

Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

8 FEBRUARY 2026

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to begin by asking for your good prayers for our young parishioners who, this Tuesday, will celebrate the Sacrament of Penance for the first time. As it is for each of us, this Sacrament is not a celebration of sin, but of God's mercy. It isn't about having a sense of "Catholic guilt," but about humbly admitting that yes, I am guilty of failing to love God and others in various ways in my life—and finding in the priest's absolution the assurance of God's forgiveness, which comes to us from Christ on the Cross.

Congratulations to these young parishioners who make this Sacrament in anticipation of their First Holy Communion in April.

Behind the scenes, our parish staff is working diligently to prepare many beautiful opportunities to grow as a disciple of Jesus during the Season of Lent, which begins Ash Wednesday, February 18th. Check out the bulletin for details, as well as our annual Lenten letter, which should arrive in your homes soon.

On January 24th, the Memorial of Saint Francis de Sales, Pope Leo released his message for the World Day of Social Communications. Entitled "*Preserving Names and Faces*," it is a reflection on the contemporary challenges posed by so-called Artificial Intelligence.

Human beings have been shaped by technological advances from the beginnings of civilization. Historians track the progress of the ancient world according to the predominant mineral used in making weapons (Bronze Age, Iron Age, etc.). In the modern world, various forms of communications technology—the printing press, the telegram, the telephone, the internet—have helped to define the era in which those persons lived. I suspect it will always be this way.

One extreme position is to adopt every new form of technology in an uncritical manner. This proves disastrous for individuals who attempt it, because some uses of technology can violate the dignity of the human person. For instance, various forms of biomedical engineering promise health, wellness, and even babies by using immoral means.

continued on page 3



2 Mass & Devotions

CLERGY

610-566-8821
stmarymagdalen.net

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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.

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.

Another extreme position—perhaps more understandable but still with its problems—is taking a Luddite position to technology, trying to avoid it at all costs and refusing to learn how to use it virtuously. For example, though one may be hesitant to use an iPad, for grandchildren who live far away, it can be a helpful tool in fostering human interaction.

In our day, large language models (LLMs) have embedded themselves into the human economy at an astonishing speed. In just a few years, many medical, logistical, and electronic systems worldwide have come to rely on this technology. Indeed, it isn't an exaggeration to say that if "A.I." stopped working tomorrow, the world would grind to a screeching halt. So the question isn't "should we have A.I. or not"—we have it, and there's no putting the genie back in the bottle.

The Catholic question is how do we use this technology well—and what must be avoided?

Pope Leo is very clear that websites such as ChatGPT can be deceptively dangerous because they create the veneer of human interaction in a way that is designed to be addictive. Imagine a friend who always answered your text messages, always affirmed your desires, and could answer any question you've ever had in seconds. Well, that's precisely what chatbots like ChatGPT provide! Of course, it's not really a friend at all—it's just a sophisticated computer capable of synthesizing vast amounts of data to provide a reasonably accurate response to a query that mimics, to a high degree of accuracy, human language patterns. But that isn't a friend, because a friend is one who shares my lot, who is equal to me in dignity, and who honors me by spending some of their time with me. A friend will sometimes tell me I am wrong. Perhaps most concretely, and this comes to Pope Leo's document—a friend will smile and speak to me. Friends have faces and voices. Computers—even sophisticated computers—do not.

As Pope Leo writes:

From the moment of creation, God wanted man and woman to be his interlocutors, and, as Saint Gregory of Nyssa explained, he imprinted on our faces a reflection of divine love, so that we may fully live our humanity through love. Preserving human faces and voices, therefore, means preserving this mark, this indelible reflection of God's love. We are not a species composed of predefined

biochemical formulas. Each of us possesses an irreplaceable and inimitable vocation, that originates from our own lived experience and becomes manifest through interaction with others.

If we fail in this task of preservation, digital technology threatens to alter radically some of the fundamental pillars of human civilization that at times are taken for granted. By simulating human voices and faces, wisdom and knowledge, consciousness and responsibility, empathy and friendship, the systems known as artificial intelligence not only interfere with information ecosystems, but also encroach upon the deepest level of communication, that of human relationships.

The challenge, therefore, is not technological, but anthropological. Safeguarding faces and voices ultimately means safeguarding ourselves. Embracing the opportunities offered by digital technology and artificial intelligence with courage, determination and discernment does not mean turning a blind eye to critical issues, complexities and risks.

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker

Pray40

STARTS **LENT** FEB 18

Journey together in prayer with SMM on Hallow.

Scan the code to learn more.

PARISH

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Our SVDP Ministry would like all parishioners to know of our gratitude to everyone for their attention and interest in our team and our helping hand mission during our SVDP Ministry Sunday last week. A big thank you to both Father Eric and Father Bob for their support and encouragement at the end of each Mass.

Heartfelt appreciation also to all who searched and found "the little metal box" at the rear of the Narthex and generously lifted the lid to make a donation to our mission to serve the poor and marginalized in our local community. We are never surprised by the generosity of SMM. After almost 45 years in this parish, I have known SMM parishioners to ALWAYS respond to need when asked. Thank you!

