities. It shows us how we have allowed ourselves to become dull and feeble, the very things that nourish, sustain, and strengthen our lives and our communities. The tempest lays bare all our prepackaged ideas and forgetfulness of what nourishes our people's souls; all those attempts that anesthetize us with ways of thinking and acting that supposedly "save" us but instead prove incapable of putting us in touch with our roots and keeping alive the memory of those who have gone before us.

We deprive ourselves of the antibodies we need to confront adversity.

"Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist, but coming to you and trusting in you. This Lent, your call reverberates urgently: "Be converted!", "Return to me with all your heart" (Joel 2:12). You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing. It is not the time of your judgment—but of our judgment: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others. We can look to so many exemplary companions for the journey, who, even though fearful, have reacted by giving their lives. This is the force of the Spirit poured out and fashioned in courageous and generous self-denial. It is the life in the Spirit that can

redeem, value, and demonstrate how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people—often forgotten people—who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines nor on the grand catwalks of the latest show, but who without any doubt are in these very days writing the decisive events of our time: doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, religious men and women and so very many others who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves. In the face of so much suffering, where the authentic development of our peoples is assessed, we experience the priestly prayer of Jesus: "That they may all be one" (Jn 17:21). How many people every day are exercising patience and offering hope, taking care to sow not panic but a shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents, and teachers show our children, in small everyday gestures, how to face up to and navigate a crisis by adjusting their routines, lifting their gaze, and fostering prayer? How many are praying, offering, and interceding for the good of all? Prayer and quiet service: these are our victorious weapons.

Embracing his cross means finding the courage to embrace all the hardships of the present time, abandoning for a moment our eagerness for power and possessions in order to make room for the creativity that only the Spirit is capable of inspiring. It means finding the courage to create spaces where everyone can recognize that they are called and to allow new forms of hospitality, fraternity, and solidarity. By his cross, we have been saved in order to embrace hope and let it strengthen and sustain all measures and all possible avenues for helping us protect ourselves and others. Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope.

"Why are you afraid? Have you no faith"? Dear brothers and sisters, from this place that tells of Peter's rock-solid faith, I would like this evening to entrust all of you to the Lord through the intercession of Mary, Health of the People and the Star of the Stormy Sea. From this colonnade that embraces Rome and the whole world, may God's blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace. Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies, and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak, and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: "Do not be afraid" (Mt 28:5). And we, together with Peter, "cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us" (cf. 1Pet 5:7).

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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



DIVINE MERCY • SUNDAY, APRIL 27

In addition to our Sunday Masses, we will offer a Divine Mercy beginning with Confessions, Rosary, and Chaplet at 4 PM followed by Mass at 5 PM

**NEW! SENIORS' SOCIAL CLUB TRIP
'NOAH' AT SIGHT & SOUND THEATRE
THURSDAY, APRIL 24**

St. Mary Magdalen Seniors invites you to join them on Tuesday, May 20, for a day trip to the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster to see the incredible production of NOAH. Get on board the Ark! With a catastrophic storm approaching, Noah faces a monumental task: to build a boat large enough to save his family from a flood that will engulf the entire earth. Set sail inside the enormous ark as this extraordinary story comes to life in this special 30th Anniversary season! The cost is \$210 per person, which includes the round trip by deluxe coach, lunch at Huckleberry's Restaurant, and a reserved seat at the show. **For information and reservations, please e-mail Bill Moore at patbillbr4@comcast.com, call 484-420-4575, or pick up a flyer in the narthex.**

**NEW! MASS IN ITALIAN
SATURDAY, MAY 3 AT 7 PM**

Join us for Mass in Italian with our pastor and celebrant, Fr. Eric Banecker, on May 3 at 7 PM in the main church. All are welcome!

**NEW! NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
AT ROSE TREE PARK
THURSDAY, MAY 1 AT 11:30 AM**

Join others from all over our community to celebrate the **National Day of Prayer** at Rose Tree Park.

