

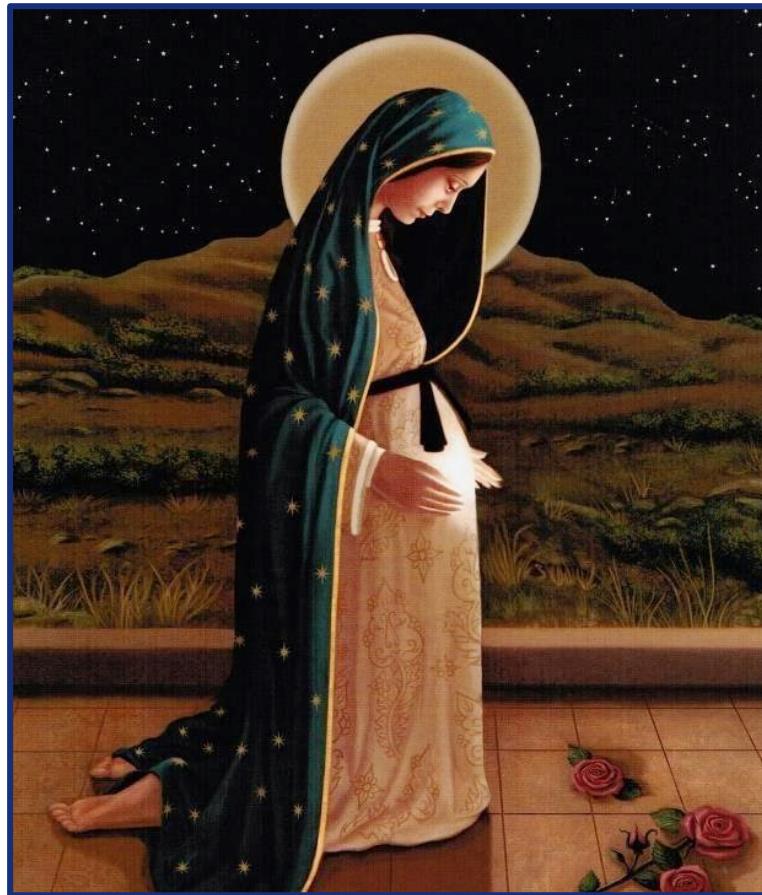
Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community

"A New Way to Be Roman Catholic"

Making Catholicism relevant ~

Restoring Women's Ordination ~

Living the Change We Envision...



Our Lady of Guadalupe, Artist Unknown

"Holy Darkness, Holy Night"

Fourth Sunday in Advent ~ 2025

Welcome and Announcements

GONG

Good Evening. Welcome to Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community based in San Diego, California, on the unceded territory of the Kumeyaay people, with whom we now are neighbors.

My name is..., one of your lectors this evening. Suzie Knapp is our in-person homilist and presider. Jane Via is our in-person co-presider. Nancy Corran is our online presider.

Today we gather in person and online as we wait, watch, and wonder this Advent season. Know that wherever you are and whoever you are, you are welcome here, just as you are. We are glad you are joining us.

For those of you joining us online, you can find the worship aid at mmacc.org. After our liturgy concludes, we invite you to stay online for some social time.

We'd also like to welcome any visitors with us today. For those on Zoom, please feel free to introduce yourselves on chat. For those visitors in person, if you feel comfortable, we invite you to stand and introduce yourselves and tell us where you are from.

