

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE PARISH

2654 E. WILLIAMS FIELD RD, GILBERT, AZ 85295 • (480) 279-6737

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

610-

While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." - Lk 9:34-35



St. Mary Magdalene in Gilbert, Arizona is a Roman Catholic Parish that witnesses the love of Jesus Christ through evangelization, catechesis, discipleship, and the celebration of the Sacraments.

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Thursday:

9:00am—Noon; 1:00—5:00pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday (Vigil):

4:30 pm

Sunday:

7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:30 am, 4:30 pm

Monday - Saturday:

8:00 am

CONFESSIONS

Monday-Friday:

8:45am-9:15am **Saturday:**

8:45am-11:15am

COMMUNAL PRAYER

(in the Church)
Rosary & Divine Mercy,
prayed after
8:00am daily Mass

PERPETUAL ADORATION

The Blessed
Sacrament is exposed
24 hours a day 7 days
a week. For access after office hours, call
the office for a code.



CLERGY

Fr. Chris Axline, Pastor: pastor@smarymag.org

Fr. Sylvester Modebei, Parochial Vicar: admin@smarymag.org

Fr. Arthur Nave, Priest in Residence

Deacon Richard Moser, Craig Hintze, Rick Nevins, Sean Sylvester, and

John Thornton: dcnJohnThornton@smarymag.org

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New to St. Mary Magdalene?

Welcome! We are looking forward to meeting you! You can formally register as a parishioner here —->

WEBSITE: smarymag.org



Need anointing of the sick? Call the Parish Office to make an

appointment (480) 279-6737 OR Email pastoralcare@smarymag.org

Only for emergencies, call 480-678-3353.



Daily Parish Life

Readings for the Week

Readings for the week of March 16, 2025

Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-Sunday: 14/Phil 3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1/Lk 9:28b- 36

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21

and 23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5,

27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/ Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk

16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-

17, 18- 19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10,

11-12/ Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 Next Sunday:

(8a)/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9 Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

This Week's Saints, Special **Observances & Mass Intentions**

Saturday: 8am: Si Jose Antonio Gonzalez

4:30pm: pro Populo

Sunday: 7am: Si Jane Jimenez

9am: + Eli Mikus

11:30: Si John & Danny Lockey

4:30: Si Mike kelly

St. Patrick 8am: +Caroline Tod Monday:

Tuesday: St. Cyril of Jerusalem

8am: Si Michelle Romo

Wednesday: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed

Virgin 8am: Si First Responders

Thursday: 8am: Si Liz Cox

Friday: 8am: Si Jeff Brown & Family

Saturday: 8am: +Jeffery LeVoir 4:30: +Larry Kelty

Pray for Us

Please pray for those who are sick including Domingo Garcia and all of those in our parish Book of Intentions. We extend **Our**

Prayers and Sympathy to all the deceased including Eli Mikus, Matt Kelly, Caroline Tod, Jeffrey Levoir, Bernice Barba and all those lost through abortion, all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, and all those who have recently passed away. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Become a Regular Adorer

Please consider signing up to be in the presence of our Lord for one hour a week.

The following hours need to be covered:

Sun: 1pm, 4pm M: 5pm, 10pm T: 10am, 11pm W: 3pm, Th: Noon F: 5pm, 9pm Sat: 2pm, 5pm

Visit this QR code:

Contact Chris at Liturgy@smarymag.org with questions.



Parish Communities

Respect Life Initiative:

Contact: Ashley Laswell

respectlifesmarymag@gmail.com

Magis Women:

The bible study meets every other Monday at

Contact: Jennifer Tortorici

jdtortorici@yahoo.com (602) 430-0264

Catholic Daughters of America: Contact: <u>2779cda@gmail.com</u> (480) 279-6737

Knights of Columbus:

Contact: Tom Axline

GkTaxline@gmail.com (951) 303-0960 COR: For men over 18—meets on 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm for prayer, formation & fraternity.

Catholic Truth Seekers: Young

Adult aged 18-30 seeking fellowship and to grow in your faith?

Come join us at 7pm on Fridays!

