

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

Dear Friends in Christ,

We live in an age of contradictions. Even as we experience unimaginable prosperity and amazing technological advances, so many suffer from trauma and the effects of division within families and communities. Many young people are lonely and unsure about the meaning of their lives.

As Saint John Paul II once said, "Jesus Christ is the answer to which every human life is the question."

Indeed, I am more convinced than ever that what ails us as a culture is the loss of the primacy of God. Jesus himself instructed his disciples, "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." If we view loving God and others as the primary purpose of our lives, we can remain attentive even when we experience great anxiety amid trials. We can attain the goal of our lives, which is eternal happiness with God and all the saints.

Thankfully, here at Saint Mary Magdalen Parish, many people from diverse backgrounds respond to the call of Christ to worship the Father of all truth. Then, they are empowered by the Holy Spirit to glorify the Lord by their lives, to extend Christ's own charity to their families, community, and those in need.

The annual Stewardship Appeal enables us to continue serving the many families who call Saint Mary Magdalen their parish home. Over the last year, we have undertaken several critical initiatives to improve our experience for all. These include:

- 🌿 the beginning of a dynamic partnership with FOCUS Parish with the addition of two new parish missionaries, Tina Augustine and Jake Barajas
- 🌿 the replacement and upgrade of the church sound system
- 🌿 the expansion of our media outreach as part of our evangelization efforts
- 🌿 construction in our school building to welcome the largest school enrollment in years

This year, we plan to undertake several more initiatives, including bringing a group of young parishioners to the annual SEEK Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

This important work of proclaiming the Gospel, celebrating the sacraments with reverence, fostering formation in the Catholic faith, and serving the poor simply cannot be done without the generous time, talent, and treasure of our dedicated parishioners.

For this reason, I kindly ask that you consider giving generously to our annual Stewardship Appeal this year. We will honor your gift by using it wisely to build up the Body of Christ here in our community.

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker

2025



NEWS BY THE NUMBERS

Our school's student body has increased by 11.4% over the last year. We added a third Pre-K3 classroom to accommodate families and our 420 students.

The PREP enrollment also jumped from 169 last year to 215 students this fall, which includes 32 seventh graders whom Fr. Eric teaches and who will receive their Confirmation in March.

Also, we are on track to exceed the total number of Baptisms in more than a decade, with 75 Baptisms from January through October and over a dozen more on the books before the end of the year.

Finally, our weekend Mass attendance has also increased by 13% over last year, with 989 in attendance compared to 876 last fall.



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.

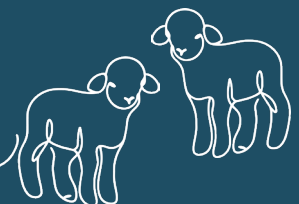
SERVICE

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.



YOUTH FIND WAYS TO GIVE BACK

When you spend time in and around our parish campus, especially during the past spring and summer, you may have noticed various dynamic young adults and teens who are parishioners, graciously giving their time and energy to our church. In the spring, Will Wood presented the parish with a plan to enhance the condition of our outdoor Stations of the Cross near our parish's main office. He proposed adding a few new benches, plants, an outdoor solar light to enhance each station, and signage as part of his Eagle Scout project. Will, along with his brother Joe, his mother, and an array of friends from Carroll, all pitched in to clean, build, plant, and prepare this space, which included new signs for everyone to enjoy. After completing Will's project, the brothers continued to assist us around the campus with various projects throughout the summer before returning to their respective schools. Will is a senior at Archbishop John Carroll, while Joe is a sophomore at Penn State.

Additionally, after returning from his first year at Notre Dame, Connor Victoria set to work in our offices over the summer. He undertook a major clean-up of our digital records, as well as other data-related and technology-focused projects in our office. Connor is our first recipient of the Clark Memorial Scholarship in 2024.

Several high school students from Sacred Heart Academy, including Lauren Savko and her sister Josslyn Savko, who is in her final year at St. Mary Magdalen, assist with the evening portion of our First Friday events. "It is so satisfying to see them come with their parents and enjoy themselves while helping with the kids' crafts and games," notes Kerry Boyle, who coordinates these monthly events. She is supported by a handful of talented volunteers and staff members, including the girls' mother, Jessica Savko, who works in our parish.

