

Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

2 NOVEMBER 2025

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED



Dear Friends in Christ,

On this All Souls' Day, the Church remembers all the faithful departed who have died and await the blessed vision of peace in the heavenly Jerusalem. We pray that our acts of penance on their behalf—not just in November but throughout the year—will be received favorably by the merciful Father. In a particular way, we welcome the families of those whose funeral has been at Saint Mary Magdalen in the past year at our 11 AM service of remembrance, followed by Mass at 11:30 AM. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

A few additional notes:

—During this time of year (i.e., “election season”), certain groups of individuals come into church parking lots during Mass and put flyers on cars. These are not authorized by me or anyone else at the parish. The Catholic Church does not endorse candidates for office. I pray that all who vote and those who are elected will always act with integrity, wisdom, and respect for the true common good.

—I always think it is important to share good news with the parish community. Here is some: every October, all churches of the Archdiocese count how many people are at Mass. We have been doing this for thirty years, and the trends across the Archdiocese have not been very good. But in the last few years, in certain parishes, those trends have changed for the better. Our parish is part of this good news. Here is the bottom line: our Sunday Mass attendance has increased 15% from last year and 25% from the year before. Deo gratias!

Next, I continue with meditations on Christian moral living.

May the Lord grant you peace!

—Father Eric Banecker



continued on page 3

2 Mass & Devotions

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Tina Augustine
FOCUS Missionary
tina@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 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.

CALLED TO HOLINESS AND MISSION: REFLECTIONS ON CHRISTIAN MORAL LIVING TODAY

A Standard Outside Ourselves: The Divine and Natural Law *The second in a four-part series*

Our society has a tense relationship with laws.

On the one hand, we pass thousands of them every year. Even at a time when many consider democracy in danger, legislatures at the state and local level pass all kinds of laws about topics both controversial and mundane. We know, of course, that every law contains within it rights and obligations.

A law must have a system of enforcement if it is not to be a dead letter. Even if we may find them irksome, most people who aren't anarchists accept the premise that the state can compel us to carry out or avoid certain actions.

But the laws of civil government are not the only kinds of law. Nor are they the most important.

The Church recognizes that all reality begins with the eternal law of God. Saint Augustine defines the eternal law as *"the reason or the will of God, who commands us to respect the natural order and bids us not to disturb it."* In almost every creature,

this eternal law is carried out perfectly: bees pollinate flowers, the stars produce brilliant heat and light, and electrons float around protons. None of these things is capable of deviating from the eternal law, lacking as they do intellect and will proper to persons. Human beings and angels, of course, are persons. We are beings in relationship with God, with each other, with ourselves, and with all creation.

We are capable of an "I"/"Thou" encounter with another, which means we are able to love. Love is a choice; it is an act of the will. The choice to love can only be made by one made in the image and likeness of God, who is love itself. Because human beings are invited to participate in God's stewardship of creation (which includes ourselves!), we are able to internalize the eternal law. I can experience it not simply as a reality which exists outside of me, but something which is written on my heart. This is called the *natural law*: the rational creature's participation in the eternal law of God (VS 43).

The natural law inclines us to our flourishing as human persons. In making choices in accord with the natural law, we grow more perfectly into the likeness of our creator. I mentioned last time the first principle of morality, which can be stated

briefly as *do good and avoid evil*. Yet while this is presumed to be universally accepted by rational creatures, things start to get fuzzy when we get to the principles that derive from this. After all, how do I know what is good? This is at the heart of what the young man asks Jesus: *"Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life"* (Mk 10:17)? Due to the Fall of our first parents, we experience a tendency to sin (concupiscence) which remains even after baptism. Our intellects are darkened: while we are still rational creatures, knowledge does not come to us with the same ease and clarity as it did before the Fall. We can be attracted by apparent goods, things which seem good to us, but which are not actually ordered to human flourishing. Examples of such apparent goods are legion. And even if we identify an authentic good worth pursuing, our weakened wills do not always choose the good presented to us by our intellect. Instead of choosing to pray or read Scripture, we spend empty hours on a cell phone. These are choices made against the natural law. They tend away from our happiness. The Church's tradition gives this the name "sin."

