

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE PARISH

2654 E. WILLIAMS FIELD RD, GILBERT, AZ 85295 • (480) 279-6737

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT



Jesus said to them in reply, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" - Lk 13:2-3



St. Mary Magdalene in Gilbert, Arizona is a Roman Catholic Parish that witnesses the love of Jesus Christ through evangelization, catechesis, discipleship, and the celebration of the Sacraments.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday:
9:00am—Noon;
1:00—5:00pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday (Vigil):
4:30 pm

Sunday:
7:00 am, 9:00 am,
11:30 am, 4:30 pm

Monday - Saturday:
8:00 am

CONFESSIONS

Monday-Friday:
8:45am-9:15am
Saturday:
8:45am-11:15am

COMMUNAL PRAYER

(in the Church)
Rosary & Divine Mercy,
prayed after
8:00am daily Mass

PERPETUAL ADORATION

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed 24 hours a day 7 days a week. For access after office hours, call the office for a code.



CLERGY

Fr. Chris Axline, Pastor: pastor@smarymag.org
Fr. Sylvester Modebei, Parochial Vicar: admin@smarymag.org
Fr. Arthur Nave, Priest in Residence
Deacon Richard Moser, Craig Hintze, Rick Nevins, Sean Sylvester, and John Thornton: dcnJohnThornton@smarymag.org

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Safe Environment Coordinator & Training
safeenvironment@smarymag.org, ext. 217

New to St. Mary Magdalene?

Welcome! We are looking forward to meeting you!
You can formally register as a parishioner here —>

WEBSITE: smarymag.org



Need anointing of the sick?

Call the Parish Office to make an appointment (480) 279-6737 OR Email pastoralcare@smarymag.org

Only for emergencies, call 480-678-3353.



Daily Parish Life

Readings for the Week

Readings for the week of March 23, 2025

Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 (8a)/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/ Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14

Next Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 (9a)/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

This Week's Saints, Special Observances & Mass Intentions

Saturday: 8am: + Frank Marinez
4:30pm: + Brian Oldham

Sunday: 7am: Si Josh & Allison Bryant & family 9am: Pro populo
11:30: Si Alexandra Chehy
4:30: Si Vincent & Brenda Uayan

Monday: 8am: + Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday: *Annunciation of the Lord*
8am: + Julius Cheranke

Wednesday: 8am: + Mary Mantes

Thursday: 8am: + Dominic Russo

Friday: 8am: Si Dan Norton

Saturday: 8am: Si all the sick and suffering
4:30: +John Lue

Pray for Us

Please **pray for those who are sick** including and all of those in our parish Book of Intentions and submitted to our Prayer Line. We extend **Our Prayers and Sympathy** to all the deceased including **Nancy Sandel Ondoy and Diana Olivares**, and all those lost through abortion, all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, and all those who have recently passed away. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



Become a Regular Adorer

Please consider signing up to be in the presence of our Lord for one hour a week.

The following hours need to be covered:

Sun: 1pm, 4pm **M:** 5pm, 10pm **T:** 10am, 11pm
W: 3pm, 4pm **F:** 9pm **Sat:** 5pm

Visit this QR code:

Contact Chris at Liturgy@smarymag.org with questions.



Respect Life Initiative:

Contact: Ashley Laswell
respectlifesmarmag@gmail.com

Magis Women:

The bible study meets every other Monday at 6:30pm.

Contact: Jennifer Tortorici
jdtortorici@yahoo.com (602) 430-0264

Catholic Daughters of America:

Contact: 2779cda@gmail.com (480) 279-6737

Knights of Columbus:

Contact: Tom Axline
GkTaxline@gmail.com (951) 303-0960
COR: For men over 18—meets on 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm for prayer, formation & fraternity.

Catholic Truth Seekers:

Young Adult aged 18-30 seeking fellowship and to grow in your faith?

Come join us at 7pm on Fridays!

Email: smarymagcts@gmail.com
or Instagram [@catholictruthseekers](https://www.instagram.com/catholictruthseekers)



A letter from our Youth Minister: Order and Free Will—A Contradiction?

Last week we spoke about order in nature and teleology—the idea that everything acts according to its purpose. But if that's true, doesn't that mean we're just following a script? How can we be both ordered and free? If we can't "will" ourselves to fly or shoot laser beams from our eyes like Cyclops from the *X-Men*, *isn't free will just an illusion?*

Let's take this step by step. First, we need to establish that the soul, the mind, and the intellect are real—and that they aren't just byproducts of brain chemistry but actual spiritual faculties. Aristotle and St. Thomas Aquinas give us the framework.