Email: smarymagcts@gmail.com or Instagram @catholictruthseekers



Letter from your Pastor

Hello St. Mary Magdalene,

I wanted to reflect on two ideas in today's article. First, you may have noticed that we've introduced a new Mass setting for some of our liturgical chants. These are taken from the Missa Orbis Factor, a beautiful Mass setting with a penitential character fitting for the season of Lent. We're adding a new tool to our liturgical toolbox that's supposed to be different so that it gets our attention. Personally I've noticed in my life

whenever I get into a routine and then something new happens, it forces me to a renewed intentionality and focus on what I'm doing. In other words I can't just go through the motions anymore. This is the aim behind the introduction of this new Mass setting and why the Church encourages us to learn a diversity of settings; to refocus our attention on the liturgical texts so that we can more actively participate in the liturgy thus making the prayer of the Mass our own prayer.

Second, I want to reflect on the three temptations Christ faces in the desert. If you've ever played the game "two truths and a lie" then you know that sometimes it is awfully difficult to separate lies from truth unless we know the person very well. So it is too, in the spiritual life as we find that it is oftentimes difficult to see temptations for the lies they are. How blessed we are then that at the start of our Lenten journey (that great time where we pray, sacrifice and do penance so that we might know God more intimately) we have this beautiful Gospel passage about the temptations of Christ to help us expose the lies behind temptations so that we might seek God with an undivided heart.

For example, His first temptation, of turning stones into bread, shows us that material goods of this world do not truly satisfy or bring happiness; only God can do that. Think about it, I'm sure we all know persons who care more about the world than they do God; these people are the "must have" types we could call them: they "must have" the latest gadget, gizmo, fashions, trends, foods, etc. in order to be happy. Yet we all know the lie behind this temptation, Christ exposes it for us; that worldly goods are never enough because 1) there is always something "newer and better" coming out; and 2) such an attitude cultivates greed, and greed is never satisfied. God alone, on the other hand, satisfies the longings of the human heart!

The second temptation Christ faces teaches us that we have to let God be God and not try to force Him to work how and when we want Him to. This is what Christ is tempted to do as He's told to throw himself down from the temple. This temptation is one that seeks to put the human will above that of God's or seeks to use God's own words against Him as we try to justify our sinfulness. "Oh its ok, God understands, He knows I'm sorry" we hear people say all the time. But how often do these same people change their ways and repent? Shouldn't they amend their life if they are truly contrite? This is often called presumption of God's mercy and it too, like the temptation Christ faces, tries to confine God to a hand-crafted "God box." Personally, I'd rather let God think outside the box and be Himself.

Third, we see the temptation to power and wealth! But here again Christ exposes the lie that seeks to separate us from God. Many theologians and spiritual writers instantly see here the devil offering something to Christ that he cannot give, the affections and loyalty of men! In other words, the devil is trying to seduce Christ with something the devil ultimately has no control over. But what's more, Christ sees and knows the dangers that lust for power brings. Like greed, power is never satisfied and seeks only "more." True power, in contrast, consists in the ability to lay aside one's own ambition and do that which is truly good for someone else; just as Christ does when He goes to Calvary. Power then, is the fruit of Authentic Love which (as our beloved John Paul II reminds us) consists in willing the good of the other person and making a complete gift of self. Only with God's help can this be done, and He has shown us the way through His Son Jesus Christ.

Let us then, my brothers and sisters, through our Lenten penances and sacrifices, learn to see and expose those lies in our lives so that rather than conveying to the world "two truths and a lie" we share instead The Truth, the Gospel message that Christ has come to save us! **-Fr. Chris**



A letter from our Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Is-Ought or Agere Sequitur Esse?

To those who recognize these phrases—hello, my fellow philosophers. Thanks for joining me down this rabbit hole. And to those wondering why your youth minister is speaking in riddles laced with philosophy—welcome. Buckle up.

<u>David Hume (1711–1776)</u>, the Scottish philosopher of radical empiricism (knowledge is from the senses only), famously argued that we cannot derive an <u>ought</u> (a moral claim) from an <u>is</u> (a mere fact about the world). He also rejected the idea of universal truths, arguing that all knowledge comes only from sensory experience. Because physical things change, he reasoned, there can be no fixed natures—and without fixed natures, there's no foundation for morality.

