

ST. MARY MAGDALEN APPEAL

Building a family of faith in Jesus Christ — through Catholic Worship, Education & Charity

A family at prayer is a family at peace

I praise God and thank you for coming in person to celebrate Mass together with grateful hearts and joyful spirits. What a blessing to welcome you back and see you engaging and speaking with each other after Mass. We believe that by praying to our loving and merciful Father and Jesus, our redeemer, we can promote healing and grow in holiness. In the world and within each of us, the battle for our soul is evident. Only God's Powerful Spirit (*GPS*) can restore hope and trust within our families and friendships and aid our spiritual and world leaders in working for justice and peace. The devil tempts us to lose faith as we watch the horrible violence and destruction of human life, but Jesus prays that we join Him in sacrificing ourselves and upholding all life from the womb to our last breath. Nourish yourself in the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Reflect on the Word of God and pray the rosary with family and friends—**for a family at prayer is a family at peace.**



Prayer: Lord God, I know you are a loving and merciful Father who sent Jesus to teach us the Way and the Truth to live and love one another as your precious children. I hope in you. I know that you will always take care of me. I want to be a sign of my love for you, my family, and all who need me to teach them your divine love by my good example. Lord, help me to be faithful in carrying out the commitments of my state of life. I offer my time, talents, and treasure to Saint Mary Magdalen Parish Family to build a family of faith in Jesus Christ through Catholic worship, education, and charity. Jesus, be my Lord and my best friend so that I can pass on the gift of faith, hope, and love to all, especially your precious children. Bless us with your Holy Spirit to grace and guide our family, friends, and children as we strive to live a life of virtue now so that we can enjoy heaven together. Amen.

I praise God and thank you for your generous stewardship. The Financial Report reveals that your charitable hearts and hands increased our income, even as we distributed 5% to those most in need among us. I am grateful for the sacrifices of our priests, deacons, faculty, staff, and all our volunteers who love serving you. Our expenses continue to increase, but we trust in your generosity. We hope that our **Annual Parish Appeal and Gala on April 2, 2022** will offset the increase.

In these struggling financial times, please contribute to the degree you are blessed. We pray that you are able to donate \$400 or increase your gift to maintain and improve our parish programs.

Pray for me as I pray for you each day at Mass.

For your convenience, please use the enclosed **Parish Appeal Envelope**. We thank you for your support!

Jesus Loves You and So Do I,
Father Ralph

My Catholic School Education

What is the importance of a Catholic education?

In May, SMM's Knights of Columbus Council held a contest to examine this question and invited our school's Class of 2021, now graduated, to submit essays. Below, are just a few of their thoughtful insights.

Lilian wrote, "It is our job to educate ourselves about our faith, so we can better understand God and develop a closer relationship with Him." She added that she feels extremely privileged to attend Catholic school, which has helped her develop a more intimate prayer life with God. Reflecting on his years at SMM School, Joe expressed, "My faith in God and my responsibility to serve others has strengthened in many ways. I believe that serving others is the most important value of Catholic teaching." Alex, who attended SMM for nine years, stated her time at SMM "was one of the best decisions my parents made for me and one of the best experiences of my life." She continued, "The school and church have created a loving, caring community for me, filled with friends, family, and teachers. I have learned that God is always with you and looking out for you." She added, "It has taught me how important it is to create a community and be active in it; by doing that, I've become a follower of Christ."

SMM has helped Elena understand what it means to be a Catholic. She penned, "Not only receiving the sacraments but learning about each one and comprehending Jesus' sacrifices." Pierre expressed how faith is at the heart of SMM School, "We pray multiple times a day. At the beginning of every science class, Miss Logan starts by saying, 'Let's thank God for waking us up this morning,' this makes me think of how grateful I should be for all the good things God does for us." He added that each year during the May Procession, "the image of every student in uniform praying the rosary will always remind me how Mary was humble, gentle, and loving." The essay winner, Meredith, wrote, "I think the best teachers...do not simply check off the boxes of their curriculum, but interweave lessons of faith." She added, "We learn to have compassion and empathy for others, and no matter what happens in our lives, God's love for us is unconditional." She felt connected to God in every class and "starting each day with a prayer" calmed her. "Imagining my life without my Catholic faith is something I could never do because of the unique experiences and opportunities that were given to me." 🌿



Fr. Paschal Onunwa

Please join us as we extend a warm welcome to **Fr. Paschal U. Onunwa**. Fr. Paschal as born in Nigeria and was ordained there in April of 1974. He shares his time between Saint Bernadette and our parish.

