

# Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

31 AUGUST 2025

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## OUR DAILY BREAD OUR FATHER, PART VIII



In the Old Testament, the most famous story about bread takes place in the sixteenth chapter of the Book of Exodus. The Israelites have just been liberated. They have crossed the Red Sea, and the Egyptian army has been defeated by its waters. Now, as they begin their journey to the promised land, the first sign of trouble shows itself. The trouble is not some external threat, but the people's lack of trust that God will take care of them. That distrust will become so profound as to lead to their worshipping a golden calf, thus adding forty years to their journey to the Promised Land. But that hasn't happened at this point in the story. Instead, we find that one of their first priorities after crossing the Red Sea is to complain about their hunger.

They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt.

And the whole congregation of the people of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, and said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

*The people are hungry.* Is this not a perfect description of our contemporary age? On the surface, we are the richest nation that has ever existed. The luxuries enjoyed by even a working-class American in 2025 would have been unthinkable to the wealthiest people even a century ago.

And yet, are we not still hungry? Have we not learned first-hand that prosperity can become a demanding idol? We cannot fill the void in our lives with anything other than God. Nothing else will do for us, for He made us for Himself. Israel would have to learn that love always implies dependence. Even for the persons of the Trinity, their existence is always for the others and from the others—a perfect communion of mutual interdependence. We must learn anew how to receive everything as a gift from God, remembering Jesus' words to the apostles that

*continued on page 3*

## CLERGY

610-566-8821  
stmarymagdalen.net

Rev. Eric J. Banecker  
*Pastor*  
freric@stmarymagdalen.net  
Extension 110

Rev. Msgr. Ralph J. Chieffo  
*Pastor Emeritus*  
frralph@stmarymagdalen.net

Rev. Robert A. Pesarchick  
*Parochial Vicar*  
frbob@stmarymagdalen.net  
Extension 123

Rev. Mr. Jude Opara  
deaconjude@stmarymagdalen.net  
*Transitional Deacon*

*Sacramental assistance  
is provided by*

Rev. Msgr. Francis Beach  
Rev. Richard Maisano  
Rev. Philip Lowe

Deacon James DiFerdinand, M.A.  
*Permanent Deacon*  
jamesdiferdinand@gmail.com

Deacon Joseph Boyle, M.Th.  
*Director of Parish  
& School Operations*  
deaconjoe@stmarymagdalen.net  
Extension 126

Deacon Bob Szipszky, M.Th.  
*Permanent Deacon*  
*OCIA Program*  
deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net

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



## 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 Monday 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.



## ELECTRONIC PARISH GIVING

Visit our website's 'Giving' page to make a one time gift or sign up for recurring electronic donations using the 'Parish Giving' secure link or scan the QR code.

“unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of God.” (Saint Therese of Lisieux, that is, Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, lived this mystery of spiritual childhood in a powerful and beautiful way. We would all do well to meditate on her life and teaching!)

Back to the Israelites in the desert. Moses intercedes with God on their behalf, and God responds mercifully, but also in a manner meant to build up in the people a spirit of dependence and trust: “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law or not’” (Ex 16:4). The mysterious bread from heaven—called Manna, which in Hebrew means “what is it?”—would satiate the people in the wilderness, but only for a day. The people were only permitted to take what they needed for the day, except on Friday, when they could take enough for the Sabbath day as well. They had to eat, yes. But more importantly, they also had to learn that their God would not abandon them. They could entrust themselves to him completely. He would always take care of them.

When Jesus taught his disciples how to pray, he included this petition, which has this whole history in the background: *Give us this day our daily bread*. This petition forms the center of the entire prayer, both in a literary sense and even more in a spiritual sense. Just as the Israelites needed bread after they crossed the waters of the sea, so the disciples of Jesus, who become sharers in the Divine nature through the waters of baptism, need their own spiritual sustenance during their pilgrimage. On the one hand, this petition remains about the same issue the Israelites had: relying on God to provide for all our needs, trusting that He knows us better than we know ourselves. But in the New Testament, this takes on a deeper meaning: the bread we ask for is not just foodstuffs but *arton epiousion*. *Arton* is the Greek word for “bread,” and “epiousion” is a completely unique word, not found anywhere outside the Lord’s prayer in the Gospels.