The intellect, unlike material things, is capable of grasping universals—abstract concepts like justice, beauty, and truth. No purely physical thing can do this. A rock doesn't ponder truth. A tree doesn't debate ethics. Even the most advanced artificial intelligence doesn't truly understand—it just processes data. But we, as rational beings, can know truth, contemplate meaning, and pursue what is good. This intellectual capacity points to something immaterial within us: the rational soul.

A note about the brain and its neurochemistry. The brain is the physical organ that stores information from the senses and distinguishes between present stimuli and mental images like memories (classically understood as *phantasms*). *The brain is also involved in executive function—commonly attributed to the prefrontal cortex—where we execute choices or inhibit impulses.*

But here's the key point: The will and intellect are *spiritual faculties because they perform a function that is not found in the body*. Aristotle, whose insights Aquinas refines, makes an important observation about how bodily organs are ordered to specific functions:

- The eye is ordered to light; it can receive different types of light, but an excess of light can damage the organ.
- The ear is ordered to sound; it can receive different types of sound, but an excess of sound can damage the organ.

Now, what is the object of the mind? The object of the mind is anything that can be understood—an unlimited number of things, at least in potential. While excessive mental exertion may lead to fatigue, rest actually strengthens the intellect rather than permanently damaging it. From this, two key conclusions follow:

1. The mind is not constrained to a single function like bodily organs are—it is ordered toward universal truth, meaning it must have something *unlimited about it*.
2. Because the mind is ordered to truth, our choices (agere) follow from what we are (*esse*). This is the principle of agere sequitur esse—our actions flow from our being.

The Soul, Intellect, and Will

The soul, then, isn't just some ghostly essence floating in our bodies—it is our very principle of life. It animates us, and its highest faculty is the intellect. But intellect alone doesn't make us free. Enter the will.

The will is not some random force that chooses arbitrarily. It works with the intellect, not against it. We choose between options that we understand to some degree. That's why free will isn't absolute—I can't will myself to sprout wings and fly, nor can I will myself to shoot laser beams from my eyes like a comic book character. My will is constrained by my human nature. However, within those constraints, I can choose between real possibilities that align with my nature—whether to study or slack off, to be honest or deceptive, to love or to hate.

But if our nature determines how we act, does that mean morality is just a set of arbitrary rules? Not at all. Here's where the *is-ought* problem comes into play. Some argue that just because something is a certain way, it doesn't mean it ought to be that way. But this only applies if you deny teleology...

Continued on next page (Children & Youth page)



Children & Youth Faith Formation

Order and Free Will—A Contradiction?

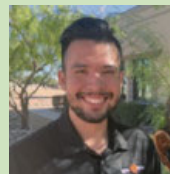
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if you reject the idea that things have an inherent purpose. If we acknowledge that human beings have a nature ordered toward truth and goodness, then what we ought to do follows necessarily from what we are. A knife is made to cut; a dull knife is a bad knife. A human is made to pursue truth and virtue; a life lived in ignorance and vice is a disordered life.

Freedom and Human Nature

This is where true freedom lies. Freedom isn't the ability to do *anything*—it's *the ability to choose what is good*. When we choose according to our nature, we don't just act freely—we become more free. Aristotle teaches that virtue is the habit of choosing well. The more we align ourselves with what is good, the easier and more enjoyable the process becomes. This is why freedom isn't just about having options—it's about forming habits that make choosing the good second nature. The more virtuous we become, the less we are ruled by impulse, vice, or external pressure. So, paradoxically, the more we conform to our nature, the freer we become. True freedom isn't rejecting limits—it's embracing the right ones. And that, my friend, is why free will and order are not contradictions, but two sides of the same coin.

-Jesus "Abraham" Davalos, Coordinator of Youth Ministry



VBS

Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed!

SMM vacation Bible School will be held

June 23-27th

Adults and teens, please help us with this very exciting event! If you are interested, please contact Mary Molina at

mary@smarmag.org

Parents of Special Needs Children

Would you like to share your challenges, successes, and resources with other parents of special needs children?

