

# Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

3 AUGUST 2025

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## OUR FATHER, PART IV

Even today, who your father is says a lot about you.

I went to college with the children of mechanics and parole officers, teachers, and small business owners. I also went with the children of the professional class—doctors, lawyers, financiers. I also went with the children of celebrities and powerful politicians. I'm not implying that anyone in the latter category got in because of who their father was—but it didn't hurt, either. You know the saying, "it's not what you know, it's who you know."

Sociological studies have repeatedly shown the importance of a father in the religious upbringing of children. Some have studied children raised in a particular religious tradition and asked the question: What factors determine whether that child continues to practice that faith as an adult? Of course, there are many complex factors, but the only statistically significant driver is whether or not the child's father goes to church regularly.

This is true in a different way with spiritual fatherhood: Catholics are 15 times more likely to recommend their parish if they would also recommend their parish priest.

So many of my life experiences—my taste in music, which sports I play and watch—have been influenced by my dad. Every week, growing up, we would walk to the 9 AM Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord Church and sit in one of the front pews.

That definitely left a mark on me. I realize now, as people call me "Father" fifty times a day, what a tremendous responsibility it really is.

I'd like to explore Jesus' sonship through the lens of Saint Joseph. Saint Joseph is a human being who powerfully reflects God the Father for Jesus in his earthly life. Joseph taught Jesus how to pray and work (*ora et labora*). He protected Jesus and his mother. He was a man of strong deeds and gentle strength, content to be in the background and play his part in a drama he didn't quite understand. In short, Joseph is the kind of father we all would want to have, and the kind of father all men should want to be like. This doesn't mean, of course, that Joseph was rich, popular, or important in the eyes of this world. While the Holy Family did not experience abject poverty, they certainly could not have afforded a house in Stone Harbor.



*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  
*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

Monday thru Friday  
6:30 AM & 8:30 AM

No 6:30 AM Mass on Mondays from July 4<sup>th</sup> through Labor Day.

### 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: 5:30 PM Adoration & Confessions,  
followed by Mass at 6:30 PM. (Except in July & August)

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.

Recall the story of when Jesus was lost for three days in Jerusalem. Mary and Joseph had assumed he was in the caravan, but they returned to Jerusalem, horrified and looking for their son. There is, of course, a prefiguration of the Passion here, when Mary would be in mourning as Jesus is once again lost for three days in Jerusalem, this time in a tomb. There is also a spiritual lesson about how we sometimes assume that Jesus is with us, only to realize later that we've left without him! But the point I want to focus on is what Mary says when they find him: "Your father and I have been looking with you with great anxiety."

Not "your foster father and I," but simply "your father and I." Of course, Joseph is not Jesus' father in the same manner that Mary is Jesus' mother. His divine paternity is a central aspect of our faith. And yet, Joseph is more than just the legal guardian—he really is a father to Jesus. When Jesus teaches the disciples to pray to their Father in heaven, we should recall that his human image of fatherhood comes directly from Saint Joseph.

Spiritual writers speak of divine condescension. This doesn't mean what we usually mean by that word. In common speech, "condescension" means "talking down" to another person in an offensive or patronizing way. Rather, it means that God comes down to be with us. He fully communicates himself to his lowly creatures out of love. We see this in the Old Testament—when God walks along in the Garden of Eden or when he appears to Moses in the burning bush. But these signs find their completion in the coming of Emmanuel, God-with-us. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," we sing in that haunting melody every Advent. We long for God to make his presence known in our lives and world. Think of Saint Alphonsus Liguori, teaching the Incarnation to peasant children in Naples. It has become the most beloved Italian Christmas hymn: "Tu scendi dalle stelle, O Re del Cielo." You came down from the stars. And he does this to raise us to share in his own life. It is both incarnation down and incarnation up—the union of our human nature with his divinity.

