

*St. Mary Magdalen Church*



*Happy  
Easter!*

*We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!*

April 12th, 2020 | Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection

# St. Mary Magdalen

## Catholic Parish



### THE REAL PRESENCE Easter 2020

As you can imagine, I've been through a steep learning curve as we began live-streaming our worship. More people have watched our liturgies on Facebook than normally attend mass on a given weekend. Another fascinating element is the thread of comments that follow each service. One concerned how we participate in the liturgy. Some asked why they couldn't set some bread and wine before their computer monitor or tablet and let me consecrate it from afar. Would that it were so simple!

We must understand the nature of sacraments in order to understand why it's a great thing for us to be virtually present during live-streaming but that it's not the same as being physically present. The matter is highly nuanced. What is essential for our worship to be sacramental? Three elements must be present: First, the community must gather together; Second, the gathering must proclaim its tradition; and Third, rituals must be performed.

Jesus said, "Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, I am in their midst (Matt. 18:20)." This is one of those moments in the scriptures where he is pretty specific about what constitutes Church and thus, he helps us define sacrament. Following this, even before the Second Vatican Council priests were expected to at least have an altar server present when they celebrated mass. The server represented the community. Confession shouldn't take place over the phone or internet for the same reason. The priest, giving absolution, isn't just forgiving sin, he is also restoring the penitent to full community participation. Anybody who eats alone knows it's not dining. Even civil weddings require the bride, groom and magistrate to be physically present.

Sacraments also require we celebrate our tradition. Primarily, we do this through the proclamation of scripture. This immerses us in the accumulated wisdom of our community and imbues us with purpose and direction. Sometimes it is only a single verse from the bible, more often it is a full-blown Liturgy of the Word. Whatever the case, proclamation and meditation on the scriptures keys us into our bond as a community.

Finally, sacraments require symbols and rituals to be performed. Sometimes they involve objects like bread, wine, oil and water. Other times they are actions like the laying on of hands or sprinkling. These acts and symbols are external manifestations of our inner spiritual journeys. Just as blowing out the candles on a birthday cake or going to a parade key us into pivotal events that help us to pass from one phase of our lives to the next, celebrating sacramental rituals key us into our spiritual journey.

When we take all the above into consideration we can say that when we, under the presiding priest, listen to the Word of God, bless bread and wine and receive it into their beings, it is the Eucharist of Christ, the sacrament of God's presence in us. It is the Real Presence. When one of these elements are missing, it can be an occasion of grace, a moving encounter with God and a renewal of our love for him but it is qualitatively distinct from the sacrament.

Sacraments are more than transactions. They cannot be boiled down to their elements. They are so much more than the sum or their parts. Assessing the merit of a great painting by analyzing the chemical content of its paint may be enlightening but would scarcely illuminate its essence.

All this is to say, you have to be physically present for a sacrament to be valid. You have to be part of the community (even if it's only two or three) to celebrate a sacrament. There is great value and sanctifying grace in watching live-streamed liturgies but it's not the same as being there. I'm deeply gratified by the large audience watching our liturgies at home but I'll be even more happy when we can celebrate them in the church as the gathered faithful.

Happy Easter,  
Fr. Nick

### Easter Week Mass Intentions

Saturday	8:00p	For the People of the Parish
Sunday	8:00a	William E. Spinden RIP
	9:30a	Bert Healy RIP
	11:30a	Janine Richard RIP
Monday	8:30a	Intentions of Br. Luke Maria Lee, OP
	5:30p	Intentions of Richard Hylton
Tuesday	8:30a	
	5:30p	
Wednesday	8:30a	
	5:30p	
Thursday	8:30a	
	5:30p	Antoni Lewicki RIP
Friday	8:30a	Fred Giacomazzi RIP
	5:30p	Aggie Finnegan RIP
Saturday	8:30a	

### The Parish Website

Have you been to the Parish Website lately. (www.marymagdalen.org) There is plenty of information on the main page. Did you know that Fr. Nick is sharing a video reflection on the daily gospels? Deacon Stanley, SJ is offering gospel reflections as well. The website also has up-to-date Covid 19 information.

You will find bulletins past and present, information about sacramental formation, Faith Formation, and a copy of the 75 Year History of the parish. Take some time to visit the website.

### CRS Rice Bowl

Our Rice Bowl journey has come to an end. We hope everyone had an opportunity to participate by watching the stories online, trying the recipes, and placing donations in the box. In case you haven't seen it, this is the link for the Holy Week video. (https://youtu.be/uhgXBZOHD2c) The world needs you. Thank you



### Collection for April 5th, 2020

Sunday	Actual	Budget	Difference
4/05/2020	\$6,730.20	\$8,829.00	-\$2,098.80
Year-to-Date	\$111,813.81	\$123,606.00	-\$11,792.19

"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded." - Luke 12:48

### Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Sunday, April 12th, at 9:30 am

<https://www.facebook.com/SaintMaryMagdalenParish/>

Live streaming on Sunday mornings will continue throughout the quarantine.

Also, please check the website daily for a reflection from Fr. Nick..

### A Message from Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services

All of the CFCS offices are open and available for service during the quarantine, however, if you need to come to the office for any reason, please phone ahead to schedule an appointment. (This is to maintain safe distancing in the office waiting area.) Also, please only two family members to attend the appointment. We appreciate your understanding in this time of crisis.

### Sacraments of Initiation

Reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist will be spread over the length of the Easter season. At the Easter Vigil, **Bach** and **Morino** were fully initiated (Baptized, Confirmed, and received Holy Communion), and **Edith** was confirmed. Please continue to pray for these Neophytes and for the other RCIA candidates who will be initiated over the next few weeks.



### Scripture Readings for Easter Week

12 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection Acts 19:34, 37-43/Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6-8/ Matthew 28:1-10
13 <sup>th</sup>	Monday of Easter Week Acts 2:14, 22-33/Matthew 28:8-15
14 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday of Easter Week Acts 2:36-41/John 20:11-18
15 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday of Easter Week Acts 3:1-10/Luke 24:13-35
16 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday of Easter Week Acts 3:11-26/Luke 24:35-48
17 <sup>th</sup>	Friday of Easter Week Acts 4:1-12/John 21:1-14
18 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday of Easter Week Acts 4:13-21/Mark 16:9-15

