

Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

14 SEPTEMBER 2025

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

OUR DAILY BREAD OUR FATHER, PART IX

*"Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us."*

Forgiveness has two modes or postures in our lives: there is forgiveness received and forgiveness given. Both are essential for us, which is why Jesus teaches His disciples to pray that God forgive us and to give us the grace to forgive those who wrong us.

The Cantic of Zechariah is prayed every day by the Church in Morning Prayer (Lauds) of the Liturgy of Hours. Bishops, priests, deacons, and consecrated religious are bound to pray this on behalf of the entire Church, and many lay people pray it as well (including here at Saint Mary Magdalen every Tuesday through Friday at 7:15 AM in the chapel). In this Cantic, taken from the Gospel according to Luke, we pray, in reference to Saint John the Baptist, "You will go before the Lord to prepare His way, to give His people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins."

We see the terrible consequences of sin in the earthly life of Jesus—not that He sinned, of course, but that the sins of those around Him led to intense suffering. Think of His parents having to relocate to Bethlehem because of the census of the Emperor Augustus—a raw exercise of imperial power which hurt the poor most of all. There was the persecution by Herod, which forced the Holy Family to flee to Egypt. There was the misunderstanding of the crowds, the murmuring of the Pharisees, the plotting of the Sadducees, the betrayal of Judas, and the denial of Peter.

There was Jesus' crucifixion and death, which the Gospels make clear was for the sake of the forgiveness of sins—not just the sins of those individuals who brought Jesus to His death that day in Jerusalem, but that of all humanity from Adam forward. We all brought Him to the Cross, but God in His mercy has forgiven us all through that same event. As Jesus Himself said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."



continued on page 3

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
deaconjude@stmarymagdalen.net
Transitional Deacon

*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.

Christ's self-emptying love met the resistance of sin in this fallen world. He came to reveal God in fullness and, in so doing, to redeem us from our broken state of sin. Indeed, as the Canticum indicates, we have knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of our sins.

And so, in preaching about the Kingdom of God, Jesus used a word first proclaimed by John the Baptist: metanoia. This Greek word is often translated as "repent," and comes from the two words meta and nous, meaning, literally: "a new mind." It is a call to a radically new way of thinking about reality. Saint Paul will take up the same theme in one of his most frequently quoted verses: "Do not conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds" (*Romans 12:2*). That is exactly what metanoia is all about: questioning the assumptions and lies we believe and instead being renewed interiorly. This involves repenting of past sins, that is, "putting off the old self."

For adults preparing to be Baptized, the final Lent before their Baptism is called the Period of Purification and Enlightenment, a final preparation to encounter the merciful Christ in the sacraments.

Through prayer and fasting, the catechumen responds to the Holy Spirit's grace of true metanoia, so that initiation into the Church may truly be a new beginning. For the same reason, our discipleship in Christ must be completely marked by a daily conversion of mind and heart. We must examine our hearts frequently and have a regular practice of the Sacrament of Penance, in which we receive that forgiveness won for us on the Cross. Having been touched by the mercy and forgiveness of God in this way, we are then prepared to forgive those who have wronged us with that same charity of Christ.

Sometimes people ask me what a regular practice of penance looks like in the life of a Christian. First of all, it doesn't just involve "going to Confession," but living with a penitential spirit in various ways. For instance, Friday is the universal day of penance in the Catholic Church. The universal norm is that Catholics refrain from meat on all Fridays throughout the year, not just Lent. In the United States, Catholics may substitute some other kind of penance outside of Lent, but the point is, we are all supposed to do something. Even small acts done for love of Christ and in union with His own passion are of tremendous spiritual power.

That spirit of penitence should lead to a regular practice of the Sacrament of Penance. Some of you may remember from your childhood that there were four times a year commemorations called "Ember

Days" in which there were special opportunities for Fasting, Confession, and Eucharistic devotion, meant to stir the heart to greater love for the Lord (i.e., tending the "embers" of faith, hence the name).

Those four periods of the year were known by an old English rhyme:

*Fasting days and Emberings be
Lent, Whitsun, Holyrood, and Lucie.*

In other words, the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday following the Exaltation of the Cross (Sept 14), the Feast of Saint Lucy (Dec 13), Ash Wednesday, and Pentecost Sunday were meant to mark the passing of the year. I would say that if we all made a commitment to go to Confession those four times per year, we would be doing very well.

The Sacraments of Baptism and Penance are the ordinary means by which God answers the petition of the Our Father to "forgive us our trespasses," in which He communicates the merits of His Son's passion into our lives. It just so happens that today is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, meaning this Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday are the traditional Ember Days when we are enjoined to fast, pray, and go to the Sacrament of Penance. Won't you consider coming this Saturday morning at 9 AM? Allow the Lord to touch your heart with His peace and the grace of forgiveness, so that we may put aside resentments and forgive others as well.

