

# Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

12 OCTOBER 2025

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to mention an important spiritual opportunity coming up in just over a week: our annual **Forty Hours Eucharistic Devotion**. I decided to have it in the autumn this year rather than during Lent as a commemoration of the anniversary of the first Mass celebrated in our parish in the small barn chapel in 1963. This year, Forty Hours will take place **Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, through Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**. I ask all parish groups to ask their members to participate in these days as much as possible, especially by signing up for an adoration hour on the poster boards in the narthex.

The schedule for these three days of prayer will be as follows:

6:30 AM Mass (chapel)

7:15 AM Morning Prayer (chapel)

8:30 AM Mass (church)

*Solemn exposition of the Blessed Sacrament all day,  
please sign up and stop in throughout the week.*

6 PM Confessions (church)

*Continuing during the Holy Hour as needed.*

6:30 PM Holy Hour

*Consisting of Vespers, a homily, and Benediction, concluding  
with a procession on Thursday evening (weather permitting).  
I will serve as the homilist for all three evening Holy Hours.*

May these days of worship and prayer be a source  
of grace for our entire parish throughout the year!

*continued on page 3*



SCAN HERE TO GIVE



*For more information, see the Catholic Charities ad on page 9.*

## 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. Mr. Jude Opara  
*Transitional Deacon*  
deaconjude@stmarymagdalen.net

*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.

As you know, many of us are fiercely loyal to our local parishes around here. Many of you tell me of beautiful experiences here at Saint Mary Magdalen over the years. You also share with me stories of growing up in other parishes—here in Delaware County, in Philadelphia or Chester, or somewhere else—where you received a solid formation and which are a source of good memories for you. Indeed, Catholic life takes place in the local parish communities, where groups of families, called out of the world by Christ through the Eucharistic celebration, share with each other “joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties” as brothers and sisters to one another (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World *Gaudium et spes* 1).

At the same time, the Catholic Church doesn't end at the borders of Saint Mary Magdalen's Parish boundaries. Our profession of faith includes belief in the “communion of saints,” which consists of all members of the Body of Christ spread throughout the world, the souls in purgatory for whom we must pray, and those who even now gaze upon the face of the Lord in Heaven and intercede for us. Indeed, in a fundamental way, our primary identity is, as a child of God, an identity rooted in the grace of Baptism, which necessarily incorporates me as a body with all those who share in this identity.

Saint Mary Magdalen Parish does not exist in a vacuum, but is one of the 214 parishes of our local Church, under the headship of Archbishop Perez, the Archbishop of Philadelphia. As archbishop, he is the shepherd of all the faithful throughout the five counties of the Archdiocese. In communion with all the bishops of the world, especially the Bishop of Rome, Pope Leo XIV, he participates in the governance of the worldwide Church. Through him, then, we are united in a real way with Catholics in Bangladesh and Bali, San Francisco and Shanghai, Pittsburgh and Paris.

I bring this up because it is very difficult for so many Catholics throughout the Archdiocese—not to mention the world!—to be united in the same concrete effort. Most of the time, our energies are focused on building up the local parish, which is a good thing. But every now and then, we need to have eyes to see the larger picture. That's why we have missionaries come and preach each year. That's why the Little Sisters of the Poor come and share their mission to care for the elderly poor and ask for our support. That's the reason for so many clothing drives

and soup kitchen trips throughout the year.

In particular, this year, I want to ask for your support for the Catholic Charities Appeal. The Catholic Charities Appeal is the primary means by which Catholics across the Archdiocese support the charitable works carried out in our name by agencies across the five counties. Funds from the Appeal support everything from senior centers to meals for low-income children to evangelization efforts for college students to outreach for persons with disabilities.

Our parish is significantly under goal for this annual appeal, but I believe we can make that up. Will you help make this a reality? More important for me than the dollar amount is to be able to say that everyone in the parish participated in some way. Please point to the QR code available here on the bulletin cover or on the cards handed out by the ushers at Masses this weekend. There are also envelopes available for those who prefer to give in the traditional way.

Above all, thank you all for your generosity in so many ways, and for your witness of faith and love, which is essential for us as disciples of Jesus and members of His Church.

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker



## NEW! MASS PRESIDER SCHEDULE

### Saturday, October 18

4:30 PM—Fr. Robert Pesarchick

### Sunday, October 19

7:30 AM—Fr. Eric Banecker

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.*

## MASS INTENTIONS

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



To make a request visit [stmarymagdalen.net](http://stmarymagdalen.net), or Scan the QR Code.



## PARISH

610-566-8821  
stmarymagdalen.net

Mrs. Gina Staiber  
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Mrs. Dorothy Brown  
*Director of Religious Education*  
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*PREP Administrator*  
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Extension: 109

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

## SCHOOL

610-565-1822  
stmarymagdalschool.net

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



# FORTY HOURS

at St. Mary Magdalen

Tuesday, October 21  
Wednesday, October 22  
& Thursday, October 23

Celebrate the glorious gift of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist in adoration and word at 6:30 PM.

Thursday evening includes a procession.

