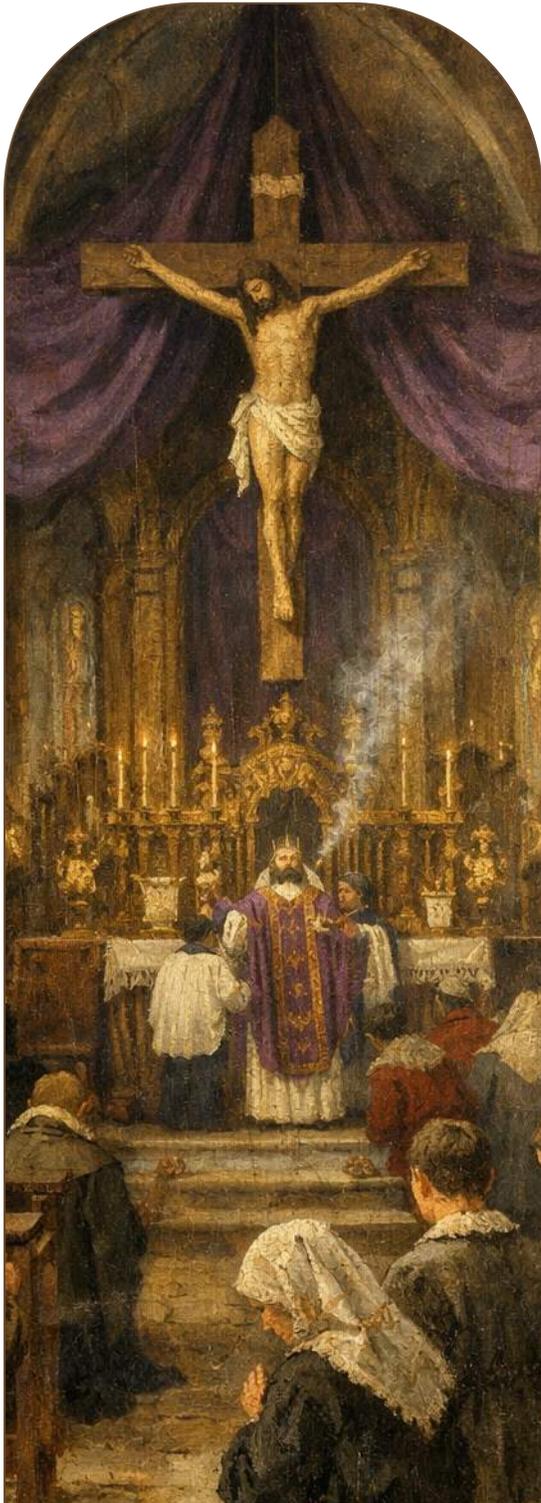


# Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

22 FEBRUARY 2026

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



Dear Friends in Christ,

*"If you are the Son of God, command these stones become loaves of bread."*

These words, which the Gospel of Matthew reports as spoken by Satan to the Lord Jesus while he was tempted in the desert, are heard across the world at Mass on this First Sunday of Lent. I wish to meditate on this for just a moment as we have embarked on this season of fasting together.

On the one hand, is it really such a bad suggestion in the end? Surely, how many people go hungry every day? There are homeless people on our streets, elderly poor who cannot afford their own homes and have to ration food, and children in countries torn apart by war and corruption. These are grave injustices which should move us all to repentance and to action. Maybe we wonder: if he was hungry, why didn't Jesus just turn the stones into bread? For that matter, why doesn't He do that today? The Church—which, after all, spends so much time on liturgies and prayer and intellectual formation—perhaps should just focus on helping people in practical, material ways. The spiritual needs, perhaps, can wait.

But this is a great temptation and one we must resist with all the vigor of our Lord:

"It is written:

*One does not live on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes forth  
from the mouth of God."*

Yes, our physical needs are great. The cry of the hungry must always pierce us to the heart. Yet our spiritual needs are greater and more urgent. In our country, for instance, some people go to bed hungry, but many more walk around in broad daylight utterly devoid of a sense of purpose or meaning. Many have become demoralized by a culture which permits everything but forgives nothing. Many have reached even a certain level of success—in a career, in public esteem—and yet have this existential fear: *is this really it?* Into this hunger, the Church proclaims the message of Ash Wednesday: "repent, and believe in the Gospel."

