

# 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: July 10 – July 18**

**REQUESTED BY:**

Saturday	5:00 PM	Dave & Christina Cartenuto 50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary	Cartenuto Family
Sunday	9:00 AM	Joanne Coza	Her Family
	11:00 AM	For the Intentions of Connie & Peg Buckley	Ken Tierney
Monday	8:00 AM	For the Parishioners	
Tuesday	8:00 AM	Anne Saporito	Zeoli Family
Wednesday	8:00 AM	Henry Haase	Linda Racosta & J. J. Quinn
Thursday	8:00 AM	In Thanksgiving	Denise Perrigino
Friday	8:00 AM	Joseph Reilly	Duignan Family
Saturday	5:00 PM	Karen Lalicata, Christa Tulkin & Anna Neudert	Scott Family
Sunday	9:00 AM	Carlotta Olivieri	Her Family
	11:00 AM	Joan Wildermann	Scott Family

**Weekend Celebrants July 17-18**

5:00 p.m. Sat. Fr. Sheehan

9:00 a.m. Sun. Fr. Vigilanti  
11:00 a.m. Sun. Fr. Vigilantii

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Sr. Danielle Baran C.R., Peter Gandolfo, Liam Wolfe, Nancy Letizia, Jasmine Meyer, 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, Moriah Jordan, Kevin Doherty, Carol Many, Bob & Wanda Praisner, Ann & Tom Cahill, Marcella Thorne, Matthew March, Nijole Raskys, Jim Defemia, Humberto Gonzalez, Bill Monroe, Joseph Robert Carbone, Kathryn Feakins, Linda Klimaszewski, John Masteller, Paul & Donna Sabatos, Christopher Bellantoni, Geraldine Forster, Alice Pacella and Louis Rodriguez.

### **GOD CHOSE US:**

Who chose first, God or you? That is the question explored in today's three readings. The second reading, from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, reads almost like a hymn. It praises God for choosing us, for calling us to serve, and for blessing us in our service. Paul makes it clear how honored we are and how special is the call to live as children of God. This is through no doing of our own.

The first reading and the Gospel use prose rather than poetry to describe the same truth: God did the choosing, not us. When the prophet Amos was berated for being a prophet, he retorted that the whole thing wasn't his idea in the first place. Neither did the twelve apostles in today's Gospel ask for their calling. Jesus sent them forth, two by two, to do the work of his kingdom.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS:** It is not too early to get ready for our Religious Education program in the fall. Religious Education registration forms are in the mail. **Please return by July 15<sup>th</sup>.** Keep in mind that there will be 2 fourth grades and 2 Level II Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, one on Tuesday and one on Thursday. For ***new families***, registration forms can be found in the back of the church. If any of our parishioners know of new families with children of catechetical age, please let them know of the availability of the forms in the church. You may also go to our parish website for the registration forms. For any questions, please contact Dot Meehan at 914.552.7628 or [dotmeehan@aol.com](mailto:dotmeehan@aol.com). We are looking forward to a successful in-person academic year, barring any unforeseen pandemic related issues.

**COVID PROTOCOLS AT THE MAGDALENE:** All pews in the church will be open. **Wearing masks is optional.** We will update protocols as advised by the diocese.

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND WITH FR. JOHN:** Looking ahead to the summer of 2022, I am researching the possibility of organizing a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Egypt, Jordan, and Dubai. It would be 15 days in either July or August. If you think you might be interested, let me know. I would estimate the cost around \$5000: airfare, hotels, breakfast and dinner, tours included. Quite honestly, not a bad price.

***Brochures are available in the back of the church.***

**INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION**

God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us.

—St. Augustine

July 6, 2021

Dear Parishioners:

Within days of our last FlockNote, the Cardinal issued his own FlockNote, with the following admonition to those who have remained absent from in-person attendance at Mass because of the possibility of catching or spreading the coronavirus: "...now that vaccination rates are up, Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, and people are returning to a more normal way of living, this excuse cannot be said to exist any longer. If you are going to the mall, having dinner out in restaurants, heading to the ballgame, visiting the hairdresser, and the like, then you should also be at Mass!" In his FlockNote the Cardinal stated that he has no authority to dispense from the Third Commandment ("Keep Holy the Sabbath"), just as he has no authority to dispense from the Fourth Commandment, "Honor Thy Father and Mother." However, the question is not a dispensation from a divine commandment, but the justifiable suspension of the obligation due to a public health crisis. There is a difference.

Let us take another example. The church accepts as normative the moral force of the Ten Commandments. Yes, "Honor thy father and mother." But if you are a child in a sexually, emotionally, or physically abusive environment, the obligation is suspended, not the commandment. In fact, the obligation is to seek safety!

As the Cardinal wrote elsewhere in his FlockNote: "To deliberately miss mass is a sin." I can only assume that invoking the "sin" paradigm is meant to induce

compliance with the Third Commandment and get parishioners back in church. But in reality, the fact is that there has been a steady, but slow, return to personal attendance at Mass. Many are still hesitant about returning to mass for strictly health reasons. As for “sin,” the words of Pope Francis are best recalled from another context: “Who am I to judge?” We are slowly making our way back. Parishioners are returning in person. Barring a relapse, we should be back to “normal” in the fall. We have been very fortunate here at the Magdalene. I thank you for your cooperation and support. Enjoy the summer!

1. This past week the Cardinal sent me a letter re-appointing me as the administrator of the Magdalene until July 1, 2022, and thanked me for remaining beyond my official retirement last Thursday (July 1, 2021).

2. Please try to ensure that the exit door on the confessional side of the church is fully closed as you exit. It was found open again. I thought we had fixed this issue, but I guess it deserves another look.

3. Our parish will transfer the celebration of Mary Magdalene (Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>) to the weekend masses of July 24-25. The prayers and readings for that weekend will focus on St. Mary Magdalene, not the 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time.

4. Thank you to those who have followed up on the stipends/offerings for the booked masses for relatives and friends. I would hate to be put in the position of making someone “an offer they can’t refuse.”

5. You may be interested in knowing that our parish is “above average” (roughly 66%) in the number of households who open our FlockNotes, according to those who manage the FlockNote platform for the diocese and parishes. Our website and FlockNote are our primary means of communication to our parishioners and wider community. Please spread the word: to sign up all we need is an email address and cell number.

6. Because of Covid, the priest who was to speak last weekend on behalf of his diocese in Ghana remained in place out of an abundance of caution. As a consequence, we will assign a generous portion of last weekend's collection to his diocese. If you wish to make an additional contribution for this cause, please feel free to do so.

7. Last weekend's attendance was somewhat sparse, probably due to the holiday. 5pm, 55; 9am, 54; 11am, 44. Live streaming: 68 watched live, 31 (incomplete number) watched later.

8. Brochures for next summer's pilgrimage to the Holy Land are available in the rear of the church.

9. We are in need of a 5th grade teacher and assistant teacher for the fall in our Religious Education program. There are presently 12 students in the class and it meets on Tuesday from 4 to 5:30 PM. Lesson plans are provided. Please contact Dotty Meehan at [dotmeehan@aol.com](mailto:dotmeehan@aol.com) or 914-552-7628.

10. Looking ahead: I will be around most of the summer (with a couple of days off here and there) and will put off a one week vacation until October.

Finally, if you are a retired law enforcement or security officer licensed to carry a weapon, the diocese is offering a 2 day certification course on August 2 and 3 in Beacon. If you are interested in attending, let me know. There is no cost. Ensuring the safety of our parishioners is a priority we take seriously.