[Pause for introductions] If in-person visitors are present, please read the following paragraph:
Our communal spoken responses are in the Assembly Worship Aid. The songs are on the white song sheet inserted in the Worship Aid.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thank you for your tremendous response to our Christmas Project. All 40 recipients from the Casa Uriel Orphanage have been chosen and George confirmed that all the gifts have arrived. Thank you as always for your generosity in bringing Christmas joy to all at the orphanage.
- Our Christmas Eve Mass will be at 7:30pm on December 24th. After the service, please join us for a friendly reception in the Garden Room where you are sure to experience good food, drink, and great conversation. If you're able to help with set up or clean up contact Mary Kay. Also, if you are able to donate sweet or savory finger foods or drinks, please also call Mary Kay (her number is in the bulletin and in the directory). We hope you will join us in celebration.
- Rod's canonical funeral mass takes place tomorrow, December 22nd at 11:00 a.m. at San Francisco Solano Catholic Church in Rancho Santa Margarita, Orange County. Unfortunately, this mass will not be live streamed. The Immaculate Heart Community, the Corita Art Center, and Housing Works are currently planning a celebration of Rod's life in January. We will provide information when a date has been determined for this event, which will be live streamed. We at MMACC may also have our own service in the new year, since many of us will not be able to travel to Los Angeles for either event.
- Please see our bulletin for other community news and events. Donations to MMACC may be placed in the basket outside the chapel doors. Online donations may be made through our website under the "donate" tab.
- We now take a moment of prayerful silence, as we continue to remember all those who have already been born anew into the everlasting arms...

GONG

~ INTRODUCTORY RITES ~

Advent Candle Lighting in Silence

After Welcome & Announcements, lector lights 4 of the Advent candles, then returns to their seat.

Opening Song ~ Rise Up, Beloved Ones

Schoenbachler

***Rise up, rise up, rise up, rise up, beloved ones!
Sing out, ring out, sing out, sing out, beloved ones!
Rejoice, the day is near!***

Sing, all you people, for the day is near.
Sing, all you people, wash away your fear.
Everyone get ready liberation is near.
Emanuel shall come, the long awaited One.
Emanuel, come to us. **(R)**

Rejoice, all you people, and start anew.
Rejoice, all you people, God comes to you.
Everyone get ready for our God will guide the way.
Emanuel shall come, the long awaited One.
Emanuel, come to us. **(R)**

Opening Rite

We gather and we begin...

+ In the Name of God who shares divinity with us, Jesus who shares humanity with us, and the Holy Spirit who unsettles and inspires us, we pray.... **Amen.**

May the grace of Jesus the Christ, the love of God,
and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you.**

Kyrie ~ “Call to Consciousness”

Presider: *As we begin we call to mind times this past week, when we did not still ourselves to allow holy silence enter into our lives.*

Holy Mystery, when we do not watch for You and fail to prepare Your way.
[R] Help us to watch for You and announce Your presence.

Jesus the Christ, when we forget our interdependence with one another and do not witness to your love.

[R] Help us to be Your messengers of love and liberation.

Creating Spirit, when we do not wonder at Your cosmic creation...
[R] **Help us to wonder, rejoice, and serve.**

ALL: Forgive our reluctance to watch, witness, and wonder. Empower us to be heralds of good tidings, especially in troubled times. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Holy Mystery, In this season of expectation we prepare to welcome Jesus, Messiah, into the busyness of our lives and hard-to-find moments of solitude. We prepare to welcome Jesus, Messiah, into our homes along with friends, family, and the stranger. We prepare to welcome Jesus, Messiah into our hearts, and those often-hidden parts of our lives. We prepare to welcome Jesus, Messiah, who entered this world as vulnerable as any one of us. In this season of anticipation, we prepare to welcome Jesus, Messiah, whose love and service ever guides our lives....Amen.

~ LITURGY OF THE WORD ~

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

God spoke to Ahaz, ruler of Judah, through Isaiah the prophet and said, "Ask God for a sign, be it in the deepest depths of the earth or the farthest reaches of the heavens."

But Ahaz said, "I will not ask for a sign. I will not put God to the test."

Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you House of David and Bathsheba! Isn't it enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of God also? God will go ahead and give you a sign: The young woman will be with child, and will give birth, and the child will be called, 'Immanuel'."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm [Sung]

The Magnificat, Sung, "Holy is Your Name", Luke 1:36-55

My soul is filled with joy as I sing to God, Creator;
You have looked upon this woman,
you have visited your people.