Gratefully,
Mike Mullin and our entire
Vincentian Team
St. Vincent De Paul, Pray for us.



CASSEROLE COLLECTON

Next Weekend!

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.

Thank you!



NEW! SENIORS' SOCIAL CLUB NEWS**'JUST IN TIME' SHOW TRIP**

The SMM Senior Social Club is sponsoring a trip to NYC on **March 25** to see the show "*Just In Time*" about Bobby Darren, starring Jonathan Groff. The cost is \$399 per person, and includes bus fare, reserved orchestra seating, and dinner at Town & Country in Bordentown, NJ. Our bus departs from the SMM parking lot at 10 AM, with an approximate return time of 9:15 PM. **Registration is needed by February 8.** Contact Ken Brown at 610-733-2610 or email brownk1212@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY CLUB MEETING

The SMM Seniors' Social Club cordially invites you to join them on **Wednesday, February 11, from 12:45 PM to 3:00 PM** in St. Francis Hall.

Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon with lively conversations, fellowship, and refreshments.

This month we will be playing Crazy Bingo. Bring a wrapped gift between \$5-\$10 to play.

We hope to see you!

**NEW! RESPECT LIFE EVENTS****CELEBRATE LIFE BANQUET**

This year's Pennsylvanians for Human Life Annual Celebrate Life Banquet will be at **Springfield Country Club on Sunday, February 22.**

Reception begins at 4 PM, followed by dinner at 5 PM, with keynote speaker Dr. Robert P. George of Princeton University, and special guest Dr. Daniel Mark of Villanova University. **To register, call 610-696-0780 or visit paforhumanlife.org.**

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

We invite SMM parishioners to join Delco Churches on **Saturday, March 21** at Planned Parenthood in West Chester, to pray for defenseless unborn children. We need 26 individuals to meet our quota (13 hours x 2 people per hour) 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, search Chester County or Chester County Campaign, then sign up for unfilled hours under the March 21 vigil. You will need to enroll and sign a Statement of Peace pledge. We thank you for your support.

LENTEN EVENTS**ASH WEDNESDAY 🌿 FEBRUARY 18**

Masses: 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM

Liturgy of the Word with Distribution of Ashes: 12:30 PM & 6:30 PM

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 RETREAT 🌿 FEBRUARY 21

Join our FOCUS missionaries from 8:30 AM to Noon.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES

Contact Fr. Eric or our FOCUS missionaries for times and information at tina@stmarymagdalen.net.

MAN UP PHILLY 🌿 FEBRUARY 28

Conference at Cardinal O'Hara High School

To register, go to 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 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.

TOB THEOLOGY OF THE BODY



DANCE NIGHT

How does dancing highlight masculinity and femininity?
JOIN US AS WE DIVE INTO THIS QUESTION THROUGH DANCE

FEBRUARY 22ND

AFTER THE 7PM MASS at St. Mary Magdalen
2400 N Providence Rd, Media, PA 19063

- **FOOD**
- **SWING DANCE LESSONS**
- **BRIEF LESSON ON DANCE WITH
MASCULINITY AND FEMINITY**
- **COMMUNITY**

RSVP!



Contact Camden Craighead with any questions at
260-387-8227

[https://forms.gle/RbPc9Zo
SEW8QuDBw9](https://forms.gle/RbPc9ZoSEW8QuDBw9)

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 Di Gravio Family, The Turner Family, The Swahl Family

CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of **Joanne Maguire, Antoinette McGoldrick, Mel Sedor**, 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. Call the Parish Office if you or a loved one is ill.

Carol Austin, Charlie Ayers, Charles Bastian, Kevin Boylan, Joe Cahill, Christine Cavaliere, Mary Cichanowsky, Jean Cotter, Joseph DeFabio, James D'Amore, Kieran Doran, Theresa D'Orazio, Kevin Gallagher, Katie Garwood, Bob Gentile, Rodie Henson, Mary Ellen Hoffman, Francis Iacovone, Gregory Lewis, Kay Greiser, Shellz Mangan, Floyd Marvin, Robin Marvin, Mary Jane McCloskey, Dorothy Milliner, Dorothy Moerman, Daniel Murphy, Joan Murphy, Mike Murphy, Fr. Alan Okon, Michelle Okon, Carol Ortner, Bill Pace, John Pollera, Nicholas Quercetti, Sr., George Rodgers, Rosemary Rogers, Naomi Rouse, Peter Salemo, Brendan Shain, Lisa Innaurato Shaine, Kristin Ball Shortt, Bill Snyder, Nancy Sowa, Amerigo Tomassi, Mark Torregosa, Forest Wheeler, Kathy Will, 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.

Henry James Martin, Philip James Sobato



Congrats to Brady, winner of our Religion Bee, and Ryan and Lucy winners of our Spelling Bee!

