

# 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 STAFF CAN PRACTICE THE VIRTUE

- **Model Christian Joy and Hope:** The Resurrection is a source of joy and hope, even in challenging circumstances. Promote an environment of optimism, encouragement, and gratitude. When challenges arise, a staff focused on the Resurrection remembers these problems are temporary and even a source of growth when confronted with Christ.
- **Practice Mercy:** When mistakes are made, fostering a culture of mercy and learning, rather than punishment and blame, can reflect the forgiveness and new beginnings that the Resurrection offers to all believers.
- **Resolve Conflicts Together:** In a Resurrection-centered environment, staff are encouraged to forgive one another and work through conflicts with grace and understanding, mirroring Christ's message of peace and renewal.
- **Prayer in the Workplace:** Have regular opportunities for prayer, whether at the start of the day or before meetings with coworkers. Praying for one another can deepen a sense of spiritual connection among the team.
- **Celebrate the Small Signs of New Life:** Just as the Resurrection brought new life, we can recognize and celebrate the small signs of renewal in our lives. By focusing on these moments of grace, we can nurture hope that God is constantly at work, bringing life from what seems broken or dead.
- **Cultivate a Spirit of Service:** Just as Christ gave Himself for others, staff can foster an environment of service. Simple acts of kindness, such as helping with tasks, offering emotional support, or lending a hand, embody the love that Jesus showed through His life, death, and Resurrection.
- **Lead by Example:** Leaders within the staff should model Christian virtues—honesty, humility, kindness, and a willingness to serve. When staff see their leaders living out the values of the Resurrection, they are more likely to adopt these values in their own behavior.
- **Respect and Dignity for All:** Recognizing the inherent dignity of each person is a key way to Witness to the Resurrection. In a staff setting, this means ensuring that every member feels valued, heard, and respected, no matter their role or background.