



Saint Mary Magdalen

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8:30am - 4:30pm
Wed. 1pm - 4:30pm

Be merciful,
O Lord.

PSALM 51

February 21, 2021

THE FIRST SUNDAY
OF LENT

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18 Events in today's reading took place approximately 1800 years before Christ. In that pagan culture, child sacrifice was common. That's why Abraham believed God wanted him to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. Later generations constantly looked back to this event as Abraham's great faith.

Romans 8:31-34 Today's reading is part of a hymn that celebrates God's love and which concludes the eighth chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans. In our first reading, we heard how God spared Abraham's only son; in this passage we will hear how, out of love for us, God did not spare His only son.

Mark 9:2-10 On the second Sunday of Lent we always hear the story of the transfiguration. Mark is concerned with the true identity and mission of Jesus. He is also concerned with mistaken notions about Jesus. His resolution comes only at the end of the story but is hinted at in every scene.

Reflect: Name a time this past week when you recognized Jesus' presence.

MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

Monday, February 22, The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19

9:00 am +David & Margaret Norris

Tuesday, February 23

Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15

9:00 am +Rita Charron

Wednesday, February 24

Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32

9:00 am The Residents of Willowbrook Rehab. Services

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12

Friday, February 26

Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday, February 27

Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48

Sunday, February 28 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

4:30 pm +John Shepanek

9:00 am The People of St. Mary Magdalen

11:00 am The Bishop Family

IN MEMORIAM

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Walt Magon and family in the death of his brother-in-law, Don Worthington.



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE HEALING OF:

George Banaszak, Sue Binder, Michael Bitterle, Lucas Cauley, Keith Craffey, Bill Cuellar, David Duenas, John Davidson, Caleb Decker, Karoline DeRosia, Cienna Ditri, DuRussel Family, David Duenas, Marie Edwards, Jeff Fritz, Mary Lea Gehring, Kathy Hershberger, Sr. Joyce Hoile, Kathy Jagusch, Sue Karnes, Mary Keating, Mark Koprowicz, Maria Kottke, Audrey Kovanda, Ted Kucab, Alan Laginess, Herb Langer, Alexis Liske, Gary March, Janet Milo, Ryan Olsem, Stella Paweski, Sawyer Ann Perusse, Carolyn Phillips, Kathy & Tony Riccardi, Donna Rushak, Marino Sarti, Dave & Judy Scharf, Marny and Gene Stuart, Cindy Sultana, Marylyn Trader, Michelle Turner, Dan Tuthill, Linda Vanootighem, Sarah Williams, Tom Zremski, Kim, Kyle and Richard K.

May they be fully restored to good health and comforted at this time.

Important Note About our Prayer List

The names of the sick will run in this column for 6 weeks, at which time they will be removed. To add, re-list, or remove a name, please call the parish office at 810-229-8624. Many people have recuperated so we appreciate updates to be current. Thank You!

MINISTERS OF PRAYER

February 21—February 27

Sunday	Jerry Dolkowski
Monday	Volunteer
Tuesday	Michele Sixbery
Wednesday	Gale and Pat Harris
Thursday	Volunteer
Friday	Lynn Pfaff
Saturday	Ted Eisenhut

LOWERY'S LINES

Welcome to Lent

During the season of Lent I am going to attempt to preach a "series" of homilies, but if you do miss one of the series, you will not be left behind. I hope that together we can walk through each Sunday of Lent keeping in mind an old idea about which Blaise Pascal wrote. He wrote about how each of us has a God-shaped hole in each of our hearts. Pascal writes,

What else do this craving and this helplessness proclaim, but that there was once in human beings a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This they try in vain to fill with everything around them, seeking in things that are not there the help they cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God. - Blaise Pascal, Pensées VII(425)

During Lent (and all the time) God offers to fill all our longings: to fill the God-shaped hole in our hearts. I look forward to opening our Sunday scriptures with you during the Liturgy to learn more about what God is offering us.

Weekly Visits during Lent

Consider making a visit to our worship space during the week part of your Lenten journey. This can be especially comforting to anyone only attending Liturgy virtually. The worship space is open from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. during the weekdays and offers a safe, socially distanced space to pray and reconnect. You can enter through the office door entrance during the weekdays.

Witness to Hope Pledges – Thank You!

As I mentioned last weekend, thank you for your continued generosity to our Witness to Hope campaign. The remaining pledges that you make are going directly toward the payment of our mortgage. None of your remaining pledges are going to fund anything else. It all helps our parish's financial health. If you have finished your Witness to Hope pledge early and wish to continue to help pay down our mortgage (in addition to your regular offering), please note that it is for "debt reduction" either on your check or when making a gift electronically online. Like Witness to Hope gifts, contributions toward "debt reduction" are not assessed (taxed) by the Diocese and go directly and completely toward the repayment of our mortgage.

Lent Spiritual Care Packages – Thank You!