Enter <u>St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274)</u>, who takes one look at Hume's skepticism and replies with *Agere Sequitur Esse—"Action follows being."* In other words, things act according to what they are. Aquinas, borrowing from Aristotle, argues that everything has a nature, and from that nature, we can derive how it ought to act. A human being, by nature, is rational, so we ought to act rationally. A tree, by nature, grows toward the sun, so it ought to do so.

But here's where Hume's argument falls apart. His entire rejection of <u>is-to-ought</u> reasoning hinges on his definition of <u>is</u>—which is not the same as Aquinas's. Hume's <u>is</u> refers to things as they appear in space and time, without any fixed nature or intrinsic order. If that's true, then, yes, you can't derive morality from an <u>is</u>—because your <u>is</u> is just a collection of shifting impressions. But if, like Aquinas, we accept that things have essences, then morality follows logically. This idea that material substances have innate nature and order is called *teleology*.

Consider self-preservation. If human life is a fundamental good (which it is), then we can say, "Don't drink poison." Not just because it's unwise, but because it's wrong—because life is part of human nature, and destroying it contradicts what we are. Hume, by denying natures, leaves no room for such moral reasoning. But in doing so, he undercuts even the scientific method—after all, why do we find regularity in the natural world at all? Why does water always boil at 100°C? Why do objects at rest stay at rest? The answer isn't just "because we observe it" but "because things have an inherent order."

No other philosophical framework explains why the world behaves in predictable ways—why things are what they are. And if reality itself has order, then so do we. And if we have order, then how we ought to act isn't just opinion, it is the reflection of reality. (which is how Aquinas defines truth by the way)

But this debate isn't just academic—it has real consequences. The rejection of teleology as outdated superstition is a modern myth. Without teleology, we lose the human person. Without teleology, we lose free will, the innate dignity of the person, and the identity of family and marriage. All of these are rooted in natural law. A world without purpose is a world where anything—even what is most fundamental to human flourishing—becomes arbitrary.

So, back to the question: Is it Hume or Aquinas? I'll let you decide—but if you're drinking hydrochloric acid, don't say I didn't warn you.

Coordinator of Youth Ministry Jesus "Abraham" Davalos



Eucharist Revival

How can you Walk with One person this year, to invite them back to the Church, or into relationship with Christ?

Last week we started learning about Carlos Acutis—a young man who will be canonized a saint this spring on April 27. If you missed last week's article I encourage you to go back and read it. (1st two points were published last week)

What <u>else</u> is there to know about a young man who only lived to be 15 years old?

3. The witness of Carlos' faith led to not only his mother's conversion, but a Hindu named Rajesh that cared for Carlos ended up becoming Catholic as well. Carlos taught him how to pray the rosary and about the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. What impressed Rajesh the most was how Carlos cared for the poor, visiting with a homeless man who would sit at the entrance to the church,

<u>4.</u> Carlos was a loyal friend and kind to kids in his class, especially those with disabilities. When a classmate's parent were going through a divorce he made a point of including him in his family life, teaching him about the importance of going to Mass and confession.

and how he would bring Tupperware dishes of food to people living in the streets.

- <u>5.</u> Carlos was fascinated by computer coding and taught himself several basic coding languages. He used these skills to put together a website focused on Eucharistic Miracles and was made into an exhibition that has travelled to thousands of parishes on five continents. He was convinced that the scientific evidence from Eucharistic miracles would help people realize the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and bring them back to Mass.
- <u>6.</u> The miracle that led to Carlos being beatified was healing of a 3-year-old boy in Brazil in 2013 who had been diagnosed with a malformation of his pancreas since birth. The miracle that led to Carlos being canonized a saint involved the healing of a 21-year old girl in Costa Rica after asking for Carlos' intercession in 2022, who was near-death after seriously injuring her head in a bicycle accident while studying in Florence.
- 7. What was Carlos' path to becoming a saint? He: went to mass and received communion daily, spent time in front of the Blessed Sacrament, prayed a daily rosary, read scripture daily, went to confession weekly, prayed for the graces to become a saint, made sacrifices and self-dentials frequently, asked his guardian angel to help him at all times. Can you choose one or two of these to work on during Lent? Shared these ideas with your children and grandchildren—they too are called to be Saints and Carlos wants to be their friend along the way! Blessed Carlos—pray for us!