*continued on page 3*

## 2 Mass & Devotions

### CLERGY

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stmarymagdalen.net

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*Pastor*  
freric@stmarymagdalen.net  
Extension 110



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*Pastor Emeritus*  
frralph@stmarymagdalen.net

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*Parochial Vicar*  
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*Transitional Deacon*  
deaconjude@stmarymagdalen.net



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*Permanent Deacon*  
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*Director of Parish  
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*Permanent Deacon  
OCIA Program*  
deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net

Deacon E. Peter Zurbach, Ph.D.  
*Permanent Deacon, Retired*

### FOCUS

Tina Augustine  
*FOCUS Missionary*  
tina@stmarymagdalen.net

Jacob Barajas  
*FOCUS Missionary*  
jake@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 Tuesday 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.

Jesus Christ, the true bread sent from the Father, is the only one who can satisfy our longings.

In Him who loved us and who was crucified for our salvation, we see that love is the meaning of everything—a love which is not about my own self-actualization but my own self-renunciation.

That is why fasting is an essential part of Lent: without it, we become like the man and woman in the garden, who are unable to receive everything as a gift from God, choosing instead to grasp at things for themselves. This way of self-assertion, of choosing what I want when I want it, leads precisely to the alienation and loneliness that many experience today.

That fasting, then, gives us the spiritual resources—and material ones!—to address the needs of those around me. Yes, I cannot fix all the world's problems. But there might be someone

I see every day for whom I can pray this Lent, or invite to a Bible study, or send a note. The Church exists to proclaim the Gospel and worship God—but if that is real, it leads surely to satisfying the physical hungers of those in front of me, those who call out for help. The Catholic Charities Appeal—which launches this weekend—allows us to financially support this important work of mercy, which is carried out in the name of us all, the people of the Church of Philadelphia. I encourage you to be especially generous this year to the appeal. In this way, the cry of the hungry can be answered not through the temptation of the enemy, but in the way of Christ, present to us in the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life, and the food by which we truly live.

May the Lord grant you peace!

–Father Eric Banecker

### NEW! MASS PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

**Saturday, February 28**

4:30 PM—Fr. Robert Pesarchick

**Sunday, March 1**

7:30 AM—Fr. Robert Pesarchick

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.*

### NEW! LITTLE BETHLEHEM CARVERS

**MARCH 7 & MARCH 8**

The Al Sahouri family will return with their carved collectible pieces, which will be on sale in our narthex before and after Mass the weekend of **March 7** and **March 8**. Little Bethlehem Carvers offers quality religious items containing various samples from the Holy Land. All the carvings offered through **Little Bethlehem Christian Group** are taken from the prunings of olive wood trees within and around Bethlehem and Jerusalem.



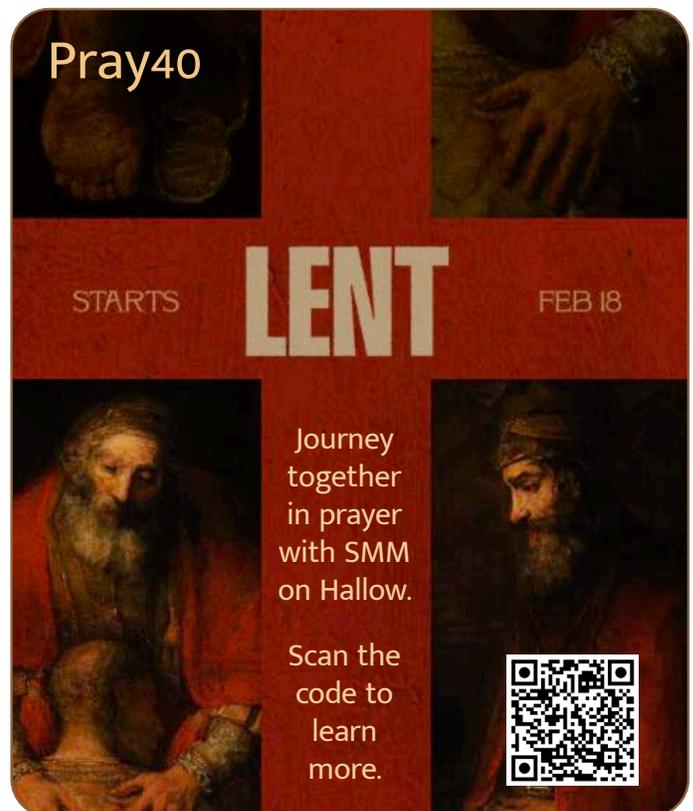
### NEW! 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

**MARCH 21**

We invite SMM parishioners to join Delco Churches on **Saturday, March 21** at Planned Parenthood in West Chester, to pray for defenseless unborn children between 7 AM and 7 PM. 40 Days for Life is an international program that truly saves babies' lives, and we hope you can be part of that mission.

