

# CHURCH OF THE MAGDALENE



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Father John Vigilanti, Pastor

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: Dec. 26 – Jan. 3**

**REQUESTED BY:**

Saturday	5:00 PM	John Capello	Lois & Sheri Porcello
Sunday	9:00 AM	Bruce Gentile	Fr. John
	11:00 AM	William Griffin	Pat Griffin
Monday	8:00 AM	Intentions of Fr. Simon	Parishioners
Tuesday	8:00 AM	Intentions of Fr. Kenneth	Parishioners
Wednesday	8:00 AM	Fr. Joseph Dietz	Radelich Family
Thursday	8:00 AM	Fr. James D. Flanagan	Fr. John
Friday	11:00 AM	Joseph Radelich	His Family
Saturday	5:00 PM	James O'Kelly	His Family
Sunday	9:00 AM	Mary Sheridan	Ryan & Caroline Doherty
	11:00 AM	Marion Duignan	Duignan Family

**Next Weekend Celebrants Jan. 2-3**

**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, 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, Geraldine Forster, Roberto Uribe, and Alice Pacella.**

## **WE ARE GOD'S HOLY FAMILY**

The scriptures of Israel are filled with many stories of barren couples who were miraculously granted the gift of children by God. Surely the best known among these is the first reading from today, from which Luke took inspiration when he recounted the miraculous birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah and Elizabeth, and the more miraculous birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph. In each instance, we are given examples or role models of those who trusted in God. More than examples of those who trust, they are models of self-surrender. They abandoned their own presuppositions and prejudices about the workings of the world and turned their lives over to belief in a God who can make life grow where none ought to; a God who can turn death around into a new and unimagined life; a God who can, today, take a tiny child of humble parents in an insignificant town and make him into a light for all the world. This is what we, as God's holy family, are called to do each day: to trust not in ourselves and the way we think things should be, but to open ourselves and surrender ourselves in faith to a God of endless promise

**POPE FRANCIS PROCLAIMS YEAR DEDICATED TO ST. JOSEPH:** Marking the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Joseph being declared the patron of the universal church, Pope Francis proclaimed a yearlong celebration dedicated to the foster father of Jesus. In a Dec. 8 apostolic letter, "Patris Corde" ("With a father's heart"), the pope said Christians can discover in St. Joseph, who often goes unnoticed, "an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble." "St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all," Pope Francis said.

St. Joseph's unconditional acceptance of Mary and his decision to protect her "good name, her dignity and her life" also serves as an example for men today, the pope added.

"The Holy Family had to face concrete problems like every other family, like so many of our migrant brothers and sisters who, today, too, risk their lives to escape misfortune and hunger.

In this regard, I consider St. Joseph the especial patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty," the Pope says.

**KNITTING GROUP AT THE MAGDALENE:** My sincere thanks to our group of knitters who hand knitted and delivered to Good Counsel Home in the Bronx for mothers with children: 20 blankets, 4 hats, and one scarf. As reported in the NY Times on December 21: "Many studies

have been published to show knitting helps to manage chronic pain, improve cognitive function and even increase happiness.” Small gestures of love send a powerful message to those on the margins of society: they are not forgotten.

### **CHILDREN OF ETERNITY**

You are children of eternity. Your immortal crown awaits you, to reward your duty and love. You may indeed sow here in tears, but you may be sure there to reap in joy.

—*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*

December 22, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

After a somewhat “annus horribilis,” as Queen Elizabeth would say, we take time to celebrate the birth of Christ, and the opportunity to begin a New Year. This interlude between Christmas and New Year is the perfect tonic for the challenges and setbacks of 2020. As followers of Christ we acknowledge our solidarity with those who have lost loved ones to an invisible and insidious enemy. At the same time, the birth of a child two thousand years ago, born in a stable, inspires us to understand that no obstacle trumps a mission of love and compassion. Kudos to our scientists and medical personnel who made it their mission to develop, in record time, the equivalent of a magic bullet. When we relieve the suffering of others, we continue the work of that child born in Bethlehem.