While our unaided reason can know the principles of the natural law, the reality after the Fall is that the discernment of good and evil is especially aided by *"reason enlightened by Divine revelation and faith"* (VS 44). For this reason, the Church can and must serve as the authentic interpreter of the principles of the natural law, obedient to the command of Christ to teach all nations. Returning to the young man, Jesus responds to his question with a familiar list of laws. Jesus told him, *"You know the commandments: 'You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother'"* (Mk 10:19). In short, those who keep the natural law can inherit eternal life. Jesus is identifying for this Jewish man the center of the Torah, the ethical standards which transcend all time and place. This list of commandments, which Jesus gives the young man, simply states in an explicit way the *law written on our hearts*. In practice, we are in need of the clarity which these words give us. These non-negotiable moral laws are not meant to take away our freedom. Quite the opposite: they free us so that we might grow in virtue.

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ADVENT BY CANDELIGHT

WOMENS' REFLECTION & FELLOWSHIP

Friday, December 12
7 to 9 PM in St. Francis Hall

We welcome you for an evening with guest speaker
and author Susan Middleton of the Think Hope
Foundation on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Scan the QR Code
today to register
or to learn more.



15 NOVEMBER 2025

ENCOUNTER CHRIST AT THE WELL YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE



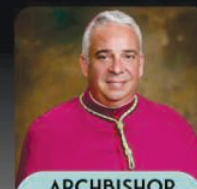
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It is sin which wounds us by isolating us in our own ego and cutting off our relationship with others, especially God, who is the author of all that is good.

These laws are preparatory—not in the sense that they ever become optional, as for instance, the ritual laws of the Old Testament (cf. Mk 7:14-23), but because one who lives according to them is able to embrace the new Law of the Gospel.

As Saint Thomas Aquinas taught, this new law is first and foremost about a relationship with Jesus Christ by which we are moved by the Holy Spirit to give our unconditional yes to him.

The Law of the Gospel is the grace of the Holy Spirit itself, which enables us to do whatever the Spirit prompts in us at every moment. This is nothing less than the very life of Christ lived in us, just as he lived in perfect obedience to the Father's will under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This is what Jesus invites the young man to when he says, *"Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me"* (Mk 10:21). The natural law—confirmed by Divine revelation as interpreted by the authentic magisterium—is the beginning of our journey in holiness. The goal is union with Christ, who calls us even now to follow him into the life of grace. 🌿

NEW! ADORATION CHAPEL ADORERS

Dear fellow adorers, we will begin a new six-month cycle on November 1. If you are not planning to renew your commitment or wish to change your adoration hour, please get in touch with Shelly at shellsing2@aol.com or call our parish office. Otherwise, we will automatically renew your committed time from November 1 through May 31, 2026. If you would like to be a scheduled adorer, please visit our parish website's home page and fill out the online registration form to enroll. We thank you for your continued dedication to our Lord and for keeping the chapel available for all who desire to spend time in adoration.

Available Holy Hours: Wednesday 6 to 7 PM,
Thursday 10 to 11 AM, Thursday 5 to 6 AM,
Friday 7 to 8 AM, and Friday 11 to 12 PM.

MONDAYS! FAITH SHARING BIBLE STUDY

We welcome new members! Meet us in the Gathering Room on Monday afternoons at 1:30 PM, to review and discuss the upcoming Sunday's readings. For more information, contact Janice at pearl19073@gmail.com or stop by on Monday.

NEW! THE POPE'S PRAYER NETWORK MONTHLY PRAYER FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Pope's Prayer Intention for November:

For the prevention of Suicide. May we be able to give those among us who struggle with suicidal thoughts the necessary psychological and spiritual support to heal their emotional and spiritual wounds. May they find our parishes places of welcome, listening, and understanding. May we know how to be close to them so that we can accompany them without fear and judgment but with compassion and wisdom. Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

NEW! SVDP NOVEMBER NEWS

With the ongoing government shutdown and the likely suspension of SNAP (food stamp) benefits, we are bracing for an onslaught of requests for food assistance. Can you help us? Please leave Acme, Giant, ShopRite food gift cards, or cash donations in our metal donation box in the Narthex. God bless you for your support of our ministry to the poor in our area!

Be the change.

Help change a life. Give blood.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

8 AM to 1 PM

St. Mary Magdalen Gym

Before you head out to get the perfect gifts for your loved ones this Thanksgiving, consider giving an invaluable gift to someone who needs it. Our annual drive will be held in the School Gym.

