



- *Making Catholicism relevant*
- *Restoring women's ordination*
- *Living the change we envision*



*"... as the first light of day was breaking,
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb."
Mt. 28:1*

Consciousness Transforming

**Easter Vigil
April 4, 2026**

Announcements

After announcements, community is invited outside with their candles.

~ OPENING RITES ~

Prelude Music

Assembly gathers outside. Instrumental (If you will.....)

The Lighting and Blessing of the New Fire

Dear friends in Christ, let us begin our solemn Vigil. Throughout the forty days of Lent, we have journeyed in the wilderness, risking what is foolish in the eyes of the world to follow the call of the Jesus to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. Through light and word, through water, bread and wine, let us celebrate the new life that Christ shares with us.

Pause.

On this most holy night, when Jesus passed from death to life, we come together as his disciples in vigil and prayer.

Holy Mystery, Creator of Darkness and Light, we share in the light of Your glory through Jesus, light in the world. Make this fire holy + and inflame us with Your spirit of new hope. Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega. All time belongs to You and all ages.

The Paschal Candle is lit from the newly kindled fire

*O Christ, may Your rising in glory, enlighten our hearts and minds,
and illumine our ways.*

Community's Candles Lit

Incensing of Assembly

Procession into the Sanctuary

Christ our light.
Thanks be to God.

Christ our light.
Thanks be to God.

Christ our light.
Thanks be to God.

Candle Bearer places the Paschal Candle in the stand.

The Exsultet

Bernadette Farrell

Cantor: Our God be with you. ***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them up to God.***

Let us give thanks to God Creator. ***It is right and just.***

ALL SING:

This is the night of new beginnings

This is the night when heaven meets Earth

This is the night filled with God's glory

Promise of our new birth.

Christ be our light, shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness,

Christ be our light, shine in your church, gathered today.

Now will the fire, kindled in darkness

Burn to dispel the fear of night.

Star of the morning, Jesus Messiah

Giving the world new light. ***(R)***

This is the night, Christ liberator,

Rose from the grave triumphant and free,

Leaving the tomb of evil and chaos,

Empty for all to see. ***(R)***

Sing of the hope, deeper than dying,

Sing of the pow'r, stronger than death

Sing of the love, endless as heaven,

Dawning throughout the earth. ***(R)***

Into this world, morning is coming;

All of God's people, lift up your voice,

Cry out with joy, tell out the story,

All of the earth rejoice. ***(R)***

OPENING PRAYER

Dear ones in Christ, we have begun our solemn vigil. We now listen attentively for the Word of God, proclaimed and lived throughout history and in a special way through Jesus, Wisdom of God. Through our Easter celebration, may God's creating, freeing, loving work in us be brought to completion, we pray. Amen.

~ LITURGY OF THE WORD ~

CANTOR: Our Psalm Response will be sung between each set of readings:

Surrexit Christus, Alleluia!

Cantate, Caritas, Alleluia!

FIRST COUPLET: "Creating Consciousness"

A Reading from Genesis

Gen 1:1-2, 31ab

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and unfilled. A fertile darkness settled over the surface of the deep. While Creative Spirit hovered over the waters, she stirred them.

God saw everything that came into being, and behold, it was very good.

And the people say... *Alleluia.*

+

"A Noiseless Patient Spider" by Walt Whitman

A noiseless patient spider,
I mark'd where on a little promontory it stood isolated,
Mark'd how to explore the vacant vast surrounding,
It launch'd forth filament, filament, filament, out of itself,
Ever unreeling them, ever tirelessly speeding them.

And you O my soul where you stand,
Surrounded, detached, in measureless oceans of space,
Ceaselessly musing, venturing, throwing, seeking the spheres to connect them,
Till the bridge you will need be form'd, till the ductile anchor hold,
Till the gossamer thread you fling catch somewhere, O my soul.

(Hum...) Surrexit Christus, Alleluia!

(Hum...) Cantate, Caritas, Alleluia!

