

# 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

Tues./Wed./Thurs./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

**Fr. Nicholas Glisson**, Pastor  
[pastor@marymagdalen.org](mailto:pastor@marymagdalen.org)

**Norah Hippolyte**, Pastoral  
Associate & Business Manager  
[nhippolyte@marymagdalen.org](mailto:nhippolyte@marymagdalen.org)

**Andy Canepa**, Music Director  
[acanepa@marymagdalen.org](mailto:acanepa@marymagdalen.org)

**Heather Skinner**  
Director of Religious Education  
[hskinner@themadeleine.com](mailto:hskinner@themadeleine.com)

**Deacon:**  
**Jeff Burns** (Parish Renewal)  
[jburns@marymagdalen.org](mailto:jburns@marymagdalen.org)

**Priest-in-Residence:**  
**Fr. Wilson Sagayaraj, SVD**  
[wsagayaraj@marymagdalen.org](mailto:wsagayaraj@marymagdalen.org)

**Cat Nielsen**, Parish Technologist /  
Adult Faith Formation (ext. 113)  
[website@marymagdalen.org](mailto:website@marymagdalen.org)

**Oscar Guillen**,  
Facilities Supervisor  
**Ana Guillen**, Housekeeper

**Lisa Aliferis**, Convener  
**Parish Pastoral Council**  
[ppc@marymagdalen.org](mailto:ppc@marymagdalen.org)

**Georganne Perkins**, Convener  
**Parish Finance Council**  
[georganne.perkins@gmail.com](mailto:georganne.perkins@gmail.com)

**Laura Morland**, Volunteer  
Bulletin Editor (ext. 118)  
[bulletin@marymagdalen.org](mailto:bulletin@marymagdalen.org)

**St. Vincent de Paul** (ext. 787)  
[svdp@marymagdalen.org](mailto:svdp@marymagdalen.org)

**School of the Madeleine**  
1225 Milvia Street  
Berkeley, California 94709  
510.526.4744

**Joseph Nagel**, Principal  
[jnagel@themadeleine.com](mailto:jnagel@themadeleine.com)

Vice-Principals:

**Heather Skinner**  
[hskinner@themadeleine.com](mailto:hskinner@themadeleine.com)

**Paula Rice**  
[price@themadeleine.com](mailto:price@themadeleine.com)

**Mary Schweska**, Secretary  
[madmary@themadeleine.com](mailto:madmary@themadeleine.com)

**Catholic Funeral Services** 510.605.4921

## STAFF CONTACTS FOR PARISH & SCHOOL: [marymagdalen.org/staff](http://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 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Mass, and by appointment.

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

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

# Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A ~ October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## Parish Collections through September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026

| Sunday       | Actual       | Budget       | Difference   |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 09/27/2026   | \$7,097.45   | \$10,000.00  | -\$2,902.55  |
| Year-to-Date | \$388,788.86 | \$402,000.00 | -\$13,211.14 |
| HELP!        |              |              |              |

*Come down to  
Norton Hall  
for COFFEE HOUR  
and fellowship  
following the  
8:00 & 9:30 am  
Masses!*



## Scripture Readings for the Week

- 4<sup>th</sup> **TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
Isaiah 5:1-7 / Philippians 4:6-9 / Matthew 21:33-43
- 5<sup>th</sup> *Weekday [St. Faustina Kowalska, Religious;  
Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest]*  
Galatians 1:6-12 / Luke 10:25-37
- 6<sup>th</sup> *Weekday [St. Bruno, Priest; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher]*  
Galatians 1:13-24 / Luke 10:38-42
- 7<sup>th</sup> *Memorial: Our Lady of the Rosary*  
Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14 / Luke 11:1-4
- 8<sup>th</sup> *Weekday*  
Galatians 3:1-5 / Luke 11:5-13
- 9<sup>th</sup> *Weekday [St. Denis, Bishop & Companions, Martyrs;  
St. John Leonardi, Priest]*  
Galatians 3:7-14 / Luke 11:15-26
- 10<sup>th</sup> *Weekday [Blessed Virgin Mary]*  
Galatians 3:22-29 / Luke 11:27-28