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

8:30 AM - Ints. of Margaret Santangelo

4:30 PM - William Minnis

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

7:30 AM - Diodato & Anna Lippi

9:30 AM - Theresa Kilcur

11:30 AM - Caterina Kalinowski

7 PM - The People of the Parish

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

6:30 AM - No Mass

8:30 AM - Matthew R. Hallinan

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

6:30 AM - Donald Strittmatter

8:30 AM - Agnes Ruggieri

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

6:30 AM - Timothy Nolan

8:30 AM - Dr. Anthony J. Piraino

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

6:30 AM - Holy Souls in Purgatory

8:30 AM - Kathleen Hunsicker

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

6:30 AM - Dorothy & Scott McNeila

8:30 AM - John Santangelo, Jr.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

8:30 AM - Dr. Anthony J. Piraino

4:30 PM - Clotilda Liberatore

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

7:30 AM - The People of the Parish

9:30 AM - Adelchi Rold

11:30 AM - Maria Luisa Latorre

7 PM - Domenic Lanciano



FLOWERS

In memory of Mel Sedor

BREAD & WINE

In memory of Edwina Lotka

CANDLE

In memory of Daught Ryan

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 on the following Wednesdays: February 18, March 11, March 25, April 8, and April 22.



DATE CHANGE! MOMS MINISTRY FRIDAY, FRIDAY 13

Please note our February meeting has changed from February 6 to February 13. Our Delaware County MOMS group invites all women to join us in St. Francis Hall from 9:30 to 11 AM. Our ministry is about women bonded by their Catholic faith in their vocation as mothers. We come together to share the joys and struggles of motherhood. For more information, contact Sarah Albanese at sarah.albanese@gmail.com.

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.



NEW! MASS PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 14

4:30 PM—Fr. Robert Pesarchick

Sunday, February 15

7:30 AM—Fr. Eric Banecker

9:30 AM—Fr. Robert Pesarchick

11:30 AM—Fr. Eric Banecker

7 PM—Fr. Eric Banecker

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



Mass Intentions

To make a request, scan the code or visit the link at stmarymagdalen.net.

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December 2025	\$144,115
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Collection:	\$43,523
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Mail-in:	\$39,677
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EFT:	\$60,914
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December 2024	\$123,744
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Collection:	\$46,759
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Mail-in:	\$27,591
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EFT:	\$49,394
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Christmas 2025	\$123,179
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Christmas 2024	\$113,675
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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.

NEW! THE HONOR ROLLS CARDINAL O'HARA

The following students have achieved Academic Honors for the 2nd Quarter / 1st Semester report.

First Honors:

Matthew Chin '26, Ryan Crowley '26,
Avery Murphy-Costanzo '26,
James Smith '26, Molly Carroll '27,
Eva Marquis '27, Colette Breen '28,
Ella Eusebio '28, Kylie Sobel '28,
Bella DiPaulo '29, Kate Kalinchak '29,
Julie McAnally '29, Keira Stonelake '29,
Joseph Thompson '29.

Second Honors:

Anthony Abate '26, Connor Bray '26,
Ben Kalinchak '26, Gianna Mariano '26,
Nina McCarthy '27, Penelope Miller '27,
Alanna Phillips '27, Kathleen Rayfield '27,
Isabella Tillilie '27, Harry Bastian '28,
Alex Foster '28, Fiona Gribbin '28,
Gwenn Mangan '28, Nathaniel Saleski '29.

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Grades 9 to 12

6:00 pm: Rosary & Confession | 6:30 pm Casual Dinner
6:45 pm: Talks Begin

This Apologetics series helps teens confidently understand, defend, and share their Catholic faith using both faith and reason. Along the way, students will deepen their prayer life, encounter Christ in the sacraments, and build strong friendships with other Catholic high schoolers as they grow together in faith.



Church of St. Joseph
Donnelly Hall
3255 Concord Road
Aston, Pa 19014

More info: admin@churchofstjosephaston.org



SIX PART SERIES

February

22 - What Is Apologetics?
Using Faith & Reason

March

1 - Does God exist?
8 - Truth and Relativism
Are all religions equal?
10 - Parish 40 Hours
15 - Chastity & Human Sexuality
22 - A Defense of the 7 Sacraments
29 - Mary & the Saints



Join us for these
inspiring and
interactive sessions
at the Church of
St. Joseph.

Led by
Fr. Henry Graebe,
Parochial Administrator

morning retreat

Are you looking to live this Lenten season with more intentionality?

Giving up something in our lives is a wonderful way to create more room for Christ, but how do we use this as an opportunity to know God more deeply? This morning retreat will give us the time and space to carefully consider how Christ might be desiring us to grow in our relationship with Him. Jake and Tina, our FOCUS missionaries, will lead us through the morning with time for prayer and reflection.

Join us on **Saturday, February 21**, for this morning retreat. The day begins with Mass at 8:30 am and ends at noon with lunch. Continental breakfast & lunch are included in this parish-sponsored event.

Plus, we would love for you to join one of our **Lenten Men's or Women's Bible Studies**. Men's: Thursdays at 10:00 am | Tuesdays at 8 pm (young adult men ages 18-35); Women's: Tuesday at 7:30 pm.

To learn more, contact our FOCUS missionaries today!

Tina at tina@stmarymagdalen.net
Jake at jake@stmarymagdalen.net

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