

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Parish



Rev. Nicholas Glisson, Pastor. The Most Reverend Michael Barber, SJ, Bishop – Diocese of Oakland

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 5:30 pm (Vigil Mass)
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 am

DAILY MASSES

Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday 8:30 am
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 5:30 pm

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Monday – Saturday 8:00 am
Mon./Wed./Friday 5:10 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 to 5:00 pm
(and by appointment)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday
9:00 am – Noon
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Phone: 510-526-4811
Fax: 510-525-3638

WEBSITE



marymagdalen.org



David Lance Goines, 2002

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STAFF CONTACTS FOR PARISH & SCHOOL: marymagdalen.org/staff

BAPTISM: Preparation classes will resume in September.
Please call the parish office for more information.

CONFIRMATION: Classes run from September through May; contact the office for more information.

MARRIAGE: Please contact the pastor at least six months prior to the wedding.

ANointing OF THE SICK: The Sacrament is offered at every 5th Sunday Mass, and by appointment.

*"Together we share our
Faith in Jesus Christ.*

*We live the Gospel,
and we care for others."*

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A ~ August 23rd, 2026

Parish Collections through August 16th, 2026

Sunday	Actual	Budget	Difference
08/16/2026	\$9,541.75	\$10,000.00	-\$458.25
Year-to-Date	\$341,306.65	\$342,000.00	-\$693.35
Another good week!			

It's Easy to Make a Financial Offering to your Parish!

This QR code leads to the Parish Donation page — use it to initiate a **one-time offering**.



Or click below:

tinyurl.com/SMM-Offering

(Questions? Call our Business Manager, Norah Hippolyte, at 510.526.4811 x 111)

Scripture Readings for the Week

23rd **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Isaiah 22:19-23 / Romans 11:33-36 /
Matthew 16:13-20

24th **FEAST: SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE**

Revelations 21:9-14 / John 1:45-51

25th **Weekday [St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest]**

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 14-17 / Matthew 23:23-26

26th **Weekday**

2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18 / Matthew 23:27-32

27th **Memorial: St. Monica**

1 Corinthians 1:1-9 / Matthew 24:42-51

28th **Memorial: St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor**

1 Corinthians 1:17-25 / Matthew 25:1-13

29th **Memorial: The Passion of Saint John the Baptist**

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 / Mark 6:17-29

Mass Intentions



Saturday	5:30	For the People of the Parish
Sunday	8:00	Intentions of Tom & Elaine Hall
	9:30	Intentions of the Gaspardone Family
	11:30	Lydia Stewart RIP
Wednesday	5:30	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Friday	5:30	Bill Rauch RIP

Parish Calendar through September 6, 2026

August 22/23 Weekend	Preacher at Weekend Masses: Fr. Nick 5:30 pm Saturday; 8:00 / 9:30 / 11:30 am Sunday
August 23 Sunday	4th Sunday Dinner for the Hungry Noon-4:00 pm, Magdalen Hall. <i>Sign Ups:</i> 
August 25 Tuesday	Discussion of the Sunday Gospel Zoom link: 2:00-3:00 pm, tinyurl.com/SMM-GospelGroup
August 25 Tuesday	Adult Christian Initiation 6:00 pm, Norton Hall
August 26 Wednesday	SCHOOL OF THE MADELEINE First Day of the 2026-2027 School Year 
August 28 Friday	Discussion of the Sunday Gospel 9:15—10:15 am, Conference Room
August 29 Saturday	4th Annual Parish International Dinner 6:30 pm, Magdalen Hall. <i>Buy Tickets here:</i> 
August 29/30 Weekend	Preacher at Weekend Masses: Deacon Jeff 5:30 pm Saturday; 8:00 / 9:30 / 11:30 am Sunday
August 30 Sunday	6th Annual Parish-School Picnic 10:30 am, Live Oak Park. <i>(Volunteers needed.)</i>
September 1 Tuesday	Discussion of the Sunday Gospel Zoom link: 2:00-3:00 pm, tinyurl.com/SMM-GospelGroup
September 1 Tuesday	Adult Christian Initiation 6:00 pm, Norton Hall
September 4 Friday	Discussion of the Sunday Gospel 9:15—10:15 am, Conference Room
September 4 Friday	First Friday Holy Hour (Eucharistic Adoration) 6:05 pm, Church
September 4 Friday	Discussion of the Sunday Gospel 9:15—10:15 am, Conference Room
September 6 Weekend	Liturgy Council Monthly Meeting 10:00 am, Conference Room & Zoom



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1225 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94709

Enjoy the culinary heritages of our parishioners at the
Fourth Annual International Dinner

Saturday, August 29 at 6:30 pm

Tickets:

Adults: \$30.00

Children: Free

Tickets at Sunday Masses

or Online:

tinyurl.com/SMM-IntlDinner



Highlights of the Menu:

Filipino ~ Adobo, Pancit Canton, Pinakbet, Señorita Bread

Korean ~ Kimchi, Kimbap, Bulgogi, Japchae

Indian ~ Biryani, Tikka Masala, Vegetarian Korma, Rava Laddoo,

Japanese — Edamame, Sunomono Salad, California-Tuna-Inarizushi Rolls

Chinese — Chinese Fried Rice, Chow Mein

Taiwanese — Spring Rolls

Creole — Gumbo

Danish — Rodkål, Brunede Kartofler

Slovakian — Holubky, Kolaci

Polish — Kielbasa, Pierogi, Paszteciki, Kremówka Papieska (Papal cream cake)

Moroccan — Chicken Tagine

Mediterranean — Baklava

French — Clafoutis (Pouires & Cerises)

American — Deviled eggs, Mac n Cheese

Salads — Caesar Salad, Roasted Beet & Orange, French Potato Salad,

Moroccan Salad, Cucumber Salad, Celery Root Remoulade



Notes from Fr. Nick

Heaven, a Luxury Cruise?

Is it shallow of me to think of heaven as a luxury cruise? Last June, while serving as the Ship's Chaplain on the *Crystal Serenity*, I sat in the cocktail lounge one evening drinking a Negroni. A string quartet was playing. Everybody was dressed up and on their best manners. The travails of family, business, and life were land-side, and all were living in the moment. There was an atmosphere of privilege. Not the kind of entitlement that masquerades as privilege, but a genuine, deep acceptance that none of us really deserved this luxury. And yet, we accepted the honor of this state as a true gift. (At least I did.)

A scene in *Monty Python's The Meaning of Life* ridicules this idea, by depicting heaven as a gaudy, Las Vegas-style auditorium. While the piece is meant to satirize vacuous middle-class England, I wonder if our pursuit of hard-nosed reality clouds the bliss we can expect. I suspect most of us tend to think of heaven as a less strenuous, less rancorous version of life here on earth. While we know that heaven is completely unlike anything we have ever experienced, it's hard to bend our minds around such an arcane concept. Thus we think in metaphors from the life we know.

In Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Miss Watson describes heaven as a place where "all a body would have to do there was to go around all day long with a harp and sing, forever and ever." Huck concluded that if heaven was as boring as that, he'd rather go to the "bad place." I'm with Finn on this one. My musings above notwithstanding, some of my greatest bliss comes from being engaged: research, a challenging project, art, helping someone through a crisis. This doesn't square with the Miss Watson's image of eternal leisure.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* describes heaven as the "Beatific Vision" — seeing God face to face (CCC 1023). That is all well and good, but even in eternity I wonder how long lovers can stare at each other! Fortunately, the *Catechism* fleshes out the idea a little further; it opens the possibility of continued engagement with the things we love. As the *Catechism* goes on to state:

this communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed — is called 'heaven.' Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness. (CCC 1024)

I'm not sure there is only one Heaven. I talked to some Marine fighter pilots on a previous cruise and it was clear that their heaven was cheating death. They liked to stretch life to its limits, zooming around in their jets. For others, Heaven is being in the embrace of their spouse. I am told there is no greater ecstasy. Maybe the problem is choosing which heaven we want.

How do you imagine heaven? I suspect the clearness of your description may reflect a lot about your faith.

Her sister, Miss Watson, a tolerable slim old maid, with goggles on, had just come to live with her, and took a set at me now, with a spelling-book. She worked me middling hard for about an hour, and then the widow made her ease up. I couldn't stood it much longer. Then for an hour it was deadly dull, and I was fidgety. Miss Watson would say, "Dont put your feet up there, Huckleberry;" and "dont scrunch up like that, Huckleberry—set up straight;" and pretty soon she would say, "Don't gap and stretch like that, Huckleberry—why don't you try to behave?" Then she told me all about the bad place, and I said I wished I was there. She got mad, then, but I didn't mean no harm. All I wanted was to go somewheres; all I wanted was a change, I warn't particular. She said it was wicked to say what I said; said she wouldn't say it for the whole world; she was going to live so as to go to the good place. Well, I couldn't see no advantage in going where she was going, so I made up my mind I wouldn't try for it. But I never said so, because it would only make trouble, and wouldn't do no good.

Now she had got a start, and she went on and told me all about the good place. She said all a body would have to do there was to go around all day long with a harp and sing, forever and ever. S



Miss Watson

Today, August 23rd, is our Fourth Sunday Dinner for the Hungry

Experience the joy of serving our less-fortunate Berkeley neighbors! Join us today between 2:15 & 4:00 pm.



You are welcome to help set up or serve our guests (see times below), but **we really need volunteers to help clean the kitchen and Magdalen Hall.**

We set up from 11:30 am to 12:30

pm, prepare to serve at 2:15 pm, start cleaning the kitchen at 2:00 pm and start putting away the tables & chairs at about 3:20 to 3:30 pm (depending on how many guests show up).

