



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

22ND JULY

ST. MARY MAGDALENE

BY DOM PROSPER GUÉRANGER

“Three Saints,” said our Lord to St. Bridget of Sweden, *“have been more pleasing to me than all others: Mary my mother, John the Baptist, and Mary Magdalene.”* The Fathers tell us that Magdalene is a type of the Gentile Church called from the depth of sin to perfect holiness; and indeed, better than any other, she personifies both the wanderings and the love of the human race, espoused by the Word of God. Like the most illustrious characters of the law of grace, she has her antitype in past ages.

When, before all ages, God decreed to manifest his glory, he willed to reign over a world drawn from nothing; and as his goodness was equal to his power, he would have the triumph of supreme love to be the law of that kingdom which the Gospel likens unto a king who made a marriage for his son.

Passing over the pure intelligences whose nine choirs are filled with divine light, the immortal Son of the King of ages looked down to the extreme limits of creation; there he beheld human nature, made indeed to know God, but acquiring that knowledge laboriously; its weakness would better show his divine condescension: with it, then, he chose to contract his alliance.

Man is flesh and blood: so the Son of God would be made Flesh; he would not have Angels, but men for his brothers. He, that in heaven is the Splendor of his Father, and on earth the most beautiful of the sons of men, would draw the human race with the cords of Adam. In the very act of creation he sealed his espousals by raising man to the supernatural state of grace, and placing him in the Paradise of expectation. ...

And behold a woman that was in the city, a sinner, when she knew that he sat at meat in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster box of ointment; and standing at his feet, she began to wash his feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. *“Who is this woman? Without doubt it is the Church,”* answers St. Peter Chrysologus in his 95th Sermon, *“the Church, weighed down and stained with sins committed in the city of this world. ...”*

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Mary Magdale - fresco by Piero della Francesca, 1460, at Arezzo Cathedral



Who but the Church knows the secret of this perfume, asks Paulinus of Nola with Ambrose of Milan; the Church, whose numberless flowers have all aromas; the Church, who exhales before God a thousand sweet odors aroused by the breath of the Holy Spirit, viz., the virtues of nations and the prayers of the Saints. Mingling the perfume of her conversion with her tears of repentance, she anoints the feet of her Lord, honoring in them his Humanity. Her faith, whereby she is justified, grows equally with her love: soon the Head of the Spouse, that is, his Divinity, receives from her the homage of the full measure of pure and precious spikenard, to wit, the consummate holiness, whose heroism goes so far as to break the vessel of mortal flesh by the martyrdom of love, if not by that of tortures.

Mary Magdale anointing the feet of Christ while Judas, holding the purse looks on disapprovingly - from Vaux Passional, c.1503-4, National Library of Wales

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brown Scapular Enrolment

Sunday, July 18th 2021

after the 12:30pm Sung Mass at St Winefride's church

Scapulars will be available on the date.



SHREWSBURY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	MASS OF THE DAY	INTENTIONS	
				CANON WIENER	FATHER GRIBBIN
Sun*	18 th Jul	12:30 pm	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	PI	PI
Mon	19 th Jul	10:00 am	St. Vincent de Paul, Confessor	Ian Khlik (Honza) RIP	PI
Tue	20 th Jul	6:30 pm	St. Jerome Emilian, Confessor	Martina Rasper	PI
Wed	21 st Jul	10:00 am	St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Confessor & Doctor of the Church	PI	PI
Thu	22 nd Jul	6:30 pm	St. Mary Magdalen, Penitent	PI	PI
Fri	23 rd Jul	10:00 am	St. Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr	PI	PI
Sat	24 th Jul	10:00 am	Mass of Our Lady of Saturday	Oliver Rasper	PI
Sun*	25 th July	12:30 pm	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Commemoration of St. James the Greater	PI	PI

*SUNDAY MASSES AT 12:30 PM AT ST. WINEFRIDE'S CHURCH, 187 CROWMERE RD, SHREWSBURY SY2 5LA

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