What does this word mean? In Latin, this was translated as *panem nostrum cotidianum*, “our daily bread.” And, indeed, with the collective Jewish memory of the daily distribution of Manna from above, “daily” is an appropriate translation. But we must recall Jesus’ own words about the Manna in the desert, and how He is the fulfillment of that mysterious event. After Jesus fed the crowd of 5000,

they asked Him for a sign from heaven that He is the Messiah. This is how He responds: So Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world” (Jn 6:32-34).

When the crowds then ask Jesus to give them this bread, this is what He says: “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst” (Jn 6:35). In other words, the daily bread we need is Christ himself. He is the one who comes down from heaven in the womb of the Virgin and gives life to the whole world through His self-offering on the Cross. Indeed, this central petition of the Lord’s prayer reveals that the entire prayer is begging for Christ himself to dwell in our hearts and remain with us always: that His Kingdom may come; that in union with Him we may do the Father’s will on earth; that He may forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

This desire for Christ to remain with us recalls the words of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus on the Day of Resurrection. With their hearts burning within them after hearing Christ explain how all the Scriptures referred to this moment, they say, still unaware to whom they are speaking, “stay with us, for it is nearly evening, and the day is almost over” (Lk 24:29). Then, only after Jesus carries out the gestures of the Eucharist which He instituted at the Last Supper, are their eyes open. They finally know Him through the Breaking of the Bread, the Bible term for what we today call the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This petition, then, is about the Eucharist, the sacramental encounter with Christ, crucified and risen from the dead, which the Church will celebrate without ceasing until He comes again. For this reason, the Lord’s Prayer is an essential part of every Mass, for those who call upon God as Father are then invited, as the priest says just after the prayer, “to the supper of the Lamb.”

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker



## NEW HANDBELL FOR CHAPEL

We extend our sincere thanks to Kenneth Schwartz, who graciously donated a beautiful new bronze handbell for use in the chapel for our weekday Masses. Thank you for your generous heart!

## PARISH

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stmarymagdalen.net

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Mrs. Jessica Savko  
Mrs. Mary Lou Mayer  
*Office Administrators*  
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## SCHOOL

610-565-1822  
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Mrs. Amy Crawford Bauer  
*Principal*  
abauer@stmarymagdalen.net

# PREP REGISTRATION

2025-2026

Our PREP Registration is open!  
We welcome new families to our catechetical programs, which begin in Grade 1 through Grade 7.

**Classes begin September 22**  
Mondays from 5 to 6 PM at SMM.

To register, please visit  
**stmarymagdalen.net**,  
or scan the QR Code below.

For more information, email  
**PREP@stmarymagdalen.net**



# INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLICISM

Our Catholic faith is the story of  
abundant life, love, and joy.



### Are you considering becoming Catholic?

Our flexible hybrid experience will accompany you on your way to the profound gift of Jesus' love and truth of his Holy Church.

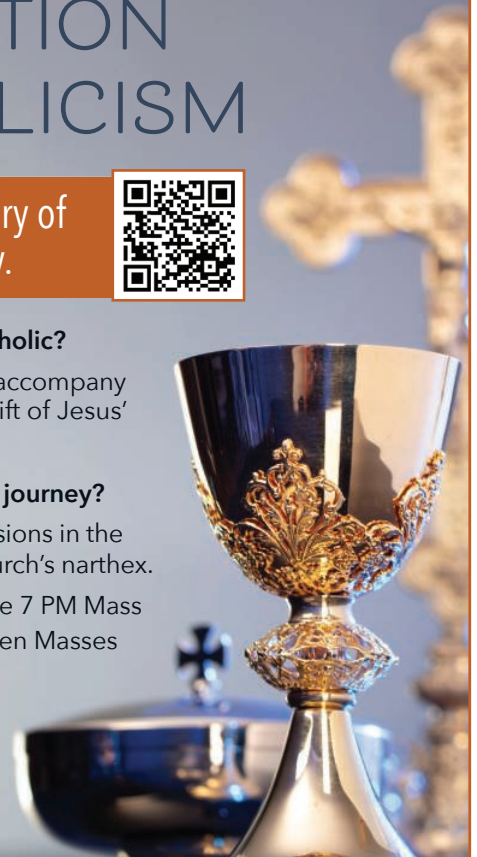
### Want to learn more about this faith journey?

Come to our upcoming Inquiry Sessions in the Gathering Room located off the church's narthex.

