

CHURCH OF THE MAGDALENE



525 Bedford Road, Pocantico Hills, New York 10591
 Tel.: 914-631-0529 FAX: 914-332-7958
 E-Mail: TheMagdalene@archny.org
www.ChurchofTheMagdalene.org

Father John Vigilanti, Pastor
 Father Joseph Reynolds, W/E Assistant

Dorothy Meehan, Dir. Of Religious Education
 Jeanne LiMarzi, Secretary
 Anne Holland, Director of Music, Organist
 Marianne Scott, Receptionist

Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00PM Confessions: Saturdays 4:30PM
 Sunday Masses 9:00AM & 11:00AM Monday - Friday 8:00AM Mass

ANNOUNCED MASSES: August 29 – Sept. 6

REQUESTED BY:

Saturday	5:00 PM	Janet Atkinson	Doddy Family
Sunday	9:00 AM	Ruth Perrigino	Family
	11:00 AM	Joseph Radelich	Family
Monday	8:00 AM	Mary Walls	Church
Tuesday	8:00 AM	Dorothy Festa	Denis Perrigino
Wednesday	8:00 AM	Concetta Carrea	Jeanne & Pete LiMarzi
Thursday	8:00 AM	Philomena Riegger	Duignan Family
Friday	8:00 AM	Alma Verrigini	Scott Family
Saturday	5:00 PM	Peter McAleer	Duignan Family
Sunday	9:00 AM	Marian Duignan	Duignan Family
	11:00 AM	Nancy Fragiacomio	Boyce Family

Next Weekend Celebrants 9/5 & 9/6

5:00 p.m. Sat. Fr. Vigilanti
 9:00 a.m. Sun. Fr. Vigilanti
 11:00 a.m. Sun Fr. Vigilanti

Pray for the sick: Liam Wolfe, Paul Wallace, Nancy Letizia, Jasmine Meyer, Anthony Tobacco, Elias Samarasto, Joyce Carroll, Lorraine Savagno, Joseph & Madeline Carbone, Howard Phillips, Rita Sena, John Ryan, Joseph & Laurel Tyson, Michael Kessman, Liam Ahern,

Giavanna McVeigh, George Rose, Betsy Zeino, Moriah Jordan, Kevin Doherty, Carol Many, Senny Josephs, Bob & Wanda Praisner, Tom Loemker, Ann & Tom Cahill, Marcella Thorne, Bernadette Harris, Matthew March, Nijole Raskys, Lorraine & Peter Simone, Jim Defemia, Humberto Gonzalez, Bill Monroe, Joseph Robert Carbone, Kathryn Feakins, Linda Klimaszenki, John Masteller, Paul & Donna Sabatos, Christopher Bellantoni, and Roberto Uribe.

THE CROSS OF JESUS: The perception of a cross changed dramatically after Jesus' crucifixion. Before that event, death on a cross was not only horrible, it was degrading. It was a penalty reserved only for the most wretched of criminals. The word "glory" could not have found its way into the same sentence containing the word "cross." But all that changed with Jesus. Over time, believers began to venerate and honor the cross. They painted, sculpted, and carved images of it. Many lost their own lives for their association with it. Today our reverence for and relationship with the cross recalls little of the contempt originally associated with it. As it has been through the ages, it is our perception of the cross that determines how we follow Jesus.

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE: To report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, religious or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York, you may contact the victims assistance coordinator, Mrs. Eileen Mulcahy at 646-794-2949 or victimsassistance@archny.org. Information can also be found on the archdiocesan website www.archnmy.org. In keeping with archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.

HEALING AFTER ABORTION: Do you know someone who is carrying the grief of a past abortion? There is always hope. The pain and sorrow of abortion does not need to endure for a lifetime. A "Day of Prayer and Healing" offers the opportunity to experience the love and mercy of God and to respond to His invitation to begin the journey of healing the wound of abortion. For upcoming dates, locations, and confidential registration, or just to talk to a Sister, please call the Sisters of Life at 866-575-0075 or reach us by email at hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org.

MASS OFFERINGS:

The 2021 mass book is now open. A number of our parishioners have used the opportunity to book masses for deceased relatives and friends. Please call the rectory first to ensure that someone will be available to assist you. There are also masses available for 2020. Mass offering is \$15.00.