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 PRESIDER SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 20

4:30 PM—Fr. Eric Banecker

Sunday, September 21

7:30 AM—Fr. Larry Crehan

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.*

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
Extension: 122

Mr. John Gill
Advancement Director
jgill@stmarymagdalen.net

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

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

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

SCHOOL

610-565-1822
stmarymagdalenschool.net

Mrs. Amy Crawford Bauer
Principal
abauer@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



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! THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

The Knights of Columbus will hold its first meeting of the fall on Thursday, September 18 at 7 PM in The Gathering Room to discuss plans for the 2025-26 year. All men over 18 are invited. **We are also planning to participate in the annual Pennsylvania March for Life on Monday, Sept. 22 in Harrisburg. Please call 267-294-6570 for details.**

NEW! ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY NEWS

Our SVDP Conference had a very active summer. Among our cases, we are helping two young single women with children find secure housing to protect their families, and another who has housing but has requested assistance due to an emergency inability to meet her current monthly rent. The challenge for our SVDP Conference is always limited funds to support the strict financial requirements of first, last, and security deposits to complete the rental process for them. With other active SMM SVDP cases requiring miscellaneous utility bill payments, gift cards for food and gas, and other necessities, we are struggling to provide this support for the first time in years. SVDP would be unable to do our work without your continuous support. With sincere gratitude, we thank you for your faithful contributions now and over the years. Your gifts can be placed in our secure metal box located in the narthex near the food pantry. SVDP is hosting a recruitment drive, offering parishioners the opportunity to join us in serving the needs of people experiencing poverty. As some of our long-term members retire, they likely tell you there is a tremendous fulfillment in assisting our neighbors with support and care as they face sensitive positions of emotional and financial need. **Please consider this invitation to join us in caring for our neighbors in need. For more information, contact Mike at msmullin@comcast.net.**

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3 TO SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5**

Are you struggling with the emotional or spiritual pain of a traumatic pregnancy loss? Whether you're suffering from an abortion or miscarriage, you can experience God's Mercy and Compassion. Our next retreat weekend is October 3 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown. **For more information, please call Evelyn at 215-317-5752 or visit www.rachelsvineyard.org.**



Dialogues: **Deep in Our Lord's Vineyard**

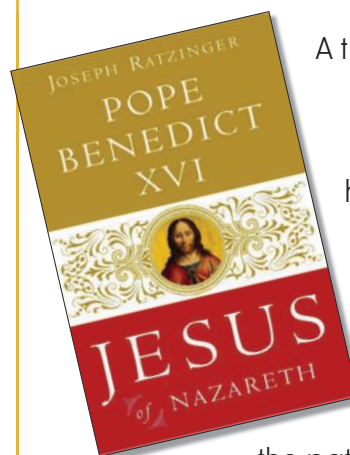
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An SMM Parish Enrichment Book

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.

Seniors' Social Club Event Calendar

2025-2026

SEPTEMBER 10

GENERAL MEMBERS' MEETING
Meet New Friends & Enjoy Hoagies!

JANUARY 14

GENERAL MEMBERS' MEETING
David Gettes, Steel Drums

OCTOBER 8

GENERAL MEMBERS' MEETING
Greg Albert, Drummer and Singer

FEBRUARY 11

GENERAL MEMBERS' MEETING
Crazy Bingo

OCTOBER 26

COMMUNION BREAKFAST
11 AM at The Springhaven Club
Rev. Eric Banecker, Guest Speaker

MARCH 11

GENERAL MEMBERS' MEETING
Theresa Murtagh, Irish Singer

NOVEMBER 12

GENERAL MEMBERS' MEETING
Juliana Ruiz, Flamingo Dancer

APRIL 8

GENERAL MEMBERS' MEETING
Joey Vincent, Comedian and Singer

DECEMBER 10

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
at The Springhaven Club

MAY 13

GENERAL MEMBERS' MEETING
Election of Officers & Pizza Party

JUNE 10

MEMBERS' LUNCHEON & INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS
at The Springhaven Club



General Members' Meetings are held in St. Francis Hall on the second Wednesday of each month from September to June from 12:45 to about 3 PM.
The annual membership dues are only \$25!

SEE PARISH BULLETIN OR VISIT THE NARTHEX FOR ADDITIONAL TRIP OR EVENT FLYERS!

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 Agustine Family, The Rakoczy Family, The Weaver Family

CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of **Maria Theresa Kilcur, Angelina Scarpa**, 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, Charles Bastian, Danielle Bastian, Kevin Boylan, Joe Cahill, Tricia Carmen, Christine Cavaliere, Mary Cichanowsky, Jean Cotter, Joseph DeFabio, Kieran Doran, Rosemary Dougherty, 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, Carol Ortner, Bill Pace, John Pollera, Nicholas Quercetti, Sr., George Rodgers, Naomi Rouse, 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!