**And holy is your name through all generations!
Everlasting is your mercy to the people you have chosen,
And holy is your name.**

An ordinary woman, but I know from this day forward
That my name will be remembered,
for all will call me blessed. **[R]**

I proclaim the pow'r of Love, you do marvels for your people;
though you scatter the proud-hearted
and destroy the might of rulers. **[R]**

To the hungry you give food, send the rich away empty.
In your mercy you are mindful
of the people you have chosen. **[R]**

In your love you now fulfill what you promised to your people.
I will praise you, God, Creator,
everlasting is your mercy. **[R]**

Second Reading

Titus 3:4-8

A Reading from the letter to Titus

When the kindness and love of God appeared in Jesus the Christ, we were made whole; not because of righteous things we had done, but because of divine compassion. Through the waters of new birth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, God claims us as God's own. The Holy Spirit was richly poured out on us through Jesus the Christ, our Healer. Having known the holy power of inclusion, forgiveness, and grace, we become heirs of God, receiving the hope of life everlasting.

That is true and trustworthy. I insist on these points so that those who have trusted in God and have known grace, may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good; to doing what is excellent and what is beneficial to others.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mass of St Mary Magdalene, Sarah Hart

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (2x)

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-10 (abbreviated), 14-15

God is with you. **[R] And also with you.**
A Reading from the Gospel attributed to Matthew.
[R] Glory to You, O God.

The genealogical book of Jesus Christ...

In the 42 generations from Abraham and Sarah concluding with Jacob, father of Joseph, four women are named: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and the wife of Uriah, whom we know as Bathsheba. Joseph became the husband of Mary, from whom was born Jesus, the one called the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed.

When Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit...

This happened to fulfill what God said through the prophet:

"The young woman will be with child, and will give birth, and the child will be named 'Immanuel'"
which means God with us.

The Gospel of God.

Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

Homily

Nancy Corran

Prayers of the Faithful 12-21-2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

[Note: the first two prayers today are based on the last two of the 7 beautiful "O" antiphons, traditionally sung at vespers in the last week of Advent since at least the 8th century CE.]

"... we were made whole; not because of righteous things we had done, but because of divine compassion." As we ponder the prophecy, and then the realization, of the coming of Emmanuel, let us ask for all that we and all creation need.

Our response: *Holy One, we long for You. Come!*

All: Holy One, we long for You. Come!

O Sovereign of all nations, the cornerstone making us all one, come and lift up the human race, which you fashioned on Earth from the stardust elements of the Cosmos ... we pray ...

All: Holy One, we long for You. Come!

O Emmanuel, Giver of the law of love, the hope of all nations and the One for whom we long, come with Your saving grace, Emmanuel ... we pray ...

All: Holy One, we long for You. Come!

Scripture commands us to treat foreigners the same as citizens, and to love them equally, remembering that we, too, were once foreigners. Let us work to make our country welcoming to migrants, immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees ... we pray ...

All: Holy One, we long for You. Come!

Knowing that we have been made whole because of divine compassion, let us extend our human compassion to all in the human family who are in need in body, in mind, in spirit ... we pray ...

All: Holy One, we long for You. Come!

The Earth contains the dust of countless generations of our ancestors, as well as the blood of Jesus and of our contemporaries killed in war. May this God-beloved Earth become for them and for us the garden of resurrection and new life ... we pray ...

All: Holy One, we long for You. Come!

That in this time of special celebration and feasting, we hold close in our hearts those of us for whom this season brings a sense of loss and emptiness ... for them and with them, we pray as Jesus said we should ...

All: Holy One, we long for You. Come!

Now it is time to bring to God the personal prayers and intentions of our hearts. All who wish to share a prayer here in person, please come forward to the microphone. All who wish to share a prayer online, please raise your physical or digital hand and you will be called on in turn, or type your prayer in the chat and these will be read aloud. We ask that your prayers be brief petitions, and in consideration of our diversity of perspectives, remember the universal needs of all people.

[After each petition:]

All: Holy One, we long for You. Come!

[After all petitions have been spoken:]

We lift up all those living with illness, injury, loss, and suffering, those who have gone home in Holy Mystery, and all the prayers here today that have remained unspoken, deep in the silence of our hearts...