2020 CARDINAL'S APPEAL: Thank you to all who helped us reach our Cardinal's Appeal goal. All money over our goal is returned to our parish at 60%. If you have not participated, there is still time. **To make your gift online, visit cardinalsappeal.org. As of 8/21/20:**

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u># of Donors</u>	<u>Donor Goal</u>
\$48,000	\$51,716	100	130

TRAITS OF A TEACHER: All who undertake to teach must be endowed with deep love, the greatest patience, and, most of all, profound humility. The Lord will find them worthy to become fellow workers with him in the cause of truth. *-St Joseph Calasanz*

Dear Parishioners:

August 25, 2020

My sympathy goes out to all the gardeners in our parish who are growing tomatoes. I have heard that squirrels and chipmunks are wreaking havoc on gardens, especially on the tomato crop, engorging themselves on this summer delicacy. Do they know something we should be aware of? If we start seeing manna from heaven, prepare for 40 years of wandering in the desert.

1. Mass attendance last weekend: 5pm, 35; 9am, 45, 11am, 41. Forty-nine households watched the 9am mass live. We have no count of how many households watched the mass later in the day. Consider: we have 620 registered households in the parish. If we were to take the number of those in attendance on Sunday (roughly 121 individuals, not households), as measured against our pre-pandemic number (340 individuals), it means that we are seeing only 35% of our normal attendance. I understand that social distancing at the present time must be taken into account when drawing conclusions, and that this pandemic has skewed attendance figures in all parishes. However, our pre-pandemic number (340 individuals) is a very small percentage of our registered households (620). If we can assume that each household has at least 2 individuals, it means that only 20-25% of our parishioners attend mass weekly at the Magdalene. Why do I bring this up? Because I will be eligible for retirement next July 1, which means the parish will automatically come up on the diocesan radar screen. While the parish is financially strong because of your wonderful generosity, nevertheless, the diocese will be making a decision about the future of the Magdalene and other parishes as it wrestles with a severe personnel shortage. As one of my grammar school nuns used to say: "A word to the wise is sufficient." I am not sure I understood what that meant 65 years ago, but I hope we understand what it means today for the future of our parish.

2. Thanks to Pete LiMarzi, we have started to wire the church today for the permanent installation of live streaming, with a fixed camera and audio connection with our PA system.
3. AA has requested to resume their weekly meetings in our parish hall. We are working on some final details, keeping in mind the present health and safety protocols required by the state because of the pandemic. In addition, the diocese wants to ensure that each parish reduce its liability exposure when hosting non-parish organizations.
4. Recent baptisms and funerals here at the Magdalene have gone smoothly. While inconvenient, everyone followed all the proper protocols. It is important that we continue to follow all the safety measures that seems to be effective: masks, social distancing, hand washing. We hope to have hand sanitizing dispensers at the entrances to the church this week. At present we received seven dispensers and formula. If my guess is correct, with the return to school, we will know in the next 4 weeks if we have controlled the spread of this virus or we will need to employ more extensive measures throughout the country. Do not let your guard down. Tomorrow I will go for my bi-monthly Covid test.
5. We will be posting on our website all the necessary information concerning our religious education program this year. We are counting on increased parental involvement and support. We will make adjustments to the program as necessary to meet the needs of our students and families. Please note the following: (a) All children in both the regular classroom program and the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will receive a textbook, available for pick-up at the church in mid-September. (b) Children are asked to read one chapter a week, complete an assessment sheet on the chapter and email the answers to Dotty Meehan at dotmeehan@aol.com. (c) Assessment sheets for 11 weeks (Oct 5-Dec 13) will be available on the parish website, the churchofthemagdalene.org. Go to "Religious Education" and there will be folders for each grade, with the assessment sheets. (d) We need 11 completed assessment sheets for each child for them to get credit for the first semester. Children can work at their own speed. (e) Should it be shown that in-person classes are successful in the local public schools, we will open our school.
6. FlockNotes is our main avenue of communication with our parishioners. If you know of someone who should be on our list, please have them contact the rectory. Our three pillars of communication are: our website, FlockNotes, and live streaming.
7. Finally, I found out on Sunday that Fr. Paul Tolve, who had been celebrating the 11am mass once a month at the Magdalene, has retired from the Dept. of Corrections in Westchester. His retirement became effective August 1. I spoke with Fr. Paul and hope to retain his services in the near future as we try to determine the needs of our parish. I believe a parish is best served when the congregation is exposed to a variety of styles and messages. Stay tuned.
- 8.