

Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

18 MAY 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last week's bulletin went to press before the announcement that the College of Cardinals had done something that—I admit—I didn't think would happen in my lifetime: an American has been elected Pope. Of course, His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV, is not just a Pope for us here in the United States but for all Catholics around the world.

His election is a poignant reminder of the words of our Lord to the Apostle Peter: "And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it." Indeed, despite all the wars and persecutions and scandals, the Barque of Peter has sailed on through the storms of history to this moment. Christ's words have been verified once again. The Church's mission of proclaiming the Gospel and bringing others into Divine life through the sacraments continues.

Pope Leo, as you have probably seen, has several Philadelphia connections. He is a member of the Order of Saint Augustine, a religious order founded in the 13th century which has had a large presence in our local church for hundreds of years.

He is a graduate of Villanova University. He was ordained a bishop by a Philadelphian, Archbishop James Green.

The Pope is, in many ways, one of our own.

As someone devoted to Saint Augustine, I imagine His Holiness had read these words many times, Augustine's own reflection on his coming to faith in Christ after years of searching:

Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my unloveliness, I plunged into the lovely things which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. Created things kept me from you; yet if they had not been in you, they would not have been at all. You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness.

You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for your peace.

Viva il Papa!

—Father Eric Banecker

continued on page 3

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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

Saturday

8:30 AM & 4:30 PM Vigil

**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.

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.

Perhaps the most consequential event in the *Acts of the Apostles* is the conversion of Saul of Tarsus from a violent persecutor of Christians to the most active missionary of Christ. It is such a singularly important event that the story is told three times in the *Acts of the Apostles*.

Saul was probably born around the year 5 AD. He is described as a "young man" at the time of the stoning of Stephen, but in his Letter to Philemon [55 AD], he refers to himself as an "old man." He has two names:

the Jewish name Saul, common in the tribe of Benjamin of which he is a member, and Paul, a Hellenistic (Greek-influenced) name. He was born in Tarsus, the wealthy capital of Cilicia, a region in what the Romans called Asia Minor (today, Turkey). As the *Acts of the Apostles* tells us, Paul is a Roman citizen by birth. This would make him exceptional - certainly none of the apostles had such status, nor most others. He most likely had that citizen because of his family, perhaps because his father was a Roman military veteran.

Paul, then, is a man at the crossroads: Jewish by religion ("a Pharisee and a son of Pharisees"); Hellenistic by culture (his letters reveal both fluency in the Greek language and deep knowledge of Greek philosophy); and Roman by citizenship. He also has a trade that allows him to support himself: he is a tentmaker. All of this background will be used by Christ to announce salvation to Jews and Gentiles. But first, Jesus would have to get Paul's attention. As Flannery O'Connor, the great American Catholic author, said of him, "I reckon the Lord knew the only way to make a Christian out of that one was to knock him off his horse."

He studied Torah under Gamaliel, a famous rabbi we meet in the Sanhedrin as an old man, in the late 20s or early 30s. In other words, Paul is highly educated in the Jewish faith and is utterly convinced of its rightness and of the evil threat that Christianity poses to the covenant community of Israel. He aggressively pursues the arrest and murder of Christians like Saint Stephen. Then one day, something amazing happens, an event recounted in Acts 9, Acts 22, and again in Acts 26. Here is the version from Acts 9:

Now Saul, still breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, that, if he should find any men or women who belonged to the Way, he might bring them back to Jerusalem in Chains. On his journey, as he was near Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" He said, "Who are you, sir?"

continued

UPCOMING DATES

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

MONDAY, MAY 19 • 7 PM

Young Adults Bible Study with Fr. Eric at 7 PM on Monday evening, followed by fellowship in St. Francis Hall.



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Masses at 6:30 AM, 8:30 AM, 12:30 PM & 6:30 PM



MSGR. CHIEFFO'S 50TH JUBILEE MASS & HOSPITALITY

SUNDAY, JUNE 1 • 9:30 AM

Let's celebrate Msgr.'s 50th year as a priest!

Join us at the 9:30 AM Mass, hosted by the school's second grade, with a special tribute to Msgr. Chieffo that includes the St. Anthony Society. Afterward, come enjoy a breakfast hospitality in St. Francis Hall presented by H&S and the parish.



