



# St. Mary Magdalene Byzantine Catholic Church

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Right Reverend Mitred Archpriest John S. Kachuba, Pastor

Father Deacon Daniel Surniak

July 5, 2020

5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sat. 5:00 pm For the Christian Family of St. Mary Magdalene

Sun. 9:30 am +Julienn Koenig – Koenig Family

Sat. 5:00 pm For the Christian Family of St. Mary Magdalene

Sun. 9:30 am +Michael & +Mary Cap & Family – Helen Sima

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**ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING:** (6/27 – 6/28) Saturday: 12 Adults, 0 children;

Sunday: 23 adults 4 children. **OFFERING:** \$1,395.00.

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**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE GUIDELINES ISSUED BY THE BISHOP REQUIRE THAT FACEMASKS BE WORN WHEN ATTENDING THE DIVINE LITURGY.**

**We have received free masks from the state of Ohio. If you need one for the Liturgy they are in a basket in the vestibule**

Father John will not wear one at the altar, but will when distributing Communion or speaking with parishioners. This is for the safety of everyone present. Please be respectful of your fellow parishioners.

## THEIR SACRIFICE, OUR FREEDOM

Fifty-six men signed the Declaration of Independence. Their conviction resulted in untold sufferings for themselves and their families. Of the 56 men, five were captured by the British and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the Revolutionary Army. Another had two sons captured. Nine of the fifty-six fought and died from wounds or hardships of the war. Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships sunk by the British navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts and died in poverty. At the battle of Yorktown, the British General Cornwallis had taken over Thomas Nelson's home for his headquarters. Nelson quietly ordered General George Washington to open fire on the Nelson home. The home was destroyed and Nelson died bankrupt. John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their thirteen children fled for their lives. His fields and mill were destroyed. For over a year, he lived in forest and caves, returning home only to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later, he died from exhaustion

*Kenneth L. Dodge, Resource, Sept./Oct., 1992, p. 5.*



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## JUST FOR FUN! – for the Fourth of July

### SMILES FOR THE FOURTH!

The Fourth of July was coming up, and the nursery school teacher took the opportunity to tell her class about patriotism. "We live in a great country," she said. "One of the things we should be happy is that, in this country, we are all free!" One little boy came walking up to her from the back of the room. He stood with his hands on his hips and said, . . . "I'm not FREE. I'm FOUR!"



## AND EQUAL OF THE APOSTLES **MARY MAGDALENE**



On the banks of Lake Genesareth (Galilee), between the cities of Capharnum and Tiberias, was the small city of Magdala, the remains of which have survived to our day. Now only the small village of Mejhdel stands on the site. A woman whose name has entered forever into the Gospel account was born and grew up in Magdala. The Gospel tells us nothing of Mary's younger years, but Tradition informs us that Mary of Magdala was young and pretty and led a sinful life. It says in the Gospels that the Lord expelled seven devils from Mary (Luke. 8:2). From the moment of her healing Mary led a new life and became a true disciple of the Savior. The Gospel relates that Mary followed after the Lord, when He went with the Apostles through the cities and villages of Judea and Galilee preaching about the Kingdom of God. She served Him from her own possessions (Luke 8:1-3) and undoubtedly shared with the Apostles the evangelic tasks in common with the other women. The Gospel relates that Mary Magdalene was present on Golgotha at the moment of the Lord's Crucifixion. While all the disciples of the Savior ran away, she remained fearlessly at the Cross together with the Mother of God and the Apostle John. Mary Magdalene was present at the Burial of the Lord. She watched as they covered over the entrance to the cave with a large stone, entombing the Source of Life. Faithful to the Law in which she was raised, Mary together with the other women spent the following day at rest, because it was the great day of the Sabbath, coinciding with the Feast of Passover. But all the rest of the peaceful day the women gathered spices to go to the Grave of the Lord at dawn on Sunday and anoint His Body according to the custom of the Jews. It is necessary to mention that, having agreed to go on the first day of the week to the Tomb early in the morning, the holy women had no possibility of meeting with one another on Saturday. They went separately on Friday evening to their own homes. They went out only at dawn the following day to go to the Sepulcher, not all together, but each from her own house. The Evangelist Matthew writes that the women came to the grave at dawn, or as the Evangelist Mark expresses, extremely early before the rising of the sun. The Evangelist John, elaborating upon these, says that Mary came to the grave so early that it was still dark. Obviously, she waited impatiently for the end of night, but it was not yet daybreak. She ran to the place where the Lord's Body lay.