Enlist a friend or two and sign up for an open hour by visiting [40daysforlife.com](http://40daysforlife.com), search Chester County or Chester County Campaign, then sign up for unfilled hours under the March 21 vigil.

We thank you for your support!



Pray40

STARTS **LENT** FEB 18

Journey together in prayer with SMM on Hallow.

Scan the code to learn more.

## PARISH

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Mrs. Mary Lou Mayer  
Office Administrators  
Extension: 107

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Mrs. Amy Crawford Bauer  
Principal  
abauer@stmarymagdalen.net



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We need your help to make our auction amazing as we raise funds for our school. Do you have a service or item you can donate to our online auction?

Then, sign in or sign up and get ready to preview all our current auction items and start to place your bids on **Friday, February 27**. New items will be added each week. Auction bidding ends April 17.

To register to bid or to donate an item, scan the code or visit our gala page online.

For assistance, email our auction team at [gala@stmarymagdalen.net](mailto:gala@stmarymagdalen.net).

## CYO SPORTS

### REGISTRATION

SPRING REGISTRATION IS OPEN.  
PROGRAMS FOR ALL LEVELS!

TRACK (CO-ED, GRADES K-3)  
TRACK (CO-ED, GRADES 4-8)  
BASEBALL (GRADES 5-8)  
TENNIS (CO-ED, GRADES 5-8)  
GIRLS' LACROSSE (GRADES 5-8)  
HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL (CO-ED)

CYO is open to all girls and boys in St. Mary Magdalen parish.

To register, scan the QR Code or visit [stmarymagdalen.net/cyo](http://stmarymagdalen.net/cyo).



## **NEW! SENIORS' SOCIAL CLUB NEWS** **LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION**

The SMM Seniors' Social Club invites you to attend our *"Lenten Day of Reflection"* on **March 20**, from **9:30 AM to 2 PM**, at the I.H.M. Conference Center in Bryn Mawr. Deacon Joseph Boyle is our presenter. The cost is \$45 per person, and includes a Continental breakfast and lunch. If interested, please send your check, payable to St. Mary Magdalen Seniors, by March 14 to Bill Moore, 535 Gradyville Rd., Newtown Square, PA 19073. Contact Bill at 484-420-4575 with any questions.



## **NEW! LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR**

In December, Sr. Veronica and the Little Sisters of the Poor visited our community to share the great news that Holy Family Home's new building had recently been completed and to update us on the sisters' work serving the elderly. During their visit and appeal for the needs of the residents, Sister Veronica spoke of the 'Family Spirit' that our area community and parish embody with the residents and the sisters through their continued prayer and through our care and generosity to Holy Family Home. We received a letter of gratitude and continued blessings for the \$7,600 in donations they collected from our parish during their appeal so far this year. To learn more about the Little Sisters of the Poor and Holy Family Home, visit [littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org](http://littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org).



## **CARDINAL O'HARA** **CLASS OF 1971 REUNION**

Calling all lions from Cardinal O'Hara Class of '71 to celebrate their 55th reunion on **Friday, April 17**, at the Drexelbrook in Drexel Hill from 5 to 9 PM. Tickets are \$75 per guest. To register online, go to [cohs.com/alumni](http://cohs.com/alumni).



## **BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS**

To submit news and events for our Bulletin, please email [bulletins@stmarymagdalen.net](mailto:bulletins@stmarymagdalen.net). Submissions must be received 7 to 10 days prior to the issue in which it will be included. Thank you!

## **LENTEN EVENTS**

### **CONFESSIONS**

Saturdays from 9 to 10 AM  
Sundays from 6:15 to 6:45 PM  
First Fridays from 6 to 6:45 PM  
Good Friday: 9 to 10 AM, 12:30 to 2 PM, 6 to 7 PM.

### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

7 PM on Fridays during Lent.

### **MORNING & EVENING PRAYER**

Morning prayer: Tuesday through Friday at 7:15 AM  
Vespers: Tuesday through Friday at 5:15 PM

### **LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES**

Contact Fr. Eric or our FOCUS missionaries for times and information at [tina@stmarymagdalen.net](mailto:tina@stmarymagdalen.net).