PENTECOST SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

Join us at the 7 PM Vigil or Sunday Masses



SCHOOL GRADUATION MASS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11 • 4 PM

Please pray for the upcoming Class of 2025



REGISTER! CAMP GUADALUPE

JUNE 23 TO JUNE 27

Living Bridges' Summer Bible Camp at St. Mary Magdalen School. See page 9 for details, or visit livingbridges.org.



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Pentecost Vigil Mass

SATURDAY, JUNE 7 AT 7 PM ✠ ST. MARY MAGDALEN



WITH THE MUSIC BY THE YOUNG ADULT CHOIR

QUO VADIS DAYS 2025

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

June 23-26, 2025

Registration Due: May 23, 2025

Registration: \$25-300
sliding scale, pay what you are able

Who: High School Men; incoming freshmen to graduating seniors

What: a 4 day 3 night camp for high school men in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia focused on fun, prayer, and fellowship

Where: Black Rock Retreat Center (Quarryville - bus transportation available)

Join the Vocation Office, Philadelphia seminarians, priests, and friends from around the Archdiocese for a week of fun, games, prayer, and faith!



Scan for registration details or visit:
HeedTheCall.org/QuoVadis



Questions?

gmurphy@archphila.org (610-667-5778)



continued from pg. 3

The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, for they heard the voice but could see no one.

Paul would later describe this event as a special, utterly unique appearance of the risen Christ, equivalent in every way to his post-Resurrection appearance to the apostles. Of course, this happens years, not weeks, after the Resurrection (*probably in 36 AD*), which is why he will describe his conversion as the coming into the world of "one untimely born" (1 Cor 15:8).

Having revealed himself to Paul in this way, Jesus will commission Paul to redirect all that energy he used in persecuting the Church to becoming the greatest evangelist of all, the "apostle to the Gentiles." His missionary journeys, still unparalleled in the history of the Church, will truly take the Gospel to the ends of the earth, even as that mission continues in our own day.

Luke and Acts are really the first and second volumes of a two-volume work. They are meant to be read together. In that light, we can look at the Lord's call to a Christian named Ananias, who receives a very unexpected job:

The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight and ask at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is there praying, and [in a vision] he has seen a man named Ananias come in and lay [his] hands on him, that he may regain his sight." But Ananias replied, "Lord, I have heard from many sources about this man, what evil things he has done to your holy ones* in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to imprison all who call upon your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for this man is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before Gentiles, kings, and Israelites, and I will show him what he will have to suffer for my name." So Ananias went and entered the house; laying his hands on him, he said, "Saul, my brother, the Lord has sent me, Jesus who appeared to you on the way by which you came, that you may regain your sight and be filled with the holy Spirit."

In Luke 4, Jesus announces the beginning of his public ministry at the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth. There, he announces that, in fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah, the Father has sent him to announce the "recovery of sight to the blind." In Paul of Tarsus, the faith born of an encounter with the risen Lord Jesus leads to baptism, which heals him not just of temporary physical blindness, but of the spiritual blindness that has warped his heart. Now, freed physically and spiritually of these afflictions, he is ready to be the "chosen instrument" of the Gospel. 🙌



Ordained on May 17, 1975

Msgr. Ralph's Jubilee Mass

SUNDAY, JUNE 1
9:30 AM

Come and celebrate
Msgr.'s 50th year
as a priest!

9:30 AM
Mass hosted by the
school's 2nd grade.


10:30 AM
Enjoy a breakfast
hospitality with Msgr.
in St. Francis Hall.

Join Us!

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



LEGION OF MARY

Our Lady, Queen of Angels

**Every Tuesday at 9:30 AM
in the Gathering Room**

We invite Catholics who would like to draw closer to Jesus through Mary to give Legion a try. Our members meet weekly to pray, plan, and discuss as a group. We perform Spiritual Works of Mercy within the parish and local community with our spiritual director Father Pesarchick.

The Legion of Mary is an international association of volunteers serving the Catholic Church. Our Legion goes to the lonely and isolated in nursing homes, hospitals, and prisons to befriend and pray for them.

Discover more by visiting one of our weekly Tuesday meetings.

Mary, Our Lady, Queen of Angels, Pray for Us!

