

29 August 2025

Dear School Parents,

Following the recent tragedy at Annunciation Catholic school in Minnesota, we want to take an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to you and to the safety of the children entrusted to our care. We have all heard about many similar events around the country, but the fact that this one took place in a Catholic school and in the Midwest makes it feel a little different. We certainly encourage your prayers in solidarity with the families involved. We are one body in Christ. If one member suffers, we all suffer together (1 Cor 12:26).

While it may only make the news whenever there is a tragedy, it is on the minds of those responsible for our schools all the time, from the bishop on down. Bishop Kemme has been working with the Catholic Schools Office to provide us with security resources. Security has already been part of several of the weekly meetings between the priests and principals here at Magdalen over the last two months, including conversation about security during Mass. While our building was originally designed with safety in mind, numerous safety improvements have been made over the years, most recently the installation of the playground fence. We pay attention to these things so our teachers and students can focus on education.

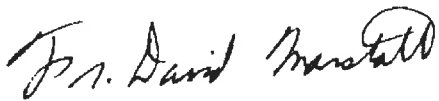
While there may be no way to eliminate every risk, there are some things that are simple and that we need everyone to help with. First, in any situation if you think something may be wrong, say something to the right person. Every adult has the responsibility of providing our students with a safe environment.

Second—and more particular to Magdalen—we love that numerous parents join us for Mass in the morning. For the safety of our children, the doors to the church lock automatically when school Mass begins and a designated parent or staff member is posted in the gathering space. If you are here and see someone trying to get in at that time, do not let them in. Let the designated person take care of it.

Christ came that we might have life and have it more abundantly (Jn 10:10). That includes not living in fear or taking away life-giving experiences from our children. We will be careful, not fearful. Jesus told us we will find troubles in this world; people intent on doing harm may always find a way. Disciples of Jesus, on the other hand, always find a way to love one another, confident that a city set on a hill cannot be hidden (Mt 5:14). “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (Jn 16:33)

We continue this journey together, confident in the power of the risen Christ to bring good, even out of the gravest of evils. St. Mary Magdalen, pray for us.

Yours in Christ,



Fr. David Marstall  
Pastor



Mrs. Jennifer Patterson  
Principal