## Mass Intentions



- Saturday 5:30 Jane Gaspardone RIP
- Sunday 9:30 Mary Cao RIP
- 11:30 For the People of the Parish
- Monday 5:30 Carol Carman
- Tuesday 8:30 Intentions of Sr. Anne Herkenrath
- Wednesday 5:30 Intentions of Michael Mahoney
- Thursday 8:30 Intentions of Linda Fitzgerald
- Friday 5:30 Bill Rauch RIP
- Saturday 8:30 Intentions of Richard Day

## Parish Calendar through October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

- October 2 **FUNERAL FOR DOROTHY PORTNER**  
Friday 10:30 am, Rosary; 11:00 am, Funeral
- October 2 **Eucharistic Adoration (Holy Hour)**  
Friday ~6:00 pm (after the 5:30 pm Mass)
- October 3-4 **Preacher at Weekend Masses: Fr. Nick**  
Weekend 5:30 pm Saturday; 8:00 / 9:30 / 11:30 am Sunday
- October 4 **First Sunday Dinner for the Hungry**  
Sunday Noon-4:00 pm, Magdalen Hall. *Sign Up:* 
- October 5 **Pre-Baptismal Seminar**  
Monday 5:30-6:30 pm, Zoom. (*Call the office in advance.*)
- October 5 **Seminar: Pope Leo's Magnificent Humanity**  
Monday 7:00 pm, Norton Hall & Zoom. (*See page 3.*)
- October 5 **St. Vincent de Paul Conference Meeting**  
Monday 7:00 pm, Magdalen Hall *All are welcome!*
- October 6 **Discussion of the Sunday Gospel** Zoom link:  
Tuesday 2:00-3:00 pm, [tinyurl.com/SMM-GospelGroup](https://tinyurl.com/SMM-GospelGroup)
- October 6 **Adult Christian Initiation**  
Tuesday 7:00 pm, Norton Hall (*Inquirers welcome*)
- October 8 **Meeting of SPRED Catechism**  
Thursday 6:30 pm, Norton Hall
- October 9 **Discussion of the Sunday Gospel**  
Friday 9:15—10:15 am, Conference Room
- October 9 **Peace & Justice Monthly Meeting**  
Friday 4:00 - 5:00 pm, Norton Hall
- October 10-11 **Preacher at Weekend Masses: Deacon Jeff**  
Weekend 5:30 pm Saturday; 8:00 / 9:30 / 11:30 am Sunday

## Would You Like to Help Your Parish Thrive?

### *A message from the Parish Pastoral Council:*

Thank you to those who have already responded to the Parish Council's campaign to increase your giving. Our recent collections have greatly improved overall, the result of many of you raising the amount of your weekly or monthly gifts since Fr. Nick reported on our operating budget (outlined in this [Pastor's Column](#)).

Yet (as you can see above), we are still not making our weekly goal. If you have not yet done so, please prayerfully take some time to reflect on whether you or your family could afford to increase your regular donations by 10%. You can create or adjust your EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) payment by scanning this QR code or by clicking on the URL below.



If you need assistance, please call the office, and Norah, our Business Manager, will help: 510-526-4811 x 111.

The URL is [tinyurl.com/SMM-Donate](https://tinyurl.com/SMM-Donate).



# Dominican Sisters

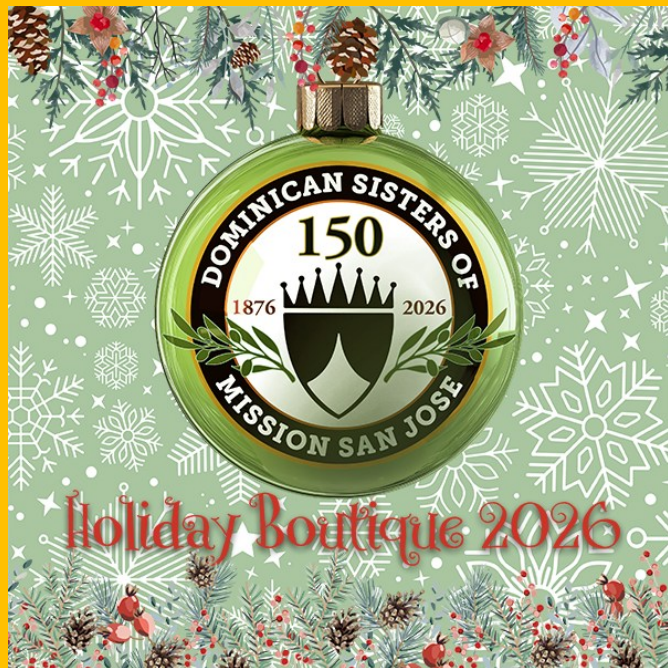
## OF MISSION SAN JOSE

### *Continuing Our Journey*



1876

2026



## Holiday Boutique 2026

November 21

10 am-2 pm



Dominican Sisters  
OF MISSION SAN JOSE

Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose | 43326 Mission Circle | Fremont, CA 94539