This divine condescension finds its fullness on the Cross and being buried in the tomb, but there are many elements of it: the birth in a stable, living as a refugee with his family in Egypt, the going down into the waters of the Jordan, the misunderstanding of the crowds. And yes, his willingness to be known as the son of a carpenter. When he was in Philadelphia, Pope Francis mentioned this when he said that when God sent his son, he didn't send him to a palace or to a great skyscraper: he sent him to a family! And a working-class family, no less.

As an aside, I've had the experience of young people who are hesitant to mention that they might be interested in pursuing manual labor or the trades. They should never, ever be embarrassed by this. (First of all, they will probably make more money than their friends with doctoral degrees!) But more importantly, this is what Jesus' father did for a living. He was familiar with how to build things—and such work is good and beneficial to society.

When Jesus goes home to Nazareth, his words do not find the same reception as they did in other places. Isn't this Joseph's son? The guy who made my table? Who is some carpenter to tell me how to live, who God is, and how to enter into his kingdom? It is Jesus' familiarity which is a scandal and a stumbling block to the people of his hometown. They think they know him.

You and I can do that too. We can sometimes domesticate Jesus. We can assume we already know everything there is to know. But have we ever really been presented with the Gospel in a compelling way? Have we ever truly surrendered ourselves to Christ and his plan for us? The one who is so familiar, so approachable as the son of a carpenter is also at the same time the Lord of heaven and earth. By grasping this mystery anew, we come to understand the Father in heaven whom Jesus reveals perfectly.

May the Lord grant you peace!  
—Father Eric Banecker



## **NEW! 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](mailto:patbillbr4@comcast.net) or call 610-742-3191. For more information, pick up the flyer in the narthex.



## PARISH

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stmarymagdalen.net

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*Director of Sacred Music*  
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Extension: 128

Mrs. Dorothy Brown  
*Director of Religious Education*  
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jhinkle@stmarymagdalen.net  
Extension: 109

Mrs. Shelly Zeller  
Mrs. Jessica Savko  
Mrs. Mary Lou Mayer  
*Office Administrators*  
Extension: 107

## SCHOOL

610-565-1822  
stmarymagdalen.school.net

Mrs. Amy Crawford Bauer  
*Principal*  
abauer@stmarymagdalen.net

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To register, scan the QR Code or visit [stmarymagdalen.net/cyo](http://stmarymagdalen.net/cyo).



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WITH YOUNG ADULTS

Inviting all college campus ministers,  
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## CAMPUS MINISTER APPRECIATION DINNER

The Office for Ministry with Young Adults (OMYA) cordially invites you and your campus ministry staff to the first annual Campus Minister Appreciation Dinner!

Come for.... Holy Hour, catered dinner, drinks and views of the city.  
Stay for... fellowship, testimonials, and words of encouragement for the coming semester.

**August 12th, 2025**

**6PM:** Holy Hour with Evening Prayer

**7PM:** Dinner

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## NEW! ST. MARY MAGDALEN SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2026-2027

Our **2026-2027 Inquiry Form** opened on our website on July 1, 2025. Parents who wish to enroll new students in our school must complete the **Inquiry Form** to be eligible for the next stage of our Application Process, which is based on availability. For more information, or to inquire about openings for this fall, go to the 'Admissions' section on the school's website at [stmarymagdalenschool.net](http://stmarymagdalenschool.net).



## NEW! MASS PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

### Saturday, August 9

4:30 PM—Fr. Robert Pesarchick

### Sunday, August 10

7:30 AM—Msgr. Francis Beach  
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.*



## HOME VISITS

Would you like Holy Communion brought to you in your home? Would you like your home blessed?

We are here for you! **Please call our parish office to schedule a visit.**



## WELCOME!

### MEET OUR NEW ADVANCEMENT DIRECTOR

We are delighted to announce that **John Gill** has accepted the role of Advancement Director for our school and parish. He and his wife, Anna, have been members of our parish for over fourteen years, and they are the proud parents of four children who attended our school. Additionally, John has led the That Man is You ministry program for the past seven years, a program that will enter its eighth year at SMM this fall. As an active parish member, John has previously been involved in the CYO program as both a coach and a member of its board. In this role, John will focus on strengthening donor support, promoting the EITC program, and assisting with major events such as the upcoming 2026 Gala.

