

Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

29 MARCH 2026

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today, we hold high the branches in imitation of the crowds in Jerusalem and solemnly hear the proclamation of the Passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. This juxtaposition gives us much to reflect on this Holy Week.

At the beginning of Mass, we commemorate that solemn entrance into Jerusalem. That day, the large crowds that were gathering in the holy city for the great feast of Passover saw in the famous rabbi riding on a donkey the fulfillment of the words of the Prophet Zechariah:

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king comes to you;
Triumphant and victorious is he,
Humble and riding on a donkey,
On a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

Finding in Jesus this long-awaited liberator, they rejoice, shout Hosanna, wave palm branches, and place their cloaks on the ground in front of Him (M1 21:8-9 et al).

We could say with some confidence that these crowds were confused about what Jesus' mission is. Of course, even His own closest disciples display a lack of understanding about who He is and what He means to accomplish in Jerusalem. The crowds—and even His own disciples—certainly perceive Jesus as a wonder-worker and a prophet who speaks to the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and the high-priestly caste. They have heard His preaching about this being the time of God's fulfillment, of the need for repentance. His disciples have heard His rules for life in the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount. And yet, for all this, the crowds want a king, one who is anointed by God but as such is meant to liberate God's people from the oppression of the Roman occupiers.

continued on page 3



Carl Bloch, The Crucifixion (1870)

2 Mass & Devotions

CLERGY

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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.

Flame of Love Devotions:

Noon on Fridays in the Chapel.

See ministries and parish services on our website.

But was that really the greatest enemy of Israel at that time? Surely their political subjugation was the result of their own folly: their failure to uphold the covenant and the resulting attacks from so many enemies. But while certainly none of us would have wanted to live under Roman military rule, the Old Testament presents the real enemies of Israel—and the whole human race—as sin and death. Sin introduces death into the human drama. From the moments just after the fall, God was promising a savior, a descendant of Eve who would smash the head of the serpent (*Gen 3:15*). Did the crowds shouting Hosanna see Jesus as God's fulfillment of that ancient promise? Was that even on their minds?

Dear friends, we can be so distracted by the problems of this world—many as they are!—that we can fail to focus on the real problem, the one which is the source of it all. Like the crowds, we can welcome Jesus but misunderstand what He actually wants to accomplish in us. He wants us to acknowledge Him not as one more political ruler but as Lord of history and of the entire universe. If we recognize His sovereignty over our lives and worship Him as Lord and God, He really does assist us in our weakness and in bearing with the sufferings in our lives. He does liberate us, but with the weapons of descending, sacrificial love, not the arms of war which only leads to greater injustice.

Only on the other side of the Cross can we say yes to who Jesus really is. Only when we meditate on His Passion—the second Gospel of Palm Sunday—can we understand what kind of king He really is. He wants to free us from the foreign rule of the enemy in our human story, a rule that was begun in the Garden of Eden, but ends for all who approach the waters of Baptism and so share in the foretaste of the eternal wedding banquet which is the Eucharist. Yes, this week changed everything. It is the *axis mundi*: the axis on which the world turns. Will we let it be the axis on which our lives turn? May we say yes anew, stand at the foot of the Cross with Mary, Saint John, and the women, and carry out in our lives the sacrifice of love which is given to us in the Eucharist we share.

May the Lord grant you peace!
 –Father Eric Banecker



NEW! PRAY FOR US SERVICE MEMBERS

As we pray for peace in the Middle East and around the world, for an end to strife, let us pray for our veterans, all those currently serving in our military, and their families, especially in our SMM family:

Timothy Brown, 1st Lieutenant USMC, C-130 Pilot, stationed at Iwakuni, Japan.

Mick Horrocks, Lieutenant, US Navy.

Thomas Kerr, Petty Officer 2nd Class, stationed in Rota, Spain, deployed on USS Bulkeley.

Brian Szipszky, US Navy Ensign, stationed in Norfolk, VA, serving on the USS Ross.

Jack Szipsky, US Air Force Captain, 21st Special Operations Squadron. He is a CV-22 Osprey pilot based in Yokota Air Base in Tokyo, Japan.

Mikayla Szipsky, US Space Force Captain, (wife of Jack), based in Yokota Air Base in Tokyo.

Eli Volk, Lieutenant, US Navy.

If you have a loved one or friend currently serving, or a veteran in need of prayers, please let us know by emailing John Gill at jgill@stmarymagdalen.net.



**NEW! POPE LEO'S PRAYER
 THE JUBILEE YEAR OF ST. FRANCIS**

Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us with the Lord. In the Crucifix of San Damiano, you recognized true peace. Teach us to see in Him the source of all reconciliation that breaks down every wall. You, who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding, give us the courage to build bridges where the world erects borders. In this time, plagued by conflict and division, intercede so that we may become peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ. Amen.



NEW! MASS PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 4

8 PM (Easter Vigil Mass)—Fr. Eric Banecker

Sunday, April 5

7:30 AM—Fr. Robert Pesarchick

9:30 AM—Fr. Eric Banecker

11:30 AM—Fr. Robert Pesarchick

1 PM (Low Sensory)—Fr. Eric Banecker

**This schedule may be subject to change without notice.*

PARISH

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Let's Provide Help and Hope to Neighbors in Need

In the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul, the Society of SVDP is a Catholic lay organization inspired by Gospel values. Our Society leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering.

