

Saint Mary Magdalen Church

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

23 AUGUST 2026

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

+JMJ+

Dear Faithful & Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ! "Where are my keys?" Most of us have either asked this to ourselves or said it out loud. Keys are a part of our daily life. However, in the ancient world and time of our good Lord, keys were a sign of status, authority, trust, and sacred access.

Our First Reading from the book of Isaiah places us in the story of Shebna, who was the master of the palace in Jerusalem during the reign of King Hezekiah. The master of the palace was an office of stewardship with both the authority and responsibility to be "a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah" (*Is 22:21*).

Shebna's office was somewhat comparable to that of a chief minister or prime minister. However, because of Shebna's infidelity, he was removed from office and replaced by Eliakim. The significance of Shebna's office and authority was indicated by having the "key of the House of David" (*Is 22:22*).

At Caesarea Philippi, our Lord asks, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" (*Mt 16:13*). Peter makes a profession of faith, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (*Mt 16:16*). Our Lord responds with an acknowledgment of supernatural grace, a gift of the Father, at work in Peter. Notice how after our Lord tells Peter that He will build His Church on him, He then says, "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (*Mt 16:19*).

The use of the language of "keys" is not accidental. Our Lord is invoking the imagery of *Isaiah 22*. As the key of the House of David signified the authority of the royal steward, Christ's giving of the keys to Peter signifies the unique office of stewardship entrusted to him in the kingdom of heaven. The power to "bind and loose" connotes the authority to absolve sins, to pronounce doctrinal judgments, and to make disciplinary

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Christ Giving the Keys to St. Peter by Guido Reni, 1626



CLERGY

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Permanent Deacon, Retired

SCHOOL

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PARISH MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Sunday

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM & 7 PM

Weekday

Tuesday through 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:

Chapel is open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week
for personal prayer. Our Exposition Hours are currently
from Tuesday at 9 AM to Thursday at 2 PM.

Morning Prayer:

7:15 AM from Tuesday to Friday in the Chapel.

First Friday Devotions (*except July and August*):

6:15 PM to 6:45 PM Confessions, followed by
Prayer, Adoration & Benediction from 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.

decisions in the Church (CCC 553). Christ, therefore, establishes Peter as a unique steward and visible head of His Church.

And because Christ founded His Church to continue until the end of time, the office entrusted to Peter did not end with Peter's death. The successors of Peter inherit this Petrine office. They serve as the visible center of unity in the Church, guard the deposit of faith, and possess the highest authority as pastors and teachers of the universal Church. This authority, however, is not an authority to invent a new faith; it is an authority received from Christ and exercised in fidelity to the faith handed down by the Apostles.

The Church, deeply rooted in Sacred Scripture, is divine because our Lord instituted her and is her Head. She is also human because the members of the Church are all of us. Nevertheless, we are assured that the Church will conquer the gates of the netherworld.

Our Gospel reminds us of three important realities:

(1) Jesus is the Christ, the anointed one, sent to redeem the world; (2) The Church founded by Christ continues His saving work; and (3) The Church has Christ as her divine Head and, on earth, a visible head in the office entrusted to Peter and his successors.

Our Lord, in His love and wisdom, has given us the hierarchical structure of the Church to guide us. When exercising his office as supreme pastor and teacher, the pope possesses papal infallibility concerning faith and morals, but this does not mean that every statement he makes is infallible. Papal infallibility does not mean that the pope is impeccable or incapable of making mistakes in ordinary judgments, nor does it make every statement he makes about science, politics, history, or other matters infallible.

Since Christ established the Petrine office, we should pray for the pope. The earthly keys we possess help us to keep our goods safe, drive a car, or open our front door. The heavenly keys entrusted to Peter and his successors have a much greater value. Through our Baptism, we are a member of the Church that Christ founded upon Peter. Christ remains faithful to the Church and to the office He established, which exceeds any one individual. It is fitting and assuring that Saint Peter is often depicted in sacred art holding keys. We do not need to ever ask about the location of the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

Have a blessed week.

May our Lord bless you and our Lady keep you!

Yours in Christ,
Father Cavara

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* and *unexpired* food and staples, placed in our narthex, support families who come to the **Media Food Bank** and **CityTeam Ministries** in Chester.



CYO SPORTS

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

CALLING ALL HAWKS!

CROSS COUNTRY

CHEERLEADING

FOOTBALL

FIELD HOCKEY

CO-ED SOCCER

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL



CYO is a ministry open to all girls and boys at St. Mary Magdalen.

To register, scan the QR Code or visit stmarymagdalen.net/cyo.