Please join us in welcoming John and praying for his success!

## Young Adult Service

at

## St. Francis Inn Ministries

on

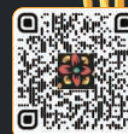
## Saturday August 30



We are calling young adults and others able to join us in offering comfort and lending helping hands on Saturday, August 30.

We will meet at SMM at 10:00 a.m. and then serve lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the St. Francis Inn Ministries, located at 2441 Kensington Avenue in Philadelphia.

To sign up, scan the QR Code. Info: Email Kathleen at [kathleenrlogan@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenrlogan@gmail.com).



John Gill, new Advancement Director



## A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF ARCHBISHOP PÉREZ

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Recent news reports detailing the arrest of immigrants throughout the country, including the Philadelphia region, have produced a great deal of fear and unleashed a broad range of other emotions. These events have impacted the migrant community in deeply troubling ways. I am witnessing your sorrow with great sadness and concern, as are people of goodwill from all walks of life.

As the son of immigrants, I have found recent events particularly heartbreaking. Today, I write to express my prayerful solidarity, and that of our local Church, with you. You are not alone. The Church is a community of faith, and the divine person of Christ, who was forced to flee his homeland as a child, holds you in his compassionate arms.

As Catholics, we believe our eternal homeland is heaven, and that as citizens of earth, the dignity of every person means everyone should have a safe place to live, with the opportunity to work for a just wage. Many of you came to the United States seeking new opportunities far away from oppressive regimes and endured difficult and dangerous circumstances to start life anew here. Your presence and your contributions to society through hard work and upright living are a blessing to our country and our Church. No one should be forced to live in fear of unjust persecution.

I encourage you to remain close with the members of your parish communities and the priests who provide you with pastoral care. We recognize that our country is rightly safeguarded by law enforcement officials. They uphold the common good by protecting all of us from human trafficking, the exploitation of children, and any other criminal offense against human dignity. At the same time, we strongly advocate for immigration policies that guarantee the protection of life, liberty, and property of all those who call the United States of America home, natural-born citizens, and those working toward citizenship alike.

While there is no instant solution to the challenges pervading immigration policy, I urge everyone in parish communities to unite through prayer and social unity with the immigrant faithful under the leadership of parish pastors. The Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph cared for the child Jesus in the mystery of the flight into Egypt, and their intercession is with us today. I pray with you and for you that you experience the protection of God.

May our Lord bless our country with peace and inspire comprehensive immigration reform that respects the law and provides meaningful opportunities for all those who wish to call the United States of America their home.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.

## 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.

Megan Gillen, Joseph Robins, John Robins

## CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of **Mary McDevitt, Harry Balkenhol, Geraldine Banecker, Susan Sowa**, 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, Anthony Carbo, 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,  
Roseann Yannacone, and Ernie Zappacosta.

## MARRIAGES

Congratulations to our newest newlyweds!

Wally Rutecki & Casey Quigley

## BAPTISMS

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

Theo Christopher Santoleri, Vivian Jeanette Hussey,  
Asher George Rutz & Grayson Maxwell Rutz



Congratulations to Mrs. Hagan, Mrs. Gosseaux, & Mrs. Higgins—Happy retirement!

