

# SHARING THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

## *St. Mary Magdalene & Witness to the Resurrection*

This month we will focus on **St. Mary Magdalene** and being a **Witness to the Resurrection**. This involves testifying to the truth of Christ's resurrection through our words and actions, making our lives a sign of His victory over sin and death.

### IN DEPTH

Witnessing to the Resurrection means living in a way that shows the real, practical difference the resurrection makes in our lives. Jesus Christ rose from the dead, conquered sin and death, and offered us hope for eternal life. To Witness to the Resurrection is to show this hope through our words and actions. This brings a deep sense of joy, even in life's challenges. The Resurrection gives us the conviction that our hardships are temporary and death is not the end. Being a Witness also means engaging in acts of love, service, and forgiveness to follow Christ's example of self-giving love. By prioritizing faith through prayer, participation in the Sacraments, and sharing the Good News with others, we offer a powerful testimony to the reality that Jesus is alive and actively present in our lives!

### CONNECTION TO THE SAINT

St. Mary Magdalene was the first Witness to the Resurrection. In her deep devotion to Christ, she was one of the few disciples who stayed with Him during His crucifixion and visited His tomb after His death, where she was the first to encounter the risen Jesus. When Jesus met her there, He called her by name and gave her a mission. St. Mary followed our Lord's will with a deep, personal love, making her the first to proclaim the Resurrection to the Apostles and earning her the title "Apostle to the Apostles." Despite cultures that marginalized women's voices, the Church has insisted that everyone—men, women, and children—have an important role in communicating the saving message of Jesus Christ.



## WAYS ADULTS CAN PRACTICE THE VIRTUE

- **Joyful Spirit:** People are drawn to the joy that comes from a deep, resilient faith. Facing challenges with hope and trust in God's plan, even in the face of suffering, can show others the peace that faith provides.
- **Kindness and Forgiveness:** Offering forgiveness to others, and treating people with compassion and dignity at all times mirrors the mercy of God revealed in the Resurrection.
- **Talk About Faith:** Look for opportunities to share what Jesus means to you personally and how His Resurrection impacts your life.
- **Be Knowledgeable:** When people question or doubt your faith, be ready to explain the importance of the Resurrection and the difference it makes in your life (1 Peter 3:15).
- **Sacraments:** Regular participation in Mass and confession is a powerful way to witness to the transformative power of the Resurrection. The Eucharist is the real presence of the risen Christ, and through it we are spiritually nourished.
- **Show the Importance of Sunday:** Keep Sunday as a day of worship and rest and invite others to do the same.
- **Bear Suffering with Faith:** When faced with suffering, offer it to God as a prayer for an intention and unite it with Christ's Passion, trusting in God's redemptive plan.
- **Respect for Life:** The Resurrection affirms the dignity of every human life, and we must recognize the image of God in every person, no matter their background, status, age, or ability, and treat them accordingly from conception to natural death.
- **Be a Peacemaker:** Strive for reconciliation and peace in relationships within your family, workplace, and community. By being an instrument of peace, you imitate Christ's reconciling work.
- **Live Your Beliefs:** In both your personal and professional life, act according to Catholic moral teachings. People are strongly influenced by the example of a life lived with consistency and integrity.