

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE PARISH

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT



Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." - Jn 8:6b-7



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

STAFF DIRECTORY—MAIN# 480-279-6737

Mary Jane Choi, Director of Faith Formation
familyformation@smarymag.org, ext. 214

Mary Molina, Family Formation Assistant & Little Lambs Coordinator
mary@smarymag.org, ext. 211

Abraham Davalos, Coordinator of Youth Formation
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adultformation@smarymag.org, ext. 215

Robert Martinez, Director of Sacred Music
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Chris Haubrock, Director of Sacred Liturgy, Pastoral Care, Marriage Prep & Nullity
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Abby Quiroz, Parish Manager
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Jackie Sullivan, Office and Sacrament Administrator, Baptisms, Funerals
admin@smarymag.org, ext. 205

Abby Rose Hupp, Reception
reception@smarymag.org, (480) 279-6737

Safe Environment Coordinator & Training
safeenvironment@smarymag.org, ext. 217

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 April 6, 2025

Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/
Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or
13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:12

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn
8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54,
55, 56/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-
59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/
Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/
Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday: Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18,
19-20, 23-24 (2a)/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14—
23:56 or 23:1-49

This Week's Saints, Special Observances & Mass Intentions

Saturday: 8am: Si Lily Spitzner
4:30pm: +Mary & Joseph Lucarelli

Sunday: 7am: Si Barbra Johnson
9am: +Ruby Gonzalez
11:30: +Carlson Family
4:30: Pro Populo

Monday: 8am: Si For all engaged couples

Tuesday: 8am: + Phil Infante

Wednesday: 8am: + Baby King

Thursday: 8am: +Holy Souls in purgatory

Friday: 8am: Si Aaron & Gemma Dietz

Saturday: 8am: +Alain Spitzner
4:30: + Pir Salancy

Pray for Us

Please **pray for those who are sick** including all of those in our parish Book of Intentions and submitted to our Prayer Line. We extend **Our Prayers and Sympathy** to all the deceased including **Michelle Hatfeild** 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 faithfully 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:** 10pm **T:** 10am, 11pm
Th: noon **Sat:** 5pm

Visit this QR code:

Contact Chris at Liturgy@smarymag.org with questions.



Parish Communities

Respect Life Initiative:

Contact: Ashley Laswell
respectlifesmarmag@gmail.com

Magis Women:

The bible study meets every other Monday at 6:30pm. They are on break now through the fall.
Contact: Jennifer Tortorici
jdtortorici@yahoo.com (602) 430-0264

Catholic Daughters of America:

Contact: 2779cda@gmail.com (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](https://www.instagram.com/catholictruthseekers)



Marriage and Family

YOU CAN HELP YOUR MARRIAGE



- ➔ Do you feel alone?
- ➔ Are you frustrated or angry with each other?
- ➔ Do you argue with your wife/or has your husband stopped talking?
- ➔ Does talking about it only make it worse?

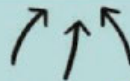
Retrouvaille (retro-vy) helps couples through hard times in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing difficulty in their marriage! For confidential information and/or to register for an upcoming program contact **(602) 254-6723**



Also visit our website at: www.helpourmarriage.org



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Child & Youth Formation



Since 1949, St. Joseph's Youth Camp, ran by Arizona Knights of Columbus, has helped kids explore the outdoors, build confidence, and make lifelong memories! Our 7-day camps offer horseback riding, kayaking, archery, astronomy nights, and more. Plus, we offer a special Catholic Week! CITs gain leadership and communication skills. Register & learn more at SJYCAZ.com!



Vacation Bible School Volunteer Meeting Monday, April 7 at 6 PM in Church Hall

Come one, Come all adults and teens!

Please volunteer for our exciting 2025 VBS June 23-27. We need help with Drama, Snacks, Music, Games and Group Leaders.

Want to volunteer but can't come to the meeting?
Email mary@smarymag.org



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Be Determined.
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Visit SetonCatholic.org/Admissions
Call 480-963-1900 Ext. 1011

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Troop522GilbertAz@gmail.com

or

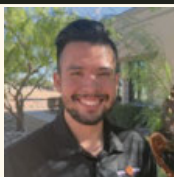
Pack522GilbertAz@gmail.com.

INFANT BAPTISM

Would you like to have your baby baptized? Please visit our website for more information and to register for baptismal prep. **Contact:** admin@smarymag.org



Man or Muppet Via a Thomistic Lens



Am I a Man or a Muppet? A Deep(ish) Dive into Philosophy

In honor of April Fools' Day, I bring you a fun yet thought-provoking reflection inspired by a recent, unforgettable moment. This past weekend, during our GS24 Spring Retreat (March 21-23, 2025), I found myself on stage with our high school volunteers for a lip sync battle. Our chosen anthem? None other than Man or Muppet from The Muppets movie. Picture this: spotlights sweeping across the room, flashlights waving like lighters at an '80s rock concert, and everyone going all in. It was one of those moments—equal parts hilarious and strangely profound.

Since then, one question has stuck with me: Am I a man or a Muppet? Naturally, this got me thinking: What would St. Thomas Aquinas say about Muppets? Since The Muppet Movie didn't come out until 1979, Aquinas never wrote about them (shocking, I know). But let's use his ideas to see what we can figure out.

Would Aquinas see Muppets as just puppets—lifeless things controlled by people? Or do they have something more, maybe even a unique place in the “hierarchy of being”? Unlike humans, who have both bodies and rational souls, Muppets have personality and even emotions, but no actual soul of their own. So where do they fit?

