



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.

Mary Magdalene Church Bulletin Sunday, April 5, 2020



Photo by [Omer Salom](#) on
[Unsplash](#)

*When this is over, may
we never again take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store.....*

*A boring Tuesday
Life itself.
When this ends
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way — better
for each other
because of the worst*

Laura Fanucci, Minnesota, USA

Greetings!

For Palm Sunday: You can be a part of our 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: [Palm Sunday Lyrics](#).

Holy week begins tomorrow with Palm Sunday. What I will say is that this is a

Lent like no other, and one we will never forget. Finding ways to celebrate such a meaningful season together when we are apart is challenging, but I do believe that there will be ways we can make this Holy Week not only unforgettable, but I believe we can find ways to make it meaningful in a way we've never felt before. Holy week is a time when we experience the story of Jesus in intimate ways, because we don't just read it and talk about it, we feel it. We feel the pain of abandonment, the emptiness of isolation and loneliness, the desolation of having those closest to us deny us, and the devastation of having someone we entrusted with our friendship and love betray us behind our backs. We feel these feelings as they touch our own lives, and we remember the times we've felt abandoned, betrayed, denied, isolated and devastatingly alone. Yes, we look at time we've experienced this and then we look at Jesus on the cross and feel it multiplied.

On Palm Sunday we traditionally receive palms that help us to remember that first Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered Jerusalem for the very last time. We hear the story of Jesus sending two of his disciples into the town to procure a donkey for his ride through the Beautiful Gate. The Beautiful Gate is the gate through which the prophets had predicted the Messiah would enter and the prophet Zechariah had placed the Messiah on the back of a donkey. That first Palm Sunday Jesus made a triumphant entrance and in response the people were celebrating, laying down their cloaks to line the road and waving palms joyfully in the air. While palms are only mentioned in John's Gospel, this tradition of blessing and distributing of palms has been a part of our practice for years. In actuality, the people used what they had available, and so must we!!!

So, tomorrow morning, before our liturgy, I encourage you to walk around your yard, your gardens, trees or even house plants. Find a branch, vine, a limb, a stem (or a combination of any of the above) and have it with you on your table, along with a candle, your bread, wine, fruit or whatever you have to bless and savor. You may also wish to have a small bowl with water in it for the blessing.

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!!

This week we celebrate the beginnings of a sacrament that is probably most near and dear to our hearts- the Eucharist. When we gather around the altar each week we're remembering the last time that Jesus gathered with his disciples at that First "Last Supper." And then on Easter we celebrate the culmination of Jesus Passion and Death, because we know that Easter Sunday is the reason that we gather in this way. Our Eucharistic Celebrations, are not meant to be a replication of Jesus passion and death, they are a celebration of his rising from the dead!! Contrary to Evangelical and some traditional Catholic teaching, Jesus dying was not the saving act. We celebrate because he rose, because God showed us that not even death would separate us from God's incredible love!! As the Eucharist is so central to Holy Thursday and Easter Sunday, I will be celebrating Mass with a Eucharistic prayer on these two days, instead of the Communal Blessing we've been celebrating while we are apart (for more info on this see "We are a Eucharistic People" further down on the bulletin). The Eucharist from Holy Thursday will be used by all of us for some vigiling time after Mass ends. We will keep the live stream going on Facebook for about 1/2 hour after Mass ends for all of us to vigil together. Our Eucharist on Easter Sunday 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 in a new way and partake of this precious sacrament together!!

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 Go to the tab marked "Going Virtual." You will also find these events in the calendar which is now completely updated and it's even oriented correctly now with each week beginning on Sunday. Thank you Emma!! We love you!! 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 continuing to recommend that people shelter at home and only go out if absolutely necessary. They are also now recommending everyone to wear a mask when you must 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 and she'll make arrangements to get them from you.

In addition, Sandy McNamara faithfully continues her work on our behalf for the East Rochester Community Resource Center. On Tuesday she will be in the church parking lot at 10:00 with her trunk open to receive your donations. She will be there for about a half hour. She stressed that she'll stay in her car and make sure it doesn't put anyone at risk. What a dear heart!!! Thank you, Sandy!!

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

Remember- you'll find links to our virtual activities on our website, as well as listed further down in this bulletin. Listed below you will find some opportunities to connect that will be weekly.

Be well and remember, if there's anything we can do, or if you'd just like to connect, you can reach out to Mimi or myself via email, phone, text, Facetime or Google Duo. For me: revdenised@gmail.com or 585-329-0895 or for Mimi marymagdalenechurcher@gmail.com of 585-797-4707.

Please see the note below from Mimi.

With Much Love

Bishop Denise

From Mimi

I hope you are doing well. I am looking forward to seeing all your smiling faces soon. Next **Saturday, April 11 at 10a** I have another **Playdate**. Planned. Our date will include the **Story of Holy Week** and a new and improved **Scavenger Hunt**.

I will send out the Zoom invite on Wednesday afternoon to everyone on our Children's Liturgy of the Word program list. If you are not on the list and would like your child/ren to participate please send me an email, marymagdalenechurcher@gmail.com or give me a call at (585)797-4707 and I will make sure you get the information. We had a

blast at our last playdate, I hope you will join us on April 11 at 10a.

Questions...please bounce me a note or give me a jingle.

Blessings and Love,

Mimi

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

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

**FOR SUNDAY MASS
FACEBOOK LIVE**

You don't need a Facebook account.

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.

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!!

Do you have someone you want us to pray for?

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

If you'd like to connect with Rev Denise directly:
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



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