**September 7 at 6:15 PM**—before the 7 PM Mass  
**September 21 at 10:30 AM**—between Masses

EACH JOURNEY BEGINS  
WITH AN INQUIRY.

To learn more scan the QR, or email  
deaconbob@stmarymagdalen.net



**NEW! SENIOR SOCIAL CLUB  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**

The Seniors' Social Club cordially invites you to join them for its first meeting of the new season on Wednesday, September 10, from 12:45 to 3:00 PM.

Social Meetings are held in St. Francis Hall on the church's lower level, which is handicap accessible and has an elevator to the lower level. Come and join us for a fun-filled afternoon and meet new friends as you enjoy some lively conversations, fellowship, and refreshments. The SSC looks forward to meeting you.



**THE VIRTUE OF HUMILITY**

As we gather together after the summer, our parish family, especially our 614 students in St. Mary Magdalen School and PREP, will continue to celebrate and practice a virtue each month, in part, through the continued use of the **VIRTUE=STRENGTH®** program. This September, we will concentrate on the virtue of **Humility**, which is the strength and wisdom to put God and others before ourselves. In John 13:1-17, we are led by Jesus' example, as he humbly washes the feet of His disciples, teaching us to serve others.

To serve is to have a heart of humility. It is the strength to recognize our gifts and talents as blessings from God and to humbly acknowledge that we are not superior to others. This teaches us to help others with a happy heart, even if it's a small job. Those who practice humility tend to have better and more meaningful relationships because they value and respect others. It offers a sense of peace because those who practice it do not seek affirmation regularly. Humility also opens the door to continuous learning and personal growth, as the practice of humility encourages us to seek improvement.

Blessed Carlo Acutis, who will be canonized on September 7, recognized the importance of humility in prayer and adoration from an early age. He demonstrated this by spending time in prayer and daily adoration, attending confession regularly, and receiving the Sacrament of Communion. He emphasized the importance of a relationship with God, stating, "Find God and you will find the meaning of your life." Each day, we can pray: "Lord, let humility guide me as I learn and interact today. Teach me to value others above myself and to seek wisdom with a humble heart, through Christ our Lord. Amen."

**NEW! PHILLY CATHOLIC SINGLES  
FOR AGES 30 TO 45**

"PCS" hosts monthly events for Catholic singles across the Archdiocese who are looking to meet someone. Fr. DeLacy is our chaplain.

Upcoming events include:

**Sat 9/13 Pickup Kickball**  
(Burholme Park, Jenkintown)

**Sat 9/20 Abbeyfest: PCS Picnic Area**  
(Shrine of Czestochowa)

**Sun 9/28 All-Ages Barn Dance with CYA**  
(Shrine of Czestochowa)

Join our 300+ members at  
[www.PhillyCatholic.Singles](http://www.PhillyCatholic.Singles).



**NEW! MASS PRESIDER SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, September 6**

4:30 PM—Fr. Robert Pesarchick

**Sunday, September 7**

7:30 AM—Fr. Eric Banecker

9:30 AM—Fr. Eric Banecker

11:30 AM—Fr. Robert Pesarchick

7 PM—Fr. Eric Banecker

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

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**LEBANESE**

**SEPT. 2025**

**FESTIVAL**

<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
<b>SEPT 5TH</b>	<b>SEPT 6TH</b>	<b>SEPT 7TH</b>
<b>4PM-11PM</b>	<b>12PM-11PM</b>	<b>1PM-9PM</b>

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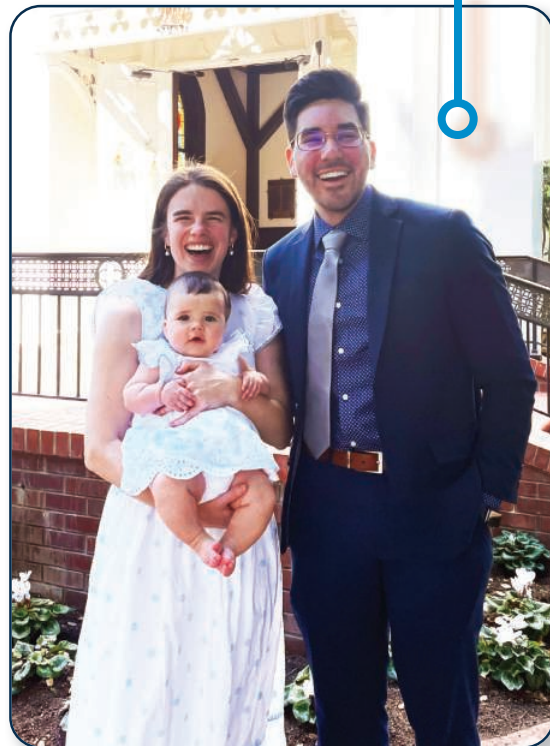
STSHARBELPA.ORG