The Deep Stuff (But Not Too Deep)

1. Do Muppets have form and matter like humans, or are they just objects?

In philosophy, form is what makes something what it is (like “dog-ness” makes a dog a dog), and matter is what it's made of (like fur and bones). Humans have both, plus a soul. Muppets? They have matter (felt, foam, googly eyes), but their form isn't tied to a soul—it comes from their puppeteers. So, in a way, they're just really well-made objects that act alive.

2. Are Muppets just tools controlled by people, or do they “exist” in some way?

Aquinas talks about instrumental causality, where something (like a paintbrush) doesn't create art by itself—it needs an artist. Muppets are kind of like that. They don't talk, sing, or make bad puns on their own. The puppeteer gives them life. So, Kermit's wisdom and Gonzo's weirdness? They only exist because of the people behind them.

3. Are Muppets more like angels than humans?

Angels, according to Aquinas, are pure spirits without bodies, yet they can influence the world. Muppets, in a weird way, seem to break the normal rules of reality. They don't need food, they recover from explosions, and they constantly break the fourth wall. But unlike angels, they don't have minds of their own. Their actions are scripted, so while they might seem “free,” they're really not.

The Big Takeaway

Aquinas may never have considered the philosophy of Muppets, but if he did, he'd probably say they don't truly “exist” in the way humans do. They're not alive, they don't have rational souls, and they only “act” because of the people behind them. But here's something interesting: Muppets reflect human creativity, imagination, and even our ability to make others laugh and think.

So, am I a man or a Muppet? Well, if you're reading this, you're definitely a human. But in those ridiculous, joy-filled moments—when we fully embrace laughter, silliness, and fun—maybe we all have a little bit of Muppet energy in us. And honestly, that's kind of awesome.



Adult Formation



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Vigil location: On the public sidewalk at Tempe Planned Parenthood
1837 E Baseline Rd Tempe, AZ 85283

Vigil hours: 7 am to 7 pm daily

Local contact: Jim Fitzsimmons
tempe40daysforlife@gmail.com

480-712-9733

Learn more ... get involved ... and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!

40daysforlife.com/Tempe

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Upcoming Parish Schedule

St. Mary Magdalene

APRIL EVENTS



4 Stations of the Cross & Soup

11 Potluck • 6pm stations-Potluck after -
• Bring Meatless Soup to share!

**5 SMM Lenten Mission
A Mother's Passion**

- A dramatic reflection of the Passion of Christ through the eyes of His Mother
- 10am in the church ~ Free will offering

Lenten Confessions: April 15-18
Tuesday-Friday 8:45-11:15am in the church

No Confession • Mon 4/14, Sat 4/19, Mon 4/21, Tues 4/22

17 Holy Thursday: No Morning Mass
• Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm followed by
• Outdoor Adoration until midnight

18 Good Friday: No Morning Mass
Stations of the Cross 3pm
Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord 7pm

**19 { Holy Saturday:
No Morning Mass or confession
No 4:30pm mass
Easter Vigil Mass:
8pm-This is a three hour mass**



Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care to the Sick and Homebound Ministry



Bring Communion to the: Homebound Sick Dying

*Day of Reflection and Best Practices
Saturday, April 12
9:00-11:00 AM after Morning Mass
This Day is for Existing Ministers
and for those wanting to begin this
Inspiring and Challenging Ministry.*



St. Mary Magdalene Priesthood Discernment Group

HE is calling.
Consider the Priesthood.

slide to answer

- Get to know more about the priesthood
- Day in the life of a priest
- Get to know different priests
- Discernment, faith, ministry
- Q & A Session

Find Out More



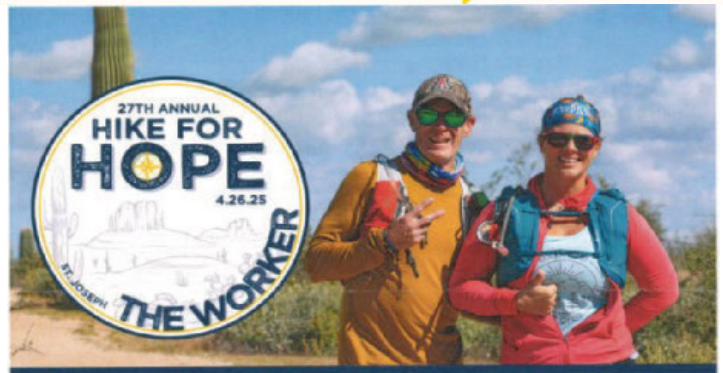
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"We are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardship of any kind." - Pope Francis

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HIKE FOR HOPE 2025: PATHWAYS TO POSSIBILITIES

Join us for our annual Hike for Hope this spring! Together, we'll enjoy stunning views, fresh air, and the rewarding experience of making a meaningful difference in our community. Your participation helps raise awareness and critical funding to provide resources and opportunities that connect unhoused, low-income, and disadvantaged individuals with quality employment. With your support, we can create life-changing pathways to stability and self-sufficiency for those who need it most. Let's take this hike together and transform lives along the way.

Location: Mc Dowell Mountain Regional Park **26** | April 2025
7:00 - 11:00 am

Registration and Event Details: <https://sjwjobs.org/hike4hope>

For sponsorship opportunities, please call Cassidy Penney at 602.309.4061



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5th Sunday of Lent • John 8:1-11

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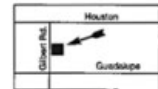
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