NEW! REDEMPTORIS MATER SEMINARY OF PHILADELPHIA BENEFIT DINNER

FRIDAY, JUNE 6 AT 6 PM

Join **Archbishop Nelson Pérez** and friends of the Redemptoris Mater Seminary for their Benefit Dinner on Friday, June 6, at the Springfield Country Club at 400 Sproul Road in Springfield from 6 to 9 PM.

Enjoy dinner, silent and live auctions, and more during this fun and memorable event that benefits the seminarians! This year, the seminary will honor

His Excellency Keith J. Chylinski, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia and Rector of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, **Rev. Msgr. Ralph J. Chieffo**, Pastor Emeritus at St. Mary Magdalen, and **Mr. J. Eustace Wolfington**, Movie Producer of Sound of Freedom & Cabrini.

Individual tickets, tables, and sponsors, are available at rmphiladelphia.org.

NEW! CHILDREN'S MASS LIBRARY

SMM will launch a "Mass Library" in June, to provide quiet activities for young children in the church. We plan to fill a basket in the narthex with church-related toys and books that children may borrow during Mass. If you have any toys or books that fit this mission for ages 3-6, please place them in the marked donation bin in the narthex or contact Laura Lane at LauraL33@gmail.com or 215-694-7105. Thank you!

LITTLE CHURCH SCHOOL

Today is the last day of Little Church School this season. Thank you to all who participated in this program, which is dedicated to bringing the light of Jesus to our littlest members. We have greatly enjoyed being with the children and look forward to seeing them again in the fall. We are also most grateful to **Miss Elizabeth Logan**, our catechist of this special program. We wish you and yours a blessed and beautiful summer.

CHILDRENS LITURGY OF THE WORD

We are grateful to all the parents, catechists, and children participating in CLOW this school year. We only have a few weeks remaining for Children's Liturgy at 9:30 Mass for children in grades 1-3. Our remaining sessions will be on May 18, and June 8. CLOW break is for summer, but we will resume in September. Thank you and have a great summer!



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival



Monica prayed for Augustine.
Ambrose accompanied him.
Who will you walk with?



GO WALK WITH ONE

Everyone is called to evangelize, and it's not as hard as you might think. *Walk With One* is your opportunity to be God's instrument in the life of another person—someone whom Jesus longs to bring into relationship with himself and his Church. Learn more about this initiative, access resources, and receive prayer support at eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one.

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 Mirabello Family, Linda Grapes, Matthew Lawson

CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of **Ellen Curran**, those souls who died due to wars or conflicts including the Holy Land, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, those recently 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, Charles Bastian, Danielle Bastian, Kevin Boylan, Bill Boylan, Joe Cahill, Anthony Carbo, Tricia Carmen, Christine Cavaliere, Mary Cichanowsky, Jim Clark, 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, Mary Theresa McDevitt, Michael McFadden, 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, Susan 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.

Isabella Rose George, Marco Michael Mercanti



*Congratulations to all our First Holy Communicants.
Above are those who received during the Mass on Sunday, April 27.*

