

CHURCH OF THE MAGDALENE



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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: Oct. 10 – Oct. 18

REQUESTED BY:

Saturday	5:00 PM	Nancy Fragiacomio	Richard & Cathy Chulla
Sunday	9:00 AM	Joanne Coza	Family
	11:00 AM	Nick Cacciola	Joe & Luisa Mortelliti
Monday	8:00 AM	No 8:00 a.m. mass	
Tuesday	8:00 AM	Owen Kelly	The Scaglione Family
Wednesday	8:00 AM	Ann O'Brien	Cathy Chulla
Thursday	8:00 AM	Natalie Waller	Fr. John
Friday	8:00 AM	For Our Parishioners	
Saturday	5:00 PM	Robert Hamilton Barstow II	His Family
Sunday	9:00 AM	Nancy Fragiacomio	Lois & Sheri Procello
	11:00 AM	Paul Srthur Michelin	James & Patricia

Next Weekend Celebrants 10/10 – 10/11

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, and Roberto Uribe.

INCREASED OFFERTORY CAMPAIGN: As mentioned in Fr. John's flocknote this week, the Increased Offertory Campaign has begun. You will be receiving a letter from Fr. John regarding this campaign. Please consider increasing your weekly offering to the Magdalene. There are envelopes in the back of the church for this campaign.

GOD REVEALED TO THE NATIONS: What wonderful images we have today of the reign of God! Isaiah speaks to us of a great feast – a heavenly feast – a feast of abundance with rich foods and choice wines. It is the Lord's own affair, Isaiah explains, when God will unite all nations, dry every tear, and destroy death forever. Then, too, will the entire earth rejoice in the Lord and bask in God's saving grace. Jesus speaks of heaven in terms of a feast as well. Here, the kingdom of heaven is likened to a king's wedding feast given for his son. This is a feast of abundance also, with the fattened cattle prepared just so. But many of the people invited don't want to come, so the king invites anyone who would honor his son by their presence there. And Paul tells us that whether we live abundantly or in humble circumstances, we can do all things in the Lord who strengthens us.

RESPECT LIFE MONTH: "We encourage all citizens, particularly Catholics, to embrace their citizenship...as an opportunity meaningfully to participate in building the culture of life. Every voice matters in the public forum. We must exercise that power in ways that defend human life, especially those of God's children who are unborn, disabled or otherwise vulnerable." (US Bishops, Living the Gospel of Life)

40-DAYS FOR LIFE: Your prayers are needed. Prayerful presence outside of abortion clinics is truly essential. Your prayers offer hope to women in crisis and save lives of the vulnerable unborn. 40 Days for life is a life-saving prayer campaign that will take place throughout our Archdioceses until November 1. It is a peaceful initiative consisting of 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil at abortion facilities, and educational outreach with the goal of protecting mothers and their children from abortion. More than 17,000 unborn children have been saved. To learn more, visit www.40daysforlife.com.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY is next Sunday, October 17-18, 2020. We are called through our Baptism to be part of the Church's missionary efforts, through prayer, self-sacrifice, and support of the Mission Church through material aid. This year, Pope Francis asks us to respond to that call, say, "Here I am, Send Me!"

REPENTANCE: Of all human acts, repentance is most divine. *-Thomas Carlyle*

October 6, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

The Increased Offertory Campaign (IOC) for our parish has started. You should be receiving a letter this week over my signature seeking your support and cooperation. I know this is a very difficult time, but the diocese is requesting all parishes to participate either in the IOC or continue with the Cardinal's Appeal. Since we exceeded our goal in the Cardinal's Appeal, there was only one choice for us. Please keep in mind, that in less than two years, the diocese will accelerate its decision-making about the survivability of parishes, including the Magdalene.

During this pandemic our Easter collection was down about 15% and our weekly collection is down roughly 5-10%. The IOC is an opportunity to ensure the vitality of our parish and its future. While there has **never been** a question of not meeting our financial obligations (both parish and diocesan), a strong parish response to the IOC can only enhance our profile.

1. Dot Meehan and I have come to the regrettable decision to postpone both First Communion and Confirmation to next spring 2021. In the midst of this pandemic the safety of our children and our families comes first. It is obvious that we, as a nation, have yet to contain the spread of this virus. Hypothetically, if only **ONE** attendee at First Communion or Confirmation tests positive within two weeks of either event, contact tracing of everyone present at these events would be required. In addition, the parish would be forced to suspend all masses for two weeks. I would need to quarantine for two weeks and be unable to officiate at funerals and previously scheduled baptisms and weddings. Keep in mind that our children are back in school, an environment that may prove risky in the next month (as the Pleasantville Middle School has learned), making them potential asymptomatic carriers of the virus. First Communion and Confirmation will bring more people together in our church than any other service since the beginning of the pandemic last March. My concern

is the possible long-term damage to the confidence in our protocols that our parishioners have the right to expect before they return to mass. Also, a mistake in judgement on our part will put us on the diocesan radar screen, to say nothing of the local press, and not in a positive way. As some of you may know, Holy Innocents in Pleasantville and Holy Rosary in Hawthorne have had issues with someone testing positive at their First Communion and Confirmation ceremonies, disrupting their normal operations. The benefits of going forward with First Communion and Confirmation at this time, do not outweigh the risks. In sum, we will work out multiple services next spring to accommodate the sacramental needs of our children. More specific plans and options will be communicated to parents of First Communion children by next week.

2. As I observe the distribution of communion at our masses on the weekend, it seems we have a traffic jam at the side aisle, making social distancing impossible. Any suggestions? One possibility is to distribute communion at the back of the church and return by way of the side aisles. Thoughts? My concern is that as we enter fall and winter, with both flu and virus, we must strengthen our safety protocols. A reminder, if you are sick, please remain home. I will have my bi-monthly covid test tomorrow.
3. On the weekend of October 17-18 the diocese is requesting that we take a “count” of those who attend mass and provide other parish stats. The diocesan memorandum makes it clear that the diocese is in a “planning” stage regarding the future of parishes. However, I do not know of any parish that can provide accurate figures of communions, funerals, baptisms, etc. in the midst of a pandemic, when services were suspended for several months. How would we look if we stated that on that weekend only 120 people attended mass? It will give a false picture of our normal weekend attendance. In my opinion, this is not the right time for a census, but we will comply.
4. We have submitted to our envelop company, as requested, our Christmas schedule. Bear in mind, however, that there may be a need to alter our

schedule, depending on the status of the virus and social distancing requirements.

5. Last weekend's mass attendance: 5pm, 39; 9am, 58; 11am, 33. This is 36% of our normal attendance.
6. On next Saturday, October 10th at 1pm there will be the public recitation of the rosary on our front lawn led by Rosemarie McManus. This year's intention will be for our nation.
7. Fr. Dietz's funeral mass has been archived at the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scarsdale. Go to the IHM website and look for mass streaming to call up the funeral mass.
8. A reminder: There will be no 8am mass on Columbus Day, October 12.