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The Eucharist and the Magdalene



Dear Friends in Christ,

Let me call your attention to two seemingly unrelated aspects of our faith: First Communion and Mary Magdalene.

Over the next several weeks, children in our parish will receive our Lord for the first time in Holy Communion. They had planned to do so months ago, but the shutdown delayed things. Now, at last, they will approach the altar to be nourished as children of the Father with the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of the eternal Son. Please pray for them.

It is always beautiful and moving to see children -- in all their innocence, purity of heart, and devotion -- receive Holy Communion. At the same time, there is a certain wistfulness, a desire to be like that again. We see their childlikeness and rue the loss of our own. Life's difficulties and our own bad choices have taken away that innocence, trust, and devotion. Such things no longer seem possible for us.

Which is where Saint Mary Magdalene comes in.

This Wednesday is the Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene. At some point, this woman had lost her faith and fallen into a sinful life -- into a sinfulness so extreme that our Lord had to cast seven demons out of her (cf. Mk 16:9). She was known in her town by one word: "sinner." Innocence and purity seemed impossible for her.

And yet the forgiveness, healing, and deliverance she received from Christ was so whole and entire that we encounter her in the Gospels as His devoted and pure follower. With childlike simplicity, devotion, and innocence she bathes His feet in

her tears of gratitude (Lk 7), sits at His feet to listen attentively to His words (Lk 10), anoints Him with costly oil (Jn 12), and seeks Him at the tomb on Easter (Jn 20).

The Magdalene shows us the power of God's grace to renew our souls -- not simply to free us from sin but to restore in us that innocence and purity that we so admire in children.

So, let us pray for our First Communicants. But let us also appreciate that the childlike wonder, innocence, and purity that God loves in them He also desires to renew within us.

Saint Mary Magdalene, pray for us.

Updates...

Sunday Mass. Prayers and readings can be found [here](#). Please observe the [guidelines](#) of the Diocese of Arlington.

A quiet Mass...but not intentionally. Folks, a component in our sound system blew out on Thursday (during a power surge, I suspect). We have a small auxiliary sound system at the ambo, for the readings and homily. But this means that prayers at the altar will not be on the system. Also, we will have to revert to using Facebook to livestream the Masses...just like in the olden days.

Welcome, Don Carolina! The organist this weekend is our new music director, Don Carolina. He started this past week and is still moving in. Given the restriction on singing (singers themselves have been labelled "Super spreaders"!) it's an awkward time to begin a new music program. Please keep Don in your prayers as he begins his work at Saint James.

Handicapped Parking. Thank you to Bob Harding for painting the handicapped parking spaces on the convent side of the church. I hope this will assist our parishioners in need.

Prayers for Father Joseph Elamparayil. Many of you remember Father Joseph, who lived at Saint James while studying at CUA. In fact, he was back last summer to work on a book on the now-Saint John Henry Newman. He then returned to India to work in his order's seminary. Unfortunately, we just heard that he is in the hospital with COVID. Please keep him in your prayers.

No Monday Confessions. Please note that due to a 7pm Confirmation ceremony there will be no Monday evening Confessions. Also, adoration will end earlier, at 615pm.

Rectory Ramblings. Seminarian Tim Courtney joins us to talk about vocations. Monday at 8pm!

Through the intercession of our Lady and Saint James, may the Lord bless and keep you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Scalia

St. James Catholic Church NEEDS your help!

POP-N-GO DRIVE THRU FOOD DRIVE

Saturday August 1st, 10 am-1 pm, B-LOT

Drive up, POP your trunk, and a volunteer will get the plastic/paper bag(s) (no cloth bags) full of non-perishable food. Then GO!



ITEMS NEEDED

- Rice
- Dry Beans
- Canned Fruit
- Peanut Butter
- Jam/Jelly
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Meat/Chili
- Cooking Oil
- Flour
- Cereals

Please no glass jars and no bulk or very large sizes (these cannot be divided).

*We are all called to be great saints, don't miss the opportunity-**Mother Angelica***

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