## Can Animals go to Heaven?

We have invited our pets to celebrate the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi with us in the church this weekend. Among many other things, pets give us comfort, protect us, engage our sense of responsibility, and entertain us. Generally, pets humanize us by bringing out our best qualities. But do our pets accompany us into heaven? Since nobody has ever returned from the dead to give us a report, whatever is said is speculation. The answer given may reveal more about our life philosophy than it does about what happens to animals after they die.

Traditionally, an animal's immortality (or lack thereof) has flowed from the theologian's philosophical framework. St. Thomas Aquinas defined the soul as the life-principle or animating force of any living body. St. Thomas categorized the soul into three states:

- ♦ *Vegetative*—the ability of plants to respond to their environment, grow, nourish and reproduce.
- ♦ *Sentient souls*—possess all the qualities of vegetative. In addition, they can also perceive, move about and exhibit basic animal passions and emotions. These souls die when the body dies.
- ♦ *Rational souls*—retain all the above but also have an immortal intellect and free will. Human beings alone have rational souls. Since only humans possess rational, immortal souls, only they can enjoy perfect union with God, and enter heaven. He thus concluded: animals do *not* go to heaven. (*Summa Theologica*, Question 75)



Photo: Gina Ramos Campbell

There is a fundamental problem with Thomas Aquinas' conclusion, which is rooted in the way he argues the point. Like any good Scholastic philosopher, following on Aristotle's methodology, Thomas assigns the categories of *vegetative*, *sentient* and *rational* as conditions for immortality, and from that deduces animals' souls are mortal. Ultimately, this assignment is arbitrary. It may follow logically, but it doesn't account for the mystery of God's providence. God can do whatever God wants, including having plants and animals in heaven!

The *Book of Revelation* is filled with symbolic creatures in heaven. Most prominent is the Lamb, which represents Christ as the sacrifice (Rev. 5:6). There are also the four living creatures, a lion, ox, a human face and an eagle

(Rev. 4:7). These are understood to be the four evangelists in the New Testament. A red dragon represents Satan (Rev. 12:3) and there are beasts from the sea and the earth (Rev. 13:1-2, 11). In all cases these animals are symbols that develop out of Christ's passion, death, resurrection and ascension. Thus, they are not seen as real animals, such as those in the story of creation (Gen. 1:24-25). Nevertheless, the authors of *Genesis* and *Revelation* assume there are animals in heaven, just as St. Thomas Aquinas does not.

Recent popes have weighed in on different sides of the argument. Pope Benedict sided with St. Thomas Aquinas. He said that eternal life is received by humans through spiritual rebirth and baptism—something animals do not experience. On the other hand, Pope Saint John Paul II said that animals have breath from God, and are close to him. Pope Francis said that paradise is open to all God's creatures.

All of these arguments miss an essential point—heaven is a state of being, not a place. It is a status of perfect union with God. To the degree that all creation can be in union with God in eternity, they can be in heaven. Our images of heaven are always metaphorical. Only metaphors enable us to describe something completely outside our experience. But, the nature of our metaphors may offer us a glimpse into the character of heaven. The Church teaches that part of our perfect union with God is the communion of saints. If the saints we know from this life are together with us in heaven, why not our furry, feathered, and scaly friends?

## The Fabric of God's Plan



Reimagining The Iconographic Tradition

Textiles By Mary Day

Blackfriars Gallery  
2301 Vine Street, Berkeley, CA

Fall 2026 Exhibition  
September through December



## Volunteer Opportunity This Sunday

This Sunday, October 4th, is our **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Dinner for the Hungry**. Would you have an hour or so to spare? If so, come down to Magdalen Hall sometime today from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm!



