

HEALTH

SUMMER 2009

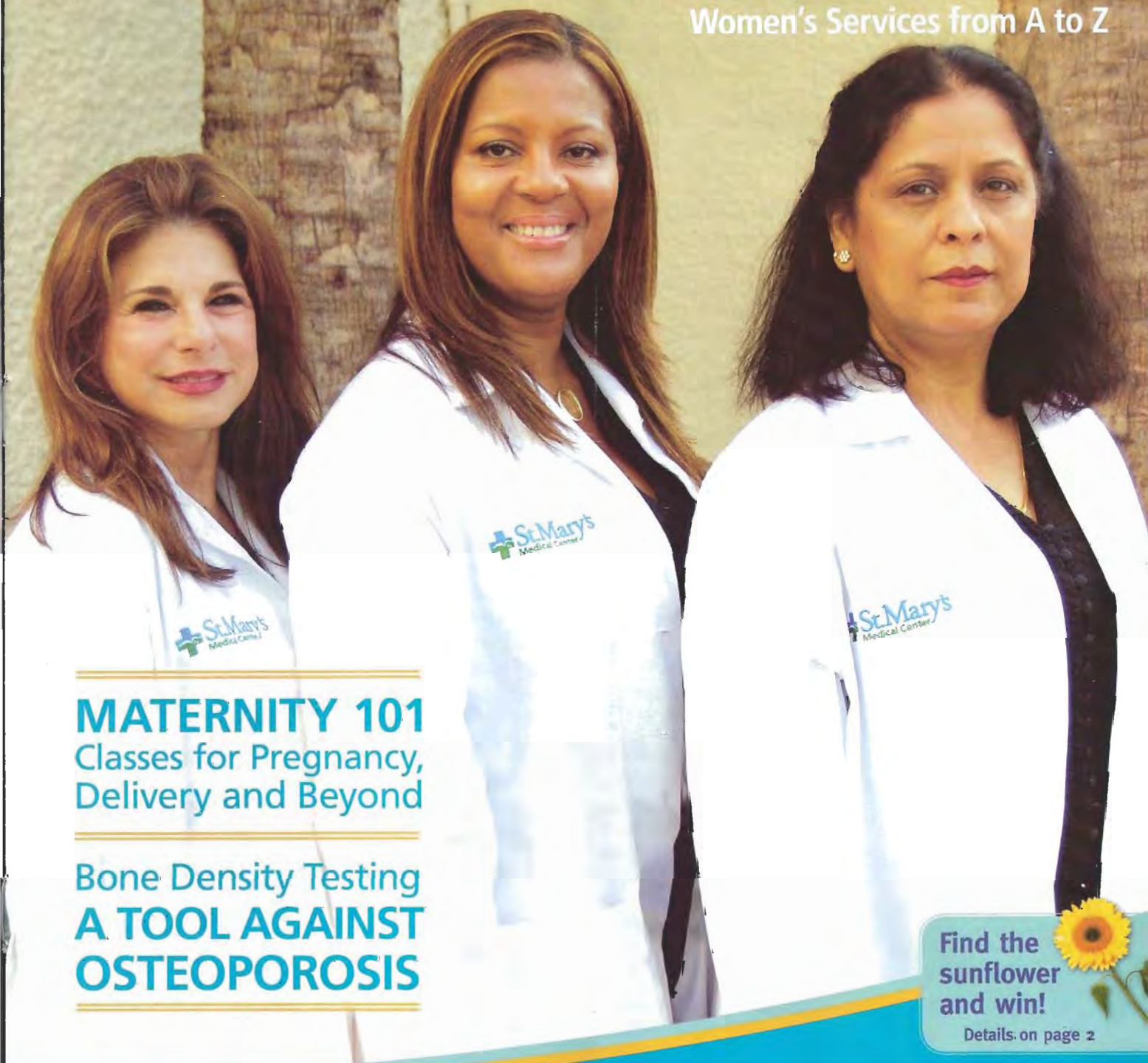
for Life



St. Mary's
Medical Center

ST. MARY'S CARES FOR WOMEN

Women's Services from A to Z




MATERNITY 101

Classes for Pregnancy,
Delivery and Beyond

Bone Density Testing A TOOL AGAINST OSTEOPOROSIS

Find the
sunflower
and win!



Details on page 2

Delivering Quality Care in Childbirth

Whether you're giving birth for the first time or planning for delivery of your third son or daughter, as a mom, you want the very best in health care for your child. The Birthplace at St. Mary's Medical Center offers proven obstetrical services that care for moms and babies from ante partum (pre-delivery) to postpartum care.

"*St. Mary's Medical Center* is unlike any other facility in our community when it comes to maternal care,"



Debra Jones, MD

says Debra Jones, MD, perinatologist at St. Mary's Medical Center. "Women want to feel secure in giving birth, and they can do that here because the hospital has

in-house obstetrician/gynecologists [OB/GYNs], perinatologists, neonatologists, anesthesiologists, midwives, and a fully staffed Level III neonatal intensive care unit [NICU]—all available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year."

In fact, St. Mary's has the largest, most experienced NICU in Palm Beach County. Indeed, the staff and facilities are a big part of the reason why St. Mary's is the hospital that many local physicians trust to care for their obstetrics patients. It also explains why other hospitals in the region transfer labor-and-delivery patients to St. Mary's when medical complications arise that require a higher level of care. In addition to these services, St. Mary's offers West Palm Beach County's only Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Center—one of 11 hospitals with this distinction in the entire state of Florida.

"The Birthplace at St. Mary's Medical Center is top of the line in comfort and services," says Pat Harding, MD, Section Chief of OB-GYN at St. Mary's. "We tend to the needs of a population at risk, as well as to those women who don't experience complications. Our Level III NICU and highly qualified physician and nursing staffs make St. Mary's the place to give birth in Palm Beach County."

Fetal MRI—A Very Special Service

Perinatologists, obstetrics physicians specializing in high-risk pregnancies, use ultrasound and other diagnostic tools to determine if an unborn baby has health complications that need to be addressed prior to or at the time of delivery. When one of the seven perinatologists at St. Mary's Medical Center suspects that an unborn child suffers from a central nervous system issue, such as hydrocephalous, he or she sends the mom to Maria Mata, MD, a radiologist at St. Mary's specializing in pediatric neuroradiology. Dr. Mata performs fetal magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to confirm the perinatologist's preliminary diagnosis.

St. Mary's is one of the few hospitals in South Florida that provides fetal MRI.

Ready Right Now

If medical complications should arise, St. Mary's has the staff and equipment to skillfully handle emergencies. Other departments at St. Mary's also feature around-the-clock medical staff to offer a full spectrum of healthcare services for labor-and-delivery patients.

For moms who require Cesarean sections (surgical deliveries), the Birthplace at St. Mary's provides professional, expert staff and operating rooms dedicated to this service. Physicians and nurses strive to make the procedure special, and thanks to precise administration of anesthesia, mothers can be awake to experience the birth. Fathers and other support partners can attend, too, and moms are typically able to see their babies immediately after delivery before going to the recovery room.

"The remarkable thing is St. Mary's has offered this level of care to the community for quite some time," says Dr. Jones. "It's all already functioning and providing maternity patients with the best possible scenario for good outcomes."

To find a St. Mary's Women's Services physician, call (561) 882-9100 or visit us online at www.stmarysmc.com.