SECOND COUPLET: "Relating Consciousness"

A Reading from Exodus

Ex 3:1-7, 10

Now Moses came to Horeb, the mountain of God where the angel of God appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that, though the bush was on fire, it did not burn up. So, Moses thought, "I will go over and see this wondrous sight—why the bush does not burn up." God saw Moses had gone to look. Seeing that Moses was afraid, God called from within the flaming bush, "Moses! Moses!" Moses replied, "Here I am." God said.

"Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy. I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob, Leah and Rachel. And God said, I have seen the affliction of My people who are enslaved. I have heard their cry because of their oppressors. I know their sorrows and suffering... Now, go! I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring forth My people - and your people - out of slavery."

And the people say... *Alleluia*.

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"Yo-Yo Ma Plays Bach at the Border" by Lynn Ungar

"A country is not a hotel,"
says Yo-Yo Ma, standing with his back
to the river that is only a small part
of what divides two nations. He means
that a country doesn't get full,
that there is always a vacancy.
Sometimes we forget
what that vacancy is, what is still missing.

On the other side of the river
women speak Spanish as they
clean rooms in actual hotels.
doing the hard work of making a life
in a country where there is
so much shouting about the danger
they are supposed to represent,
which they mostly know as the fear
of the knock on the door.

How do we know what is full?
Ma's smile is full, as is his cello's
warm singing. There are vacancies
on either side of the river, gaps
in our humanity, gaps in our understanding
of what it means to build a bridge.
There are gaps in our imaginations
that limit the stories we can hear,
the stories we can tell.

Yo-Yo Ma has come to tell the story
that is the fullness of his music,
the fullness of his love of crossing borders,
the fullness that comes from
complicated intersections. There is
a vacancy in this country. There are
gaps that could be full
of intricately woven music.

(Hum...) Surrexit Christus, Alleluia!
(Hum...) Cantate, Caritas, Alleluia!

THIRD COUPLET: “Liberating Consciousness”

A Reading from Exodus

Ex 14:15-16, 21-22; 15:20-21a

God said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forth! And you, lift up your staff, and with your hand outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two that the Israelites can pass through it on dry land... Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and God swept the sea with a strong east wind throughout the night so that it turned into dry land. The waters were split, so that the Israelites entered into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water as a wall to their right and to their left... Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them...

And the people say... *Alleluia.*

+

“The Peace of Wild Things” by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

(Hum...) Surrexit Christus, Alleluia!
(Hum...) Cantate, Caritas, Alleluia!

FOURTH COUPLET: "Transforming Consciousness"

A Reading from Baruch

Bar 3:14-16, 20c-21a, 32, 38, 4:1c, 2

Learn where Wisdom is, where strength, where understanding, that you may also know where are length of days, and life; where light of the eyes, and where peace...

Who has found the place of Wisdom? Who has entered into Her treasuries? Where are the rulers of the nations who lorded it over beasts and humans?... They have not known Wisdom. They have not perceived Her ways.

But the One who knows all things, knows Wisdom. She holds the fullness of divine knowledge. She holds the knowledge of the One who formed and fashioned Earth, and filled it with four-footed animals...

From the beginning, She has appeared on Earth and is at home among humans... All who cling to Her will live... Turn, O People, and receive Her. Walk by Her light toward splendor!

And the people say... *Alleluia.*

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From "Put this Design in Your Carpet" by Rumi

Spiritual experience is...
a great river...

There is an unseen presence we honor
that gives the gifts.

You're water. We're the millstone.
You're wind. We're dust blown up into shapes.
You're spirit. We're the opening and closing
of our hands. You're the clarity.
We're this language that tries to say it.
You're joy. We're all the different kinds of laughing.

Any movement or sound is a profession of faith,
as the millstone grinding is explaining how it believes
in the river! No metaphor can say this,
but I can't stop pointing to the beauty...

When the ocean surges,
don't let me just hear it.
Let it splash inside my chest!