# Meet our incoming FOCUS Missionaries

## Jacob Barajas

Hello! My name is Jake Barajas, and I will enter my 7th year with FOCUS. My wife, Adrienne, and I met while serving together as FOCUS missionaries at the University of California, Berkeley. We were married in December 2022 and are thrilled to have recently welcomed our first child, Mary Clare, into the world this past November. Over the last six years, I have continued to serve at a variety of campuses in the Bay Area, including San Francisco State and San Jose State. I grew up in Northwest Indiana, just outside of Chicago, and Adrienne is a native of Bucks County. We are grateful to be able to move closer to family and to become a part of the community at St. Mary Magdalen. Serving Christ and His Church is our most tremendous joy, and we look forward to meeting you all!

Contact me at [jacob.barajas@focus.org](mailto:jacob.barajas@focus.org)



## Christina Augustine

Hi, I am Christina, and we are the Augustine family! My husband, Mychal, and I have four boys, ranging in age from 8 years to 4 months: Ignacio, Hugo, Emilio, and Freddy. I grew up in CT and am thrilled to be making my way back East. I have served as a missionary with FOCUS since 2013 in a variety of roles. In 2016, Mychal and I got married and moved to Europe to launch FOCUS's first international team in Graz, Austria. After five wonderful years in Europe, our family moved to Menlo Park, CA, where I currently serve as a Parish Missionary and Regional Director. It is such a joy to accompany my parishioners in the journey of their faith as we seek to live as Disciples for Christ. We look forward to making St. Mary Magdalen our home and meeting you all.

Contact me at [christina.augustine@focus.org](mailto:christina.augustine@focus.org)

Please join us in welcoming them to SMM!  
They will be settled into the community this fall.  
Learn more about their mission at [focus.org](https://focus.org).



## 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 Grandieri Family

## CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of **Rita Bluebello, Joseph Gosalves, Anthony Carbo**, those souls who died due to wars or conflicts including the Holy Land, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, those lost to natural disasters, including in Texas and New Mexico, those lost from 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, Charles Bastian, Danielle Bastian, Kevin Boylan, Joe Cahill, Tricia Carmen, Christine Cavaliere, Mary Cichanowsky, Jean Cotter, Joseph DeFabio, Kieran Doran, Rosemary Dougherty, Theresa D'Orazio, Kevin Gallagher, Katie Garwood, Jacquelyn Gibbons, Bob Gentile, Rodie Henson, Mary Ellen Hoffman, Francis Iacovone, Rita Klauder, Gregory Lewis, Leonard Lombardi, Shellz Mangan, Floyd Marvin, Robin Marvin, Mary Jane & Pat McCloskey, Dorothy Milliner, Dorothy Moerman, Daniel Murphy, Joan Murphy, Mike Murphy, Carol Ortner, Bill Pace, John Pollera, Nicholas Quercetti, Sr., George Rodgers, Naomi Rouse, Daught Ryan, Peter Salemo, Angelina Scarpa, Brendan Shain, Lisa Innaurato Shaine, Bill Snyder, Nancy Sowa, Amerigo Tomassi, Mark Torregosa, Kathy Will, Roseann Yannacone, and Ernie Zappacosta.

## MARRIAGES

Congratulations to our newest newlyweds!

Matthew Davis & Stephanie Binder

## BAPTISMS

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

Brynn Elizabeth Buoni & Audrey Rose Hahn



Smiling faces from our school's faculty retirement party in June.

