The Resurrection of the Lord

He is Risen!

Saint Mary Magdalen
Locked away from the dangers outside, frustrated, uncertain, tired, and tested, the first disciples were isolated. With their own eyes, each of them saw at least a part of what happened to Jesus. Some ran away in the garden. Some followed along to a certain point until accused of following him. Some walked with Jesus along the way of sorrow; and a few were with him to the very end. The crisis of the Passion led them all back to the upper room behind locked doors where it was safe.

But let us never forget: Easter began in the confines of that upper room.

Many of us have been locked away during this pandemic - a crisis the world has not experienced in around 100 years, and many of us are probably feeling the same mix of feelings the disciples felt during the course of Jesus’ passion, death, and burial.

But regardless of what we experience or what feelings we have: Easter is come.

Jesus Christ is alive. He is risen. He is risen as he said. He is standing in our midst wherever we are right now, and he is extending his arms open in love for and in solidarity with us. “Peace be with you,” he blesses. “Peace be with you,” he prays.

What this pandemic can teach us is that just as Jesus is faithful through the passion and cross, through his suffering the ultimate isolation of death, because of him, we can be faithful too. And by Jesus’ grace, we have been.

Sure we have had some melt downs. We have gotten edgy, and on each other’s nerves. Yes, some of us have exhausted our patience, our livelihood, our strength. But with Easter eyes we can see each other following Jesus in our own way, hungering to be back together to celebrate his Resurrection, desiring to be fed by him in the Eucharist, in Scripture proclaimed, in our community’s life, and even through the touch of the ministerial priesthood. These hungers, these desires, they are what the Easter Alleluia is all about. In them we see that nothing can prevent Jesus from infecting us with a desire to follow him and to be together to support one another in our following of him, and with a share in his victory over sin and death; not even an infection that seems much like the stone that was rolled across Jesus’ tomb to so quickly have brought the whole world to a stand-still. Jesus has rolled away stones before. He will help us roll this pandemic stone away as well. He is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

I am writing this message to you after just learning we will be apart from each other more severely and for a bit longer than we expected. As you receive this, please also receive with it my prayers and blessing for each of you. I could never imagined that a year ago when I first learned I would be coming here as your Pastor that we would be walking together – at a social distance – through such a challenging time. You are a blessing to me, and an encouragement to both my priesthood and my faith in Jesus Christ. You are my Easter this year. Let us continue to pledge as we keep moving forward to be Easter to one another.

Peace & Love,
Fr. Shaun

Please remember in your prayers:
Jim Cubr and family, in the death of his father, Joseph.
Mary Walker and family, in the death of her niece, Lisa Schibley.

In the darkest part of the forest, the Spirit shines brightest.
-Lauren Benson

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION
www.saintmarymagdalen.org
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 29, 2020

STEWARDSHIP REPORT
WEEK OF 3/22/20

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Please consider giving online at our website, by clicking on Online Giving-Donation-Payment, or by texting your donation to: 844-928-0075
Thank you.

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Thank you.

WATCH ST. MARY MAGDALEN
SUNDAY LITURGY ONLINE!
Livestream Saturdays at 4 pm
Or on our website for viewing later-available after 6:30 pm Saturdays
www.saintmarymagdalen.org
Look for the Video Link

Sending Easter Greetings and well wishes to Sister Joyce!
The sisters in Tiffin, Ohio tell us that Sister Joyce loves cards and looks at them often. Please send cards directly to Sr. Joyce.
Sister Joyce Hoile, OSF
St. Francis Convent
200 St. Francis Ave
Tiffin, OH 44883

Thank you to everyone who has made a gift or pledge commitment to our Diocesan Services Appeal. We are grateful for the guidance of the Spirit in the selection of this year’s DSA theme “Happy the one who trusts in the Lord!” Proverbs 16:20. In these turbulent times, a welcome message of reassurance for us! If you have not yet made a gift or a pledge, we invite you to do so today. Or you may submit your gift online at www.dioceseoflansing.org/dsa.
At present, due to reduced staffing, The Catholic Foundation is processing online gifts and pledges only. Gifts and pledges received in the mail from parishes and individuals will be secured until full staffing and gift processing resumes.

PASTORAL STAFF

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK


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In Faith We Overcome Fear

In these uncertain times we are living through, as we adjust to changing circumstances in our lives, there is a need for a sense of peace and comfort. Listening to the radio this past week, the station (not a Catholic or Christian radio station) had a guest Episcopal priest on. He was asked to say a prayer for all of us to help ease the anxiety and fear so many are experiencing. One line that really struck me and has stayed with me is, “It is in faith we overcome fear.” Although we may not be able to gather as a community of faith in our places of worship, we remain a strong community of faith. Rely on your faith. Pray for yourself, your loved ones and the community at large. Remember, even in these uncertain times, as Fr. Shaun reminds us weekly, “God is with us!”

Grade 1-5 Religious Formation Online Links

While all parish gatherings are cancelled, we want to provide and encourage families with a way to continue using the Discover! Program at home. This is the program grades 1-5 have been using this formation year. It coordinates with the new children’s Bible each family was gifted with at the beginning of the year. Please see the Religious Formation page on the STMM website for the links.

Religious Formation Updates

Please continue to consult the STMM website for updates on religious formation for all grades.

2020-2021 Religious Formation Registration

If Brighton schools are back in session by April 15, registration for fall Religious Formation classes will take place as shown below.

Wednesday: April 15 and 22 from 5:00 – 6:00 pm
Thursday: April 16 and 23 from 5:30 – 6:30 pm

If Brighton school are NOT back in session by April 15, we will postpone registration until further notice.