We Are All Called to Serve

by Fr. Jonathan Rice



Amazingly, a whole year has passed since I arrived at SMM. Thank you for your welcoming spirit and joyful nature that has helped me advance in my priestly vocation over the past year. It has certainly been an interesting year for all of us, and hopefully, we fully appreciate all

the gifts that God offers each of us. As we look forward with new hope, may we continue to grow together as a family in Christ by being models of God's love and mercy toward each other. This year, my invitation and prayer is that we reject everything that tries to divide and isolate us, and we yearn to connect more deeply with Christ, His Church, and one another. We all have a mission in the Church. The Lord calls to us: "Come follow me!" and it requires a collective reply: "Lord, where do you want me to serve?" As Catholics, we are a vast and all-embracing community. At SMM, we are fortunate to have many ways to serve and build the parish and school community (see *the opposite page*). Together, we are a family of faith in Jesus Christ through Catholic worship, education, and charity. The Lord asks each of us to consider our lives and discern: What is my mission, and how can I serve others?

What is STREAM Learning?

Recently, you may have heard of STEM learning, which lacks several vital components of a well-rounded education. SMM School emphasizes STREAM learning that adds the arts and religion to students' academic essentials. We believe a Christ-centered education incorporating all the elements above is an interdisciplinary framework that highlights connections that foster children to grow into compassionate critical thinkers. Our STREAM students approach real-world problems from a faith perspective and engage in the design thinking process to seek solutions. This project-based learning experience furnishes students with the skills to be strong communicators, thoughtful collaborators and develop leadership skills. For example, by connecting, rather than compartmentalizing religion and science, STREAM focused education shows students how to integrate them. We teach students about scientists who made significant discoveries, as well as saints, some of whom worked as scientists like Saint Giuseppe Moscati, whose biochemical research led to the discovery of insulin as a treatment for diabetics. SMM Students will discover more about God by looking further into what He has designed through science, math, and the arts. Miss Kathleen Logan, our Middle School STREAM teacher, shared, "STREAM is the future of Catholic education, and I am passionate about empowering Saint Mary Magdalen School students to be engineers of their learning." 🌿



WELCOME BACK!

The PA Bishops have reinstated the obligation to attend Mass in person on Sundays and Holy Days, as of Sunday, August 15, 2021. If you are unable to come to Mass due to health concerns, please enjoy our free Mass online live stream viewing and recorded Masses on our website.

ADORATION CHAPEL

Come and adore Jesus, who offers us the Body and Blood of eternal life! Our peaceful chapel for Eucharistic Adoration is open Monday from 7 AM through Friday at midnight. Please consider spending an hour with Jesus. To learn more about Adoration or to sign-up:

Shelly at shellsing2@aol.com

CONSIDERING BECOMING CATHOLIC?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process by which you prepare to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. RCIA provides the opportunity to grow in the faith supported by our community. To learn more:

Deacon Peter Zurbach at pzurbach@sju.edu

SMM 2022 GALA APRIL 2, 2022

Save the date for our SMM Gala which benefits our school and its Catholic education initiatives! Join us at the Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum on Saturday, April 2, 2022. We are very grateful to **Katie Knee** and **Margarita Martinelli** as the event's co-chairs. Stay tuned for more event details this fall.

THAT MAN IS YOU!

That Man is You! meets every Thursday from September 16 until December 16 (except Thanksgiving). Session begin at 6:30 AM, and doors will open at 6 AM in the St. Francis Room. This fall's theme is "*Thy Kingdom Come.*" We address the pressures and temptations that men face in today's culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers. Join other Catholic men any time and discover the teachings of the Church and saints! To sign-up, go to our 'Events' page on the website or contact:

John Gill at johngill@comcast.com



PREP FAITH FORMATION

Formation in faith is a life-long process for all the members of the family—adults and children. There is no time in one's life when formation ends. Our faith begins at home, and parents are their children's first catechists. This year, PREP will begin in an asynchronous, online format with the hope to transition to in-person classes later. The PREP program runs from October 3, 2021 through May 1, 2022. If your child is not registered for classes, and you would like more information, visit our website or call the Religious Education office for assistance.

Dorothy Brown, DRE at Ext. 125



WALKING WITH PURPOSE

Beginning on October 19, WWP will offer two separate series for women in the St. Francis Room:

Opening Your Heart: Session is designed for women new to WWP to meet them exactly where they are on their faith journeys. This twenty-two week program is a MUST for both the woman just dipping her toes in the faith pool or the seasoned swimmer in need of a faith refresher!

Reclaiming Friendship: God's plan for deep connection is for all women who desire lasting and abiding friendships! In this six-week series, let God reshape how you see and experience intentional relationships, deal with your past friendship wounds, and become a woman capable of the lifelong bond of authentic friendship.

To sign-up or for more information, visit our website's 'Ministries' tab or email: smmwwp21@gmail.com

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SMM's Financial & Giving Report for Fiscal Year 2020-2021



FINANCIAL RESULTS

Thank you to all our generous donors for supporting the parish as many of us are still facing challenges. Through your gifts, we continue to sustain the church, school, and religious education programs. Net pastoral income was \$51,477 higher than last year. Multiple school families paid their tuition in one payment, which helps the school meet expenses. Our continued efforts to fundraise, like the Hawk Heroes Challenge, help to keep tuition increases modest. Tuition covers only 70% of the cost to educate a student in our award-winning school. Over the past two years, the parish has subsidized school operations with \$473,690 and contributed \$639,684 toward capital improvements. Our caring parishioners have donated over \$1.1 million to sustain our faith-filled school.

