

SHARING THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

St. Mary Magdalene & Witness to the Resurrection

This month, we will focus on **St. Mary Magdalene** and our virtue is being a **Witness to the Resurrection**. Being a witness means sharing the Good News (Gospel) that Jesus rose from the dead! We can show this truth through our words and actions, helping others see how much Jesus loves us and how He has won over sin and death! Let's strive to make our lives a sign of His amazing victory.



IN DEPTH

Being a Witness to the Resurrection, like St. Mary Magdalene, means **showing others that we believe Jesus is alive today** because He rose from the dead. It means being a messenger of the Gospel, which means “Good News!” So how do we share this Good News? We share it through our words and actions. **When we live with joy, help others, and forgive**—even when it’s tough—we show everyone how powerful Jesus’ love is and how He defeated sin and death. Other ways we can live as witnesses include participating in the Sacraments, praying, and serving others to help them see that the Resurrection is real! These actions remind us that His love gives us hope for eternal life with Him!

OTHER RESOURCES

- Painting of St. Mary Magdalene [[WikiCommons](#)]
- St. Mary Magdalene biography for Kids [[My Catholic Kids](#)]
- Saint Stories with Kelsey: St. Mary Magdalene [[Upper Middle School](#)]

GROWING AS A FAMILY

Celebrate Sunday Mass Together

- Action: Sunday is the day of the Lord's Resurrection, and attending Mass together as a family is the most important way to remember and celebrate the Resurrection.
- Strategy: After Mass, take time as a family to discuss the homily and the Gospel readings. Reflecting on the significance of the Resurrection and how it impacts daily life strengthens the family's understanding of the faith.

Pray as a Family

- Action: Set aside time each day for family prayer, such as in the morning or before bedtime. These prayers can be personal or a chosen devotion like the rosary.
- Strategy: Prayers of thanksgiving, especially acknowledging Jesus' victory over death, and praying the Glorious Mysteries of the rosary remind the family that hope and joy come from Christ.

Family Love and Unity

- Action: Model and practice forgiveness as a family. It can be a sign of God's forgiveness when we fail. Families can practice this in words, by resolving conflicts peacefully, and seeking reconciliation when disagreements arise.
- Strategy: Teach children to ask for forgiveness, to forgive, and to give thanks for the gift of family. Model forgiveness and joy in your family relationships. Small acts of mercy, love, and gratitude can help create a home environment that reflects the Resurrection.

Acknowledging and Celebrating Efforts

- Action: Implement a family tradition of expressing gratitude or recognition for acts of kindness and achievements, possibly during a weekly family meeting.
- Strategy: Use this time to reinforce the importance of noticing and appreciating the good in others, fostering an environment of positive reinforcement and mutual respect.

Foster Vocations and Discipleship

- Action: Help each family member, especially children, to understand that they are called to follow Jesus in their own unique way. Encourage them to discern their vocation—whether to marriage, priesthood, religious life, or single life—as part of living out the new life brought by the Resurrection.
- Strategy: Parents can model how to live a life of faith, prayer, and service. Children are deeply influenced by their parents' example, so showing them how to prioritize God, family, and community is a vital way to Witness to the Resurrection.

Living the Sacraments Together

- Action: Encourage the family to regularly receive the Sacraments of Communion and Reconciliation. Celebrate each family member's baptismal anniversary, reminding the family that through baptism, they share in Christ's death and Resurrection.
- Strategy: The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life, where the risen Christ is made present. The Resurrection reminds us of the new life we receive through forgiveness of sins, and confession is a powerful way to renew that life. This helps the family recognize that they are part of the Resurrection through their sacramental life.

Be a Witness in the Wider Community

- Action: As a family, invite friends, neighbors, or relatives who may not attend church regularly to join you for Mass, especially on significant days like Easter. A family's public witness of faith can inspire others to explore their own relationship with Christ.
- Strategy: Live as a family that radiates Christian love and faithfulness. Whether it's by showing hospitality, being active in parish life, or offering help to those in need, a family that lives its faith together stands out as a witness to the Resurrection.

Celebrate the Small Signs of New Life

- Action: Pay attention to small areas of personal growth in each family member. Recognize and celebrate the small signs of renewal in their lives—whether it's personal growth, healing relationships, or positive changes in the home.
- Strategy: By focusing on these moments of grace, families can nurture hope that God is constantly at work, bringing life from what seems broken or dead, just as He defeated death through the Resurrection.