PARISH

610-566-8821



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Levate
PIANO TRIO

JOIN US FOR A PEACEFUL AFTERNOON
OF CLASSICAL MUSIC AT ST. MARY MAGDALEN

SEPTEMBER 27 AT 3 PM

FEATURING SARAH THOMAS,
JACOB GINN, AND NATHAN KNUTSON.

WORKS BY MOZART, MENDELSSOHN, AND PIAZZOLLA.

THIS CONCERT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT LEVATETRIO.COM

TMIY

THAT MAN IS YOU!

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 17

BECOMING A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

Embark on this incredible journey with men
in our community for our new series,
"The Revelation of the Father".

We meet Thursday mornings in St. Francis Hall.
Doors open at 6:15 AM and we end by 7:30 AM.
For men 18 years and up.

Join us anytime, or for more information,
contact John Gill at jgill@stmarymagdalen.net.

**SAVE THE DATE! REV. KENNETH CAVARA'S
INSTALLATION MASS & RECEPTION
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 • 11:30 AM**

We are delighted to announce the Installation Mass of our eighth pastor, Rev. Kenneth L. Cavara. Our community invites you to join us on October 11 at 11:30 AM. Our celebrant is the Most Reverend John J. McIntyre. A reception will follow in St. Francis Hall. We are grateful for your prayers and presence and look forward to being with you as we celebrate.



**MASS OF HEALING AT ST. THOMAS
MONDAY, AUGUST 24 • 7:30 PM**

We invite all to celebrate Mass with the St. Thomas the Apostle's Charismatic Prayer Group at 7:30 PM.

Afterward, Fr. Francis Groake and the prayer teams will pray over individuals for their needs.

Plus, enjoy the music of our Music Ministry and Choir. We are located at 430 Valleybrook Road in Glen Mills. If you have questions, contact Liz at 610-348-5025. All are welcome.



**SOON! ANNUAL CARDINALS FORUM AT SCBS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 • 7 PM**

Join us at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary for a discussion on Pope Leo's encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas* with an esteemed academic panel including Kelly Anderson, S.S.L., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Sacred Scripture; Francesco Cesaro, Ph.D., and Adjunct Faculty; Deacon Charles Lewis, M.A., Director, School of Diaconal Formation;

Thomas Dailey, Q.S.F.S., S.T.D., The Cardinal Foley Chair of Social Communication; Nicholas Ogle, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Moral Theology; and John Haas, Ph.D. The SCBS is located at 1400 Evans Road in Ambler. This event is free and open to the public. To learn more, visit www.scs.edu/cardinals-forum.



NEW! MASS PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 29
4:30 PM—Fr. Bob Pesarchick

Sunday, August 30
7:30 AM—Fr. Kenneth Cavara
9:30 AM—Fr. Bob Pesarchick
11:30 AM—Fr. Bob Pesarchick
7 PM—Fr. Kenneth Cavara

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

UPCOMING SMM EVENTS

**FIRST FRIDAY
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**

Join us for a special day of devotion and community connect. Our First Fridays begin with daily Mass, Dinner & Fellowship from 5:30 to 6:45 PM, Confession from 6:15 to 6:45 PM, and Devotions at 7 PM. See our ad for a full schedule of this month's activities.

**9/11 MEMORIAL CONCERT
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 • 3:30 PM**

The Mainline Ecumenical Choir, led by conductor Ralph Purri, will offer a special concert as we reflect and remember the 25th Anniversary of 9/11.

**THAT MAN IS YOU BEGINS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 • 6:30 AM**

TMIY's fall series, Revelation of the Father, begins on Thursday, September 17 in St. Francis Hall. Doors open at 6:15 AM. TMIY is a free ministry program and welcomes men 18+. Join us weekly!

**MOMS MINISTRY
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 • 9:30 AM**

Catholic MOMS of Delco gather once a month from 9:30 to 11:30 AM in St. Francis Hall to share the joys and struggles of motherhood, and to care and support one another. All are welcome.

**WELCOME BACK MASS & PICNIC
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 • 4:30 PM**

Join us at the 4:30 PM Mass followed by our Home and School's Welcome Picnic at 5:30 PM. Enjoy games and fellowship. Food Trucks available.

**CATECHETICAL SUNDAY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 • 9:30 AM**

We welcome our PREP families and catechists to a new year! Families can pick up their children's books and enjoy hospitality in St. Francis Hall after the 9:30 Mass.

**BEATIFICATION WATCH PARTY
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 • 1:30 PM**

Watch the Beatification of Fulton Sheen with us from 1:30 to 3:30 PM in St. Francis Hall. Light refreshments provided. Hosted by Good Tree Co-op.