(Hum...) Surrexit Christus, Alleluia!
(Hum...) Cantate, Caritas, Alleluia!

New Testament Readings

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

Rev 21:1-5a

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... And I saw a new holy city coming down from the cosmos, adorned and prepared as ready for a wedding day. I heard a loud voice calling: "See, the home of God is among human beings, God will dwell among them, and they shall be God's people: God is with them, Emmanuel! God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. Mourning and sadness and pain will be no more. The old order, the world of the past, is gone." Then the One who is seated on high, the Creating One, said, "See, I am making all things new..."

The Word of First Century Visionary.

Thanks be to God.

The Gloria *(with ringing of bells)*

St. Ann's Mass

**Glory! Glory to God in the highest.
Glory! Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

We praise, you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
O God, heavenly One, O God, our creator. **(R)**

O Jesus Christ, holy anointed One,
O Christ, Incarnate Love, Child of the Cosmos,
you take away the pain of the world, bring healing to us;
you take away the pain of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Creator,
bring healing to us. **(R)**

For we are one in the Holy One, we are one in the Christ,
we belong to each other, Jesus Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the glory of God Creator. **(R)**

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-7

God is with you... **And also with you.**

A Reading from the Gospel attributed to Matthew

Glory to You, O God.

After the Sabbath, as the first light of day was breaking, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. Suddenly, there was a great earthquake. An angel of God, descending from the skies, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. The angel had an appearance like lightning, with clothing white as snow. In fear, the guards shook and looked dead. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here. He has been raised, as was foretold. Come, see the place where he lay. Then, go quickly and tell the disciples, 'Christ has been raised from the dead, and is indeed going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see the Christ again.' Behold, I have told you."

The Good News of the Resurrection.

Thanks be to God.

(Brief Pause)

(Suzie to start ringing)

Glory! Glory to God in the highest.

***Glory! Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.***

Homily

Suzie Knapp

Remembering our Baptism: Blessing of Water

Suzie goes to the paschal candle & font.

Suzie invites any children present to come forward and extend their hands in blessing over the bowl. Dave lifts the baptismal candle out of the stand and holds it over the font.

God of all names, of all time, of all goodness, at the dawn of your creative love, You breathed on the waters that bring birth, death, and new birth. From your womb, water flows and life begins again.

In our frail, yet hope-filled history, You led a people through the waters of the Red Sea. You revealed life-sustaining love as Moses struck the rock and water flowed. You presented Jesus as the Christ in the waters of his baptism. You embraced him in tragic love and united him with us as water and blood flowed from the cross.

In your Holy Spirit, now breathe upon and bless this water that will

Flow,

Nurture,

Wash,

and send us forth a new creation to be the Body of Christ in your world.

Affirmation of Faith

As we remember our faith that calls us to new life in hope and love, please don your baptismal stole and respond, "We do."

Do you believe in God,
Who creates all things
Whose creative love
Brings all things into being
So that all would be in love? **All: We do.**

Do you believe in Jesus the Christ
Whose life and teaching,
Death and resurrection
Renewed the promise of love, justice and truth to all creation?
All: We do.

Do you believe in Sophia Spirit,
The Spirit in which we live as the Body of Christ
The Spirit who raises us up in courage, compassion and peace,
The Spirit who unbinds us and sets us free? **All: We do.**

Do you believe in one Church,
One Body whose life you are,
The church where all are welcome? **All: We do.**

This is our life. We are proud to profess it through Jesus the Christ.
All: Amen.

Sprinkling of the Assembly & Litany of the Saints

Cantor:	God have mercy.	ALL:	God have mercy.
	Christ have mercy.		Christ have mercy.
	God have mercy.		God have mercy.

Cantor:	<i>Angels and archangels...</i>	ALL:	Pray for us.
	<i>Sarah, Abraham, and Hagar...</i>		
	<i>Isaac and Rebecca...</i>		

Jacob, Leah, and Rachel...
Moses and Miriam...
Deborah, Samuel, and Ruth...
David, Bathesheba, and Solomon...
Isaiah, Huldah, Jeremiah...