(Short pause)

For these intentions and for all the prayers remaining in the chat and in our community prayer book ... we pray ...

All: Holy One, we long for You. Come!

Concluding Prayer: *God of Compassionate Love, You indeed are our refuge and our strength. Hear the prayers we bring to you today in trust and confidence. May we find hope in Your goodness as we strive to bring about Your reign of justice and peace in the midst of chaos. In Jesus' name we pray...Amen.*

~ LITRUGY OF THE EUCHARIST ~

Offertory Song & Presentation of Gifts - "People Look East"

Farjeon/French Folk Melody

People, look east! The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able;
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

Preparation of Gifts

Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God forever.

Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God forever.

Pray that sharing these gifts furthers justice, equity, and peace.

We long for holy peace. Embolden us to be champions of justice in word and deed.

Prayer with our Gifts

In our yesterdays, O God, you watched us and protected us while we were helpless infants. In our todays, in the midst of confusion and the busy-ness of daily life, you are the still center of silence and strength. In our tomorrows, you are the source of hope and the destination of all our wanderings. At this table we pause to reflect upon the Christ who was, who is, and who evermore shall be. With this bread and wine, we proclaim that our hope is in the meek and self-giving love of Christ, one willing to be broken in body and spirit that we might find wholeness and health, we pray...Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

God dwells in you. ***And also in You.***
Come to the table with thankful hearts.
We give our thanks and praise.

Presider: Holy Mystery, we give You thanks for fertile darkness, for holy nights, for the longing and the love that created the Cosmos. Give us courage and endurance as we journey through the winter seasons of life.

Voice 1 (online)

Let Your vision for the cosmos be ours. Reveal anew Your presence in all creation. Make us ever more conscious that You Dwell within us, that we might live the desire of your heart for the world.

Voice 2 (online)

In trust and gratitude, we enter Sacred Mystery, as we join the cosmic chorus, singing our song of unending praise:

Sanctus [Sung]*Mass of St Mary Magdalene, Sarah Hart*

Holy, holy, holy, O God of hosts!

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are all who come in Your name Holy God.

Hosanna in the highest.

Voice 3 (online)

There is one crying in the wilderness who brings good news of Your Long-expected Messiah, who will guide us on a path of peace.

Voice 4: We acknowledge Your birth in a human child, born of a woman named Miriam, in a town called Bethlehem.

Voice 5: This birth is a sign to us and to the world of Your divine presence in all people and all creation.

Voice 6: Through Jesus, You scattered the proud, cast down the mighty, lifted the lowly and fed the hungry with good things.

Voice 7: Through Jesus You fed his disciples. Through him You feed Your disciples gathered here tonight.

[Please extend your hand, palm up, toward the bread and wine.]

Presider: And so, Holy Love, we await Your Long-Expected One, who is ever coming into our world. We recognize Your Spirit alive and at work in this bread and wine, and in us. We open ourselves to Your Spirit who sanctifies and transforms these gifts to become You in us, the body and blood of Christ, as we now fulfill Your command of love.

We remember that...

All: *...on the night before Jesus died, while at supper with his friends, he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to them saying: "Take this, all of you and eat. This is my body. Do this in memory of me."*

[Pause]

In the same way, Jesus took the cup filled with wine. He said the blessing, gave the cup to his friends, and said, "Take this all of you and drink. This is my life-blood, the cup of Love. Do this in memory of me."

Presider: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: *[sung]*

Schutte

**Holy darkness, blessed night,
Heaven's answer hidden from my sight.
As we await you, O God of silence, we embrace your holy night**

Voice 8: As we celebrate now, we remember *and* look for the birth of Jesus, Your Messiah, who loved us, even to death. His life and death are a parable, teaching us to pour out our lives for the life of all.

Voice 9: Remember all leaders, secular and religious. Remember us gathered here. Remember all people who seek You. Remember all who have died into the fullness of Cosmic splendor, especially our MMACC companions in faith who have gone before us.