SEE MORE EVENTS ON OUR WEBSITE.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

8:30 AM – Ints. of The Albanese Family

4:30 PM – Susan Kaniewski

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

7:30 AM – Luigi Scotto Dantuono

9:30 AM – Robert Messina

11:30 AM – The Caniglia Family

7 PM – The People of the Parish

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

6:30 AM – No Mass

8:30 AM – Al Mestichelli

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

6:30 AM – Margaret Mary Culin

8:30 AM – Patricia Trosino

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

6:30 AM – Nenita Victoria

8:30 AM – Carmela Ward

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

6:30 AM – Martin Walsh

8:30 AM – Regina O. Killian

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

6:30 AM – Ints. of Karen DelGrosso

8:30 AM – Anne Regina Creamer

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

8:30 AM – Peter Rakestraw

4:30 PM – James Avato

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

7:30 AM – Ints. of Fr. Eric Banecker

9:30 AM – Ligia Quinn

11:30 AM – Margaret Schieck

7 PM – The People of the Parish



FLOWERS

In memory of Pat Moore

BREAD & WINE

In memory of John T. Rached

CANDLE

In memory of Chantal Smith

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.

Thomas Bobal, The Correa Family,
The Dawson Family, The Sechler Family



CALLED HOME TO GOD

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of **John Smirga, Penny Henwood**, those souls who died due to wars or conflicts, including US Service Members recently lost in the Middle East, 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. If you or a loved one is ill and would like to be included for the quarter, please call the Parish Office.

Mary Cichanowsky, Jean Cotter, Diane Delaney, Betty Diedrich, Lynn Finelli, Jean Godorecci, Rodie Henson, Judy Larkin, Fr. Alan Okon, Michelle Okon, Nicholas Quercetti, Sr., Naomi Rouse, Cynthia Sannutti, Quintin Sarne, Mark Scaleri, Bill Snyder, Maria Johnson Twining, Roseann Yannacone, and Ernie Zappacosta.



MARRIAGES

Congratulations to our newest newlyweds!

Michael Doyle & Shannon Finn
Scott Romano & Katelyn Redwanowski



BAPTISMS

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

Benjamin Henry Phillips



Flashback! Last year's kindergarteners working on their gingerbread houses!

NEW! LITTLE CHURCH SCHOOL

Throughout the school year, Little Church School is available during the 9:30 AM Mass for ages 3 through 5. Join us in the Gathering Room beginning September 13, to learn about Jesus through stories, songs, games, crafts, and prayer. Parents can help support the program by volunteering for a session or two throughout the season. For more information, contact Elizabeth Logan at elogan26@gmail.com.

**NEW! PRE-CANA AT ST. MARY MAGDALEN
OCTOBER 23 & 24**

Calling all engaged couples! St. Mary Magdalen is delighted to offer a new two-part, interactive Pre-Cana certificate course utilizing Dynamic Catholic's 'Better Together' program, designed to prepare you for a strong, faith-filled marriage as you embark on your lifelong journey—together. Join Elese and Randy Wichmann in St. Francis Hall, along with other engaged couples, plus married mentors who will support and assist you during the class and continue to offer additional care as you prepare. The course is \$50 per couple, which includes materials and refreshments. Plus, lunch on Saturday afternoon. You do not have to be parishioners or getting married at St. Mary Magdalen to attend our Pre-Cana class. To register, visit our wedding page on the website or pick up a flyer in the narthex.

**NEW! JOIN OUR PARISH'S HOSPITALITY TEAM**

Be part of our growing team! From welcoming faces with a smile, opening a door for someone coming to Mass, or helping guide those who have a question after Mass, to serving on a team at one of our parish-hosted events. It can be formal or informal—from 10 minutes before any Mass you attend to a few hours helping us host one of our monthly First Fridays or Fr. Cavara's upcoming Installation Mass and Hospitality. For more details, please reach out to Kerry at kerry@stmarymagdalen.net, or speak with any of our ushers or greeters before or after Mass.

**REMINDER! MORE NEWS & EVENTS**

For more parish news and information on events, visit stmarymagdalen.net, follow us on social media, or pick up flyers in the Narthex.



First Friday

CELEBRATING
HIS LOVE

Friday, September 4

First Fridays at SMM, where we gather in Christ through fellowship, faith, and fun! Let's celebrate God's love for us in community.

6:30 AM

MASS

7:15 AM

MORNING PRAYER

IN THE CHAPEL

8:30 AM

MASS

AFTER, ENJOY A COFFEE & SNACKS
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

DEVOTIONS

WITH ADORATION, MUSIC,
& BENEDICTION

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



SMM CAR MAGNETS

St. Mary Magdalen car magnets are available for a donation of \$5 in the Parish Office.



MASS INTENTIONS

Our Mass Intentions Book is available on our homepage, or scan the code.

St. Mary Magdalen Church Offers Venmo:

@StMaryMagdalenParish

We are grateful for your support!



venmo

Don't forget to add your gift type (e.g., Mass Collection).

