

The Call

March 2010

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The Monthly Newsletter of
St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 13145 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO 64145

Fr. Jason writes—

Renewal of Relationships



This Lent I want to encourage you to try something a little different. Whatever practices or disciplines you are trying to keep—adding something or taking something away—do them with a particular intention in mind: *renewal of relationship(s)*.

Instead of saying, “I am going to not eat *x* or do *x*,” or, “I am going to do more of *x*,” and leaving it at that, intentionally connect whatever you are taking away or adding with how it might strengthen or contribute to another relationship in your life.

You purposely might say, “I am not going to eat desserts. That way I can save money and send it to Haiti.” Dessert foods are expensive, and that money could be used for fostering relationship, like contributing to people in need, or strengthening some other relationship in your life. You could deliberately say, “I am not going to eat desserts, so that way we’ll have the money to pay a babysitter so we can go out on a date once a week!” Taking away that food item will free up money to spend more time with your spouse, or a friendship you are fostering! You could say, “I am going to watch less TV so I can play a game with my family, or hang with some friends, at least once a week.” Just imagine, your Lenten discipline can free up time to give more attention to a relationship that needs more time and nurturing.

Why am I encouraging you to intentionally connect your Lenten disciplines with relationships? I mean, isn’t Lent about improving our relationship with God? Well, yes, it is. But, what I am suggesting is that one of the key ways (if not the central way) we improve our relationship to God is through strengthening and improving

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RENEWAL

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our relationships with those in our lives. You want to draw closer to God? *Good!* Pay attention to the quality and character of the relationships in your day-to-day world. How is your relationship with your spouse, a close friend, your children, co-workers, extended family, your siblings, etc. going? Seek to improve that relationship through offering greater understanding, forgiveness, attentiveness, meeting the other's need, etc. Believe me, in that search—as the person you will be called to become in order to strengthen that relationship—your relationship with God will grow.

I can't encourage you enough: intentionally connect what you're doing, or not doing, this Lent, to growing and fostering a relationship(s) that is important to you. I think you'll find a strange thing occurring ... renewed joy in your relationship and new growth in your connection with God.

May you have a blessed Lent of relationship renewal and growth!

Peace,
Fr. Jason+

So, you enjoy Spring outdoor work? Well, here's your chance . . .

With a difficult winter finally winding down and the new church building now fully enclosed, work is moving well inside and, weather conditions permitting, outdoors as well. The Building Committee has opted to do the landscaping ourselves. The call will soon go out for volunteers to help with sodding and planting that will transform mud and bare ground to a proper setting for our beautiful new church.



Children's Ministry



It is Lent, and the children will learn about how God's presence gives us strength and safety, as we follow Jesus on his road to Jerusalem.

Please look for a calendar of daily Lenten activities at the front table in the Store Front Chapel. There are enough for every family to take one home. There will also be family Lenten devotionals for your use as a family.

We are thrilled to welcome Melissa Haverman and Holly Barling as new teachers!! And we can use more help - so please see one of us if you are interested.

It is a pleasure to work with your children,

Your Children's Ministry Committee,

Ali Wormington, Marilou Hart, Denise Koch, Gudrun Neumann

+HOLY WEEK+

Sunday, March 28	10:30 a.m.	Palm and Passion Sunday
Monday, March 29	6:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Tuesday, March 30	6:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Wednesday, March 31	6:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
*Thursday, April 1	7 p.m.	Maundy Thursday
*Friday, April 2	12 p.m.	Noonday Stations of the Cross
	7 p.m.	Good Friday Liturgy
*Saturday, April 3	3 p.m.	Liturgy of "The Great Sabbath" - Holy Saturday
	6 p.m.	Family Worship: ++ The Great Easter Vigil ++
Sunday, April 4	10:30 a.m.	Sunday of the Resurrection

ALL WORSHIP SERVICES WILL BE AT THE STATE LINE CHAPEL

All worship is family friendly.

Child care will be provided for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil.

*** "The Triduum" (Great Three Days):** *The worship from Maundy Thursday through the Great Easter Vigil make up one long three-day worship service. The community is never formally dismissed from Maundy Thursday worship – we prayerfully go home in our worship to wait our return to continue in our walk with Jesus through his death, descent and resurrection. **Silence is kept on all church precincts from Maundy Thursday through Great Easter Vigil.***



The Bulletin Board

St. Mary's Kitchen

The people of St. Mary Magdalene Church serve food to Kansas City's homeless and working poor on a recurring basis—usually once each month. We'll serve on Mar. 20, Apr. 24, May 15, June 26, July 17, Aug. 28, Sept. 18, Oct. 23 and Dec. 25. Signup sheets for all dates are available in the narthex. School-age children accompanied by an adult are welcome to help. For info, contact Julie Sponagel at (913) 322-8747.

Note these March events

all at the State Line Chapel
Building Committee – Wed., Mar. 3, at 7 p.m.
Bishop's Committee – Tues., Mar. 23, at 7 a.m.
Holy Conversation – Wed., Mar. 31, at 7 p.m.