ALL: All you holy people pray for us.

Elizabeth, Zechariah...
Mary and Joseph...
Mary Magdalene Apostle...
Peter, Andrew, James and John...
Martha, Mary, and Lazarus...
Susanna and Joanna...
Stephen, Lydia, and Philip...
Paul, Barnabus, and Phoebe...

ALL: Pray for us.

Scholastica, Benedict...
Bridget and Patrick...
Theodora Episcopa...
Hildegard and Julian...
Clare, Francis, Joan of Arc...
Catherine of Siena...
Teresa of Avila...
John of the Cross and Ignatius...

ALL: Pray for us.

St Martin de Porres...
St. Therese of Lisieux...
St. John XXIII...
Martin and Coretta...
Dorothy Stang, Oscar Romero...
Ita, Maura, Dorothy, Jean...
Rosa Parks and Dorothy Day...
Patricia Fresen and Rod Stephens...

ALL: Pray for us.

ALL: All you holy people pray for us.

God, give new life...
In its fullness...
In all your people...
Guide us in your peace...
Lead us in justice...
Sustain us in your presence...
As you remain with us always...

ALL: Hear our Prayer...

ALL: Christ, hear us. Christ Jesus, hear our prayer.

Offertory: "Alleluia/Christ is Risen"

Instrumental

Presentation of the Gifts

~ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST ~

Preparation of the Bread and Wine

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.

Friends, pray that sharing this bread and wine will deepen our commitment to live the Gospel.

With the Risen Christ, we commit ourselves to live the Gospel.

Prayer Over the Gifts

Cosmic One, as we bless these gifts of bread and wine, we remember how you provided food for our ancestors in faith. At this table, provide food for us, that we might embrace the ongoing evolution of our faith and consciousness. May we be open to Your cosmic consciousness. we pray...

Our Eucharist

God dwells in you. ***And also in you.***

Come to the table with thankful hearts.

We open our hearts to God and to one another.

Presider: Blessed are you and all Creation: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, stars, the planets in their courses and this fragile earth, our island home. You are unceasingly at work, bringing order from chaos and filling emptiness with new life. Your love restores our broken world. Your Chosen One, Jesus the Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope. And so, we join with all the angels and saints and your people throughout time, singing this unending song of praise:

Sanctus *[sung]*

Mass of St. Ann, Bolduc

***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, Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Voice 1 (online): In the first light of Easter, glory broke from the tomb and transformed the women's sorrow into joy. From the tomb, the mystery shone clear that life in You transcends death.

Voice 2: We give You thanks for Jesus and for all who have taught and shown us selfless love. May we love our neighbors and our enemies as ourselves. May we give Your Spirit freedom to act in us and so transform ourselves and our world.

Voice 3: Jesus renewed the promise of his presence, making himself known in the breaking of the bread, speaking assurance to fearful disciples, sharing a meal with them.

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

Presider: 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. We remember that...

All: ... *On the night of his betrayal, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples, saying: "This is my body. Do this in memory of me."*

[Pause]

In the same way, Jesus took the cup filled with wine. He gave You thanks, and gave the cup to his friends, saying: "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]* *Mass of St. Ann*
We proclaim your death, O Christ, and profess your Resurrection until you come again, until you come again.

Voice 4: Let Your Spirit come upon all leaders, secular and religious. Catch all of them by surprise. Fill their hearts with a longing for equality and justice. Imbue them with the joy of divine diversity. Bestow on them the wealth of humble service to all.

Voice 5: We remember everyone who has touched our lives with the Spirit of Your love. Be with all who are sick and all who suffer. Be with all who have died and gone before us, especially Rod Stephens. May they know joy in the fullness of cosmic splendor.

Presider: Gather together people of every gender, race, language, religion and way of life to share in Your one unending banquet. In Your presence, we give You glory with all creation and with Jesus through whom Your goodness flows.