STEWARDSHIP & TITHING

July 2026 \$91,894

Collection: \$26,021

Mail-in: \$17,514

EFT: \$48,359

July 2025 \$96,456

Collection: \$28,590

Mail-in: \$14,560

EFT: \$53,306

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! CATECHISM Q&As

What does Jesus Promise to those who love him?

He promises eternal happiness to those who love him. "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." (*John 10:10*)

Does Jesus promise us happiness in this life?

Jesus promises us happiness in this life. When he became human, he revealed himself as the image of the invisible God; he also restored to humanity that which had been lost by sin, the full beauty and majesty of our dignity as creatures made in God's image. True happiness is the result when we live up to the dignity of the human person.

In what words does Christ tell us how to attain happiness in this life? In the Sermon on the Mount, which contains the Beatitudes. Jesus said:

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and
thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.*

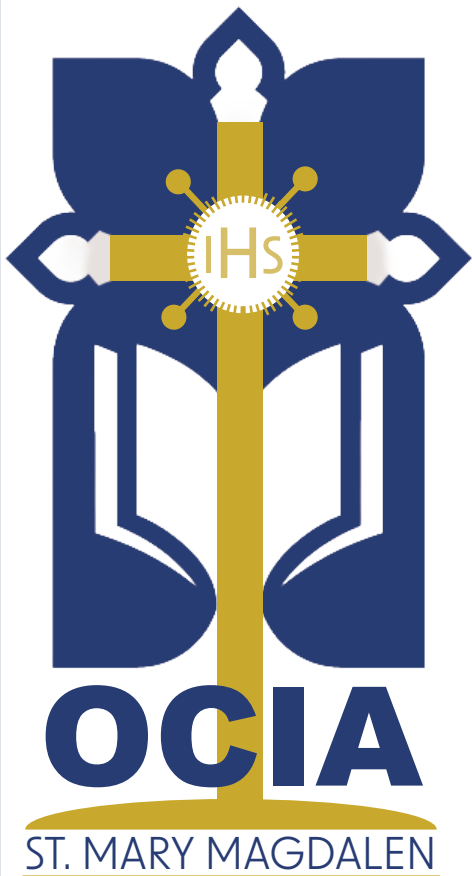
*Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean in heart,
for they will see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted
for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

The word 'blessed' means 'happy', and the Beatitudes are at the very core of Christ's teachings.

They fulfill the promise made to the Jewish people by pointing beyond earthly happiness to the eternal happiness in heaven. In fact, the reward promised in each of the Beatitudes is primarily heaven.

They reveal the goal of human existence, the ultimate purpose of human acts; God calls us to his own beatitude—This vocation is addressed to each one of us, as well as the Church as a whole—the new people made up of those who have accepted the promise to live from it in faith (CCC 1719). If we live according to this plan, we shall have a foretaste of the happiness of heaven in this life. Christ tells us that we will be happy by doing for his sake the very things which we may think will make us unhappy. What things come to mind when we ponder this in our hearts?



Ready for a Catholic Refresh?

"Participating in OCIA has been one of the most meaningful experiences for both my faith and my family. Deacon Bob and Patty created such a welcoming and encouraging environment, making it easy to learn, ask questions, and grow spiritually."

Through the program, I not only built a stronger foundation in my Catholic faith, but I also had the opportunity to meet wonderful people from our St. Mary Magdalen community. It has brought me closer to my children as we now share an even deeper connection through our faith, and it has strengthened my family in ways I didn't expect."

Most importantly, OCIA helped me grow in my relationship with God and challenged me to become a better version of myself. I am incredibly grateful to Deacon Bob and Patty for their guidance, kindness, and dedication. If you've ever considered taking this step, I wholeheartedly encourage you to do so. It is a gift that will continue to enrich your life, your faith, and your family long after the program ends."

— Christine B., School Parent

Are you considering becoming Catholic?

"As a fellow parent, we know how busy life can be, and adding one more commitment can feel overwhelming. If you've ever thought about learning more about the Catholic faith or receiving the sacraments, we encourage you to reach out to Deacon Bob and Patty to learn about OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)."

OCIA is a welcoming, supportive, and judgment-free experience. It's a place where you can ask questions, grow in your faith at your own pace, and connect with others who are on a similar journey. Deacon Bob and Patty do a wonderful job making the program flexible and understanding the realities of busy family schedules, so it's much more manageable than you might expect."

If it's been on your heart, even just a little, I encourage you to start the conversation. You don't have to have all the answers, you just have to be open to taking the first step."

— Rachael M., School Parent

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 group discussions this fall.

There is a path for Catholics wanting a 'refresher' and non-Catholics considering becoming Catholic.



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