Join us every 4th Tuesday in the Holy Family Room!
(the cry room at the back of the Church Hall)

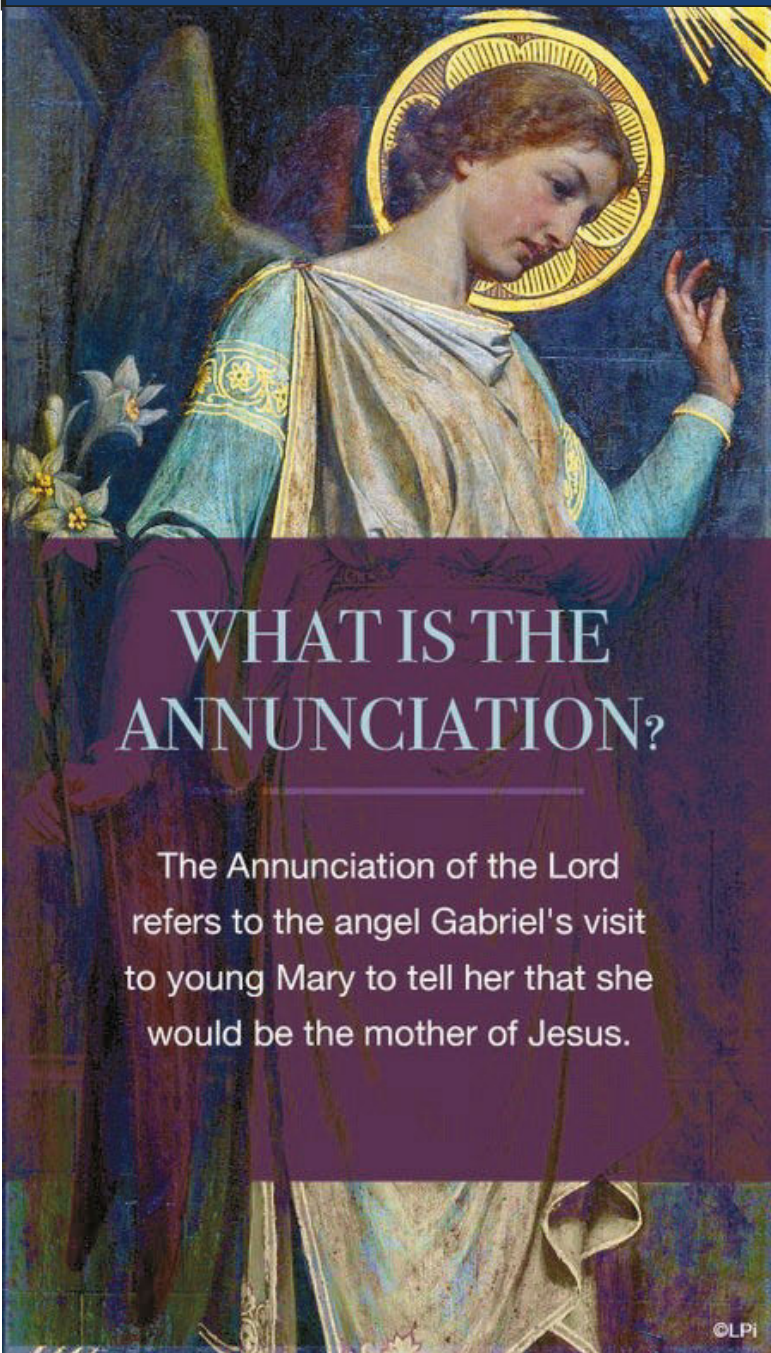
**Tuesday Mar. 25th @7:15
in the Church Hall**

For more information please contact

familyformation@smarmag.org



Adult Formation



WHAT IS THE ANNUNCIATION?

The Annunciation of the Lord refers to the angel Gabriel's visit to young Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of Jesus.

At the 9am mass on **March 2 and March 9**, and 8am mass on **March 22** we celebrated the Rite of Election with those in OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation) who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Please keep them in your prayers:

Our New Elect preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist:

Andrea Holland
Anthony Larson
Luciana Larson
Kyle Pardon
Brittini Prieto
Brian Schwertfeger
Damian Woods
Mikayla Woods
9 teens & youth

Candidates preparing for First Eucharist and Confirmation:

Christina Bates
David Bates
Taylor Gonsalves
Stephen Maynard
Katherine Pitcher
Douglas Sycamore
30 teens & youth

Catholics preparing to receive Confirmation:

Desiree Elizando
Deanna Peters
Lisbeth Phelps
Elizabeth Danielle Roybal
Rachelle Williamson

We also ask you to pray for the 82 youth and teens preparing to receive the First Communion & Confirmation at the Sacrament Mass on May 2!

Are you curious about joining 40 Days for Life in front of Planned Parenthood, but nervous to go alone and unsure what to expect? I'm connecting parishioners who need prayer warrior partners! The no-show rate can be up to 75% with prayerful presence outside the clinic. Your witness makes a difference. Email Ashley at respectlifemarymag@gmail.com.



Eucharist Revival:

How are you fostering intimacy with Christ in your life?