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

To ensure the vibrancy and viability of our parish facilities, we have again made significant upgrades to the church, rectory, and school! In the past two years, we have invested over \$750,000, investing in our future. To ensure a high-quality experience, we upgraded the Livestream capabilities, added new cameras, and upgraded the church sound system. We addressed structural concerns in the copulas and bell tower by replacing the windows, patching, and painting, and replacing the lighting fixtures with efficient LED lights. We continue our restorations in the school, ensuring enhanced security with a new fire alarm system and emergency lighting. We have also upgraded the flooring, replaced or repaired windows, and replaced crumbling sewer piping. We are replacing a large portion of the roof-top ventilation system to ensure clean air movement. We are blessed to be able to improve our church and school for the benefit of everyone. We are grateful for your support of our spiritual home.

	FY June 20_21 Actual	FY June 19_20 Actual	Variance	%
Pastoral Revenues				
Sunday Mass Collections	284,187	471,372	(187,185)	-40%
Mailed In Donations	564,796	387,067	177,729	46%
EFT	396,073	349,322	46,751	13%
5% donation to Charity account	(47,747)	(35,400)	(12,347)	35%
Subtotal	1,197,309	1,172,361	24,948	2%
Holy Day Collections	273,368	276,590	(3,222)	-1%
Other Income	173,856	125,499	48,357	39%
Total Pastoral Operating Income	1,644,533	1,574,450	70,083	4%
Pastoral Expense				
Diocesan Assessments	198,100	209,900	(11,800)	-6%
Total Salaries and Benefits	528,264	483,506	44,758	9%
Administrative and Rectory	222,625	239,664	(17,039)	-7%
Maintenance and Utilities	146,758	144,071	2,687	2%
Total Pastoral Expenses	1,095,747	1,077,141	18,606	2%
Net Pastoral Income from Operations	548,786	497,309	51,477	10%
School Revenues				
Tuition Income	1,896,926	1,384,875	512,051	37%
Fundraising Income	386,504	407,265	(20,761)	-5%
Other School Income	77,628	108,509	(30,881)	-28%
Total School Income	2,361,058	1,900,649	460,409	24%
School Expenses				
Total Salaries and Benefits	1,950,884	1,888,559	62,325	3%
Total Administration	179,059	194,915	(15,856)	-8%
Fund Raising Expense	40,967	97,496	(56,529)	-58%
Maintenance and Utilities	210,733	172,784	37,949	22%
Total School Expenses	2,381,643	2,353,754	27,889	1%
Net School Deficit	(20,585)	(453,105)	432,520	-95%
Total Combined Operating Income	528,201	44,204	483,997	1095%
Archdiocesan, Endowment Collections and Capital Expenditures				
Income				
Archdiocesan Collections	21,164	29,587	(8,423)	-28%
Endowment Collections	32,532	168,812	(136,280)	-81%
Unrealized Gains on Assets	450,805	33,969	416,836	1227%
Parish PPP Loan Forgiven	119,270	- 0	119,270	
School PPP Loan Forgiven	339,461		339,461	
Extraordinary Income	100,000	95,307	4,693	5%
Donations to Charity Account	161,338	117,914	43,424	37%
Total Non-Operating Income	1,224,570	445,589	778,981	175%
Expense				
Archdiocesan Collections	15,679	27,792	(12,113)	-44%
Endowment Grant	75,000	75,000	- 0	0%
Donations to Charitable Organizations	127,210	144,614	(17,404)	-12%
Capital Expense School	195,208	444,476	(249,268)	-56%
Capital Expense Parish	46,109	107,202	(61,093)	-57%
Total Non-Operating Expense	459,206	799,084	(339,878)	-43%
Total Combined Non-Operating	765,364	(353,495)	1,118,859	317%
Total Income/Deficit	1,293,565	(309,291)	1,602,856	518%

LEGACY & BEQUESTS We are very grateful to those families and friends who have either made bequests in memory of their loved ones or named St. Mary Magdalen in their will. We want to express our gratitude to the families of **Edwina Amoroso, Eileen Belanger, Armando Canzanese, Rudy Chillemi, Dr. Theodore D'Orazio, Christopher Dougherty, Lucille Francesco, Patricia Lerro, Nicolina Marino, Joseph McCarthy, Rev. John Mulgrew, Richard O'Flynn, John Sanders, John Schad, Frances Smith, Linda Tofani, and Hon. Anthony Truscello.** Please consider Ways to Give through Legacy, Memorial, Named Gifts, EITC, or other-directed donations to help support SMM. Call Susan in our parish office, Ext. 126, for more information.