Mary went to the tomb alone. Seeing the stone pushed away from the cave, she ran away in fear to tell the close Apostles of Christ, Peter and John. Hearing the strange message that the Lord was gone from the tomb, both Apostles ran to the tomb and, seeing the shroud and winding cloths, they were amazed. The Apostles went and said nothing to anyone, but Mary stood about the entrance to the tomb and wept. Here in this dark tomb so recently lay her lifeless Lord.

Wanting proof that the tomb really was empty, she went down to it and saw a strange sight. She saw two angels in white garments, one sitting at the head, the other at the foot, where the Body of Jesus had been placed. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" She answered them with the words which she had said to the Apostles, "They have taken my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." At that moment, she turned around and saw the Risen Jesus standing near the grave, but she did not recognize Him.

Holy Scripture does not tell us about the life of Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection of Christ, but it is impossible to doubt, that if in the terrifying minutes of Christ's Crucifixion she was at the foot of His Cross with His All-Pure Mother and St John, she must have stayed with them during the happier time after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. Holy Tradition testifies that when the Apostles departed from Jerusalem to preach to all the ends of the earth, then Mary Magdalene also went with them. According to Church Tradition, she remained in Rome until the arrival of the Apostle Paul, and for two more years following his departure from Rome after the first court judgment upon him. From Rome, St Mary Magdalene, already bent with age, moved to Ephesus where the holy Apostle John unceasingly labored. There the saint finished her earthly life and was buried. Her holy relics were transferred in the ninth century to Constantinople, and placed in the monastery Church of St Lazarus. In the era of the Crusader campaigns they were transferred to Italy and placed at Rome under the altar of the Lateran Cathedral. Part of the relics of Mary Magdalene are said to be in Provage, France near Marseilles, where over them at the foot of a steep mountain a splendid church is built in her honor.

- ❖ I think my neighbor is stalking me as she's been googling my name on her computer. I saw it through my telescope last night.

## CAN CATHOLICS BELIEVE IN REINCARNATION?

Those who believe in Reincarnation believe in a perpetual cycle of rebirth into this world. According to this way of thinking you live for a time then die and come back to earth in a new form. Reincarnation began as an ancient Hindu belief that the world is fundamentally unreal. This belief then sets the purpose of life as the ability to pierce this unreality and thus reach spiritual perfection or so-called Absolute Reality, this may require millions of successive reincarnations.

Now let us look at the teachings of Jesus Christ. He is opposed to this cyclic, un-finalized view of existence. While those who believe in reincarnation believe there is a succession of lives, our Christian belief is well expressed in the Book of Hebrews chapter 9 verse 27: "Just as it is appointed that men die once, and after death be judged."

In Christian belief, each human being is unique and unrepeatable. All of us are responsible for our actions. We live our lives, add our own unique contributions to history, and then cross over into eternity to face God's compassionate but fair judgment. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus says that some will "go off to eternal punishment and the just to eternal life." (Mt 25:46).

The Gnostics, who were heretics of the second and third centuries, taught transmigration of souls, another name for reincarnation. Early Church Fathers like Tertullian, Origen, and St. Irenaeus soundly refuted Gnostic teachings. This ancient heresy is experiencing new life as a popular fad known today as NEW AGE.

How do we account for this? Perhaps it is connected with the tendency today to escape from personal responsibility -- to deny the reality of sin. In our day, people's lack of awareness of sin is the prime cause of the condition that our society finds itself.

Belief in reincarnation can be a convenient way of avoiding responsibility. The danger exists that if I am destined to repeat my life indefinitely, I can stop worrying about any final accounting for my actions. Put faith in Christ and understand that He has gone "to prepare a place for you" in a better world to come.

- ❖ Money talks . . . but all mine ever says is good-bye.
- ❖ You're not fat, you're just . . . easier to see.

## HAPPINESS AND OLD AGE

Many seniors find themselves living alone at some point in their life. Some adjust and even enjoy having time to do as they please. Others are lonely, especially if they have limited mobility and are unable to get out without help.

For our mental health alone, each of us must continue to be socially active. And we'll never have a fulfilling rewarding retirement life while staring at four walls or the television set at home.

Reach out. Others you know can be as lonely as you are and just as reluctant to reach out first. Only you can take the first step. If you want to have a friend, you must be a friend. Countless other people out there are lonely, too, but can't or won't take that first step toward friendship. Don't wait for your phone to ring; make someone else's ring and you'll make the day brighter for both of you.

Happiness is a choice. It comes from within. You, for the large part, make the decision whether to be happy or not. Some of the happiest people have the least amount of money and the biggest problems, but they have chosen not to let their troubles rule their lives. Choose to be happy. You will find that you feel better and that people will want to be around you because happiness is contagious.

- ❖ Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.
- ❖ I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom, until they are flashing behind you.
- ❖ A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.