Thanks to our parish volunteers who took care Lenten spiritual care packages to parishioners who are homebound and/or staying home and staying safe. Your efforts help us all to remain spiritually close.

Have a blessed first week of Lent,
Fr. Shaun

LENTEN ROSARY SERIES



The Rosary can be prayed in many ways. Join us on four Sundays in Lent to learn more about the Rosary and to pray it together as a community. Each week will focus on a separate set of mysteries and a different way to pray it. Whether the Rosary is new to you or you have been praying it for years, this series is for you! Pray with us as we experience a pictorial Rosary, a Scriptural Rosary, a parent's Rosary, and more!

Join us on Sundays March 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 12:15pm in the Worship Space. Rosaries and instruction sheets will be available. For more information, contact Erin Wolfe.

FINANCE

WEEK OF 2/14/21

ENV/CASH	\$ 15,684
DEBT REDUCTION	\$ 170
EFT/ONLINE	\$ 7,439
TOTAL	\$ 23,293

2020 DONATION STATEMENTS

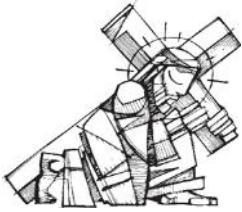
Annual donation statements for 2020 were emailed on 1/27/2021.

If you did not receive yours, or want a paper copy mailed to you, please contact bookkeeper@saintmarymagdalen.org or call the parish office.

Please indicate if the statement can be emailed or if you prefer to receive the statement via U.S. mail.

LENT

Little Black Books for Lent Reflections for every day of the Lenten season are available in the gathering area and online! <https://www.saintmarymagdalen.org/little-books>.



Stations of the Cross

This year our Friday Stations of the Cross devotions will be available to watch online all day. Our worship space will also be open all day on the Fridays of Lent from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. for individuals or households to visit and walk/pray the Stations together. Booklets will be available for participation in the prayer at home online or upon request by calling the parish office.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Weekend Liturgies: Saturday 4:30 pm (also Livestreamed) • Sunday 9 & 11 am
Weekday Liturgy: Mon., Tues., & Wed. 9am NO MASS ON THURSDAY OR FRIDAY

Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation:

Saturdays 3-4pm

Infant Baptism: Contact Erin Wolfe.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Please contact the office at least nine months prior to wedding date.

CURRENT PARISH GUIDELINES

- ◆ Indoor weekend Liturgy celebrated in the main worship space. Masks must be worn. No assisting liturgical ministers, socially distant seating, socially distant reception of Holy Communion.
- ◆ Indoor weekday Liturgy in the main worship space celebrated minimally (i.e., no singing, no assisting liturgical ministers, socially distant seating, socially distant reception of Holy Communion). Masks must be worn.
- ◆ Drive up reception of Holy Communion, at the main entrance under the portico, will be available Saturdays 5:45-6:15 pm and Sundays 12:15-12:45 pm.
- ◆ The parish staff has normal work schedules. The parish office remains closed to visitors.
- ◆ Gatherings and meetings are held online.
- ◆ Outdoor gatherings of 10 and no more than 50 people permitted with strict social distancing.

If you have any condition that will compromise your immune system (or if you care for someone with such a condition) PLEASE STAY HOME! There is no obligation to attend Mass and there is no obligation to receive Holy Communion through May 24, 2021.

GETTING THE VACCINE

Some people have expressed moral concerns about getting the COVID-19 vaccine. Much of this is based on misinformation and lack of understanding of Catholic moral principles.

Bishops throughout the world, and the Vatican, have issued statements indicating *there is nothing immoral about receiving this vaccine*. Those who worry about the way this vaccine and other vaccines were developed do not understand that receiving the vaccine does NOT mean participating in anything immoral. In fact, it may be immoral (that is to say, not supporting the Common Good) to forego receiving the vaccine unless you have a legitimate medical reason not to receive it.

You can find the Vatican's statement on this topic by visiting this link: www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20201221_nota-vaccini-anticovid_en.html

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Formation vs. Education

When I first came to Saint Mary Magdalen, I was excited to see that we called our program “Religious Formation” rather than simply “Religious Education.” While there is nothing wrong with the phrase “Religious Education,” it stresses intellectual pursuits rather than a broader focus. The word “formation” better captures what our goal is: forming the children of the parish into disciples of Christ.

During the three years I spent in Seminary, my classmates and I were considered to be in “formation.” Priests assigned to help us along the way were referred to as our “formators.” Formation refers to the development of the whole person, not just one part, while ignoring others. In seminary, there were four “pillars” of formation: spiritual; human; intellectual, and pastoral. These were the areas we were expected to develop. When people asked about my schoolwork, I would sometimes remind them that school (intellectual formation) was only 25 percent of what Seminary was all about.