Sign up in the narthex for an hour as an adorer.  
Enjoy all day adoration in the main church.

# Casserole Collection

*Next weekend before all Masses*



Place your frozen casserole in the cart.  
Tins and lids are available in the Narthex, or party size frozen meals may be purchased.

Donations of toiletries and socks are also appreciated.



Bethesda Project



## NEW! OCIA OCTOBER DISCUSSION DATES

The OCIA series on 'Catholicism' has just begun!

Our upcoming discussion dates in October are **Monday, October 6**, and **Monday, October 20**, from 6:30 to 7:45 pm in St. Francis Hall, located on the lower level of the Church.

To learn more about becoming Catholic, visit [stmarymagdalen.net/OCIA](http://stmarymagdalen.net/OCIA) or contact Deacon Bob at [deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net](mailto:deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net).



## NEW! SENIORS' SOCIAL CLUB COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Our SMM Seniors' Social Club is having a Communion Breakfast after Mass on **Sunday, October 26 at 11 AM**. Join us at the Springhaven Club on Route 252 in Wallingford. Our topic will be "*Spirituality of Christian Witness*", with guest speaker **Fr. Eric Banecker**. The cost is \$25. For more information, or If you are interested in attending, please contact **Bette** at 610-733-3949.

## 40 DAYS OF LIFE

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

SMM parishioners are invited to act as prayer witnesses for the unborn from 7 AM to 7 PM on **October 18**. To register your vigil hour please visit **Chester County 40 Days at [40daysforlife.com](http://40daysforlife.com)**.

For more information or questions, please contact Deacon Bob at [deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net](mailto:deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net).



## LITTLE CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS THIS SUNDAY

Throughout the school year, Little Church School is available during the 9:30 AM Mass for ages 3 through 5. Join us in the **Gathering Room** beginning **October 5**, to learn about Jesus through stories, songs, games, crafts, and prayer.

Parents can help support the program by volunteering for a session or two throughout the season. **For more information, please contact Elizabeth Logan at [elogan26@gmail.com](mailto:elogan26@gmail.com)**.



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FRIDAY

## April 17

2026

# Dialogues

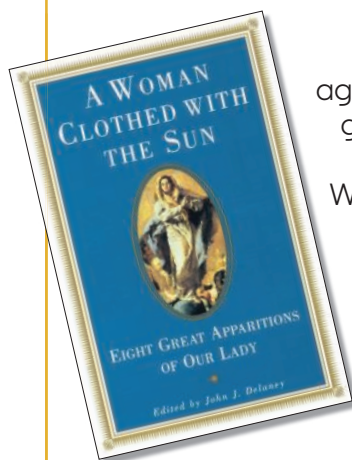
## Deep in Our Lord's Vineyard

Throughout history, Our Blessed Lady has appeared with messages of warning, hope, and consolation, particularly during the last two centuries, known as the Marian Age. This period has seen numerous apparitions, each encouraging humanity to return to God through prayer, penance, and reparation for sins.

**A Woman Clothed with the Sun** explores the eight most significant apparitions of Our Lady: the Miraculous Medal in Paris, La Salette, Lourdes, Knock, Fatima, Beauraing, Banneux, and the sixteenth-century appearance at Guadalupe, which holds a profound message for Americans. The book provides historical context, describes the visions, and quotes Mary's messages from respected writers.

In the introduction, editor John J. Delaney examines the connections between these apparitions and their significance.

Our second book recommended by Dialogues—*Deep in Our Lord's Vineyard* is available online at multiple retailers.



'A book I've read and re-read over and over again. I've also bought it as gifts for friends and family. Well worth the read! When I visited the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, I knew more about Our Lady's appearance to Juan Diego than our guide did...all because of this wonderful book.'

—Online reviewer

**Interested in a group discussion of this book or a previous book?**

Scan the QR to fill out a short form, if there is enough interest, we will offer periodic book discussions!



## NEW! VIRTUE OF THE MONTH FORTITUDE

The Virtue of Fortitude, or Courage, is the strength to do the right thing in the face of fear and difficulties.

It is strength in adversity. Fortitude is having the courage and strength to do what is right, even when it's hard or scary. It's trusting that God is always with us. A model of this virtue might be when, confronted with anti-Catholic views, a Catholic exhibits fortitude by engaging in respectful, informed discussions that articulate the position of Truth. It requires courage to confront misunderstandings and misinformation while maintaining compassion for those who disagree.

The Crown of Thorns represents the suffering Christ endured during His Passion and His unwavering strength in fulfilling God's will. It is a powerful reminder that fortitude is not just about physical bravery but also about spiritual endurance, perseverance, and the courage to stand firm in faith despite hardships. Just as Jesus bore the crown with dignity and strength, we, too, are called to embrace our struggles with trust in God. For reflection, consider some situations in your life where you might be tempted to act out of cowardice rather than fortitude. How does the Bible's message of persevering to the end inspire you to act boldly in your faith and decisions? In what ways can you cultivate more fortitude in your daily life, and how can this virtue help you grow in your relationship with God and others?