Benedictine Study

Monthly meeting is 7 p.m. on Tues., Mar. 9, at the State Line Chapel. Contact is Cori Pursell, (913) 661-0642.

Better Than Ever

St. Mary Mag's Better Than Ever group, comprised of many of our congregation's more seasoned members, will meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Sat., Mar. 27, at Wil Jenny's, 6700 W. 135th St. If you'd like to be a part of that, please sign up on the BTE sheet on the narthex table. For further info, contact Ida Cox, (913) 906-9161 or ted.cox@sbcglobal.net.

Women's Book Club

Monthly discussion is 7 p.m. on Monday, March 1 at State Line location. We will complete discussion of, *The Moonflower Vine*". Contact Celia at (816) 537-0205.

BackSnack Ministry

The BackSnack Ministry, supplied and coordinated by Kansas City's Harvesters, provides backpacks of food to 10,000 Kansas City children of low income families so they can avoid going hungry on the weekends. Independent researchers have found that the program is helping students improve academic performance, school attendance and behavior. St. Mary Mag Church, in partnership with Episcopal Community Services, is providing 140 kids in the Martin City school with backpacks of food each week. Each Sunday shortly after worship, a group of St. Mary Mag people of all ages gathers at the north end of the narthex to clean and fill 140 backpacks with nourishing, kid-friendly food. You're invited to join in this effort. If you can't be available on Sunday, perhaps you can help transport backpacks to the schools during the week. Contact Julie Sponagel for additional information at (913) 322-8747 or sponagels@yahoo.com.

New Furniture

We are in the exciting time of purchasing new furniture for our new church building. Information about giving opportunities to honor a loved one or a family name is available in the narthex at the State Line Chapel. Look for the envelope marked "Church Furniture" under the artist's rendering of our new building. If you have questions, contact Fr. Jason at (816) 331-2222.

The milder weather of mid-February enabled full enclosure of the new St. Mary Mag church structure, and work is progressing steadily now toward a late Spring completion.

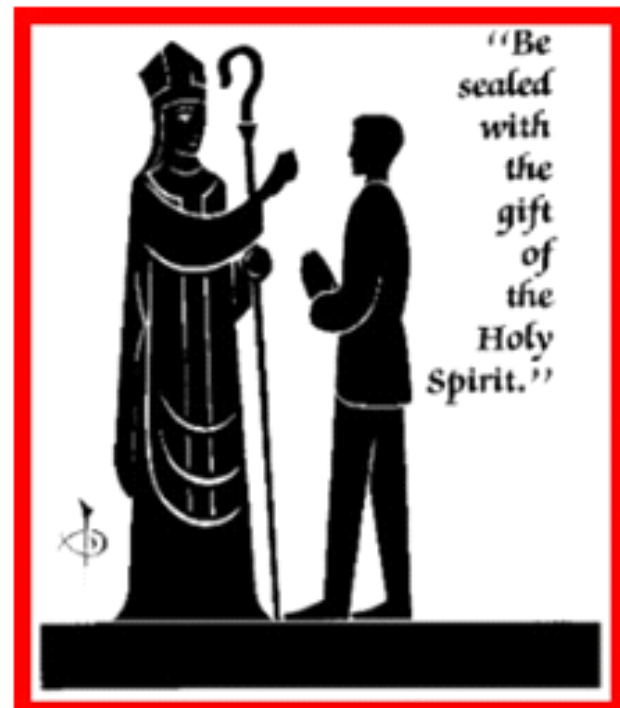


+ Confirmation +

*Interested in learning more
about confirmation?*

Talk with Fr. Jason if you are interested in receiving the sacrament of confirmation at our next bishop's visit, on May 2. A confirmation class schedule and retreat weekend will be announced as interested candidates for confirmation present themselves.

Contact: 816-331-2222 or
jason@marymag.com.





Adult Christian Formation



By Linda Keith

Most of us are tired of the snow, mud, fog and gloom of the winter months. It is definitely time for spring—the sunshine, longer days and warm air that inspire us to action. You might find new energy to deep clean the house (yes, maybe even a closet!) or to dig up a patch of your yard to start the new life of a garden. Spring is also the time when we enter the liturgical season of Lent, the season Barbara Brown Taylor refers to as “springtime for the soul.” How cool is that?

While we traditionally look at spring as a time to clean out the clutter and dust that surrounds us and to nurture new life, we can also use these weeks to deep clean our own souls and to shovel out those things that prevent us from growing deeper into our relationship with God and all of creation. Join Fr. Jason, me and other adults in our St. Mary Magdalene community as we dig into Lent, clean out our own cobwebs, and open our hearts to embrace the fullness of “springtime for the soul.”

Adult Forum

Adult Forum is an opportunity for adults to dig into the weekly scriptures and discover the relevance applicable to our daily lives. We meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:15 in the education area of the State Line Chapel location. For questions call Linda Keith at (816) 331-1428.