***Through Christ, With Christ, In Christ,
In the unity of the Sophia Spirit,
may all glory and honor be Yours, forever and ever.***

The Great Amen

Mass of St Ann

A-men, a-men, a-men. A-men, a-men, a-men.

~ COMMUNION RITE ~

The Prayer of Jesus (Sung)

The prayer often called the "Our Father" has been translated and rendered in many ways over the last 2,000 years. Feel free to pray using the language and words most comfortable to you. We offer this sung contemporary 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 the Risen Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***
Let us offer one another – and the whole world - a sign of Christ's surpassing peace.

***Jesus Christ, you call us to the gospel of hope, O Jesus the Christ.
Jesus Christ, you call us to the gospel of love, O Jesus the Christ.
Jesus Christ, you call us to the gospel of peace, Grant us peace.***

Presider: This is the Bread of the Resurrection, the Wine of New Life.
Blessed are we to share in the Mystery of Life.

*At MMACC, our table is open: Wherever you are on your journey, **all** are truly welcome to receive of 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, for God's table is ready!*

Communion Songs: "We Will Rise Again"

"We Will Rise Again"

Like a shepherd I will feed you; I will gather you with care.
I will lead you and hold you, close to my heart.

***We will run and not grow weary, for our God will be our strength,
And we will fly like the eagle; we will rise again.***

I am strength to the weary; To the weak I am new life.
Though the young may grow weary, I will be their hope. **(R)**

Lift up your eyes, and see who made the stars.
I lead you, and I know you, I call you each by name. **(R)**

Fear not, I am with you; I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you; uphold you with my hand. **(R)**

"Roll Away the Stone" *Conry*

***Roll away the stone, see the glory of God.
Roll away the stone. (2x)***

They have been saying all our plans are empty.
They have been saying "Where is their God now?" **(R)**

They have been saying no one will remember.
They have been saying power rules the world. **(R)**

They have been saying no one hears the singing.
They have been saying all our strength is gone. **(R)**

They have been saying "All of us are dying."
They have been saying "All of us are dead." **(R)**

Prayer after Communion

Cosmic Mystery, For transforming consciousness, we thank You. For Your love for us and in us and all creation, always, we thank You, and we pray...Amen

Closing Blessing

May we recognize the risen body of Christ in our midst.
Let the church say... Amen.

May we remember that love is stronger than death, and hope is stronger than fear.
Let the church say... Amen.

May we remember that resurrection changes everything.
Let the church say.. Let the church say... Amen.

And may God raise you from all that would entomb you;
May Christ Jesus come to greet you;
And may the Holy Spirit empower you for all that is good.
Let the church say... Amen.

Sending Forth

In memory of Rod, we declare: The Body of Christ is Risen,
We rise... and we are sent!
The sacred mysteries are manifest.
Let us go forth in joyful love. Alleluia. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Closing Song - "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

Tune: Latin 14th c. (The "Easter Hymn"). Text: Wesley adapted

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
All Creation, Join to say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and heartfelt cries, Alleluia!
Sing, O heav'ns, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's great healing work's begun, Alleluia!
Jesus lives, his race is done, Alleluia!
Death has died, the Christ does rise, Alleluia!
We live now, the body of Christ, Alleluia!

On the cross, what seemed defeat, Alleluia!
Brought new life, ours to keep. Alleluia!
Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

God of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
You to know, Your glory see, Alleluia!
Thus to love, and thus to be, Alleluia!

***All are invited to continue our Easter celebration
at the reception in the Garden Room.***

Thank you for joining in our Easter celebration this evening.

At Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community, we have embraced the dream of a transformed Roman Catholic Church. Financial support is essential to breathe life into this dream and to keep it alive for future generations. To underscore our commitment, we seek to support a full-time paid woman priest and a variety of social justice activities, giving a percentage of our Sunday offering back to the community. To support our community, please visit <http://www.mmacc.org/donate>.

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