"Seeing so many younger parishioners bring their vision and passion to serve the church truly brings a smile to my face. It honestly reinvigorates my own mission to serve with renewed enthusiasm. Their involvement helps to cultivate and strengthen new relationships, providing opportunities for families and young adults to connect while enjoying a meal, having fun, and serving others at the same time." 🙌



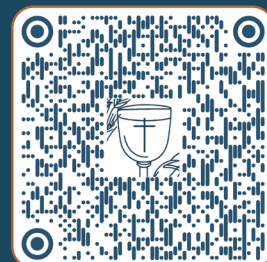
Images from top to bottom: Will (2nd from right) with his friends from Carroll; Fr. Eric with Connor; Lauren and Josslyn at October's First Friday.

WITH THANKS

Visit our website or see the bulletin for Mass times, spiritual events and ministry programs.

Contact our office for assistance, or to schedule an appointment.

To make a secure donation online, scan the QR code, return our envelope, or visit stmarymagdalen.net/giving.



a parish in FOCUS

If you have heard of FOCUS and its missionaries, your mind will most likely associate them with a college campus, such as Temple or West Chester, where they have helped numerous students encounter Christ. FOCUS brings the hope and joy of the gospel to them by meeting them in friendship, inviting them into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and walking with them as they pursue lives of virtue and excellence. Its mission calls directly to each of us: "To know Christ Jesus and fulfill His Great Commission to 'Go and make disciples of all nations'" (Matthew 28:19). FOCUS has since expanded its mission to parishes, and dozens of missionaries serve parishioners of all ages around our country. As Fr. Eric mentions in his opening letter, this fall our parish began a beautiful opportunity in its partnership with FOCUS, bringing missionaries to our parish to help cultivate a culture of missionary discipleship throughout our community.

So, what does this partnership entail, and how might it benefit each of us and our community? We're excited you asked! The best way to understand the essence of this new initiative is to ask our new FOCUS missionaries, **Tina Augustine** and **Jake Barajas**.

 **Can you share what inspired you to become a FOCUS missionary?**

Jake: My life was radically changed by Christ in college, and I came to know how incredibly fulfilling and joyful it could be to live an authentic Catholic life. Sharing Christ-centered fellowship with others was a huge part of my growth in faith, and I couldn't help but want to share that gift with others. I am continually inspired to help others know the depth of love that Christ possesses for every person.

Tina: My life was changed when I was in college through the impact and witness of FOCUS missionaries. My spark for my faith life was ignited by the deep friendships and conversations I found in a Bible study. I was struck by the contagious joy of others and the true desire they had for my life to know Christ above all else. I have continued to say yes and serve this mission because I am so convinced in the work we get to do and overjoyed to share this with the community at SMM now.

meet jake



Jake has begun his 7th year with FOCUS. He and his wife, Adrienne, met while serving together as FOCUS missionaries at the University of California, Berkeley. After marrying in December of 2022, they were thrilled to welcome their first child, Mary Clare, who will be turning one in November. Before coming to SMM, Jake served at a variety of campuses in the Bay Area, including San Francisco State and San Jose State. He grew up just outside of Chicago, in Northwest Indiana, and Adrienne is a native of Bucks County. They recently settled into their new home in Broomall and are grateful to be closer to family. They look forward to being with us as part of our community.

Contact Jake Barajas at jake@stmarymagdalen.net.

As a missionary in a FOCUS Parish, who are you hoping to reach?

Jake: Short answer, everyone! I find it especially helpful to imagine someone stepping into St. Mary Magdalen for the first time and to think about what I can do to help that person feel welcomed, find community, and genuinely encounter Christ. We want to meet everybody where they are in their faith journeys and to walk alongside them in their pursuit of the Lord.

Tina agrees, adding: From young adults to busy parents shuttling kids around to empty nesters. It is a joy to meet and get to know so many people through our work.

What is your goal communally, as well as individually, for us?

