

St. Mary Magdala Spiritual Center is the ministry center of The Community of the Cross, an intentional community of Christians affiliated with the Orthodox-Catholic Church of America. ALL ARE WELCOME



St. Mary Magdala Spiritual Center FIRST SUNDAY

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Sunday Liturgy

10:00 AM

2800 Rolston Street
Fort Wayne

All are Welcome!

CONTACTS:

+John - 260-615-0156
jfn3253@aol.com

Cliff+ - 260-433-1971
c.polubinsky@gmail.com

CHRIST THE KING

I don't like kings or queens or dictators or any of those "types" so the idea of celebrating Christ the King was repugnant to me for a long time. I know, intellectually at least, that this is an image of Love as Ruler of All. At the same time I know that the image of king or queen or emperor has carried with it a long history of abuse of power; having at one's disposal all the wealth of the kingdom or queendom or empire seems to inevitably lead to corruption. "Power corrupts" is the saying, and "Absolute power corrupts absolutely" is its counter-refrain. Of course, there have been some exceptions or at least we have legends of exceptions. We have stories of King Arthur and King Wincelaud, King Edward of England, Louis IX of France, Queen Hedwig of Poland, etc. There's a list of them in Wikipedia for those interested. However, please remember that even many of these were probably appointed after overlooking some rather egregious sins of their abuses of power - let's be honest, while the Church may take its time making people saints (or at least it used to), there's still a lot of politics involved in that process (*I don't apologize for my skepticism at all*).

I look at the gospels for the identity of Jesus - there are very few times that "king" is identified in the gospels as a title for Jesus and only once did he acknowledge being a king and that was before Pilate when Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" But remember Jesus' answer, "**You** say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Notice there are two sentences and that second sentence could be made clearer by putting it this way: "To testify to the truth was why I was born and for this I came into the world." He never said he was born to be a king although that's how it somehow ends up being interpreted. Perhaps it is interpreted that way because we look at it and Jesus through our human eyes, rather than our divine eyes, the eyes in our head rather than the eyes in our heart.

The feast of Christ the King wasn't introduced until 1952 - in my lifetime by Pius XI - seemingly with the idea that allegiance to God should come before all other allegiances and serve to unite us in peace no matter what personal, political or sectarian issues are around us. Jesus was born into a world of captive Jews, of the people of God living in an occupied territory, a territory occupied by Roman Empire, who claimed to have gods as emperors because it was so powerful. The Jews longed for a Divine King who would bring peace and harmony to all - it

didn't happen and hasn't happened yet. Maybe it's time we get over it.

What has happened and what Jesus taught us with his life as we have been hearing in the gospel of Matthew these past weeks, is that Jesus came to show us that God is approachable without needing to kill animals or offer grains or any other sacrifice. He came to bear witness to the truth that God is near, that God is here - not "out there" needing to be lulled into a relationship with us by the smell of burning fat or incense. God is here. God is with us - Emmanuel.

While Peter got excited about Jesus being the Messiah and marching triumphantly into Jerusalem and throwing over the empire, Jesus rebuked him. It was not about power, it was not about kingship, it was not about killing and bringing our enemies under submission - it was about love and loving. It was about transforming ourselves wholly and entirely to envision the Kingdom of God from some type of Holy Dictator coming to clean up our messes to a mystic vision of unity with God (theosis in Greek - a living union with God *while* we live). Hear him in John's gospel (Jn 17:20-24): *20 "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be **one**. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be **one**, as we are **one**, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become completely **one**, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.*

So, we will celebrate the feast of Christ the King as a kind of culmination of the Church year, ending the last Sunday of November - only to begin again on the first Sunday of December with Advent - when we celebrate God with us - Emmanuel. God is here - "Be still and know that I am God" - yep, here, now, Fort Wayne, New Haven too and even in Zanesville, and ...

