



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, March 29, 2020

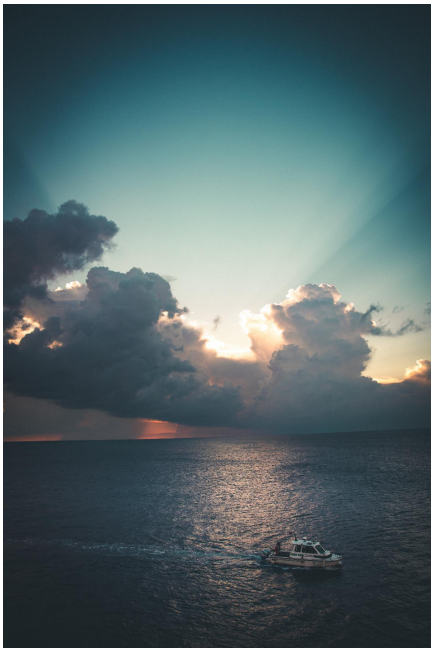


Photo by [Casey Horner](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Loving God,
All seems adrift.

Is this what it takes to let us know
We are One?
Is this what it takes to make us live
As One?
Is this the high price of love
And solidarity?
We long to regather
With You and all our suffering world.
May we hold one another till then.
May You hold us.
Let it be so....
Let it be so.

Interfaith Prayer by Fr. Richard Rohr

Greetings!

Have you **noticed** how people's true spirits come out in the darkest times? While we are in such a difficult time and life is so uncertain right now, do you know **some of the things I notice** I notice people singing on their balconies in Italy and musicians sharing their music on Facebook, both the ones that we well know, and the ones that we love who seem to reach into our very souls with their music (Chip Milligan.....)!! I notice the doctors, nurses, EMT's, police and front line workers- they risk their lives, working incredibly long hours, pushing themselves beyond human limits to save others. This week there are another 40,000 or so that Governor Cuomo invited back into service. My heart was especially moved this week as I listened to a member of our precious

MMC community speak about receiving that notice from Governor Cuomo. She could feel the fear within her, along side the voice that said "This is why I became a nurse. This is what it is all about! And I live alone- I'm not even putting others at risk. How can I not go!" As I listened to her, I heard a resolve in her voice, and absolute peace in her decision to volunteer, and go wherever she is called! What faith! What courage!

I saw pictures of the dozen of masks that Kathleen Welch's 82-year-old mother sewed for the caregivers at Lifetime Assistance, and I've watched video's of teachers offering parades for their children, and strangers doing the same for a young boy with special needs. I've heard people who are struggling speak about getting an anonymous gift certificate in the mail, and I've watched members of our community offering to help in any way they can. Those who are able-bodied being a lifeline for others that live in the same building, picking up groceries and prescriptions, preparing meals and sharing love.

I've noticed people making connections that go deeper and are so much more intimate than what was comfortable just one month ago. In our vulnerability there is a beauty that is beyond what words can describe because it is so real.

God's angels come in many sizes, many different walks of life. Their voices are different but their heart and soul are fully engaged! They care for the people they serve and they rush in to help others that they may not even know, simply because there is a need! This is where and how we find the face of God in distress. And as difficult as this is, and given that the future is unknown, and in spite of the fact that each and every one of us feels afraid, and we cry because we miss hugging our family or because we will miss our grand-babies first birthday (April 1), I believe that on the other side of this we will experience humanity in an entirely different way. I believe having come face to face with such lonely and scary times, we just might suddenly become aware that we are our sisters' and brothers' keepers. I think we will see through one another's eyes in a new way, and realize- there but for the Grace of God am I. Every moment of every day is a grace! And the fact that some seem to have an easier time through life, has nothing to do with some of us being better than others. The fact that we may have it easier is also not because God plays favorites or "looks with favor on us" (whatever that may mean!) We just may have it easier because of the roll of the dice. Yes, God is with us every moment of every day, EVERY DAY, and sometimes we find God in the golden thread that we might not be able to see until the tapestry is finished. Yes even in our present time that Golden Thread is there, and if you wonder where it is- look for God's angels... They are everywhere, they just don't have their wings yet!!

But as you know, finding ways to be together in this time when we cannot gather in one place is also extremely important. As you know we made a commitment to be together every Sunday morning at 10:00. This week we felt it was important to practice social distance by remaining separate on Sunday morning, but figuring out how to do this and at the same time be live has been a challenge. That is why this bulletin is as late as it is. We have been working right up to "press time." The **good news** is that we know that everyone will be able to join us!! Because our live streaming on Facebook is public anyone who has the right link can connect with it!! **In other words you do not have to have an account on Facebook to join us.** You will be asked about creating an account and you just click "NOT AT THIS TIME". Please use this link: <https://www.facebook.com/MaryMagdaleneChurch> **Below there is a box**

entitled "Sunday Liturgy: Facebook Live" you will find step by step instructions.

Last week I wrote extensively about our plan for a Communal Blessing of Bread vs Eucharist. If you did not have an opportunity to read that you will find it under all of the announcements below, entitled "We are a Eucharistic People." As a reminder, in preparation for our gathering Sunday at 10:00, I invite you to light a candle, gather just 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. May we feel the unity of being connected through the Holy Spirit, praying with one mind and one heart!!

It's hard to believe but Palm Sunday is next weekend and Lent is entering its final weeks. One thing that I do every year during Lent is a Reconciliation Service. For the last 10 years I have offered a meditation time during our service. I believe in a God of unconditional forgiveness who doesn't require an intermediary in the process. Instead the role of the priest is to help you feel the forgiveness that God so freely offers. This is what we celebrate and it is a beautiful service of healing and reflection. This year I will offer this opportunity on Thursday night, April 2 at 7:00 on ZOOM. If you'd like some help in getting set up on Zoom you can sign in anytime from 6:45 on and we'll help you get comfortable. [Reconciliation Service](#)

Listed below you will find some opportunities to connect that will be weekly.

Peter Veitch will be offering:

Praying the [Rosary](#) every morning at 8:00 a.m.

[Stations of the Cross](#) every Friday afternoon at 3:00.

I will be offering an opportunity for

[Wednesday Morning Coffee & Prayer](#) on Wednesday mornings at 10:00.

Chris O'Brien & Sue Pagano will be offering an opportunity for

[Coffee Hour](#) on Fridays at 1:00

Watch for other opportunities as well. I will be sending a bulletin mid-week every week at this point to keep you updated and informed.

Another way to connect is via the Website!! www.marymagdalenechurch.org
Our new website is now up and running and we are working on updating it to be reflective of events that are now happening. Emma Milligan will be continuing to work on getting it as up to date as possible. On it you will find a few homilies and bulletins and more will be coming.

Finally, you can now support Mary Magdalene Church on Amazon!!! If you sign into Amazon through Amazon Smile: smile.amazon.com and select Mary Magdalene Church as the charity you'd like to support, we will get a small donation for every purchase you make. (You will notice many listings for Mary Magdalene Church, but look for the location of East Rochester, NY). You will find that the website is exactly the same (except you will see the words: Amazon Smile Prime, instead of Amazon Prime). You will still be able to get all of your Amazon Prime benefits, but Amazon gives a very small percentage to the charity of your choice. **And you can set your Amazon shortcut to go to AmazonSmile.**

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 our trustees.

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 been asked by a few people how they might be able to support Mary Magdalene Church during this challenging time, so, in light of this, we have set up a donation button through our bulletin for those who would like to donate. We understand these are difficult times for so many, so please see this as an option for those who choose, and 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

Join us every Friday at 1:00
Bring your coffee
your computer or smart phone

[**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 underestimate 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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