Jake: I hope that each person is able to tangibly encounter Christ and to know more deeply the personal love that the Lord has for each one of us. Communally, I hope that we can inspire one another to live Christ-centered lives, grow in virtue and faith together, and invite others in the parish and our communities to do the same.

Tina: To help each parishioner encounter Christ more profoundly and live from a place of that encounter. I want to walk alongside others who are on the journey to figure out what it means to be Catholic in today's world and how to share that with others. I want you to know that God loves you beyond belief and wants to know you. Are you willing to let him into your life a bit more?

How can we support our parish's vision and mission?

Jake: The first thing we can all do is to pray and create a space to invite God into our everyday lives. Secondly, do not be afraid to introduce yourselves to us and to others in the parish! We would love to get to know everyone so that we can not only help form a stronger and more intimate parish community, but also hear about your experience and how you desire to deepen your faith.

Tina: Helping people share the good news of salvation and helping people along the way as they strive to witness the Truth to others! You are not meant to live or practice your faith alone!



meet tina



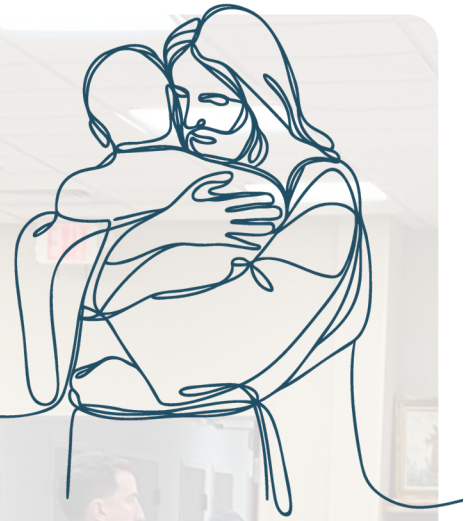
Tina and her husband, Mychal, are busy with their four boys, who range in age from 8 years to 9 months: Ignacio, Hugo, Emilio, and Freddy. She has served as a missionary with FOCUS since 2013 in a variety of roles. In 2016, she and Mychal married and moved to Europe to launch FOCUS's first international team in Graz, Austria. After five wonderful years in Europe, they settled in Menlo Park, CA, where she served as a Parish Missionary and Regional Director. Tina grew up in Connecticut, and she is delighted to be 'back east' as part of our growing community and serving as our Parish Missionary and the Regional Director for this area.

Contact Tina Augustine at tina@stmarymagdalen.net.

First Fridays

AT ST. MARY MAGDALEN

PARISH VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: LOVE FOR NEIGHBOR



Friday, November 7

Many of our parish family and friends have enjoyed being together for our First Fridays, where we grow in Christ through fellowship, faith, and fun!

Bring the whole family, invite your friends, and enjoy dinner and engaging activities for all ages. It's the perfect way to spend time with Jesus, build new friendships, and strengthen as a parish family.

- ♡ Enjoy a Barbecue Inspired Dinner
- ♡ Bring a non-perishable item for the Food Pantry
- ♡ Kids' Craft Area: Care Cards for local Veterans, Help Us Make Giving Tree Ornaments & More
- ♡ Children's Storytime, Family Games & Activities

All are welcome to join the day's activities as fits into your family's schedule. We hope to see you!

6:30 AM

MASS

7:15 AM

MORNING PRAYER
CHAPEL

8:30 AM

MASS

AFTER, ENJOY A COFFEE &
SNACK IN THE NARTHEX CAFE.



5:30 PM TO 7 PM

BARBECUE INSPIRED
DINNER & ACTIVITIES
CHILDREN STORYTIME
& EASY SERVICE CRAFTS
ST. FRANCIS HALL

6:15 TO 6:45 PM

CONFESSIONS

7 TO 8 PM

HOLY HOUR
ADORATION, MUSIC,
VESPERS & BENEDICTION

8 PM

DESSERT HOSPITALITY
NARTHEX CAFE

Dates

DECEMBER 5

FEBRUARY 6

MARCH 6

MAY 1

JUNE 5



An Envisioning Parish

Our Parish Financial Report for 2024-2025

Pastoral Revenue

Sunday Collections	416,933
Mailed & EFT Donations	954,996
Holy Day & Directed Donations	344,146
PREP & Sacramental Income	52,601
Total Pastoral Revenue	1,768,676