In April—mark your calendars for this amazing dramatic one-woman show:

A Mother's Passion based on the Way of the Cross through Our Blessed Mother Mary's eyes. You will not want to miss this beautiful presentation. Bring your family and/or a friend. Sat, April 5th at 10:00am

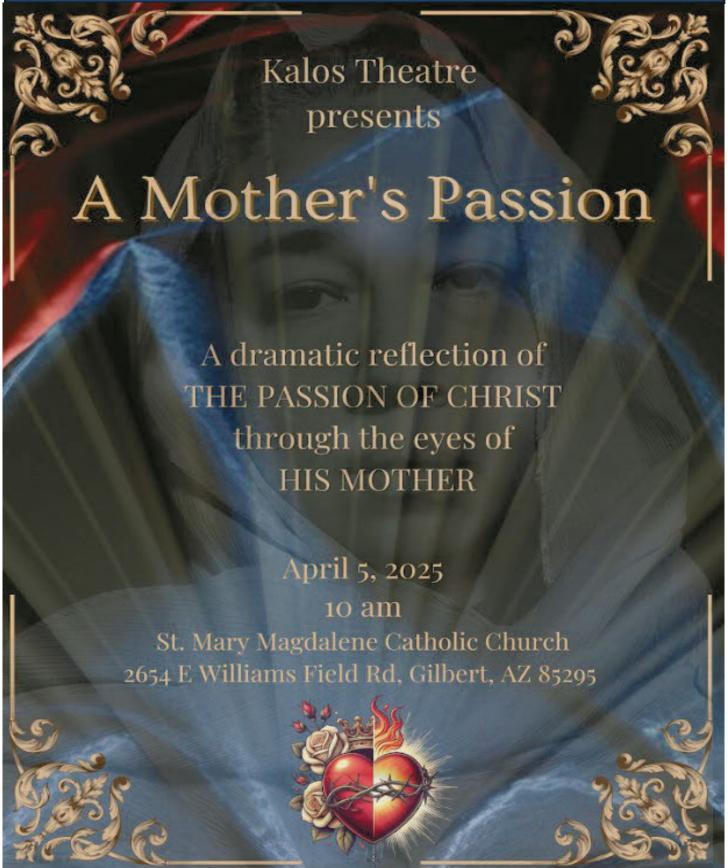


-Nicky C, Adult Formation, OCIA & Evangelization





Lenten Mission





Children & Youth Faith Formation

Parents of Special Needs Children

Would you like to share your challenges, successes, and resources with other parents of special needs children?

Join us every 4th Tuesday in the Holy Family Room! (the cry room at the back of the Church Hall)

Tuesday Mar. 25th @7:15 in the Church Hall

For more information please contact

familyformation@smarymag.org

Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed!

SMM vacation Bible School will be held

June 23-27th

Adults and teens, please help us with this very exciting event! If you are interested, please contact Mary Molina at

mary@smarymag.org

Ladies Night Out Lenten Workshop

A great time was had by all at our Pastels and Prayers Lenten Workshop. Thank you, **Miranda Mehrer**, for teaching us to make our own beautiful religious art!

Ladies, keep watch for our next event!





Liturgy

Feast Days of the Week!

Pray for us! St. Patricl

St. Patrick (415-493) | March 17

St. Patrick was born in Britain of a Romanized family in 415AD. At the age of 16, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders from the villa of his father and brought into slavery in Ireland. He spent six long years there as a herdsman, during which he turned to his faith for strength. He later escaped back to Britain on a ship, where he was eventually reunited with

His years of captivity transformed his heart and brought out a zeal for God and a yearning to spread the message of Christ. Despite the constant danger of martyrdom, he went back to the land of his captors in Ireland where he baptized and confirmed people in the name of Christ. St. Patrick is known as being the ma who brought Christianity to the lawless land of Ireland, which jumpstarted their monastic culture.