These pillars of formation transfer over to what we do at our parish as well. We help our students grow in their spiritual lives as they learn to pray and develop a lifelong friendship with Christ. We help them discover who they are as they learn to make friends, explore how they feel about topics, and learn in community together. We teach them about God and His Church, and many other things along the way. Finally, we teach them to care for their community, to serve the poor, and to love those Christ commands them to.

If you have a child in our programs this year, keep these aspects of formation in mind while going through your lessons at home. Look for ways these different elements are addressed in what your child is learning. Finally, remember that formation is life-long! When you look at these aspects of your life, what can you continue to work on?

Program Updates

- Destined Lesson 10: “Repent and Believe in the Gospel” is available.
- First Eucharist Lesson 8 “We Pray as Jesus Taught Us” is available on the parish website.
- If you are interested in serving as a catechist this Fall, please email youth@saintmarymagdalen.org

YOUTH MINISTRY



Open to all Middle and High School Students!

Youth Group

LIVINGSTON COUNTY ULTRASOUND INITIATIVE

LCUI is now at a combined total of **1,932 Babies Saved** within the **TWENTY TWO** Ultrasound Machines we have assisted in placing throughout the State of Michigan through January 2021. We are currently engaged with **TWO** additional Pregnancy Resource Center, Life Choices of Central Michigan (Portable Unit) and Pregnancy Help Clinic (Flint). None of this would be possible without your generous donations, thank you for your continued support.

Also, during these challenging times please continue to pray now more than ever knowing and trusting that God will prevail.

LCUI is a 501 C3 Non-Profit Organization. Please follow our progress for a complete list of these Pregnancy Centers at: www.lcultrasound.org or at www.facebook.com/lcultrasound

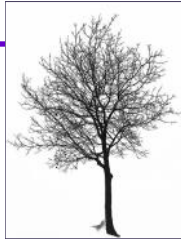
Livingston County
Ultrasound Initiative

CHARITY & JUSTICE

LENTEN SENIOR GIVING TREE

(Still Covid. Still In Need)

The title says it all when it comes to supporting the “Seniors” of our community. Although many of the senior centers are “closed” to in-person gatherings, they are still managing to reach out to seniors in the following ways: having non-perishable food pantries, providing drive-up lunches, helping with medications and personal needs/toiletries, giving out craft kits, as well as having birthday baskets delivered to their porches. The senior centers are doing the best they can to support seniors in our area that live at home. In addition, Magdalen’s Kitchen serves up hot dinner meals every Monday, rain or shine. Other seniors we support are those that are in nursing homes such as Medilodge who have various needs such as those listed above. So, again, we are continuing this very worthwhile Lenten Senior Giving Tree to live by Jesus’ command: “You shall love your neighbor.” MT 22:39, MK 12:31 Details for giving are inserted in this bulletin, available on our [website](#), and displayed in the Gathering Area.



HOPE IN A BOX



FEBRUARY NEEDS:

Lotions
Chapstick
Dish Soap
Toilet Paper

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

ST. MARY MAGDALEN K OF C PASTY SALE

Next weekend, Feb. 27 and 28, immediately after the 4 pm, 9 and 11 am Masses, the Knights of Columbus will be selling pasties. Based on recipes handed down through generations of Upper Peninsula Pasty Makers, your local council is pleased to offer another ‘Grab and Go’ option to support funding for our charities. ‘MEAT’ and ‘VEGGIE’ pasty options will be available, each selling for \$7. The pasty will be sold frozen so stock up on these delicious Northern Delights.



Please consider joining the Knights of Columbus and lend a helping hand to your parish and community. Contact Ken Anderer (810) 333-2130 or kanderer65@gmail.com

STAFF DIRECTORY

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WOMEN'S FAITH SHARING



The Women's Faith Sharing Group is offering women of the parish a Lenten opportunity to study Christ's Passion using **NO GREATER LOVE (A biblical walk through Christ's Passion)** by Edward Sri. This series will be on **Monday evenings via Zoom, beginning**

Feb. 22. The videos walk us through the Holy Land from the Garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary.

Given the richness and depth of the study, we will most likely break it up into smaller portions, extending our discussions beyond Easter. For more information, contact Bernie Tucker at rodzina.first@gmail.com.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, February 22

6:00 pm Magdalen's Kitchen-Carryout
6:30 pm Women's Faith Sharing

Tuesday, February 23

7:00 pm Boy Scouts
7:00 pm Catholic Biblical School

Wednesday, February 24

5:00 pm 9th Grade Confirmation Session

Thursday, February 25

6:30 pm Men's Faith Formation-Zoom

Friday, February 26 Stations of the Cross-Virtual

8:00 pm 8 Great Dates-Virtual

Saturday, February 27

9:00 am Pack 3343 Pinewood Derby

Sunday, February 28 Destined Lesson 11 Release

9:00 am RCIA
12:00 pm 9th Grade Confirmation Session

Senior Giving Tree in Gathering Area

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there

and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.