Vincetians witness God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice. SVDP collaborates with others of goodwill, like you, in relieving need and addressing its systemic causes as we see the face of Christ in everyone. Join us, or help us to support others in need with donations to our box in the narthex. To assist us, contact Mike Mullin at mstmullin290@gmail.com.

AFTER MASSES ON APRIL 11 & 12



Gaetano's Fresh Homemade

SAUCE SALE



SMM Knights of Columbus will offer Gaetano's of Clifton Heights famous Marinara Sauce (32 oz glass jars) after all Masses on April 11 and April 12 while supplies last. \$12 per jar.

Pre-order to guarantee availability by emailing your name, phone number, and quantity to smmgaetanos@gmail.com.

Proceeds from sale and good will donations will go to
LOCAL FOOD BANKS & CHARITIES

PRAY FOR OUR NEWLY CONFIRMED

Congratulations to our sixty-three students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, March 19, when the Most Reverend John J. McIntyre conferred the sacrament on them. Please keep them, their families, and sponsors in your prayers. May the Holy Spirit continue to grow in and through them as God's witnesses and as His missionary disciples in the world. Also pray for our adults preparing to be confirmed on Holy Saturday or Divine Mercy Sunday.

Emma **Joan** Achtert
 Lincoln **Sebastian** Barnes
 Nathan **Joseph** Benoit
 Aleena **Elizabeth** Boas
 Dean **John** Bozeman
 Charlie **Michael** Buckson
 Anika **Julie** Byrne
 Madeleine **Teresa** Caldwell
 Cortland **Jude** Chaffin
 Hailey **Philomena** Cottrell
 Ryan **Christopher** Cox
 Henry **Francis** Crotty
 Shane **Sebastian** Crowley
 Nicholas **Michael** D'Ambr
 Emily **Lucy** Dang
 Carla **Juliana** DiPaulo
 Khang **Patrick** Do
 William **Sebastian** Domenico
 Dylan **Ignatius** Eusebio
 Isabella **Natalia** Frank-Duffy
 Julie **Rose** Furia
 Korynn **Teresa** Gerst
 Christopher **Paul** Grandieri
 Keegan **John** Halligan
 Gemma **Elizabeth** Heckler
 Nolan **Sebastian** Hemmert
 Addison **Mary** Kaskela-Saunders
 Jackson **Aloysius** King
 Ella **Cecilia** Knee
 Olivia **Elizabeth** Kohler
 Evan **Matthew** Kokol
 Samuel **Michael** Landgraff
 Jack **Charles** Leighton
 Kyle **Alexander** Lomas
 Peyton **Catherine** Lubic
 Riley **Therese** Lutz
 Francis **Isaac** Marcozzi
 Adriana **Rose** Martinelli
 Piper **Gianna** Mascio
 Peter **James** McCampbell
 Brian **Michael** McDermott
 Matthew **Michael** Mita
 Austin **Peter** Monteleone
 Ryan **Gabriel** Morgans

Molly **Maria** O'Shea
 Isabella **Mary** Teresa Ortiz
 Charlotte **Isabelle** Phillips
 Noelle **Theresa** Quigley
 Claire **Catherine** Reinert
 Brooke **Frances** Richman
 Paul **Sebastian** Rothkopf
 Emily **Catherine** Scanlon
 Mia **Rose** Scittina
 Owen **Sebastian** Sheeran
 Liam **William** Smith
 Ryan **Carlo** Smith
 Charlie **Sebastian** Sobel
 Sabrina **Teresa** Solomon
 Ava **Cecilia** Sullivan
 Declan **Sebastian** Thompson
 Kara **Mary** Walker
 Elizabeth **Brigid** Wernert
 Heidi **Melangel** Zola
 Benjamin **Ladislaus** Zola

Adult Elect being
 Baptized & Confirmed
 on Holy Saturday:

Lisa Colterelli
 Sebastian Fitzgerald
 Jessica Pelesh
 Serena Hart

Adults being Confirmed
 on Divine Mercy Sunday:

Tyler James Williamson Deman
 Elaina Fitzgerald
 Justin Fitzgerald
 Miranda Fitzgerald
 Daniel Owen Kemp
 Alexander Roman Losacco
 Kristy Lynn McCarry
 Mark Paul Salamne

LENTEN EVENTS

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 9 to 10 AM, Sundays 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.

LIVING STATIONS MARCH 31

Join us for Living Stations of the Cross presented on Tuesday at 2 PM and 6:30 PM.