Scan the QR Code to
schedule your time slot today!
redcrossblood.org



Dialogues

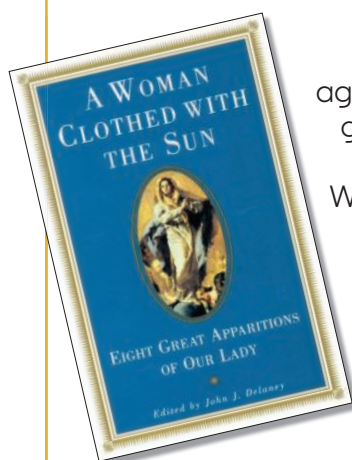
Deep in Our Lord's Vineyard

Throughout history, Our Blessed Lady has appeared with messages of warning, hope, and consolation, particularly during the last two centuries, known as the Marian Age. This period has seen numerous apparitions, each encouraging humanity to return to God through prayer, penance, and reparation for sins.

A Woman Clothed with the Sun explores the eight most significant apparitions of Our Lady: the Miraculous Medal in Paris, La Salette, Lourdes, Knock, Fatima, Beauraing, Banneux, and the sixteenth-century appearance at Guadalupe, which holds a profound message for Americans. The book provides historical context, describes the visions, and quotes Mary's messages from respected writers.

In the introduction, editor John J. Delaney examines the connections between these apparitions and their significance.

Our second book recommended by Dialogues—*Deep in Our Lord's Vineyard* is available online at multiple retailers.



'A book I've read and re-read over and over again. I've also bought it as gifts for friends and family. Well worth the read! When I visited the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, I knew more about Our Lady's appearance to Juan Diego than our guide did...all because of this wonderful book.'

—Online reviewer

Interested in a group discussion of this book or a previous book?

Scan the QR to fill out a short form, if there is enough interest, we will offer periodic book discussions!



WORLD MISSION GIVING

World Mission Sunday, held every year on the second to last Sunday of October, is a day set aside when Catholics around the world unite in prayer and solidarity to support the Missionary work of the Church. Coordinated by the **Pontifical Mission Societies**, this year's theme is '*Missionaries of Hope Among The Peoples*'. To donate, envelopes are available in the narthex, or visit phillymissions.org.

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. Pick up the flyer in the narthex.

FIGHT HUNGER. FEED HOPE.

A St. Mary Magdalen Corporal Works of Mercy Ministry.

Did you know?

In Delaware County approximately 10% of people (12% are children), are food insecure.

Join us in fighting hunger this holiday season by feeding hope to those in need.

Donations of non-perishable foods and staples, placed in our narthex, support families who come to the Media Food Bank, Catholic Charities, and CityTeam in Philadelphia.



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.

Maureen O'Donnell

CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of **Jacquelyn Gibbons, Cecilia Rooney, Agnes Ruggieri**, 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, Leonard Lombardi, Shellz Mangan, Floyd Marvin, Robin Marvin, Steve McCarthy, Mary Jane & Pat McCloskey, Dorothy Milliner, Dorothy Moerman, Daniel Murphy, Joan Murphy, Mike Murphy, Michelle Okon, Carol Ortner, Bill Pace, John Pollera, Nicholas Quercetti, Sr., George Rodgers, Naomi Rouse, Daught Ryan, 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!

Daniel Sanchez & Melissa Beach

BAPTISMS

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

Colin Joseph McDonnell, Maxine Rose Misci,
Nicolina Lisa Pereira, Anthony William Victor

Prayers & Mass Intentions 7

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

8:30 AM – James Grady
4:30 PM – Ints. of the McCabe Family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

7:30 AM – John O'Malley
9:30 AM – Anthony "Tony" Bowes
11:30 AM – Julia Harkins
7 PM – The People of the Parish

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

6:30 AM – No Mass
8:30 AM – Patrick Hennessy

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

6:30 AM – Ints. of Fr. Reuben Nuxoll
8:30 AM – Ints. of Fr. Eric Banecker

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

6:30 AM – Matthew Mullin
8:30 AM – C. Alan Rowe

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

6:30 AM – James Clark
8:30 AM – Jennie & John Brown

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

6:30 AM – Thomas Logan
8:30 AM – Donald Barna
& Eric Vimmerstedt

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

8:30 AM – Michaela Rich & Family
4:30 PM – Julia Harkins

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

7:30 AM – Luigi Scotto D'Antuono
9:30 AM – Philip J. Cavalcanto
11:30 AM – Nancy Cicone
7 PM – The People of the Parish



FLOWERS

In memory of our Veterans

BREAD & WINE

In memory of Jacquelyn Gibbons

CANDLE

In memory of Cecilia Rooney



Our CYO Varsity Volleyball team won the Region Championship—Congratulations!

