

# PREP Newsletter

Issue: April 2021 St. Mary Magdalen Church



## From the Director:

In some ways, it's hard to believe this year is over – but in others it seems like it's lasted for eternity! Can you believe that a year ago, we were thinking this was only going to last a short time, and then things would go back to normal? I don't even think we know anymore what normal is, much less what it will ever be!

While the world has changed, some things don't and won't ever change. God is eternal, and we have to remember always that his love for us is eternal too!

I attended a retreat recently – virtual, but we worked it out so that small groups met in locations with wifi where they could be socially distant but act as a small group for breakout sessions. I don't know how much actual retreat we got done because we were so darn happy to all be able to get together and share! We had held virtual meetings since last spring, but they were controlled by the person running them so this was the first time many of us had a chance to be together. One of the videos our presenter showed I found particularly interesting, because it talked about [Compassion Fatigue](#) and the stress so many of us are experiencing as a result of this year. If you're interested, remember anything in blue on this newsletter is a link to what it is referencing! Above all, remember that Easter is a time of hope; a time to remember that even when all seems lost and impossible, God is there, and with him all things are possible! We come through Holy Week often feeling lonely and sad, but as it says in Scripture, "with the dawn comes rejoicing! So rejoice – Jesus is risen!

*-Karen Wasik*

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Our final live Stations of the Cross for this year will be Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6PM. The worship aid can be pulled up on your phone [here](#).

You can also see previous versions from this year on our parish youtube channel; [here](#) are the last ones we did!



# EASTER SUNDAY MASS

**8:30am & 10:30am**

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED  
LINKS WILL GO LIVE MONDAY 3/22

Don't forget that if you would like to attend Mass for Easter Sunday, you will need to sign up! Reservations will go live on Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> on the parish website at [www.smmchurch.org](http://www.smmchurch.org) [See next page for more details!](#)



Besides going to Mass, the parish will also be holding an Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:30 Mass. There is one for children age 5 and one for children ages 6-8, and you have to sign up at

[Egg Hunt](#). **You must pre-register for this event.**

**Children need to bring their own baskets of a bag. Social distancing rules and mask wearing required.**

**The Easter Bunny will be on hand for pictures, socially distant.**

**Normally we ask for the eggs back, but this year due to COVID please keep them!**

**I AM WORKING ON GETTING PREP REGISTRATION ONLINE WITH ONLINE CREDIT CARD PAYMENT. IT'S GOING TO REQUIRE SOME RESTRUCTURING TO MAKE IT HAPPEN, BUT I'LL LET YOU KNOW AS SOON AS I HAVE IT FINISHED!**



## ANGELS

One of the family days we've had has been on angels, and I am always keeping my eyes open for more information on them! With COVID and all of the natural disasters going on in the world, we could certainly all use a guardian angel! Ascension Press has a great variety of videos out there, and lots of good topics – including guardian angels! If you're interested, here's a video from them that tells you all about [Guardian Angels!](#)



In Dec. 2020, Pope Francis announced a Year of St. Joseph, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the Universal Church.

Pope Francis said he was establishing the year so that "every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfillment of God's will."

The Pope also stated that the coronavirus pandemic has heightened his desire to reflect on St. Joseph, as so many people during the pandemic have made hidden sacrifices to protect others, just as St. Joseph quietly protected and cared for Mary and Jesus.

"Each of us can discover in Joseph -- the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence -- an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble," the pope wrote.

He also said he wanted to highlight St. Joseph's role as a father who served his family with charity and humility, adding, "Our world today needs fathers."

Taken from the Catholic News Agency: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/the-year-of-st-joseph-what-catholics-need-to-know-44623>

## Easter Reservations:

We have a new reservation system for our Easter Sunday Masses on our website. You can make a reservation using your email or mobile phone and see in real-time how many seats are available. Your confirmation email/text will have instructions on how you yourself can cancel if needed. The parish office will still take reservations over the phone for those people who do not have a computer or mobile phone, pending availability.

**If canceling reservations, do so as far in advance as possible to allow others to sign up for your seats. Don't wait until the day before Easter to cancel.** *Please do not show up on Easter Sunday without reservations as we have been reaching maximum capacity on weekends.*

## **Did You Know?**

Did you know that the parish livestreams the Mass every week? And that we have streamed the [Rosary](#), the [Stations of the Cross](#), and various other devotions? That Father Kirk has made videos on [Lenten symbols](#) and [Easter symbols](#), as well as how to make an [Advent wreath](#) or a [Christingle](#)? If not, you haven't been on the website! We have loads of videos on youtube, some educational, some devotional, some the Mass – and all ways for you to know what's going on in the parish!

Currently Father is also doing daily Lenten reflections, and they're on the website too! So any time you want information about the parish, a sacrament, if you want resources – go to [St. Mary Magdalen](#) for the scoop!

**A very blessed and happy Easter from your SMM family! Remember – no classes on Palm Sunday (March 28<sup>th</sup>) or Easter Sunday (April 4<sup>th</sup>.) In building classes are April 11 and 25, and April 18 is virtual!**