### **MAN UP PHILLY 🌿 FEBRUARY 28**

Conference at Cardinal O'Hara High School  
To register, go to [ManUpPhilly.com](http://ManUpPhilly.com)

### **LENTEN FIRST FRIDAY 🌿 MARCH 6**

Enjoy a pizza dinner & activities from 5:30 to 7 PM, Confessions from 6 to 6:45 PM, and Stations at 7 PM.

### **'CHRIST IN THE CITY'**

#### **MARCH 13 🌿 MARCH 14**

Opportunities to serve in community!

Friday, March 13

Prepare Food at 6 PM in Cafeteria

Saturday, March 14

Serve 'Lunch in the Park' in Philly

Advance sign-up to participate on Saturday.

### **DAY OF REFLECTION 🌿 MARCH 20**

The Seniors' Social Club "Lenten Day of Reflection" at the I.H.M Conference Center from 9:30 AM to 2 PM

### **DAY OF MERCY 🌿 MARCH 23**

Give yourself the gift of God's mercy and grace.  
Confessions from 1:15 PM to 2:15 PM and 4:30 to 6 PM.

### **KNIGHTS' SIMPLE SUPPER 🌿 MARCH 31**

Enjoy pizza and salad, doors open at 5 PM.  
Stay for Living Stations at 6:30 PM.

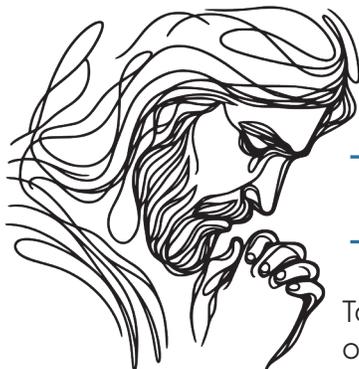


# The Drs. John J. and Margaret T. Clark Memorial Scholarship

Dr. John J. and Dr. Margaret T. Clark were devoted members of St. Mary Magdalen Parish. The Clarks directed that a gift be made through their estate to endow scholarships for students who are members of Saint Mary Magdalen parish toward their post-secondary education.

Annually, one eligible student will be selected by the St. Mary Magdalen Scholarship Committee to receive a scholarship toward the first two (2) years of undergraduate tuition for their chosen college, university, or trade school. The annual scholarship amount is \$5,000 for up to two years. Eligible students must be active St. Mary Magdalen parish members and current high school seniors graduating in May or June of 2026.

The 2026 Application and information are available on the parish website under 'Clark Scholarship' or scan the QR code. Send questions to the scholarship committee at [clarkscholarship@stmarymagdalen.net](mailto:clarkscholarship@stmarymagdalen.net).



## First Friday

Together, let's take a journey of sacrifice, love, and redemption.

6:30 AM

MASS

7:15 AM

MORNING PRAYER  
CHAPEL

8:30 AM

MASS

AFTER, ENJOY COFFEE & SNACKS · NARTHEX

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

First Fridays at SMM, where we gather in Christ through fellowship, faith, and fun! Let's celebrate God's love for us in community.

5:15 PM

EVENING PRAYER

5:30 PM TO 7 PM

LENTEN PIZZA DINNER,  
FAMILY ACTIVITIES  
ST. FRANCIS HALL

6 TO 6:45 PM

CONFESSIONS

7 TO 8 PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

All are welcome to join the day's activities, as they fit into your family's schedule.

## 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 Hermansen Family, Philip Calabrese & Alyssa Prem



## CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the family of **Edward J. Kinslow, Sr.**, 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. If you or a loved one is ill and would like to be included for the quarter, please call the Parish Office.

Paul Berenato, Joe Cahill, Jean Cotter, Betty Dietrick, Lynn Finelli, Rodie Henson, Fr. Alan Okon, Michelle Okon, Nicholas Quercetti, Sr., Naomi Rouse, Quintin Sarne, Roseann Yannacone, and Ernie Zappacosta.



## MARRIAGES

Congratulations to our newest newlyweds!

Angelique Villas & Matthew Logan  
Vanessa Zeller & Kevin Murray  
Michael Mullan & Karen Sakoff

## 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).

Wyatt Brooks Cosse, Rosalie Blair DelGiorno,  
Madison Nicole Lynch



Congratulations to all of our science fair winners, and best of luck to the first and second place winners as they move on to the Delaware Valley Science Fair on March 6<sup>th</sup>!