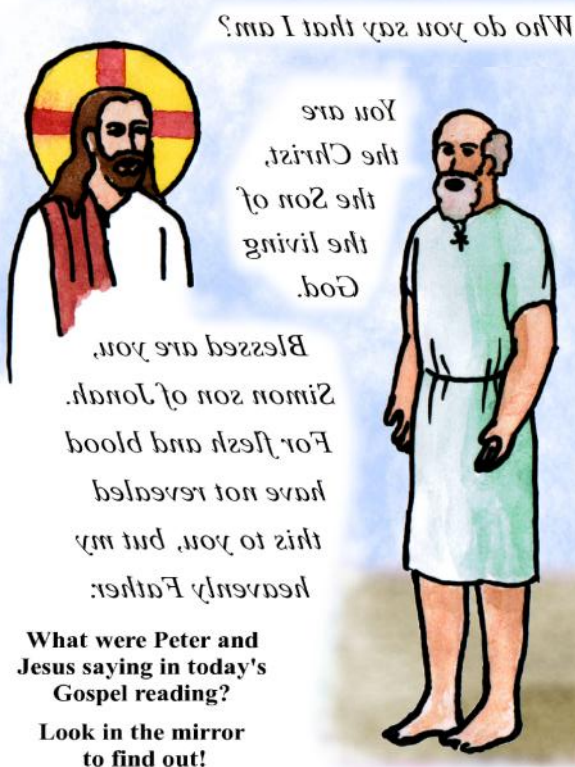


Use the QR Code to Sign Up to Volunteer!

By popular demand, we are offering a new signup form to all volunteers. All the slots are listed through the next few Dinners — we have many roles to offer! Click here: tinyurl.com/SundayDinnersSignUp

The Kids' Bulletin

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 23rd, 2026



What were Peter and Jesus saying in today's Gospel reading?

Look in the mirror to find out!

thekidsbulletin.com

Study Pope Leo's 1st Encyclical



POPE LEO XIV

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS

MAGNIFICENT HUMANITY

On Protecting the Human Person in the Age of Artificial Intelligence



Are you interested in the Pope's take on AI?

Deacon Jeff Burns, now a Professor Emeritus of the Franciscan School of Theology, will lead a study group this Fall to examine Pope Leo's recent encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*. Beginning on September 14th, 2026, participants in the class will read and discuss the encyclical

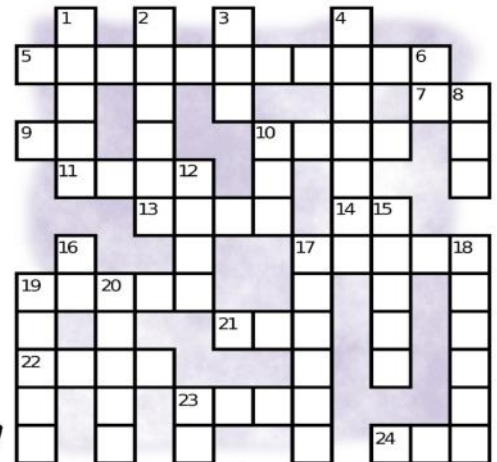
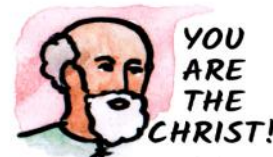
over the course of five weeks, gathering in Norton Hall each Monday evening at 7:00 pm.

Jeff Burns, Ph.D., is widely published in local church history and serves as the director of the Academy of American Franciscan History.

Interested? Email: jburns@marymagdalen.org.

"Who do you say that I am?" CROSSWORD

See how well you know what happened in today's Gospel story!



- ACROSS**
5. "...the gates of the _____ will not prevail..."
 7. "...this rock I will build my Church..."
 9. "Whatever you bind on earth shall _____ bound in Heaven."
 10. "I will _____ you the keys of the kingdom..."
 11. "On this _____ I will build my Church."
 13. Jesus made Peter the _____ of the Church on earth.
 14. "Whatever you loose on earth will be loosed _____ Heaven."
 17. "_____ and blood have not revealed this to you..."
 19. "_____ asked them, 'Who do you say that I am?'"
 21. God _____ Peter in charge of His Church on earth.
 22. Jesus changed Simon's _____ to Peter.
 23. "Flesh and blood _____ not revealed this to you..."
 24. "...You are the Christ, the _____ of the living God!"
- DOWN**
1. _____ said, "You are the Christ..."
 2. "On this rock I will build my _____."
 3. "Blessed _____ you, Simon..."
 4. "...the gates of the netherworld shall not _____..."
 6. "Who _____ people say that the Son of Man is?"
 8. "Flesh and blood have _____ revealed this..."
 10. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living _____!"
 12. "I will give you the _____ to the kingdom of Heaven."
 15. When will the gates of the netherworld prevail against the Church?
 16. _____ belong to the Church that Jesus started.
 17. The Heavenly _____ revealed to Simon who Jesus was.
 18. "...the keys to the kingdom of _____..."
 19. "Blessed are you, Simon, son of _____"
 20. Peter's name before Jesus changed it.
 23. Jesus ordered the disciples to tell no one that _____ was the Christ.

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