



## Mary Magdalene Church

Mary Magdalene Church is an inclusive church in the Catholic tradition, where people from all faiths and backgrounds are welcome to the Lord's Table. We strive to live the values that Jesus taught, to honor and respect each individual and to share the joy of God's unconditional love, in our community and beyond.

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### Mary Magdalene Church Bulletin Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020

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Photo by [Emma van der Kraan](#)  
on [Unsplash](#)

An angel.  
Dazzling light.  
Boulders upheaved.  
Burial head cloth rolled up.  
Women at a run to tell disciples.  
Disciples racing to see for  
themselves.  
Empty tomb proclaiming the  
Good News. He is not here.  
“Where is he?”  
“Mary!”

The one who has loved us  
into wholeness  
is alive.  
and  
with us now.  
We say with her,  
“Rabbouni!”

Anne Osdieck  
Sunday Website St Louis University

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Greetings!

FYI- I know that some of you have had trouble getting connected to our Sunday morning liturgy. For tomorrow and from now going forward we will make the feed live about 10 minutes before Mass begins to give you time to connect. Mass will still start at 10:00 but you'll probably hear our choir warming up or the rest of us getting the last few things done and ready to go. **Please see further down in this letter for some references to ways you can improve your ability to participate in our liturgies and about security on Zoom.**

You can be a part of our Easter Sunday Liturgy through our [Facebook Page](#). Reminder- you do not have to have a Facebook account to connect with this link! When Facebook asks if you'd like to create an account just click "Not At This Time." You may also wish to download and print the **lyrics of our songs** for tomorrow morning. You'll find that here: [Easter Sunday Songs](#)

As you may have read in last week's bulletin, this Sunday, being Easter, the day when we celebrate the culmination of Jesus Passion and Death with his Resurrection, we will be celebrating a Eucharistic Celebration, as opposed to

the communal blessing that we've been celebrating while we are apart. The fullness of this sacrament can only be experienced through the reception of the Eucharist that we normally do when we receive communion. I will admit- I've struggled with the celebration of Eucharist at a time when all of you, my church family, our community, cannot be present to receive as one. For that reason our Easter Sunday Eucharist will be sacredly stored in our Tabernacle, until that time when we can gather again together in the Sanctuary, at which time we will celebrate Easter anew and we will partake of this precious sacrament together!!

But the piece that would still be missing is the fullness of the sacramental moment on Easter Sunday. As such, with the encouragement of the Ministry Team (whose counsel has been invaluable to me during this time) I will partake of communion this Sunday morning on the behalf of the community at large. I will be holding each of you in my heart as I receive while at the same time experiencing my own longing, and yours, for us to be together again!!!

I found comfort in this decision in reading a piece on Easter Reflections in the time of COVID-19 put out by Ilia Delio (a Franciscan sister in Washington DC who is an American theologian specializing in the area of science and religion, and is a scholar on Teilhard de Chardin). She highlights that we have strayed quite a bit from the early Christian community which saw the significance of Eucharist as the expression of shared love. She went on to say: **"Eucharist is not about 'eating Jesus'; Eucharist takes place wherever two or more are gathered in an ineffable depth of love. God dwells quietly within."** You might remember the poem Mimi shared with us at our first virtual Liturgy. There is a link on our website to it: [The Eucharist](#), written by Voight. It reads in part:

You see EUCHARIST in another's eyes,  
give it in another's hand held tight, squeeze it in an embrace.  
You pause EUCHARIST in the middle of a busy day,  
speak it in another's ear,  
listen to it from a person who wants to talk.

For EUCHARIST is as simple as being on time  
and as profound as sympathy.

I give you my supper, I give you my sustenance  
I give you my life, I give you me,  
I give you EUCHARIST.

So until we can receive Eucharist together again in the form of Communion, let us be Eucharist for one another and for the world!!!

While the Coronavirus has certainly impacted the way we celebrate Easter this year, not even COVID-19 can keep Jesus in the tomb!! Now- I do want to be sure to advise you to please continue to follow all of the CDC guidelines over this holiday season. I understand that the next two weeks are critical and Monroe County has asked churches to reinforce this with their congregations. In this time where churches in some areas of our country are resisting these restrictions and making claims that God will protect their community from getting COVID-19 we need to look to the experts on infectious diseases on this one. We know that our faith calls us to be responsible in our world for not only ourselves but also for our neighbors!! As a poet I recently read said "I trust God, but I always wear my seat belt! I trust God, but I always use oven mitts when I get something out of the oven! I trust God, and I always lock my house at night! I trust God, and I take my prescribed medications! Let's trust God and also do our part to flatten the curve!!"