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

We prepare to serve at **2:15 pm**, and then we start cleaning the kitchen at **2:30 pm** and putting away tables and chairs at **~3:30 pm**.

### Attention All Bakers!

Our guests like sweets and really appreciate your desserts. You may drop them off during Coffee Hour (**7:30 am to 11:00 am**) or in the Magdalen kitchen (**11:00 am to 1:00 pm**). Our guests will be so grateful!

Please sign up here: [tinyurl.com/SundayDinnersSignUps](https://tinyurl.com/SundayDinnersSignUps)

## The Kids' Bulletin

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
October 4th, 2026



What did the bad tenants do when the owner's son came to get the produce?  
Use the code below to find out.

! 7 E O 7 0 0 E 7 0

DEHIKLMTY

## The Evil Tenants Word-Find



Find the words that are in **CAPITALS** in the puzzle and use the left-over letters to fill in the blanks:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

D G W I T O P D S O N  
E V I N E Y A R D S W  
A E N H N P R E S S I  
T S E E A R A S E T L  
H E I R N O B P R O L  
R I N I T D L E V N L  
E Z A T S U E C A E E  
W E G A T C H T N D A  
I D A N B E A T T S S  
S O I C O M E S S N E  
O W N E R K I L L E D

Jesus told this **PARABLE**: There was a landowner who planted a **VINEYARD** and built a tower and a **WINE PRESS**. When he went away, he **LEASED** it to tenants. In time, he sent **SERVANTS** to get his **PRODUCE**, but the tenants **BEAT** one, killed one, and **STONED** another. The man sent more servants, but the **TENANTS** did the same thing **AGAIN**. Finally, he sent his **SON**, thinking that they would **RESPECT** him at least. But the tenants saw the son coming and said, "Here comes the **HEIR**. If we kill him we can get his **INHERITANCE**!" So they **SEIZED** him, **THREW** him out and **KILLED** him too!

Jesus asked, "What will the land **OWNER** do when he **COMES**?"

The people said, "Put the tenants to **DEATH** and lease the vineyard to tenants who **WILL** pay."

ONE NAME TO REMEMBER  
WHEN IT'S TIME TO  
REMEMBER



**SUNSET VIEW**  
CEMETERY ASSOCIATION  
CEMETERY • CREMATORY • MORTUARY

101 Colusa Avenue  
El Cerrito, CA 94530  
E.D. LIC #1079

EXCELLENT,  
AFFORDABLE  
SERVICES SINCE 1908

CALL US ABOUT PRE-NEED ARRANGEMENTS  
[SUNSETVIEWMORTUARY.COM](http://SUNSETVIEWMORTUARY.COM)  
510.525.5111



**Dr. Kristina Zoulas**  
*Woman-Owned & Parishioner-Led*  
We Welcome Children, Adults, and Families  
Offering preventive, restorative, and cosmetic dentistry



**(510) 845-8780**  
2414 Ashby Ave. Suite 101 Berkeley  
[Berkeleydentalstudio.com](http://Berkeleydentalstudio.com)

**FREE AD  
DESIGN WITH  
PURCHASE OF  
THIS SPACE**

Call 800.950.9952

**ADT-Monitored Home Security**  
Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide



**833-287-3502**

**IF YOU LIVE ALONE**

**MDMedAlert!** Less Than \$1 a day

- Ambulance
- Police/Fire
- Family/Friends
- GPS & Fall Alert

**CALL NOW! 800.809.3570** [md-medalert.com](http://md-medalert.com)



Little space.  
**Big impact.**

Advertise here  
Call 800-950-9952

**Never miss our bulletin!**

Get this bulletin delivered straight to your inbox every week.

Scan to subscribe on [parishesonline.com](http://parishesonline.com)



**WE APPRECIATE OUR ADVERTISERS**

They allow us to print this bulletin. Thank you!



Let Go.  
Let God.



**Support Our Parish**

Local business ads sponsor the printing of our bulletin.

[4lpi.com/advertising-solutions](http://4lpi.com/advertising-solutions)

Does your organization need a newsletter?  
We'll cover the printing costs!

Learn more at [lpicommunities.com](http://lpicommunities.com)



**Support Our Advertisers!**

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE  
NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD.  
NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**Support Our Advertisers!**