## Prayers & Mass Intentions 7

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

8:30 AM - Anna DiBuonaventura

4:30 PM - Michael B. McFadden

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

7:30 AM - Barbara Regan Chillemi

9:30 AM - Mary Maliza Pace

11:30 AM - Deceased Members  
of the DiMedio Family

7 PM - The People of the Parish

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 4

6:30 AM - No Mass

8:30 AM - Joseph Schaefer

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

6:30 AM - Ints. of Monica Grzeczowski

8:30 AM - John Santangelo

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

6:30 AM - Matthew Mullin

8:30 AM - Richard Wilson

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

6:30 AM - Elise Wickman

8:30 AM - Marian McCarthy

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

6:30 AM - Laura Tomassetti

8:30 AM - Charles Foster

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

8:30 AM - Robert Protesto

4:30 PM - Ints. of Kitty Strang

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

7:30 AM - Robert Kassoff

9:30 AM - Nanette Honigman

11:30 AM - Jody Poliafico

7 PM - The People of the Parish



#### FLOWERS

In memory of Mary McDevitt

#### BREAD & WINE

In memory of Harry Balkenhol

#### CANDLE

In memory of Joseph Schaefer

**NEW! THE HONOR ROLLS  
ARCHBISHOP JOHN CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL**

The following students have achieved Academic Honors for the Fourth Quarter of the 2024-2025 school year:

First Honors: **Shane Ebersole**, '26;  
**Owen Gallagher**, '27; **William Wood**, '27.

Second Honors: **Reagan Zalis**, '26;  
**Ryan Hefferan**, '27.

We congratulate these dedicated students!



**PRAY! HOLY HOUR & NOVENA  
FOR EILEEN GEORGE'S INTERSESSION  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 10 AT 2 PM**

Join us for a grace-filled Holy Hour on Sunday, July 15, from 2 to 3 PM at Annunciation BVM Church on 401 Brookline Blvd. in Havertown. The Holy Hour includes Adoration, Confessions, Benediction, and Novena for Eileen George's intercession for our personal needs. Priests will be available for Confessions. Afterward, all are welcome to a social in the parish hall.

**NEW! CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18**

Join Catholic women from around the Archdiocese for a day of fun, friendship, faith, and prayer at the Catholic Women's Conference. This year, our theme is "Women on Mission: The Feminine Genius in the New Apostolic Age."

We will explore the beauty of our feminine genius and the unique position of Catholic women, transformed by Christ, to bring the light of the Gospel to a society that no longer recognizes its need for Him. Many outstanding speakers, including Mary Ann Wiesinger-Puig, Sr. Faustina Maria Pia, SV, Bishop Joseph Perry, Fr. Sean Loomis, Fr. Thomas Viviano, Dr. Delia Larrauri, and Elizabeth Leon.

Saturday, October 18, 2025, 9 am to 4 pm, at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA (Jubilee site). Tracks available in English and Spanish. Register today, as the event may sell out at [catholicwomensconference.org](http://catholicwomensconference.org).



**STEWARDSHIP & TITHING**

June 2025	<b>\$112,409</b>
Collection:	\$35,479
Mail-in:	\$26,023
EFT:	\$50,159
June 2024	<b>\$ 88,173</b>
Collection:	\$33,365
Mail-in:	\$13,665
EFT:	\$41,143
School Annual Fund 2025	<b>\$49,318</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.



**Adoration Chapel**

Monday from 7 AM to Friday at 1 PM

We are the Delaware County location for **Philly Adoration for Vocations**  
Thursdays from 9 to 4 around the Archdiocese

Weekdays at 7:15 AM in the Chapel

**Morning Prayer**

# ST. MARY MAGDALEN PREP REGISTRATION

2025-2026

**Does your child  
need their  
Sacraments?**

First Reconciliation  
Holy Communion  
Confirmation



Our PREP Registration is open for the 2025-2026 school year.

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.

Together, with parents, we guide your child to discover their unique and personal relationship with Jesus and help them understand that they are deeply loved and valued.

New families should register online at [stmarymagdalen.net](http://stmarymagdalen.net), or scan the QR Code.

For more information, email [PREP@stmarymagdalen.net](mailto: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. Your faith journey will deepen as you traverse at your own pace through online videos and interactive face-to-face discussions with Deacon Bob and others this fall. A path for Catholics wanting a 'refresher' and non-Catholics considering becoming Catholic.

**EACH JOURNEY BEGINS WITH AN INQUIRY.**

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