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

8:30 AM - Ints. of Glen & Michelle Ward and Family  
4:30 PM - Stephen Palma

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

7:30 AM - Martin Sarkees  
9:30 AM - Carol M. Diem  
11:30 AM - Frances Maria Iannucci  
7 PM - The People of the Parish

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

6:30 AM - No Mass  
8:30 AM - Jennifer Vinci

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

6:30 AM - William Thomas  
8:30 AM - Ints. of Luke McCabe

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

6:30 AM - Ints. of Shelly Zeller  
8:30 AM - Ints. of Dr. Christine Bacon

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

6:30 AM - Ints. of Bernadette Ciavardini  
8:30 AM - Joseph R. Poliafico

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

6:30 AM - Keith Dunnigan  
8:30 AM - Ints. of Steve Wigmore

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

8:30 AM - Ints. of Elise & Randy Wichman  
4:30 PM - Dr. Anthony J. Piraino

### SUNDAY, MARCH 1

7:30 AM - The People of the Parish  
9:30 AM - Anna DeFidelto  
11:30 AM - H. Joseph DiCandilo  
7 PM - Ints. of Kimberly Seitter



## FLOWERS

In memory of Theresa Lien

## BREAD & WINE

Ints. of the Matt Family

## CANDLE

In memory of Bernard Brescia

### BEREAVEMENT SESSIONS

**WEDNESDAYS • 10:30 AM TO NOON**

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: **March 11, March 25, April 8, and April 22.**



### NEW! TEAM HOPE FRIENDSHIP CELEBRATION AT ST. NORBERT WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

All are welcome to join Team Hope's Friendship Celebration at St. Norbert Church, located at 6 Greenlawn Road in Paoli, on **March 18 from 7 to 8:30 PM.** Enjoy an evening of prayer, guest speakers, and music. Plus, a glove of St. Padre Pio will be present for veneration. For more information, please visit [teamhopeministries.org](http://teamhopeministries.org).



### NEW! APOLOGETICS SERIES FOR TEENS SUNDAYS DURING LENT • 6 PM TO 8 PM

Ever wondered why you believe what you believe—or how to talk about it without feeling awkward? Our **Apologetics Series** is all about helping high school students confidently share their Catholic faith in today's world using both faith and reason. This isn't just lectures. It's real conversations, honest questions, and meaningful experiences. You'll grow in prayer, encounter Christ in the sacraments, and build genuine friendships with other Catholic teens who are figuring it out right alongside you. Come learn how to stand strong in your faith, ask big questions, and discover why being Catholic actually matters.

A casual dinner will be served at 6:30 PM, with talks beginning at 6:45 PM with speaker Fr. Henry Graebe at the Church of St. Joseph in Aston. For more information, please email [admin@churchofstjosephaston.org](mailto:admin@churchofstjosephaston.org).



### MASS INTENTIONS

Our Mass Intentions book is open for the rest of 2026. To make a request, scan the code or visit our homepage.



### St. Mary Magdalen Church Now Offers Venmo for Your Convenience.

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### STEWARDSHIP & TITHING

January 2026		\$133,814
Collection:	\$26,352	
Mail-in:	\$50,071	
EFT:	\$57,391	
January 2025		\$145,832
Collection:	\$33,443	
Mail-in:	\$54,205	
EFT:	\$58,184	

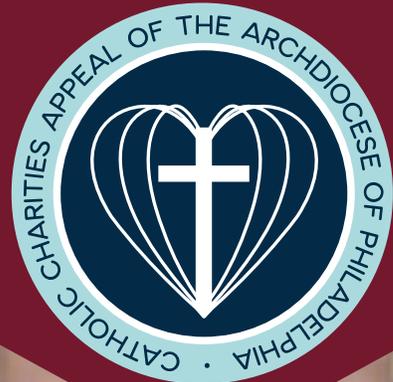
Parish Appeal 2026	\$114,542
Parish Appeal 2025	\$56,795

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.

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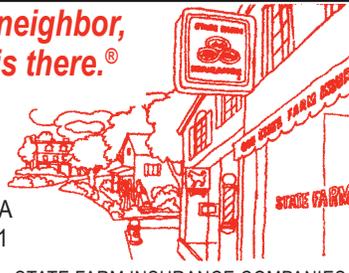
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