A few smiling faces from October's First Friday. Join us on November 7.



## 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 Mingone Family, Ian McLaughlin, Caitlin Coughlan

## CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of **Lynn Ciminera, Donald Frank, Catherine Quindlen, Ruth Seganti**, 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, 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, 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!

Daniel Sanchez & Melissa Beach

## BAPTISMS

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

Francis Joseph Sortino V



2025 Cardinal O'Hara JV CYO Volleyball Tournament Champions—Congratulations, Hawks!

## Prayers & Mass Intentions 7

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

8:30 AM – Ints. of Thomas Verna

4:30 PM – Stephen Wiley

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

7:30 AM – Ints. of Ralph Purri

9:30 AM – Patrick Hennessy

11:30 AM – Lester Fry

7 PM – The People of the Parish

#### MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

6:30 AM – No Mass

8:30 AM – Elizabeth Storm

#### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

6:30 AM – James Clark

8:30 AM – Antonette J. LaRocca

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

6:30 AM – Richard Harland-Wilson

8:30 AM – Helen Regina Johnson

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

6:30 AM – Kathleen Daveler

8:30 AM – Kathleen M. Ward

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

6:30 AM – Aimee Ellis

8:30 AM – Joseph Herm

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

8:30 AM – Richard E. Donnelly, Sr.

4:30 PM – Robert McCullen

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

7:30 AM – Barbara Dzwonczyk

9:30 AM – Ints. of Ann & Bill Tierny

11:30 AM – Antonette J. LaRocca

7 PM – The People of the Parish



### FLOWERS

In memory of our deceased parishioners

### BREAD & WINE

In memory of Stephen Blakley

### CANDLE

Ints. of the sick in our Parish

**NEW! BEREAVEMENT SESSIONS**  
**WEDNESDAYS • 10:30 AM TO 12 PM**

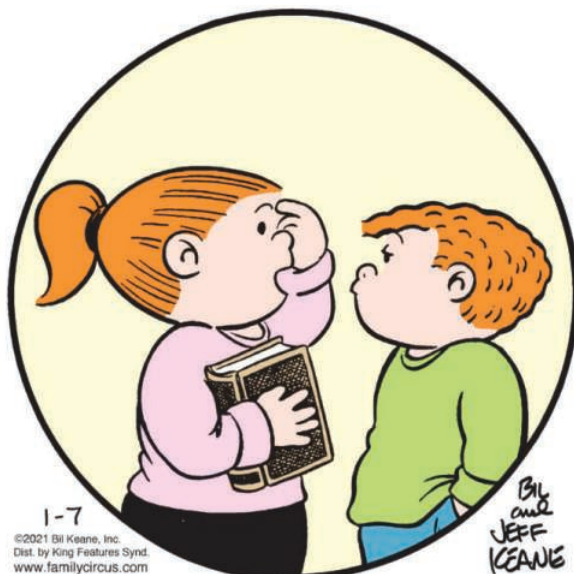
St. Mary Magdalen offers our care and support to those who have suffered the loss of a loved one. Join us for in-person group sessions with Deacon Jude Opara in **St. Francis Hall** at 10:30 AM until Noon on the following Wednesdays this fall: **October 22, November 5, and November 19.** All are welcome.

**NEW! FALL COAT & HOODIE DRIVE**  
**OCTOBER 6 TO OCTOBER 17**

Cleaning out your closets? Have extra coats or hoodies? St. Mary Magdalen Stewardship will host its annual Coat and Hoodie Drive from **October 6 to October 17.** Bins are in the narthex and outside the gym. Bring in gently used or new coats to donate to CityTeam. Donated hoodies will go to St. John's Hospice at the Boot Up Philly event.

**NEW! BIOETHICS SEMINAR AT SMM**  
**OCTOBER 24 & 25**

Join medical professionals dedicated to a tradition of compassion and care on October 24 and October 25. This seminar is designed to benefit healthcare workers, clergy, medical researchers, and other professionals who provide spiritual support and counsel to patients and their families. To learn more or to register, visit [ncbcenter.org](http://ncbcenter.org).



1-7  
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**"Conscience is when God sends  
 a text to your head."**

**ROOTED IN GRACE**  
**A BAPTISMAL RETREAT**

First-time parents and new SMM parents preparing for their child's Baptism are encouraged to join us for a Pre-Jordan Retreat offered on the following dates from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

**November 2**  
**February 1**  
**April 12**  
**August 2**



Includes Fellowship & Food.  
 Registration is required, please contact Stephanie at [stephaniepdavey@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniepdavey@gmail.com).

**STEWARDSHIP & TITHING**

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| September 2025          | \$128,779 |
| Collection:             | \$47,662  |
| Mail-in:                | \$34,328  |
| EFT:                    | \$46,789  |
| September 2024          | \$103,817 |
| Collection:             | \$38,373  |
| Mail-in:                | \$19,485  |
| EFT:                    | \$45,959  |
| School Annual Fund 2025 | \$70,924  |
| School Annual Fund 2024 | \$58,730  |

**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.





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