KNIGHTS SIMPLE SUPPER MARCH 31

Enjoy pizza and salad in St. Francis Hall.
 Doors open at 5 PM. Stay for Living Stations at 6:30 PM

TRIDUUM & EASTER

HOLY THURSDAY APRIL 2

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 6:30 PM
 Night Prayer (Compline) at 9 PM in Chapel
The Chapel closes at 11 PM

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 3

Office of Readings & Morning Prayer
 (Tenebrae) at 6:30 AM
 Stations of the Cross at 8:30 AM
 Confessions from 9 to 10:30 AM,
 12:30 to 2 PM, and 6 PM to 7 PM
 Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 3 PM

HOLY SATURDAY APRIL 4

Morning Prayer at 8:30 AM
 Confessions from 9 to 10 AM
 Easter Vigil Mass at 8 PM

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 5

The Resurrection of the Lord
 Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM,
 and 1 PM (Low Sensory Mass)
No Confessions or 7 PM Mass

6 New & Events

NEW! SENIORS' SOCIAL CLUB **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8**

The SMM Seniors' Social Club cordially invites you to join them on **Wednesday, April 8, from 12:45 PM to 3:00 PM** in St. Francis Hall. Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon with lively conversations, fellowship, and refreshments. Our entertainment this month will be Joey Vincent, Comedian and Singer. We hope you can join us!

NEW! GOOD WORK IN PRACTICE

Catholic entrepreneurs, owners, executives, managers, and young professionals are invited to attend the **Good in Practice Workshop on Thursday, April 16 from 7:15 AM to 6 PM** at the IHM Conference Center. Learn how to create a workplace culture that allows ourselves and others to grow humanly, professionally, and spiritually. For more information and to register, visit sentventures.com.

NOTE! TUESDAY ROSARY TO END

The 7:15 PM Night Rosary held on Tuesday nights is being discontinued after the Easter season.

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 1 PM to 3 PM.

April 12
August 2

Afternoon includes Fellowship & Food.

Registration is required, please contact Stephanie at stephaniepdavey@gmail.com.



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.



Application deadline is March 31

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.

Virginia Fitzsimons, The Dabagian Family



CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of **Jean McCormack, Delores Dohoney, James Avato**, those souls who died due to wars or conflicts, including our U.S. service members recently lost in the Middle East, 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, Jean Cotter, Diane Delaney, Betty Dietrick, Lynn Finelli, Rodie Henson, Fr. Alan Okon, Michelle Okon, Nicholas Quercetti, Sr., Naomi Rouse, Cynthia Sannutti, Quintin Sarne, Mark Scaleri, Bill Snyder, Maria Johnson Twining, Roseann Yannacone, and Ernie Zappacosta.



MARRIAGES

Congratulations to our newest newlyweds!

Vincent Luciano & Kerry Lynch

BAPTISMS

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

Caleb Jewell Gerst, Margot Jane Blake, Keeley Meara Rabinovich



Congratulations to the 7th grade SMM students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation!

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

8:30 AM - Katherine Janoski

4:30 PM - Joseph DelSordo

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

7:30 AM - Ints. of The Duffin Family

9:30 AM - Geraldine Marra

11:30 AM - Donald Frank

7 PM - The People of the Parish

MONDAY, MARCH 30

6:30 AM - No Mass

8:30 AM - Robert Stahl

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

6:30 AM - Philip J. Mullen, Jr.

8:30 AM - Winifred Tierney

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

6:30 AM - John Finelli

8:30 AM - Ints. of William Tierney



THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Holy Thursday

6:30 PM - The People of the Parish

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Good Friday

3 PM - The Passion of the Lord

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

Holy Saturday

8 PM - The People of the Parish

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

The Resurrection of the Lord

7:30 AM - The People of the Parish

9:30 AM - The People of the Parish

11:30 AM - The People of the Parish

1 PM - The People of the Parish

(Low Sensory Mass)



BREAD & WINE

In memory of Margaret Ryan

CANDLE

In memory of the Bisignano Family

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 April 8, and April 22.



SAVE THE DATE! MOTHERS' HOME CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT MONDAY, MAY 11

Join us for this year's Mothers' Home Charity Golf Tournament at Paxon Hollow Country Club on Monday, May 11. Enjoy lunch at 11 AM, golf with a 'Shotgun Start' at Noon, and a cocktail reception barbeque following golf. All proceeds benefit the Mothers' Home in Darby, who provide housing, support, and essential programs for moms-to-be and their newborns. To sponsor or register for this year's event, please visit mothershomegolf.com.



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Auction bids close the evening of April 17.

MASS INTENTIONS

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



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EFT:	\$51,333	
February 2025		\$94,315
Collection:	\$27,229	
Mail-in:	\$19,962	
EFT:	\$47,124	
Parish Appeal 2026		\$117,242
Parish Appeal 2025		\$85,295

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.

MOMS MINISTRY

A Delaware County Group for Moms at St. Mary Magdalen

MOMS is an inspiring women's ministry designed by moms, for moms.

Consecrated to Mary, **MOMS** is a ministry about women bonded by their Catholic faith in their vocation as mothers. We come together to share the joys and struggles of motherhood.

Our Delaware County MOMS group invites all women to join us.

Upcoming Friday meetings are on **April 10**, and **May 8**.

We meet in St. Francis Hall, located on the lower level of the church, from **9:30 to 11 AM**.

Free babysitting and refreshments are available.

For more information, please get in touch with Sarah Albanese at sarah.albanese@gmail.com.



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