The National Day of Prayer is a meaningful opportunity to pray for our community, others, and the nation! Spread faith, hope, and love. Invite your fellow parishioners, family, friends, and neighbors!

SIGN UP! ADORATION HOURS

Please consider making or renewing a six-month adoration commitment from **May 1 to October 31**.

Fr. Eric asks us to commit or recommit ourselves to ensure ample chapel coverage. Scan the QR code, visit our website's home page, or pick up the form in the narthex or chapel vestibule.



UPCOMING EVENTS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

SATURDAY, APRIL 26 • 10 AM

SUNDAY, APRIL 27 • 11:30 AM

Please pray for all our first communicants.



TODAY! DIVINE MERCY

SUNDAY, APRIL 27 • 4 PM

In addition to our Sunday Masses, we will offer a Divine Mercy Sunday with Confessions, Rosary, and Chaplet at 4 PM followed by Mass at 5 PM.



VERTICAL LIVE: OUR KIDS & SOCIAL MEDIA

MONDAY, APRIL 28 • 6 PM

Join us for an insightful conversation about smartphones, social media, and our children at 6 PM in St. Francis Hall. RSVP to events@stmarymagdalen.net



YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

MONDAY, APRIL 28 • 7 PM

Young Adults Bible Study with Fr. Eric at 7 PM followed by fellowship in St. Francis Hall.



FIRST FRIDAY

FRIDAY, MAY 2

Enjoy hot coffee and light refreshments in our narthex's 'cafe' after the 8:30 AM Mass.

First Friday Holy Hour at 5:30 PM followed by Mass at 6:30 PM. Afterward, stay for fellowship, pizza, and snacks in the narthex cafe.



Adoration Chapel

Monday
from 7 AM
to Friday
at 1 PM



We are the Delaware County location for
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Morning Prayer

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The following students achieved
honors for the third trimester.

First Honors: **Shane Ebersole '26**, **Reagan Zalis '26**,
Owen Gallagher '27, and **William Wood '27**

Congratulations to all these diligent students!

NEW! REDEMPTORIS MATER SEMINARY OF PHILADELPHIA BENEFIT DINNER

FRIDAY, JUNE 6 AT 6 PM

Join **Archbishop Nelson Pérez** and friends of the Redemptoris Mater Seminary for their Benefit Dinner on Friday, June 6, at the Springfield Country Club at 400 Sproul Road in Springfield from 6 to 9 PM.

Enjoy dinner, silent and live auctions, and more during this fun and memorable event that benefits the seminarians! This year, the seminary will honor

His Excellency Keith J. Chylinski, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia and Rector of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, **Rev. Msgr. Ralph J. Chieffo**, Pastor Emeritus at St. Mary Magdalen, and **Mr. J. Eustace Wolfington**, Movie Producer of Sound of Freedom & Cabrini.

Individual tickets, tables, and sponsors, are available at rmphiladelphia.org.

NEW! RESPECT LIFE SPEAKER THE UNBORN AS PERSON AND PATIENT

FRIDAY, MAY 9 AT 7 PM

Join the Pennsylvanians for Human Life, and other area organizations, on Friday, May 9, at 7 PM to hear Dr. William R. Lile, a Neonatologist from Pensacola, Florida, as he discusses remarkable cases of life-saving and life-enhancing surgeries on children in the womb that he and other medical professionals routinely perform. Dr. Lile will use easy-to-understand language and images to reveal the baby in the womb as a person and patient. A free-will offering event at Sts. Simon and Jude Parish in West Chester.

Dr. William R. Lile, Obstetrician/Gynecologist, Neonatologist and Medical Advisor, FACOG, Advocate of Patients' Rights for the Unborn.

WE WISH YOU A BLESSED EASTER SEASON

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.

