

and for legal purposes we needed to focus on our by-laws, we were making a decision about moving out of 401 Main St, we were considering purchasing the church, we were focusing on increasing my salary, etc. At times the decision was driven by finances, at other times there was an overwhelming fear that joining the ECC would change our community in significant ways, at times people felt we were doing just fine as we were, and then there were fears about "organized religion" and the list goes on. I tried to educate the community via the bulletin, bringing in some of the incredible priests that make up the ECC, asking the community to respond to a survey to see where people stood, and then pulling together a discernment team who did a great deal of homework on what the ECC is, the pros and cons of affiliating, and what the requirements would be for the community.

Yes, this process definitely took much longer than I anticipated, but we came to a point where I believe we reached consensus! And ultimately that is what I hope for with every major decision. In fact, when we created our bylaws I stressed that the pastor should not have a vote on the board of trustees or as a part of a vote at the Parish Community Forum. I said the pastor already has a great deal of influence in any parish, they don't need a vote. People said "well we have 6 trustees, shouldn't the pastor have a tiebreaking vote?" My response was that if we have a tied vote then we're not ready to make a decision; we have to go back to the drawing board. Decisions that are 50/50 or even 60/40 can be very divisive in a community, and the last thing I want is for the community to be divided over a decision.

Please keep Kay & Ron Hogle and their family in your prayers. Ron's father Homer died on Friday. He will be remembered and celebrated at our 10:00 Mass next Sunday.

Also, please continue to keep Chris Votraw in your prayers. She is recovering from her surgery, but is finding that her body and energy are not bouncing back quite as quickly as she'd like. She is definitely missing all of you, but definitely appreciates all of your love and prayers. When I visited her this week, I reminded her that she can listen to our previous homilies on our website: www.marymagdalenechurch.org This was very encouraging to her and she said it would make her feel like she is celebrating with us if she listens to a homily or two, especially on Sunday mornings!

Last week's St Joseph Table was a great success!!! It was beautifully decorated and there was a wonderful array of food. We definitely need to make this an annual event!!

Join us on Wednesday night this week, March 29 for our soup supper (6:15) and Lenten program (7:00). This week's program will be a Bible Study on the woman who anointed Jesus feet before his death, and Mary Magdalene going to the tomb on that first Easter Sunday to anoint Jesus. We will close the evening with a moving anointing service. Anointing in antiquity was used to signify God's blessing on a person's life, it is a sacrament of blessing, protection, healing and wholeness. I hope you can join us!

Also don't forget there are two opportunities for meditation during lent- our usual Thursday morning from 6:45-7:30 led by Kathy Welch and Jim Bridges, or come for quiet meditation on Friday nights, during Lent, the church will be open for quiet meditation from 5:30-7:30. Come for 10 minutes or stay for the duration. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend some time in prayer, with the lights down low and in the presence of angels in the sanctuary! You can also receive communion if you'd like.

Are you interested in being more involved in the liturgy? Two ways you can do this are by being a Lector or a Eucharistic Minister (sharing communion with the community). There are sheets to sign-up for particular weeks on the bulletin board outside my office. Just indicate which weeks you're available. No special training is necessary!

We are in need of coffee hour volunteers!! The job is easy. Bring a goodie to share, start the coffee before church and stay to help with clean-up. The sign up sheet is on the welcoming table.

Finally, the ER Community Resource Center is asking for donations of wrapped chocolate Easter bunnies. The senior high students are putting together Easter baskets for children and the bunnies will complete the basket. Bring them with you on Sunday mornings or drop them off at the church.

I am blessed and honored to serve in this amazing community!! Thanks for being who you are!!

Love to all of you,
Rev. Denise

Readings for April 2, 2017

Fifth Sunday of Lent

[Ez 37:12-14](#)

[Rom 8:8-11](#)

[Jn 11:1-45](#)

Sunday, March 19, 2017

Total Attendance: 67 people

Sunday Collection: \$95

Automatic Giving: \$894

Rent: \$50

Happenings, Events, Celebrations & Opportunities



Mary Magdalene Daytimers Group

A Prayer request book will be available on the welcoming table. Please write your request in this book.

The Book will be placed on the altar during the Eucharist.

Please save the date April 3. Plans to meet at Pittsford Cinema for afternoon movie then on to Cheese Cake Factory for dinner. More details to follow.

**MMC Dessert Cook Book:
Sweet Sunday's at Mary Magdalene Church**

It should be available this weekend or next!



Wanted Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors

If you'd like to participate in the Sunday liturgy more fully, there are signup sheets on the bulletin board. Simply write your name in on a week or two when you know you'll be here!
No special training needed!!

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**WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SOUP SUPPER & PROGRAM**

Wednesday, March 29  
6:15 Supper  
7:00 Program begins

There is a sign-up sheet at church to bring a pot of soup or bread for our meal together.

Rev. Denise & Kathy Welch will lead us through the journey of Lent.



March 29: Bible Study & Anointing Service  
April 5: Reconciliation Service

**FRIDAY NIGHT LENTEN SILENT MEDITATION**



Every Friday Evening  
5:30-7:30

He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." Mark 6:31 NRSV

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayer Luke 5:16, NIV

Each week during Lent our church will be open on Friday evenings from 5:30-7:30 pm for silent prayer and meditation.

You are welcome to join us for the whole evening, or just a short visit.

The Eucharist will be available for those who choose to receive communion.

Come and spend a little quiet time with the Lord during this season of reflection, centering and anticipation of the holiest week in the year.

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HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday, April 13, 7:00 Mass of the Last Supper
Good Friday, April 14, 3:00 Stations of the Cross
Easter Sunday, April 16, 10:00 Mass of the Resurrection

RAIHN OPPORTUNITIES

Thursday, April 6, 6:30-8:30
RAIHN Volunteer Orientation
Mary Magdalene Church
This is for all volunteers who are involved with RAIHN

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RAIHN Rotation April 16-23  
Our RAIHN rotation begins on Easter Sunday.  
If you can help in any way your help is especially needed!!  
Watch the bulletin for specific needs, or talk with  
Rev. Denise or email Lynne Hamilton [equalrall@aol.com](mailto:equalrall@aol.com)

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## NEVER TOO SOON TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION

MMC 2nd Annual Camp-out  
Labor Day Weekend  
September 1-4  
Country Charm Campground

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside my office!

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## CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICES

Thursdays 6:45-7:30

Jim Bridges and Kathy Welch lead these services providing prayer, contemplation and music.

What a beautiful way to begin the day!  
All are welcome!!

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## "CHECK OUT" OUR CHURCH LIBRARY

Rich books for Spiritual Growth.  
Sign Out books by writing your name  
in the Yellow Book.

No Return Date Required-  
After a few months we'll check to see if you're done  
reading.

**Read often - Grow Deeply**



Here at MMC Coffee hour after Mass is something  
we look forward to.

Please sign up to host. Duties are light -prepare a  
simple snack, make coffee, clean up.  
Sign-up sheet is on Welcome Table

Resource Center Update  
Wanted - Wrapped Easter Bunnies  
Students at ER High School are donating Easter Baskets



To complete the Baskets we are being asked to donate Wrapped Candy Bunnies.

On the bulletin board, by the welcoming table, are tags with the needs for the Resource Center.

Please feel free to take one so we can continue to fulfill our communities needs. They are so THANKFUL.

[Visit our website](#)

Rev Denise Donato | Mary Magdalene Church, 1008 Main Street, East Rochester, NY 14445  
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