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MAY 17

8:30 AM - Evelyn Peisochenski

4:30 PM - Ints. of Fr. Alan Okon

SUNDAY, MAY 18

7:30 AM - Ints. of Msgr. Ralph Chieffo

9:30 AM - Dale Wilson

11:30 AM - Deceased members of the Vinci Family

7 PM - The People of the Parish

MONDAY, MAY 19

6:30 AM - Ints. of Father Banecker

8:30 AM - Dr. Emilio Valdes

TUESDAY, MAY 20

6:30 AM - Ints. of Joan Piazza

8:30 AM - Mary Patricia Tansey

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

6:30 AM - Patrick Dieter

8:30 AM - Philip Franco

THURSDAY, MAY 22

6:30 AM - The People of the Parish

8:30 AM - Stephen Kusner

FRIDAY, MAY 23

6:30 AM - Michael Piazza

8:30 AM - Carole Kern & Rick Robus

SATURDAY, MAY 24

8:30 AM - Eileen Marie Johnson

4:30 PM - Nancy C. Cicione

SUNDAY, MAY 25

7:30 AM - Nancy C. Cicione

9:30 AM - Mary Ellen Grady

11:30 AM - Lester Fry

7 PM - The People of the Parish



FLOWERS

In memory of deceased mothers

BREAD & WINE

In memory of Francina Collins

CANDLE

In memory of Ellen Curran

JOIN US! SENIORS' SOCIAL CLUB TRIP 'NOAH' AT SIGHT & SOUND THEATRE TUESDAY, MAY 20

St. Mary Magdalen Seniors invites you to join them on Tuesday, May 20, for a day trip to the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster to see the incredible production of NOAH. Get on board the Ark! With a catastrophic storm approaching, Noah faces a monumental task: to build a boat large enough to save his family from a flood that will engulf the entire earth. Set sail inside the enormous ark as this extraordinary story comes to life in this special 30th Anniversary season! The cost is \$210 per person, which includes the round trip by deluxe coach, lunch at Huckleberry's Restaurant, and a reserved seat at the show. **For information and reservations, please e-mail Bill Moore at patbillbr4@comcast.com, call 484-420-4575, or pick up a flyer in the narthex.**

NEW! THE NEW SOUND SYSTEM WITH DEEP GRATITUDE

In Father Banecker's first few months, several parishioners came forward to express their interest in a new church audio system. Thanks to their interest and the donations of those listed below, we installed a new audio system before Easter. We are a blessed parish and want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our contributors, including:

Daniel Amoroso	Ronald & Christine Lutz
Jill Boyce-Zalis	James Maguire
Richard & Mary Jane Boyland	Peter & Angela Mat
Charles & Michelle Bramley	Michael & Meghan McKee
Melissa Caromano	Judy McLaughlin
John & Diane Chambers	Kathleen Mestichelli
Frank & Joanne Cook	Patricia Miniszak
Anthony & Rosamaria D'Angelo	Thomas Pilog
Diane Delaney	Patricia Rafferty
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Jaqueline Dooley	Joseph Storm
Jerry Francesco	David & JoAnne Thomas
Dave & Libby Franklin	Carolyn Truscillo
Eileen Gardella	Peter Van Pelt
Thomas & Barbara Kaneda	Joanne Vinci
Richard & Carolyn Lachowicz	Mark & Joyce Volpe
Christopher & Lisa Lawlor	Philips & Susan White
John & Anne Leonard	Kathleen Will
John & Barbara Lerro	Robert & Wendy Wuest

NEW! BEYOND THE PULPIT VIDEO SERIES WITH FR. ERIC

Discover more about the foundations of the Catholic faith and go deeper into Scripture with our pastor, Fr. Eric J. Banecker, in our new '**Beyond the Pulpit**' videos. The video series is available on our YouTube Channel or the '**Beyond the Pulpit**' page on our website, under 'Worship'. Plus, enjoy the audio recording of the Sunday Homily through our *SoundCloud* channel, or recorded Masses on *YouTube*. Direct links are all accessible at **stmarymagdalen.net** on the 'Mass Online' page.

TAKE NOTE! SUMMER SCHEDULE FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR & MASS

We will take a 'summer recess' from the Friday Holy Hour at 5:30 PM & Masses at 6:30 PM on July 4 and August 1. Thank you!

FOLLOW SMM



STEWARDSHIP & TITHING

April 2025 \$126,290

Collection: \$43,494

Mail-in: \$30,875

EFT: \$51,921

April 2024 \$94,824

Collection: \$29,195

Mail-in: \$23,823

EFT: \$41,806

Easter 2025 \$43,173

Easter 2024 \$54,400

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.

CAMP GUADALUPE

June 23-27, 2025

in partnership with

St. Mary Magdalen Parish, Media, PA

Campers ages 4-12

Teen Volunteers ages 13-17

Adult Volunteers ages 18+ with clearances



Total Cost **\$90 First Child**
\$75 for each additional child
\$275 maximum per family
**Scholarships available*



Join us for a fun-filled, memorable week where we pray and play through games, original music, crafts, formation, adoration, Mass, processions & apostolic service

Monday - Thursday

9:30am - 2:30pm

Friday

9:30 - 12:30

Procession - Mass - Closing
(Families included)

OUR THEME FOR 2025 IS:

JUBILEE for YOU and ME

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www.livingbridges.org

For more info contact: **610-525-4770**

or **staff@livingbridges.org**

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