Linda Grapes, Matthew Lawson

CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of **Carol Weathers, Anne V. Henry, David Franklin**, those souls who died due to wars or conflicts including the Holy Land, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, those recently 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, Charles Bastian, Danielle Bastian, Kevin Boylan, Bill Boylan, Joe Cahill, Anthony Carbo, Tricia Carmen, Christine Cavaliere, Mary Cichanowsky, Jim Clark, 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, Mary Theresa McDevitt, Michael McFadden, 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, Susan Sowa, Amerigo Tomassi, Mark Torregosa, Roseann Yannacone, and Ernie Zappacosta.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to our newest newlyweds!

Victoria Beury & Timothy Brown

BAPTISMS

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

Cole William Linton, Ronnie Jay DePermentier



A few images from around the campus during Lent and Easter—more photos on pg. 8.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

8:30 AM – Matthew Mullin

4:30 PM – Rose Marino

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

7:30 AM – Ints. of Jean & John Scott

9:30 AM – Vincent Zeller

11:30 AM – Joseph Boyle, Sr.

7 PM – The People of The Parish

MONDAY, APRIL 28

6:30 AM – Joseph Harrold

8:30 AM – Joseph John Brogan

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

6:30 AM – Genevieve Giangiulo

8:30 AM – Ints. of Pat Sarkees

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

6:30 AM – Dolores B. Lerro

8:30 AM – Living & Deceased Members of the Culin Family

THURSDAY, MAY 1

6:30 AM – Aida Whalon

8:30 AM – Jean Feeney

FRIDAY, MAY 2

6:30 AM – Yong Tae Tae

8:30 AM – Maria Squillacioti

SATURDAY, MAY 3

8:30 AM – Janet Lois Zurbach

4:30 PM – Janet Zurbach

SUNDAY, MAY 4

7:30 AM – Peter DiPlacido

9:30 AM – Adele Page

11:30 AM – John “Jack” Quindlen

7 PM – The People of The Parish



FLOWERS

In memory of

BREAD & WINE

In memory of Anne Henry

CANDLE

In memory of David Franklin

**SOON! MOTHERS' HOME
ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF OUTING
MONDAY, MAY 12**

Join us for this year's Mothers' Home Charity Golf Outing at Paxon Hollow Country Club on Monday, May 12. Enjoy lunch at 11 AM, followed by Golf with a 'Shotgun Start' at Noon. All proceeds benefit the Mothers' Home in Darby. **To sponsor or register for this year's event, please visit mothershomegolf.com.**

**HOLY HOUR & NOVENA
FOR EILEEN GEORGE'S INTERSESSION
SUNDAY, MAY 11 AT 2 PM**

Join us for a grace-filled Holy Hour on Sunday, MAY 11, from 2 to 3 PM at Annunciation BVM Church on 401 Brookline Blvd. in Havertown.

The Holy Hour includes Adoration, Confessions, Benediction, and Novena for Eileen George's intercession for our personal needs. Priests will be available for Confessions. Afterward, all are welcome to a social in the parish hall.

Additional Holy Hour dates this year are June 15, July 13, August 10, and September 14. All are welcome!

**JOIN US! TEA WITH THERESE
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SAINTHOOD
SUNDAY, MAY 18**

Join author and EWTN guest Susan Brinkmann of LiveCatholic, for a **Lady's Afternoon Tea** to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the canonization of St. Therese of Lisieux on Sunday, May 18, from 2 to 4 PM in the Memorial Dining Hall at the Malvern Retreat House.

The afternoon will feature assorted teas, treats, a video about the life of the Little Flower filmed on location in France, a gift basket raffle, giveaways, and resources for purchase.

Visit livecatholic.org to register.

**THAT MAN IS YOU
THURSDAYS AT 6:25 AM**

Join us in St. Francis Hall for *Apostles in Springtime*. Doors open at 6 AM.

Learn more at TMIY.org.

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JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF
LEARNING HOW TO UPLIFT
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THROUGH THE ART OF DANCE!



SUNDAY MAY 4TH
ST. MARY MAGDALEN CHURCH
FOLLOWING THE 7PM MASS



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