

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: Feb. 6 – Feb. 14

REQUESTED BY:

Saturday	5:00 PM	Antonio Pirrotta	Pete & Debbie Love
Sunday	9:00 AM	Margaret & Francis Dwyer	Morrow Family
	11:00 AM	Joseph Duignan	Duignan Family
Monday	8:00 AM	James Donovan	
Tuesday	8:00 AM	For Our Parishioners	
Wednesday	8:00 AM	Joanne Coza	Family
Thursday	8:00 AM	For Our Parishioners	
Friday	8:00 AM	For Our Parishioners	
Saturday	5:00 PM	Bishop Nowotnik	Pete & Debbie Love
Sunday	9:00 AM	Frances Bartlett	Paul & Valerie Wallace
	11:00 AM	Don & Joan Wildermann	Scott Family

Next Weekend Celebrants Feb. 13-14

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.

THE GOOD NEWS: Today's readings begin with a few verses from the book of Job. First, Job complains that his nights drag on endlessly. Then, worse yet, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle; / they come to an end without hope" (Job 7:6). Not exactly encouraging, these lamentations, not when taken alone.

Most of us have been there, though, and the antidote is the "good news" that Paul found so compelling that "an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it!" (1 Corinthians 9:16). Paul felt driven to announce the gospel to as many people as possible, "to save at least some" (9:22).

This good news is the mystery of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who lifted Simon Peter's mother-in-law from her sickbed with a mere touch of his hand. "The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons" (Mark 1:33–34)). Our woes and demons are as real as Job's, and Jesus is our savior.

CARDINAL'S STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2021 has begun. This year's theme is "**All things are Possible.**" Some of you have already received a letter from the Cardinal asking for your support. In the past three years we have exceeded the goal set by the Archdiocese. This year our goal is **\$54,000**. Please be as generous as your financial means will allow. We will be giving periodic updates in our bulletin on the amount our parish has raised. To donate online click: [Donate](#)

MASS OFFERINGS:

The 2022 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 2021.** Mass offering is \$15.00.

MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS: "God's Word is a "Love Letter to Us." Pope Francis in his homily said people should always carry a Bible with them, "in our pocket or our phone." "Let us give it a worthy place in our homes and remember to read at least a few verses daily. Its message can touch our hearts and make us feel God's closeness to us and fill us with courage as we make our way through life." But people will also need to "ask the Lord for strength to turn off the television and open the Bible, to turn off our cell phone and open the Gospel."

BEGINNING AGAIN

If I were to begin life again, I would want it as it was. I would only open my eyes a little more.

—Jules Renard

February 2, 2021

Dear Parishioners:

Thank you for your recommendations concerning the hiring of a new housekeeper for the rectory. After sifting through the available individuals, I hope to make a decision by the beginning of March. I do not anticipate any other personnel changes in the near future. Since I intend to fend for myself, there remains no need for a rectory cook, a policy I adopted when I arrived here.

1. This week I received official notice from the diocese of my eligibility for retirement on July 1. The diocese is holding a Zoom meeting of all potential retirees on February 10th to explain the options available. There are 4 options: staying as pastor/administrator on a yearly basis; reside in a rectory as a retired priest with no salary; reside at one of the priest retirement homes; living on your own. In all 4 options the actual pension remains constant: \$750 a month. Other benefits change (health plans, travel allowance, domicile allowance, education and retreat allowances, etc.) depending on the option chosen. Obviously, this requires careful consideration on my part. My final decision, when I choose to make it, will be living on my own at Heritage Hills in Somers. As I have mentioned in the past, I boarded away starting in my freshman year in high school, sixty-one years ago.
2. Please be careful of any unsolicited emails or text messages allegedly from me. VERIFY, VERIFY, VERIFY!
3. We have not yet been introduced to our campaign manager for the Cardinal's Appeal. Since there seems to be some confusion concerning your donations to the Appeal (some donations being applied to 2020 rather than 2021), let us know at the rectory that you made a pledge or gift for this year, 2021. We will maintain our own record keeping. Our goal is \$54,000.

4. Last weekend's attendance: 5pm, 49; 9am, 40; 11am, 50. This is 37% of normal attendance and 20% of our registered households. Live stream: 106 households watched live, 56 watched later.
5. It has come to my attention that there is at least one prominent parish that has chosen not to hold any in-person masses, even on Sunday. Since our numbers are low for in-person attendance, we are still in a safe zone. However, as I look at the post Easter season, and because I have commitments outside the parish on at least two weekends, if I cannot find a substitute to celebrate mass, I will be forced to tape the mass for those weekends, which can be accessed through our live streaming capabilities. This would be similar to many of our homebound Catholics watching mass on TV from EWTN or the Passionists, which are taped in advance of the actual broadcast. More about this as the time approaches. Unfortunately, I cannot be in 2 places at the same time---yet!
6. The recent inclement weather serves as a reminder why our online giving platform, "We Share," is important for the parish to meet its financial obligations in a timely fashion. Thank you to those who have signed on. To those who take the time to mail their donations or personally drop them off at the rectory, thank you.
7. We have received a bid on making the side doors of the church self-closing. The bid came in extremely high and was unacceptable. We will continue to explore our options.
8. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have not held a parish council meeting. Fortunately, the parish has weathered the past year very well. If, in the next several months, I receive some indication from the diocese about its plans for the future of our parish, zoom meetings may become necessary, in order that everyone has the latest up to date information. My intention: what I know you will know.
9. With the recent heavy snow, we have had some difficulty moving it to a free piece of our property. As a consequence, we will be going through a cycle of melting and freezing in our parking lot. While the lot is salted,

the sloping of the lot makes walking especially difficult. If you are afraid of slipping on ice (as I learned the hard way), it might be better to catch the mass on our live stream.