NEW! AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia's five newly appointed missionary hub directors gathered for the first time on October 21, meeting with Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center. The meeting follows the September announcement of the missionary hub initiative, a multiyear effort to strengthen outreach to those who feel disconnected from the Church.

Each hub integrates pastoral, educational, and charitable ministries to serve the unique needs of its surrounding community. Each hub is led by a parish pastor and supported by a team of five trained individuals, including the newly named directors: **Josh Bean**, who serves at the Missionary Hub located at St. Katharine Drexel in Chester and is a member of St. John Fisher Parish in Boothwyn; **Jeffrey Shields** directs the Hub at St. Matthew in Philadelphia and is a member of Our Lady of Hope Parish in Blackwood, N.J.; **Nina Marie Corona** leads the Hub at St. Isidore in Quakertown and is a member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Doylestown; **Mike Hajdak** oversees the Hub at St. Alphonsus in Maple Glen and worships at Epiphany of Our Lord Parish in Plymouth Meeting; **Lauren Joyce** directs the Hub at St. Ann in Phoenixville and is a member of St. Norbert Parish. Our archdiocese's initiative was shaped by nearly 100 listening sessions held earlier this year, during which more than 15,000 Catholics across the region shared their hopes for the future of the Church. For more about this initiative, visit TrustAndHope.org.

NEW! MASS PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 8

4:30 PM—Fr. Eric Banecker

Sunday, November 9

7:30 AM—Fr. Robert Pesarchick

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

Our Mass Intentions book for the first quarter of 2026 is open, and now available online.

To make a request visit stmarymagdalen.net, or Scan the QR Code.



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.

November 2

February 1

April 12

August 2

Includes Fellowship & Food.

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

STEWARDSHIP & TITHING

September 2025 \$128,779

Collection: \$47,662

Mail-in: \$34,328

EFT: \$46,789

September 2024 \$103,817

Collection: \$38,373

Mail-in: \$19,485

EFT: \$45,959

School Annual Fund 2025 \$70,924

School Annual Fund 2024 \$58,730

We are grateful for your generous spirit!

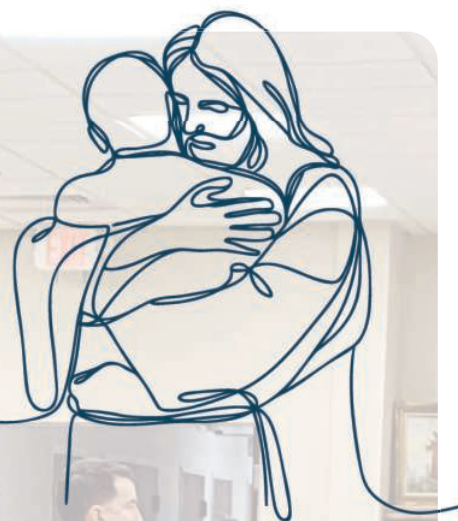


Scan our QR Code for a secure link to our 'Parish Giving' link for Weekly & Special Collections, Annual School Fund, In Memory, Single Gifts, Stewardship, School Fund, and more.

First Fridays

AT ST. MARY MAGDALEN

PARISH VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: LOVE FOR NEIGHBOR



Friday, November 7

Many of our parish family and friends have enjoyed being together for our 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.

- ♡ Enjoy a Barbecue Inspired Dinner
- ♡ Bring a non-perishable item for the Food Pantry
- ♡ Kids' Craft Area: Care Cards for local Veterans, Help Us Make Giving Tree Ornaments & More
- ♡ Children's Storytime, Family Games & Activities

All are welcome to join the day's activities, as they fit into your family's schedule.

6:30 AM

MASS

7:15 AM

MORNING PRAYER
CHAPEL

8:30 AM

MASS

AFTER, ENJOY A COFFEE &
SNACK IN THE NARTHEX CAFE.



5:30 PM TO 7 PM

BARBECUE INSPIRED
DINNER & ACTIVITIES
CHILDREN STORYTIME
& EASY SERVICE CRAFTS
ST. FRANCIS HALL

6:15 TO 6:45 PM

CONFESSIONS

7 TO 8 PM

HOLY HOUR
ADORATION, MUSIC,
VESPERS & BENEDICTION

8 PM

DESSERT HOSPITALITY
NARTHEX CAFE

Dates

DECEMBER 5

FEBRUARY 6

MARCH 6

MAY 1

JUNE 5



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