



SAINT MARY MAGDALENE PARISH

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



"Blessed is the king who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven
and glory in the highest."
- Lk 19:38



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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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 13, 2025

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

Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34/Mt 26:14

Thursday: (*Christm Mass*) Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/Ps 89:21-22, 25 and 27/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21 *Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper:* Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 (see 1 Cor 10:16)/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

Friday: Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 (Lk 23:46)/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42

Saturday: Easter Vigil: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 (5b)/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 (1)/Ex 14:15—15:1/ Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 (1b)/Is 54:5- 14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/ Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (3)/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/ Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 (12a)/Rom 6:3-11/Lk 24:1-12

Next Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Lk 24:1-12

This Week's Saints, Special Observances & Mass Intentions

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

Sunday: *Palm Sunday* 7am: +Peter Spitzner 9am: +Ed & Milly Nink
11:30: Pro Populo
4:30: Si Fr. Arthur

Monday: 8am: Si Fr. Arthur

Tuesday: 8am: Si The Brown Family

Wednesday: 8am: + Elizabeth & John Banfield

Thursday: *Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lords supper* 7pm: Pro Populo

Friday: *Good Friday* NO DAILY MASS

Saturday: 8am: NO MORNING MASS
7:30pm: Pro Populo

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 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!
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Letter From Your Pastor

Hello St. Mary Magdalene,

Isn't it amazing how fickle we can be sometimes? Turning to Palm Sunday and Holy Week I can't help but find some deep resonance with the fickle nature of the crowd gathered in Jerusalem. Today they (and each of us) sing "Hosanna to the Son of David" and celebrate Jesus with loud acclaim and admiration. Yet, five days later, these same individuals (and we too in the liturgy) will then shout "Crucify Him, Crucify Him." Why and how do they turn on Him so quickly? Pope Benedict XVI in 2012 gives us an insight into the crowd and our own hearts when he writes,



What is really happening in the hearts of those who acclaim Christ as King of Israel? Clearly, they had their own idea of the Messiah, an idea of how the long-awaited King promised by the prophets should act. Not by chance, a few days later, instead of acclaiming Jesus, the Jerusalem crowd will cry out to Pilate: "Crucify him!", while the disciples, together with others who had seen him and listened to him, will be struck dumb and will disperse. The majority, in fact, was disappointed by the way Jesus chose to present himself as Messiah and King of Israel. This is the heart of today's feast, for us too. Who is Jesus of Nazareth for us? What idea do we have of the Messiah, what idea do we have of God?

In other words, the crowd could not fathom Jesus, His Apostles gave in to the temptation of thinking the past three years were a failure and left Him. Christ does not always work the way we want Him to and that's the point of Holy Week; to learn from Christ how God sees each of us and the world through the eyes of His Providence and to teach us that God is not afraid of our sufferings but rather that He wants to sanctify us even in our weakness. We might be ashamed of this part of ourselves, but He isn't! This is what we call theologically redemptive suffering and was a concept so many of Jesus' own peers could not fathom; but we can and that's a grace we can seek this Holy Week- to allow Christ to redeem and heal us in our brokenness so that we can truly rise to new life! So as we celebrate this magnificent feast and powerful week, let us seek the Lord and truly offer ourselves to Him or, as St. Andrew of Crete (d. 740) encourages:

So it is ourselves that we must spread under Christ's feet, not coats or lifeless branches or shoots of trees, matter which wastes away and delights the eye only for a few brief hours. But we have clothed ourselves with Christ's grace, or with the whole Christ ... so let us spread ourselves like coats under his feet ... let us offer not palm branches but the prizes of victory to the conqueror of death.

Have a wonderful holy week and know that I am praying for you!

God bless,

Fr. Chris



Natural Law—Written on the Heart

In the past weeks (before our April fools post), we discussed the concept of order in nature and how everything—from the simplest rock to the most complex living organism—acts according to its purpose—its telos. Aristotle’s philosophy and St. Thomas Aquinas’s teachings show that humans, as rational beings, possess intellect and will, faculties that enable us to understand truth and make choices. This led us to the idea of free will. While we can’t defy the natural laws that govern the physical world (like flying unaided or shooting laser beams from our eyes), our freedom lies in choosing what is good within the constraints of our human nature.

We are free, but not in the sense that we can do anything without limitation. Our freedom exists in the choices we make that align with our nature. The more we choose what is good, the more we form virtuous habits, and the freer we become—because true freedom is the ability to choose what is good. Aristotle’s concept of eudaimonia, or flourishing, reflects this: living in harmony with our nature leads us to the good life. True freedom isn’t about rejecting limits; it’s about embracing the right ones.

Now, this brings us to the next step in understanding how we discern right from wrong: natural law.

Natural law is *teleology* applied directly to human beings. While laws of nature govern physical substances and are immutable (such as water boiling at 100°C), natural law is the moral order built into human nature. Unlike physical laws, which apply to material things and cannot be altered, natural law recognizes that humans have free will and reason, which allow us to make choices. But when we act against our nature, it leads to frustration rather than flourishing. This is why Aristotle argued that living according to our nature is necessary for a good and fulfilling life.

Natural law isn’t a set of arbitrary rules imposed from the outside; rather, it’s the moral order ingrained within us. Aquinas teaches that every human has natural inclinations toward certain fundamental goods: life, family, community, truth, and worship. These goods aren’t just preferences—they are necessary for human flourishing. Because we are rational, we can recognize these goods and establish moral precepts to protect them.