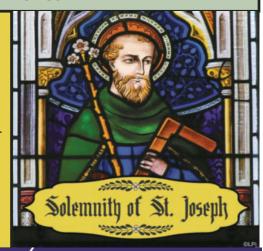
How can we bring Christ to people who seem far from Him this Lent just as St. Patrick did? +St. Patrick, PRAY FOR US!+

The Solemnity of St. Joseph | March 19

On March 19th, we celebrate holiness in the midst of unpredictable fatherhood. St. Joseph had a less than ideal start to his family. Starting with a miraculous pregnancy and a humble and untimely birth, he then fled with his newborn and wife to a foreign land to live a hidden and unstable life. But through all the trials St. Joseph trusted in God and his plan.

We know that St. Joseph is faithful, brave, and willing to sacrifice for those he loves. He is a great example of a gentle and strong man. As the protector of the Christchild and the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph lived a life of virtue and powerful silence, and was faithfully devoted to a life of prayer. He even taught Jesus himself how to pray in his early years in his role as foster father. Just as he was the foster father of Jesus, St. Joseph desires to be our foster father as well as patron of the Universal Church!

How can we sacrifice for the ones we love just as St. Joseph did? +St. Joseph, terror of demons, PRAY FOR US!+



Liturgical Training

Are you feeling called to do more at Mass? Join the Liturgical ministry and serve at the Mass you attend. This is an important ministry that is always in need of volunteers.

This training is for <u>new</u> and <u>current</u> ministers.

Choose a date & time convenient for you.

Extraordinary EMHC - March 15 at 9:00AM Minsters of Holy Lectors - March 15 at 10:00AM

EMHC - March 22 at 9:00AM

Communion Lectors - March 22 at 10:00AM

Contact Chris Haubrock to RSVP Lectors liturgy@smarymag.org 480-279-6737 x210



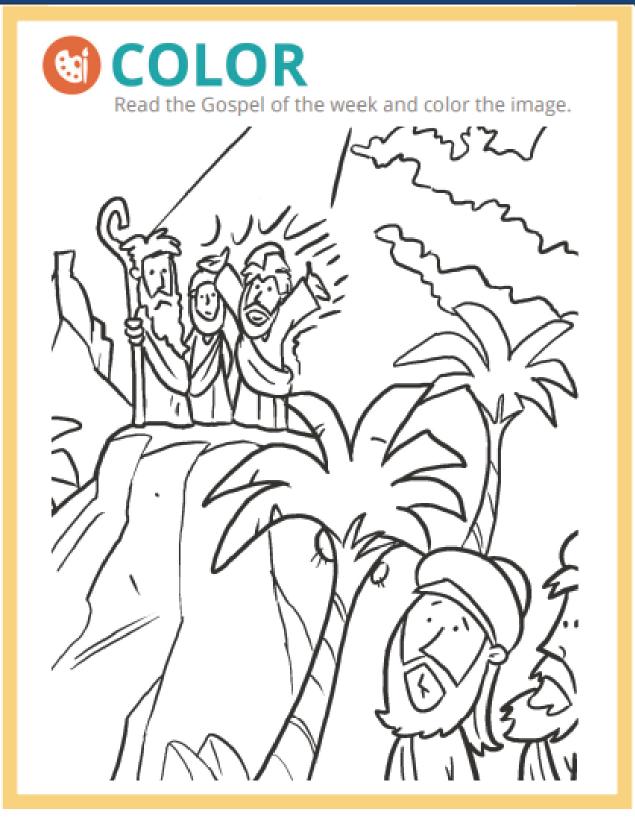
as Pastoral Council hosts Stations of the Cross and Meatless potluck on March 21st at 6 PM.

Sign up to bring a meatless soup or bread here:





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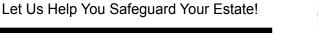
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