The STMM website has information on the 2020-2021 class schedule, including changes to our Sunday programming, class cancellation policy, and tuition rates. www.saintmarymagdalen.org

CHANGE!

DEARBORN MEAT ORDERS FOR MOTHER’S DAY!

Our Easter orders have been cancelled—we are re-organizing for Mother’s Day. If you are interested in ordering, please call Lori Sproull at 517-304-6379 by APRIL 26. You may pay by credit card using the “Donate” link on the Saint Mary Magdalen website tagging it as Dearborn Meat Order or send a check to St. Mary Magdalen, attention Dearborn Meat Order. If you have already ordered for Easter, please call Laurie if you would like to keep or cancel your order. Thank you for your patience!

Deadline to order is APRIL 26. Proceeds earned from this fundraiser will help to lower the cost for our summer service trip. Delivery will be Wednesday, MAY 6. Pick-up at church for your order will be between noon and 7pm. Thank you for supporting our youth!

Project YM - Sundays @ 8pm

Thousands of teenagers from across the country are gathering on Sunday nights for the BIGGEST YOUTH NIGHT EVER. It’s called ProjectYM Live and each week it’ll feature some of the biggest speakers and worship leaders in the Catholic youth ministry world.

Our parish is signed up to participate – all your teenager has to do is head to PROJECTYM.COM/WATCH this Sunday at 8pm. Plan to have your teen log in a few minutes early to make sure they’re on when it starts. They can access the event on any device with a web browser – but the faster the connection, the better. Adults can watch too!

CHARITY & JUSTICE

If you know of anyone in need of assistance during this difficult time, please encourage them to call the parish office and leave a message for Deacon Jim Chevalier, extension 111. Also, if you would like to offer your time or donate money to help others, please call Deacon Jim to be added to our list of people who can help or donate online to ALMS.

Our St. Vincent de Paul bi-annual clothing drive will be May 2 & 3. Please set aside your gently used clothing for that weekend!
READINGS AND INTENTIONS

Monday, March 30
+Gwen Maes

Tuesday, March 31
Nm 21:4-9/Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday, April 1
Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Jn 8:31-42
+Rose Knapp

Thursday, April 2
Gn 17:3-9/Jn 8:51-59
+Katie Barazsu

Friday, April 3
Jer 20:10-13/Jn 10:31-42
+Ron Rowe

Saturday, April 4
Ez 37:21-28/Jn 11:45-56

Sunday, April 5
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
+Jane Turowski
+Melissa Loniewski

The People of St. Mary Magdalen

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD’S PASSION

Isaiah 50:4-7 Chapters 40 – 55 of the Book of Isaiah contain the message of a prophet who spoke to God’s people during their exile in Babylon. Several times, the prophet speaks about a servant who will one day deliver God’s people. Because the servant is portrayed as suffering, Christians have traditionally identified Jesus with this suffering servant.

Philippians 2:6-11 We have in this passage one of the most beautiful sections of Paul’s letter to the Philippians. He wants the members of the community at Philippi to work harder at unity and humility, and to teach this he quotes an early Christian hymn about Jesus.

Matthew 26:14-27:66 The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew The specifics in the Gospel narratives can be both historic and symbolic. We interpret scripture conscious of God’s Providence; God can see to it that literal events have symbolic dimensions. Matthew has an eye for detail. Because Matthew’s community had a large number of Jewish Christians, he frequently refers back to the Jewish Scriptures to ground his gospel.

Reflect: To what in your life must you die in order to rise with Christ?

EASTER SUNDAY

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43
In this reading we see a progression of action. Peter is in the house of Cornelius. He is describing the activity of the Christian faith from the baptism John announced up to the present time.

Colossians 3:1-4
Although some believers think of the Christ event as something that existed only in the past and that we merely remember this now, this reading for Easter Sunday clearly weds the life of Christ with the life of those in the Church right now.

Matthew 28:1-10
Matthew’s Resurrection narrative recounts that as Mary Magdalen and another Mary arrived at Jesus’ tomb, they first encountered an earthquake, depicting to the Jews an Old Testament signal of both the action of God and the dawning of a new age. Now the new age fully dawns, with Jesus’ Resurrection confirming the act of God and releasing the power of Divine Life.

Reflect: What does the Resurrection mean for you?
We are living in an uncertain time due to the current public health emergency brought on by COVID-19. Life, as we knew it, has changed, bringing fear and unexpected challenges. At a time when we most need each other’s support, we are faced with social isolation. As a result, many of us may be experiencing symptoms of anxiety and/or depression. Even when confined to home, there are ways to reduce anxiety and depression, such as relaxed breathing, meditation, prayer, regular exercise, reading, listening to music or playing an instrument. As the weather improves, walk outdoors. Getting out in the sun can also improve one’s mood. Reach out for friendship and social support. Check in with family members and call at least one friend every day. It will lift your spirits and theirs too!

If you, or someone you know, is overwhelmed, experiencing anxiety or depression, here are some resources you can call or find online:
- Catholic Charities - 517-545-5944
- Community Mental Health Services of Livingston County - 517-546-4126
- https://adaa.org/
- http://www.cmhliv.org/

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS!

Our RCIA members are keeping their eyes on the Easter sacraments. Their journey might be a little longer than normal, but they are still on their way. Please walk with them on this path by praying for them daily. They will be able to feel our parish family lift them up to the Lord!

We are often not the Easter People that we should be, living in the certain knowledge of your great mercy and love. Distracted by the world around us we fail to hear your voice, or hide when faith is challenged as we wander off the path. Forgive us, we pray; restore the love that we first had, a faith that can endure. We will keep our eyes fixed on you, Lord, and with you at our right hand we shall not be shaken.