Presider

Gather us to share in Your one, unending banquet with Mary, Jesus, and all Your holy people throughout time. Then, in Your presence and with all creatures, we shall give You glory. For it is...

**Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
In the unity of Sophia Spirit,
One God of all that is, may glory and honor be yours.**

The Great Amen

Mass of St Mary Magdalene, Hart

[Sung] Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

The Prayer of Jesus [Sung]

Bethel

The prayer often called the "Our Father" has been translated, rendered, and sung in many ways over the last 2,000 years. Feel free to pray in the words and language most comfortable to you. We offer this contemporary sung version.

**Be-lov-ed, Cre-a-tor,
Holy be Your Name.
Your kin-dom, come through us
Your heart's de-sire be done
On Earth and through-out the Cosmos (Your cosmic glory)
We are Your hands, Your heaven is in our hands.

Pro-vide bread, for each day,
to share with all on Earth.
Forgive us, as we do
forgive those who hurt us.
And lead us in Your good pathways (your ways are good)
And keep us from evil, protect us, we'll pro-tect Yours.

Ours is the kin-dom, Love is the Power,
Yours is the glory, forever amen. 2x Let heaven come...**

The Sign of Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you, always.

[R] And also with you.

Let us offer one another, and the whole world, a sign of peace

Lamb of God [Sung]

Mozart

Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Do-na no-bis pa-cem. (3x)

Presider

Filled with holy longing, we wait and watch for Your coming.

[R] We are blessed to witness this wonder.

This is the table of Jesus, who made no restrictions. Neither do we. All are truly welcome to receive the gluten-free Eucharistic bread and the consecrated red wine or white grape juice. May **all** who share in this communion be united in the Body of Christ that knows no bounds. Come! God's table is ready!

Communion Song - "Holy Darkness, Blessed Night"

*Holy darkness, blessed night; Heaven's answer hidden from our sight.
As we await you, O God of silence, We embrace your holy night*

You've been tried in the fires of affliction,
Love has taught your soul to grieve.
In the barren soil of your loneliness, There will I plant my seed. **R**

Were you there when I raised up the mountains? Can you guide the morning star? Does the hawk take flight when you give command? Don't doubt the power of love. **R**

In your deepest hour of darkness, I will give you wealth untold.
When the silence stills your spirit, Let My riches fill your soul. **(R)**

~ CLOSING RITES ~

Prayer after Communion

God of time and eternity, you are always with us, yet always in the process of coming. Through the sharing of this simple meal, may we know that you are here, yet may we wait expectantly for your work and word to be fulfilled in our lives. Center our hearts and minds on the paths of peace, reconciliation, justice, and unity in our efforts to walk the paths of Jesus the Christ, we pray ... Amen

Closing Blessing

*God of hope, who brings love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us, let the church say... Amen!*

*God of hope, who brings peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us, let the church say... Amen!*

*God of hope, who brings joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us, let the church say... Amen!*

*And God of hope, may you be the center, the focus of our daily lives,
particularly during this Advent time, let the church say... Amen!*

Sending

This Mass is ended. Christmas is at hand.

Thanks be to God.

Closing Song - "Ready the Way"

Hurd

Ready the way of our God! Ready the way of our God!
A voice cries out in the wilderness: Ready the way of our God!

Let ev'ry valley be filled. Let ev'ry valley be filled.
Let ev'ry mountain be humbled; Let ev'ry valley be filled.

***Here is your God, coming with your vindication.
Look and behold the saving power of God.***

Desert and wasteland will bloom. Desert and wasteland will bloom.
Glory and splendor will fill the land. Desert and wasteland will bloom.

Strengthen the ones who are weak. Strengthen the ones who are weak.
Say to the frightened: "Have courage!" Strengthen the ones who are weak.

***Here is your God, coming with your vindication.
Look and behold the saving power of God.***

We are grateful to have shared in Advent worship together.

At Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community, we have embraced the dream of a transformed Roman Catholic Church. To support our community, please visit <http://www.mmacc.org/donate>

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