The past couple of weeks we have focused on focused on the life and upcoming canonization of Carlos Acutis—a young man (died at 15 from cancer) who loved Jesus and showed love for the sacraments through his daily reception of Holy Communion and frequenting Confession. He also was an example of how to use your gifts for the glory of God: he learned computer coding and then used that skill to create a website to catalog and feature Eucharist Miracles. He is being canonized on 4/27/25.

PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI: Another young man that is being canonized later this year on 8/3/25: Pier Giorgio Frassati. We have a classroom behind the sanctuary where we teach faith formation, OCIA and others use their skills at making rosaries and crocheting to support the Respect Life efforts—the name of the room? Frassati, in honor of this Blessed young man who dedicated his life to serving the poor, sick and dying. Frassati’s was a part of the Catholic Youth, making their motto his own: “Prayer, Action, Sacrifice.”

His deep faith was nourished by daily Eucharist, prayer and frequent Confession. To Frassati, receiving Communion was participating in the intimacy of Jesus. Though he came from a family of wealth and prestige (his father was in government), he considered himself “poor like all the poor.” He was well-known for giving what he had to the poor—giving away his bus transit money and then running home. Upon seeing a mother with a child in need, he promptly took off his own socks and shoes and gave them away. Upon entering the home of a poor person in need, he would often introduce himself as “a brother of St Vincent.”

Pier Giorgio died July 4, 1925 after contracting polio. Even on his deathbed he was whispering requests to his family of those he knew needed medicine and other necessities, asking them to serve them in his absence.

These two soon-to-be canonized saints are great examples of how to grow in holiness and love of Jesus. We will be honoring Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlos Acutis—stay tuned!

-Nicky Carlson, Adult Formation & OCIA



HELP SAVE LIVES IN TEMPE!

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

With God’s help, here are the proven results in 30 coordinated campaigns:

- Over 25,000 saved babies
- More than 150 closed facilities
- More than 250 converted workers

Here’s how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

Vigil location: On the public sidewalk at Tempe Planned Parenthood
1837 E Baseline Rd Tempe, AZ 85283

Vigil hours: 7 am to 7 pm daily

Local contact: Jim Fitzsimmons
tempe40daysforlife@gmail.com

480-712-9733

Learn more ... get involved ... and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!

40daysforlife.com/Tempe



PLEASE JOIN US

as CTS hosts Stations of the Cross and Meatless potluck on

March 28 6pm.

Sign up to bring a meatless soup or bread here:





Marriage & Family

St Mary Magdalene's Lenten Mission... plan to come to Stations of the Cross Friday night, then continue the journey with His Mother Saturday morning, or just enjoy this beautiful play by itself. Families welcome!

Kalos Theatre
presents

A Mother's Passion

A dramatic reflection of
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through the eyes of
HIS MOTHER

April 5, 2025

10 am

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
2654 E Williams Field Rd, Gilbert, AZ 85295





Diocese News

YOU CAN HELP YOUR MARRIAGE



- ➔ Do you feel alone?
- ➔ Are you frustrated or angry with each other?
- ➔ Do you argue with your wife/or has your husband stopped talking?
- ➔ Does talking about it only make it worse?

Retrouvaille (retro-vy) helps couples through hard times in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing difficulty in their marriage! For confidential information and/or to register for an upcoming program contact **(602) 254-6723**



Also visit our website at: www.helpourmarriage.org



March: Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
Bulletin Announcements and Prayers

National Catholic Partnership on Disability

Bulletin Insert:

1. March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. A time to raise awareness about the inclusion of persons with developmental disabilities* in the Church and all areas of community life. Pope Francis' 2019 message at the International Day for Persons with Disabilities, stated: "We are called to recognize in every person with disabilities, even complex and serious disabilities, a unique contribution to the common good through their original life stories. ...and to recognize them as persons of equal dignity, as brothers and sisters in humanity."

*Developmental disabilities are impairments in physical, learning, language or behavior areas, including autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and learning or intellectual disabilities.

Prayers of the Faithful:

1. For those denied adequate care, especially persons with disabilities: may we advocate for their God-given dignity and assist them in their needs. We pray to the Lord: R/.
2. For all who are forgotten or isolated especially for the poor, the sick, persons with disabilities, and the aged: that God might change our hearts and move us to see and love them as Christ does. We pray to the Lord: R/.

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- Sr. Clare Marie, SCTJM, Director of Evangelization at Holy Spirit Newman Center

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3rd Sunday of Lent • Luke 13:1-9

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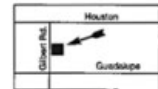
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