Michael Vandevere & Kaitlin King

BAPTISMS

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

Josephina Catharine Twining & Sophia Joan Juliano



Congratulations to the Barker & Denchak families on the Baptisms of Jude & Patrick!

Prayers & Mass Intentions 7

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

8:30 AM – Thomas Logan, Sr.

4:30 PM – John T. Gill

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

7:30 AM – Thomas Logan, Sr.

9:30 AM – Philip & Jessie Cavalcanto

11:30 AM – Dr. Emilio Loy Valdes

7 PM – The People of the Parish

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

6:30 AM – No Mass

8:30 AM – The People of the Parish

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

6:30 AM – Brian Watson, Sr.

8:30 AM – Mr. & Mrs. Pane

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

6:30 AM – Kevin Bonner

8:30 AM – Betty Rivera

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

6:30 AM – Daniel Bonner

8:30 AM – Salvatore "Chick" J. Russo

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

6:30 AM – Ints. of Fr. Eric J. Banecker

8:30 AM – Ints. of Pat Sarkees

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

FLOWERS

In memory of Theresa Kilcur

BREAD & WINE

In memory of Herb Phillips

CANDLE

In memory of Sam & Anna Pane

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.



FR. BILL ATKINSON PILGRIMAGE Thursday, September 25

Registration at 3 PM
Prayer Service 3:30 PM

at **ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA CHURCH**

Followed by a 4-mile accessible walk
to **OUR LADY OF ASSUMPTION**



For more information or to register visit us at friendsoffatherbill.org



REGISTER! CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE IN DOYLESTOWN SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Join Catholic women from around the Archdiocese for a day of fun, friendship, faith, and prayer at the Catholic Women's Conference. This year, our theme is "Women on Mission: The Feminine Genius in the New Apostolic Age."

We will explore the beauty of our feminine genius and the unique position of Catholic women, transformed by Christ, to bring the light of the Gospel to a society that no longer recognizes its need for Him. Many outstanding speakers, including Mary Ann Wiesinger-Puig, Sr. Faustina Maria Pia, SV, Bishop Joseph Perry, Fr. Sean Loomis, Fr. Thomas Viviano, Dr. Delia Larrauri, and Elizabeth Leon.

Saturday, October 18, 2025, 9 AM to 4 PM,
at the National Shrine of Our Lady of
Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA (Jubilee site).
Tracks available in English and Spanish.
Register today, as the event may sell out, at
catholicwomensconference.org.



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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She Shall Be Called Woman

A PROGRAM FOR ALL WOMEN BY
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SEASON THREE LOVE UNVEILED

In this season, we will explore what it means for us, as women, to represent the identity of Christ's bride to the world. This relationship is marked by joy and intimacy, but also, like any relationship, it includes moments of failure, heartbreak, and the need for restoration. As we journey together, we will delve into the depths of Christ's love for His Bride, discovering the beauty of reconciliation and the grace that heals and strengthens us. Prepare your heart to be pursued by the Lord in a way that deepens your love for Him, invites your soul to heal, and fortifies your relationship with Christ.



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



KATIE HARTFIEL
Content Coordinator
She Shall Be Called Woman



STEPHANIE REGITZ
Founder of Saint Gianna's
Hope Ministry



MARY BIELSKI
Speaker, Evangelist, &
Life Coach



EMILY STIMPSON CHAPMAN
Best Selling Author



ALI HOFFMAN
Catholic Evangelist & Artist



RACHEL BULMAN
Author & Speaker

DISCOVER CHRIST'S LOVE

EACH SESSION OFFERS:

- ENCOUNTER:** "SHE inspires me for the week ahead and helps to keep me on track with my faith and daily prayer time."
- MESSAGE:** "I appreciate that a personal relationship with Jesus is central to each video presenter. This series is excellent!"
- FELLOWSHIP:** "I really felt heard and listened to by the other ladies in my small group, and I enjoyed growing spiritually with other women."

SEASON FOUR
RESTORED to RADIANCE
COMING THIS SPRING

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Mondays in St. Francis Hall
September 22, 29
October 6, 20, 27
November 3, 10, 17, 24

SCHEDULE:

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

REGISTRATION:

Scan the QR code!
For more information, contact
Patty Szipszky
Pszipszky@gmail.com

SEE
OTHER LOCAL
SHE
LOCATIONS
BELOW



St. Pius X, Broomall: Thursdays at 6:30 PM, Starts 9/25
Contact: Chrissy Mancini at christinemarie.mancini@gmail.com

St. Francis Assisi, Springfield: Saturdays 8:30 AM, Starts 9/13
Contact: Jen Lorenz at jlorenz10@yahoo.com

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