One of the things that our community has always loved and we now miss is our coffee hour after Mass. Beginning this Sunday, Lori and Rebecca will be hosting a virtual coffee hour right after Mass: [Sunday Morning Coffee Hour](#) It will be a great opportunity to be together to process what it's like to share liturgy in this way and connect with one another!!

Please know that the links to all of our liturgies, prayers and events are now very easy to find on our website: [www.marymagdalenechurch.org](http://www.marymagdalenechurch.org) Go to the tab marked "Going Virtual." You will also find these events in the calendar. I will continue to have a box of links further down in this bulletin so that wherever you may be you can access what you need.

As you know, the CDC is recommending everyone to wear a mask when you must go out in public. Sharon Cassidy has been making masks and would like to share them with others in our community who may need them, but she needs material (sheets or pillowcases) elastic and thread. If you have any supplies you'd like to share please send her an email: [msscassidy123@gmail.com](mailto:msscassidy123@gmail.com) and she'll make arrangements to get them from you.

**Ways to improve your participation in liturgies or zoom sessions:** One thing we've been aware of is that some of you have had varying issues as you join us on Facebook Live for our liturgies, and some of you may have seen that we had issues on the church end of things on Thursday as well. It's important to be aware that the speed of your individual internet impacts the quality of anything that you stream, whether that is our Sunday liturgy or a movie, as well as your connection on zoom. You can improve this by closing all other windows on your computer, and make sure that anything that draws from your internet are turned off (i.e. computers, cell phones, and television). To help on our end, this week I'm also going to ask those of us who are at church to do the same with our individual phones as this may be what contributed to our difficulties on Thursday. Another thing that impacts all of this, that we have no control over, is the sheer volume of churches that are streaming their liturgies just as we are. That puts a draw on Facebook and other streaming platforms.

**Security on Zoom:** Some of you have expressed concern as we know the incidents of individuals coming into Zoom meetings uninvited and posting inappropriate material by sharing their screen have increased. We have set up the advised settings that Zoom recommends to help prevent this. In addition, I have advised those who are facilitating any coffee hours, prayer sessions and other meetings for MMC to lock the meeting about 10 minutes into it. That means if you're trying to join after a meeting is locked you will not be able to connect. (For this very reason Mimi is not putting the links to any sessions with our children in our bulletin or on our website.) One way you can help us- if you have a free or paid zoom account please make sure it is set up with your name so that we know who is trying to come into a meeting. Finally, I want you to know we are not recording zoom meetings.

Regine asked me to remind you to list Mary Magdalene Church as your choice of charity on Amazon Smile. [For more information](#)

Please note that I will be taking some retreat time this week. So that you don't worry about me, I want you to know that I will be staying in a private "summer" condo owned by a member of our community. As I will be there alone I can maintain my social distance, while also devoting more time to prayer and rest for my body, mind and soul! If there's anything that comes up during this time feel free to reach out to Mimi [marymagdalenechurcher@gmail.com](mailto:marymagdalenechurcher@gmail.com) or 585-797-4707.

Finally, Mimi will be hosting my usual Wednesday morning prayer and coffee. so this week it is "Tea and Meditation with Mimi!"

With Much Love

**Bishop Denise**

**Note from Our Board:**

Friends, we want to thank you for your thoughtful and generous love, support and donations through the years! We have set up a donation button through our bulletin for those who would like to donate. We understand these are difficult times, so if you have the need to change your automatic donation as there's been a change in your finances we completely understand. Please just reach out to our treasurer, Sue Pagano [suepagano@gmail.com](mailto:suepagano@gmail.com)

Many blessings,

Odysseus Adamides, Regine Calvar, Chris O'Brien, Sue Pagano, Bill Smith, Binnie Thompson, Jim Kerg (alternate), Pat Moriarty (Parish Moderator)

Donate!





## Opportunities to Pray:

[Praying the Rosary:  
8:00 a.m. Daily](#)

[Coffee & Prayer:  
Wednesdays at 10:00](#)

[Stations of the Cross:  
Fridays at 3:00](#)

## Virtual Coffee Hours

Social Distancing may prevent us from gathering together in person, but we can find other ways of being together

Bring your coffee  
your computer or smart phone

[Sunday 11:00 Coffee Hour](#)

[Friday 1:00 Coffee Hour](#)

## FOR MEETINGS: USING ZOOM

1. Click on the link in the bulletin
2. When "Zoom" asks if it is OK to download and install on your computer, each time say "Yes!"