Adult Study

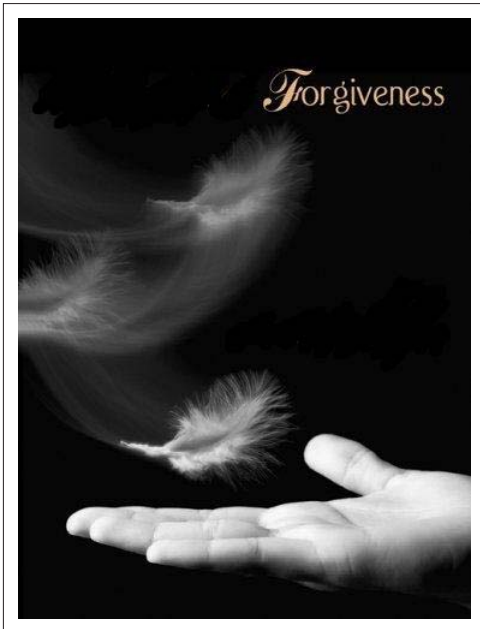
Adult Study is a time for adults to grow in faith as we walk together through the liturgical year. We are thrilled to announce that *Nooma is back!*

Nooma is a series of videos developed by Rob Bell to spark conversation. During Lent, we will ponder Bell’s views on suffering, loving those we really don’t like, anger, and feeling like we just don’t measure up to God’s expectations for us. It has become our tradition in Adult Study to share a simple soup supper and the offering of alms during the Season of Lent. So that we know how many to plan for, **please** sign up on the bulletin board at the State Line Chapel or e-mail Linda Keith to sign up for this study (dblck05@gmail.com) Adult Study meets on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the State Line Chapel. This year’s Lenten study began on Thurs., Feb. 18, and continues for six weeks until Mar. 25.

Sophia

Sophia is an opportunity for moms with children still at home (infant through high school) to talk about our lives, our faith and our relationships. Our Lenten study will come from the Nooma series. (See the description above under the Adult Study heading.) Child care is available, but you must register. Call Linda Keith at (816) 331-1428. This year’s Lenten Study began on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, and continues for six weeks until Mar. 24.

HOUSE OF GRACE
An Episcopal Retreat House
announces its Easter offering



**Forgiveness:
*The Way to Freedom***

A retreat led by
The Rev. Jerry Skillicorn

To forgive is to relinquish the right to hold people's sins against them. Because our hurts have long memories, we are imprisoned in the past. Jesus came to set the prisoners free. This Quiet Day will concentrate on how we can pray so that the mission of Jesus can be accomplished in our lives.

For over fifty years, Fr. Jerry Skillicorn is a skilled retreat leader and has led retreats and conferences aimed at developing one's spiritual life. He leads people through spiritual exercises, and teaches centering prayer, meditation, methods for entering the scriptural story and ways of prayer ministry.

Saturday, April 24
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
House of Grace

16808 Holmes Road, Village of Loch Lloyd, MO 64012

To register, please visit the website at www.marymag.com or contact Cori Pursell at 913-206-0869. There is a \$50 workshop fee that includes your lunch. Scholarships are available to those who need assistance. Please send your registration or check deposit in the amount of \$20 to the address listed above by April 5. Plan to arrive by 8:45 a.m. to settle in and prepare for prayer.

As the band of believers

who are St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, we seek to be—

Real

Live out our faith with authenticity! We don't claim to have all the answers, but we are committed to faithfully searching for them together in the boundless truth of Christ while honoring one another in the process.

Rooted

We honor the beauty and the mystery of the Episcopal tradition, while remaining open to the Holy Spirit's call to worship today. We thank God for all the faithful followers of Jesus who through the ages conveyed his message of hope to us. In their steps, St. Mary Magdalene looks to take our place in Christ's one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

Relevant

Our faith must intersect with the center of our lives to be meaningful to us and useful to others. When God decided to come into the middle of our world in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, he showed us that he wants to meet people where they are, in the places they live and in all of life's circumstances. Whatever your life situation might be, St. Mary Magdalene is ready to assist you in the pursuit of a dynamic faith in Jesus Christ.

Birthdays

- Mar. 1 Abby Kimbrell
- Mar. 1 Jayme Lawlor
- Mar. 1 Greig Fennell
- Mar. 4 Paulina Hernandez
- Mar. 8 Vincent Stephens
- Mar. 11 Lucille Jones
- Mar. 11 Phillip Boucher
- Mar. 14 Jon Gilchrist
- Mar. 14 Cristal Barker
- Mar. 15 Lane Bye
- Mar. 19 Brett Wilson
- Mar. 22 Bailey Gerhardt
- Mar. 24 Jessie Fetters
- Mar. 24 Aubrey Gilchrist
- Mar. 27 Jessica Smalley
- Mar. 29 David Callender
- Mar. 30 Allison Jones
- Mar. 30 Denise Koch
- Mar. 30 Stewart Koch
- Mar. 31 Cloyce Wiley
- Mar. 31 Kelli Gamel

Anniversaries

- Mar. 20 Greig & Janette Fennell



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