Pastoral Expense

Salaries & Benefits	712,789
Archdiocesan Assessment	196,700
Administrative & Sacramental Expense	375,311
Maintenance & Utilities	163,234
Total Pastoral Expense	1,448,033
Total Pastoral Operating Income	320,643

Non-Operating Items

Bequest Donation	656,231
Endowment Donations & Investment Income	506,987
Endowment Transfer to School	(125,000)
Investment Income	86,472
Net Charity to Others	(18,025)
Pastoral Capital Improvement Expense	(107,220)
Net Archdiocesan Sponsored Collection	2,739
Total Pastoral Non-Operating Items	1,002,185

Net Pastoral Income	1,322,828
----------------------------	------------------

School Revenue

Tuition Income	2,311,723
CARES, Fees & Other Income	116,118
Total School Revenue	2,427,842

School Expense

Total Salaries & Benefits	2,453,320
Administrative & CARES Expense	255,436
Maintenance & Utilities	228,748
Total School Expense	2,937,504
School Operating Deficit	(509,663)

Development

Fundraising Revenue	265,291
Fundraising Expense	32,364
Net Development	232,927

School Operating Deficit after Development	(276,736)
---	------------------

Non-Operating Items

Investment Income	63,532
Endowment Transfer to School	125,000
School Capital Improvement Expense	(111,268)
Total School Non-Operating Items	77,264

Net School Income	(199,472)
--------------------------	------------------

A Message of Gratitude to Our Parishioners and School Families

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our parishioners and school families who continue to generously support St. Mary Magdalen Parish. Your ongoing commitment has made a significant impact during the 2024–2025 fiscal year.

We are pleased to report a 6% increase in donations received through our Sunday collections, mail-in donations, and EFTs compared to last fiscal year. This increase in giving, along with the \$40,000 raised for our church's new sound system, contributed to a 7.6% overall increase in Pastoral Revenue over the previous year.

However, while revenue improved, Pastoral Expenses rose by 16%, driven in part by our parish growth and ongoing evangelization efforts, which resulted in an increase in salaries and administrative costs. Despite these changes, our Pastoral Result was a healthy \$320,643, though this is 19% less than last year's result.

As school enrollment continues to rise, so too have revenue and expenses. School revenue and operating expenses each increased by 7% compared to last fiscal year. However, school-directed donations declined by 4.5%, resulting in a Net School

Operations deficit of -\$276,736, which is 12% greater than last year's deficit.

We remain committed to enhancing both our church and school facilities. This year, we invested \$107,220 in church capital improvements and \$111,268 in school enhancements. These efforts included the installation of a new sound system in the church and much-needed updates to the rectory. At the school, we upgraded bathrooms, launched a new reading program, and continued to improve campus security.

We are especially excited to announce the addition of a third Pre-K3 classroom to meet the growing needs of our parish families. School renovations were completed over the summer—just in time to welcome our 420 students to the new academic year.

Finally, we were once again blessed by the generosity of our community. We received a \$510,000 bequest from the *Keenan Trust*, as well as an additional and final bequest of \$146,231 from the *Drs. John and Margaret Clark Memorial Scholarship Fund*. We are deeply grateful to the Keenan and Clark families for remembering St. Mary Magdalen Parish and School in their wills. Thank you for your continued faith, support, and generosity. With your help, we are building a vibrant, thriving future for our parish and school community!

ST. MARY MAGDALEN



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS
OF OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL



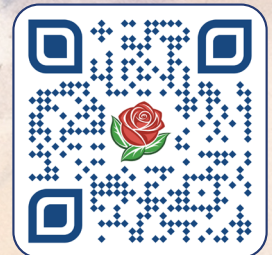
AWARDS
HONORING
PATRICIA
MINISZAK
AND
LARRY
DONATO

FRIDAY
April 17
2026

KENTUCKY
DERBY

GALA

VISIT US
ONLINE OR
SCAN FOR
THE DETAILS



WIN  PLACE  SHOW UP