Zoom will do the rest.

## Smart Phone or Tablet:

Click on the link in the bulletin

Zoom will direct you to  
download the App

The App is free.  
Zoom will do the rest.

## FOR SUNDAY MASS FACEBOOK LIVE

### You don't need a Facebook account.

Click on the link in the bulletin

You will be directed to the Mary  
Magdalene FB page  
you don't have to join Facebook  
just click "not at this time"

Look for the "Live" button on  
the upper left corner  
of the page to join.

## WE ARE A EUCHARISTIC PEOPLE AND WE LONG TO GATHER AT EUCHARIST TOGETHER AGAIN. UNTIL THEN....

In the last few weeks, we've spent a great deal of time reflecting theologically, spiritually and prayerfully, as well as staying abreast of CDC guidelines and directives from the State. I say **WE** as I've been meeting virtually with the Ministry Team and Trustees, as well as talking with other ECC pastors. This is a time unlike any other and we've really needed to focus on ritual, tradition, and sacrament, as well as the role of community gathered in one place, versus community gathered from our separate homes. And we've also had to think about the precautions due to the virus itself. Let's face it practicing social distance and the concern for spread impacts everything we do right now. But, one thing we all agree- when we are together in prayer the Holy Spirit brings us together across the miles.

We are a Eucharistic people and the Sacrament of Eucharist is very important to our souls. And yet in these times, we are unable to celebrate Eucharist in the way that speaks to our hearts. So how do we celebrate in a meaningful way, remembering that Last Supper that Jesus shared with his loved ones. Following the direction of Bishop Francis Krebs, the Presiding Bishop of our Ecumenical Catholic Communion, as well as the prayerful ways we have been asking the Holy Spirit to guide us through this process, we will ask God who is the source of all blessings, to bless a bit of bread and wine, or crackers and

grapes, or whatever you may have. As Bishop Frank said **"we may ask the Holy Spirit to bless these elements so that we may experience our life and unity in Christ. If indeed we experience hope and love and faith, we will have a sign that God is truly present (for these "theological virtues" cannot be present without God being present) and that we are truly united in them. We are missing the most basic actions of actually physically gathering as the Body of Christ, of breaking and sharing the bread and sharing the cup, etc. There is a lot that is missing. But we are doing our best to be faithful to God in a difficult time and to draw sustenance from God's gifting hand. It won't be the Eucharist in the way that we would prefer, but it could be a rich time of faith "together," and certainly a way to encourage each other, and more importantly to receive God's encouragement, in our socially distanced lives."** I see it as sharing what the disciples called an "Agape Meal." In the early church they each brought something to share, like a potluck and they shared a whole meal together when they gathered, not just bread and wine. It will not replace the longing in our hearts for that Sacramental consecration of Eucharist that we celebrate in the sanctuary that we love, surrounded by our Mary Magdalene Family for sure. But while this is not Sacrament with a Capital "S", I believe that there are many ways that we celebrate sacrament with a small "s" by sharing God's love with others in our daily lives. While recognizing that this Sunday and subsequent weeks are different from what we are used to, I took comfort in Bishop Frank's closing line. **"Let's not underappreciate what we are doing, i.e., sharing our life in the living God who sustains us in all circumstances."**

So in preparation for liturgies, light a candle, gather a bit of bread, crackers, cheese, grapes or wine whatever you may have on hand. And have your laptop or mobile phone ready to connect over the internet. If you have any particular prayers for the Prayers of the Faithful you can type those in the comments and everyone will be joined together in those prayers. May we feel the unity of being connected through the Holy Spirit, praying with one mind and one heart!!

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### **Do you have someone you want us to pray for?**

To add someone to the prayer chain contact:  
Christine Kaiser [cmkaiser@rochester.rr.com](mailto:cmkaiser@rochester.rr.com)  
Or Joann Corso at 223-5682

If you'd like to connect with Rev Denise directly:  
[revdenised@gmail.com](mailto:revdenised@gmail.com)  
Or 585-329-0895

If you'd like to join our team of "prayers"  
and be notified where there are some prayer needs,  
please send an email to Christine Kaiser:  
[cmkaiser@rochester.rr.com](mailto:cmkaiser@rochester.rr.com)



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