1. A quick clarification on notarizing statements: the individual signing the statement or document must be physically present to me, and the document must be signed in my presence. If the person is unknown to me, he/she needs proof of identity (government issued). I was once asked to notarize the transfer of a deed of an expensive piece of property without the individual transferring the deed being present. I smelled a rat, even though I knew the person requesting the notarization. The

answer was NO! When I became a notary in 1984, the fee to notarize was .25 cents. Today it is \$2.00 for each affirmation or certification. I could never imagine asking anyone for a quarter, or for \$2.00.

2. My sincere thanks to our group of knitters who hand knitted and delivered to Good Counsel Home in the Bronx for mothers with children: 20 blankets, 4 hats, and one scarf. As reported in the NY Times on December 21: “Many studies have been published to show knitting helps to manage chronic pain, improve cognitive function and even increase happiness.” Small gestures of love send a powerful message to those on the margins of society: they are not forgotten.
3. The feedback on live streaming from parishioners and non-parishioners has been extremely positive. It was a good and much needed move during this pandemic. We have people watching our live streaming from Ohio, California, Florida, etc. I am looking forward to the moment when our parishioners will be able to see our altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, etc. fully participating in our liturgies again. Last weekend’s attendance: 5pm, 34; 9am, 42; 11am, 64. Live Stream: 102 households watched live; 44 later (this last number usually goes up during the week).
4. A reminder: if you use “We Share,” for online giving, there is a special tab for “Christmas” to make your Christmas donation to the parish. It is the first time we are offering a “Christmas” tab. It will help us gauge the Christmas collection apart from weekly donations. Thank you to everyone who signed up for “We Share.” Not only is it easy, but it provides the parish with a steady stream of income regardless of weather or vacations. It also lessens the threat of larceny and theft.

5. If our major government agencies can be hacked, please be careful during this holiday seasons. The scammers are out there. I would never solicit money by email, text message, or in person from any parishioner. You should always be careful in opening emails and clicking on links.
6. Thank you to the volunteers who helped decorate the church for Christmas. Our church takes on a very special aura during this season. Since this was a difficult year, we decided to set up the crèche on the front lawn and in the church during the third week of Advent, bringing a more festive atmosphere to an otherwise gloomy year. When I was in the seminary, doing so was tantamount to a mortal sin. I am not obsessive about liturgical guidelines. A prayerful assembly with good music and relevant homily should suffice. The Christmas season traditionally ends with the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus on January 10, 2021.
7. Anne and Jim, who provide our musical program, would like to share the following: "As you know, the pandemic has put the music business on hold. During the past 9 months Jim and I have had time to explore non music related interests. Much to our surprise, the idea of running a coffee house in my hometown of Oak Ridge, TN., which was to be our future endeavor, became a present day pursuit. With the gracious consent of Fr. John, I will be taking a sabbatical beginning the week of Jan 4<sup>th</sup> so that Jim and I can place our full intention on setting up shop. I will continue to plan the music and stay fully present to the musical needs of the parish, but will rely on others to play the music and sing. In the interim, organist, Kinny Landrum, and cantor, Nancy Meyer, will lead the music at weekend masses. I think you will find their leadership to be wonderfully prayerful. I hope to keep you all informed of our progress

through Fr. John and his FlockNotes. Stay well and we will see you at Holy Week time.” Jim and Anne.

8. On behalf of the entire parish staff, Dottie, Jeanne, Marianne, Anne, and Carl, we thank all our parishioners for their generosity and cooperation during this past year. Our parish enters the New Year in wonderful shape and is prepared to take on whatever challenges lie ahead. Safely enjoy your family gatherings. We send special greetings to our homebound and those absent due to concerns about the virus. Spring is on the horizon.
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