These principles are rooted in the inclinations of human nature, which Aquinas identifies as:

- **Self-preservation**, leading to laws against killing (5th Commandment)
- **Procreation and education of offspring**, leading to laws about family and sexual ethics (6th, 9th Commandments)
- **Living in society**, leading to laws about justice and truth (4th, 7th, 8th, and 10th Commandments)
- **Seeking truth, especially about God**, leading to laws about worship and religion (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 8th Commandments)

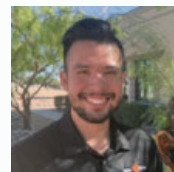
For example, our natural inclination to preserve life is why murder is universally condemned and why laws exist to protect against unjust killing. Similarly, our desire for truth is why lying is wrong, and our need for justice is why fraud and theft are prohibited. These aren’t arbitrary social conventions—they reflect a deeper order of reality that transcends cultures and societies. When we live in alignment with these natural goods, we fulfill our purpose.

Aquinas also saw the **Ten Commandments** as an expression of natural law. They don’t impose foreign rules on us; rather, they clarify what reason already tells us. Honoring our parents, respecting life, being faithful in marriage, and upholding justice all align with our natural inclinations and are necessary for a well-ordered society. However, because human reason is often clouded by sin and self-interest, God revealed these truths explicitly through the commandments, ensuring that we wouldn’t misunderstand or ignore them.

At its core, natural law tells us that morality isn’t arbitrary. Just as we know the laws of physics and biology, we can also know the moral law that governs human action. Good and evil are not up for debate like personal preferences. Instead, morality reflects the purpose we were created to fulfill. When we choose what is truly good, we aren’t simply following rules—we are fulfilling the very purpose for which we were made, drawing closer to the truth, goodness, and beauty that our nature is ordered to seek.

Natural law shows us that morality isn’t about mere external rules, but the internal alignment of our choices with the deeper, inherent order of our being. Choosing good isn’t about restricting our freedom—it’s about embracing the freedom to be what we were made to be.

-Coordinator of Youth Ministry, Jesus “Abraham” Davalos





Upcoming Parish Schedule

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

20 Easter Sunday Masses

7am, 9am, & 11:30am

NO 4:30pm mass

27 Divine Mercy Sunday

- Kof C Pancake Breakfast 8am-2pm
- Easter Egg Hunt 1pm-2pm
- 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet & Confession



Marriage and Family

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AN EVENING WITH THE SAINTS

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APRIL 25TH
7-8:30PM**

**Young saints scheduled for canonization this
year! Find out what they did and how they
continue to inspire so many**





Adult Formation

I wish you could hear each of their stories. As we enter into Holy Week, I find myself reflecting back on the journey these Elect and Candidates have made. I wish you could hear their stories—their journeys are as unique as their DNA. While there may be some common threads, the variables make them all different. Some have significant others that are Catholic that gave them a curiosity about the faith. Some grew up Catholic but were never really catechized. A few were baptized but were not taught their faith at all. Some came into their first OCIA session skeptical but open. We even have 2 couples who both were never baptized and are coming into the Church together!

OCIA is not a course. It is not a series of classes to complete. It is not a checklist to get through. I tell people who are interested in joining the Church that they are coming to learn, but it is a process. We go through topics, and they do build, but everyone is welcome wherever they are in their journey.

The inquirer period is a time to ask many questions and get clarifications on Church teaching. At the end of this period, they are asked if they are ready to make the commitment to enter into formation to become Catholic. Some are not ready yet and that is OK. I continue to accompany them regardless of whether they become ready or decide to go a different direction. If they are ready, they continue into formation as a Catechuminate.

Catechumenate is about learning how to live a Catholic life. They learn about all 7 of the Sacraments and what gifts of graces each of them provide. We talk about Ethics, Morality, Catholic Social Teaching, Dignity of Life. In each session they are encouraged to discuss and raise questions.

It has been such a joy to see lightbulb moments for these Elect and Candidates. To hear them come to new understanding, not only about the Church, but about how to have intimacy with God. How to spend time with Him in adoration. How to pray.

During the **final period of Purification**—we turn inward. We discuss how they are doing with Lenten penance & attending weekly mass; the meaning of the Creed & the Lord's Prayer. They share how excited they are to receive the Holy Spirit in Confirmation and Jesus in the Eucharist! These last couple of weeks, as the Candidates also go to their first confession—it is so beautiful to see the joy in their faces as they encounter Christ and are also realizing ways they can be serving even now, despite the fact they cannot receive Jesus in Communion.

I wish you all could be a fly on the wall in one of my sessions. It would increase your faith. It would encourage you. Please pray for these Elect & Candidates—for strength for these final days of preparation and the days to come after they receive their sacraments! Please also keep the 40 who are in the Inquirer period—for wisdom, clarity and that they would encounter Christ.

-Nicky Carlson, OCIA, Adult Formation & Evangelization






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to bless and celebrate all of our graduating seniors

May 18 4:30pm

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If you're interested please contact Mary Molina at
mary@smarymag.org

Keep an eye out for **VBS registration** which will start on **June 1st!**



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Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion • Luke 22:14-23:56

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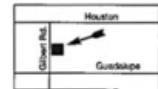
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