## Prayers & Mass Intentions 7

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

8:30 AM - Tony Antonello

4:30 PM - Margaret &  
Bertram Stevenson

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

7:30 AM - Sarina Sanfelice

9:30 AM - Philip Franco  
11:30 AM - Geraldine Bergen Marra  
7 PM - The People of the Parish

#### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

6:30 AM - No Mass  
8:30 AM - William Cavanagh

#### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

6:30 AM - William Boylan  
8:30 AM - Tony Antonello

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

6:30 AM - Marie Verna  
8:30 AM - Peter Miniszak

#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

6:30 AM - Ints. of Monica Grzeczowski  
8:30 AM - Mario DeVuono

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

6:30 AM - Angelina DeMario  
8:30 AM - Casey Mortellite  
6:30 PM - Alyssa Rose Wiest

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

8:30 AM - James Walsh  
4:30 PM - Alice Quinn

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

7:30 AM - Thomas Logan, Sr.  
9:30 AM - Marg Liney  
7 PM - The People of the Parish



### FLOWERS

In memory of our deceased teachers

### BREAD & WINE

In memory of William Simpson

### CANDLE

In memory of Rita Bluebello

**SIGN-UP! SENIORS' SOCIAL CLUB TRIP  
THE SHORE CLUB**

Our Seniors' Social Club invites you to join them **on Tuesday, November 11**, for a trip to The Shore Club in Spring Lake, New Jersey, for an afternoon of music, comedy, dancing, and good food. The trip includes a deluxe coach to and from the venue, which departs and returns to SMM.

The day includes lunch with your choice of entrée, one hour of open bar, and a fabulous all-star show with tributes to amazing artists!

**To reserve your seat**, please contact Bill Moore at patbillbr4@comcast.net or call 610-742-3191. For more information, pick up the flyer in the narthex.



**FR. BILL ATKINSON PILGRIMAGE**

**Thursday, September 25**

Registration at 3 PM  
Prayer Service 3:30 PM

at **ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA CHURCH**

Followed by a 4-mile accessible walk  
to **OUR LADY OF ASSUMPTION**



For more information or to register visit us at [friendsoffatherbill.org](http://friendsoffatherbill.org)



**NEW! LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR  
SAINT JEANNE JUGAN GALA  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

The Little Sisters of the Poor will hold their annual Saint Jeanne Jugan Gala on Sunday, September 21, from 1 to 3:30 p.m., at the Drexelbrook Ballroom in Drexel Hill. Each Raffle ticket purchase is also an admission to this event. This delightful afternoon supports the Sisters' mission in serving the elderly and also honors those who are dedicated to it. This year, they will also celebrate the completion of the newly built home! All proceeds benefit Holy Family Home in Philadelphia. For more information or to purchase raffle tickets and gala admission, please visit [littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org](http://littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org).



**MASS INTENTIONS**

Our Mass Intentions Book is full and closed for 2025. The 2026 Book will open in early October.



**STEWARDSHIP & TITHING**

July 2025	<b>\$96,456</b>
Collection:	\$28,590
Mail-in:	\$14,560
EFT:	\$53,306
July 2024	<b>\$104,981</b>
Collection:	\$23,495
Mail-in:	\$30,668
EFT:	\$50,818
School Annual Fund 2025	<b>\$63,824</b>
School Annual Fund 2024	<b>\$58,730</b>

**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.

# First Fridays

AT ST. MARY MAGDALEN



## September 5

Join us for Family & Friends 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.

At 6 PM, enjoy the amazing movie *'Carlo Acutis: Roadmap To Reality'* (1 hr 22 mins) downstairs, in celebration of his canonization on September 7th.

Additionally, a kid craft table will be available to learn about Carlo, the Eucharist, and new ways to build on our Virtue of the Month—Humility. All are welcome to join the day's activities, as they fit into your family's schedule. Faith is best lived in community!

## Save these Dates

SEPTEMBER 5    FEBRUARY 6

OCTOBER 3    MARCH 6

NOVEMBER 7    MAY 1

DECEMBER 5    JUNE 5



An Envisioning Parish

## EVENTS



6:30 AM

MASS

7:15 AM

MORNING PRAYER  
IN THE CHAPEL

8:30 AM

MASS WITH SCHOOL  
+

AFTER, ENJOY A COFFEE &  
SNACK IN NARTHEX CAFE.



5:30 PM TO 7 PM

DINNER & ACTIVITIES  
IN ST. FRANCIS HALL.

6:15 TO 6:45 PM

CONFESSIONS

7 TO 8 PM

HOLY HOUR  
ADORATION, MUSIC,  
VESPERS & BENEDICTION

8 PM

DESSERT HOSPITALITY  
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**OPEN HOUSE**  
 Sunday, October 5 • 10 am  
 opening Liturgy at 9:30 am  
 udapa.org/openhouse

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 Parishioner

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