+John

CHILI FESTIVAL AT ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH - Lafayette & Jefferson SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 11:30

This is a fund raiser for Ave Maria House and Matthew 25 with Faye, Amanda and Mike contributing to the menu. Plan on going after liturgy on November 12. We can still have a cup of coffee because their liturgy starts a bit later than ours but plan on leaving here by 11:20 to get in line early.

MENU INCLUDES, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

Two Gourmet Chili Selections - served in edible bowls

Several toppings to compliment them including: baked baked potatoes, spaghetti, pasta

BBQ Pork Tenderloin

Hot Dogs w/cheese/encased in puff pastry

Corn bread, pies, assorted beverages

Suggested Donation is \$6.00 for adults or \$20 for family. Three resident chefs contributing to the menu/preparation are: Amanda and Mike; Mary Ann; and Faye.

"FRIENDSGIVING" CELEBRATION - NOV. 19

Yes, it is a "thing" Faye tells me and we will celebrate it at St. Mary Magdala on Sunday November 19. Faye will supply the meat and the rest of us contribute what dishes we would like to share with everyone else. Also, feel free to invite a friend to Liturgy that morning and also to the feast afterwards.

Remember: Sunday November 19 at SMM

What: Friendsgiving Day

What do I do? Be there and bring something to share - e.g. a favorite holiday dish or appetizer. It's also a great time to bring a guest.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Pray for New York and Jerusalem and Puerto Rico and Texas - for all places that have experienced violence, destruction or any other events causing suffering. Please also continue to pray for Bill Hoot and Marilyn Tobolski as they continue to recover from their knee replacement surgeries and all those in our parish and community who are sick or in pain.

Remember all of the Church in your prayers, each of us is struggling with something. We all



Indiana Center *for* Middle East Peace

We are very excited to be hosting **Dr. Marc Ellis**, on the 30th anniversary of his landmark, *"Toward a Jewish Theology of Liberation,"* **Thursday, November 9, 6:30pm, Plymouth Congregational Church, 501 West Berry Street, 260.423.9424.**

The long - but informative - title of his presentation is:

"I Couldn't Have Arrived Here Without You"

A Reflection on My Encounters with Dorothy Day, Daniel Berrigan, Edward Said, Maryknoll, Naim Ateek, Rosemary Ruether, and Richard Rubenstein on the 30th Anniversary of my *"Toward a Jewish Theology of Liberation"*

Marc is presently wrapping up a speaking tour in Jerusalem. He describes himself as a "Jew in exile." He says that "the prophetic" (as in the "speaking truth to power" of the Hebrew prophets) is the essential contribution that Judaism has made to Western civilization, but that modern-day Judaism has been penetrated deeply in its core by imperialism." This is what he means by, in our time and because of the injustices perpetrated by a colonial Israel, we are "at the end of Jewish history"; Prophetic Judaism has been replaced by "Empire Jewishness" or "Constantinian Judaism."

And consider becoming an **ICMEP Partner**. For a **tax-deductible contribution of \$100**, you will [1] receive an invitation for you and a guest to be invited to a private reception for Marc, Wednesday, November 8; and [2] be acknowledged, if you'd like, at the public event.

Please let your friends know about this exciting event with Dr. Marc Ellis on Thursday, November 9, 6:30pm, at Plymouth Church. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Our Crisis Shelter is running low on critical supplies

With the colder weather women who had previously been sleeping in their cars to get away from abusers at home, are now coming to the YWCA Northeast Indiana Crisis Shelter. Our Shelter is currently over capacity, and we are running critically low on supplies. Please help us with a donation of any of the items on our list. Please remember we can only accept new items. Help make a difference in someone's life today!

Our business hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We are located at 5920 Decatur Road, Fort Wayne IN 46816. Thank you for your support.

Body Soap/Wash	Wash Cloths
Deodorant	Towels
Lrg. size diapers/pullups	Pots/Pans
Ethnic Hair Products	Silverware
Laundry Soap	Twin Size Sheets Pillows

Warm weather clothing:

Sweats
Sweaters
Socks
Jeans

For more information call Erin Johnson,
Development Manager
(260) 424-4908, ext. 227