

under the porch of a temple and Mary Magdalene preached to the people, reproaching them for their senseless worship of idols; and though at first they would not listen, yet being after a time convinced by her eloquence, and by the miracles performed by her and by her sister, they were converted and baptized. And Lazarus became, after the death of the good Maximin, the first bishop of Marseilles.

These things being accomplished, Mary Magdalene retired to the cliffs not far from the city. It was a frightful barren wilderness and in the midst of horrid rocks she lived in the caves of Sainte-Baume; there for thirty years she devoted herself to solitary penance for the sins of her past life, which she had never ceased to bewail bitterly. During this long seclusion, she was never seen or heard of, and it was supposed that she was dead.

She fasted so rigorously, that but for the occasional visits of the angels, and the comfort bestowed by celestial visions, she might have perished. She was given the Holy Eucharist by angels as her only food. Every day during the last years of her penance, the angels came down from heaven and carried her up in their arms into regions where she was ravished by the sounds of unearthly harmony, and beheld the glory and the joy prepared for the sinner that repenteth.



One day a certain hermit, who dwelt in a cell on one of those wild mountains, having wandered farther than usual from his home, beheld this wondrous vision— the Magdalene in the arms of ascending angels, who were singing songs of triumph as they bore her upwards; and the hermit, when he had a little recovered from his amazement, returned to the city of Marseilles, and reported what he had seen.

******(excerpted from: www.thenazareneway.com)

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Saint Mary Magdalen

Feast Day: July 22nd



**Saint Mary Magdalene,
woman of many sins,
who by conversion became the beloved of Jesus,
thank you for your witness that
Jesus forgives through the miracle of love.
You, who already posses eternal happiness
in His glorious presence, please intercede for me,
so that some day I may share in the same everlasting joy. Amen.**

SAINT MARY MAGDALEN

OVERVIEW

*Saint Mary Magdalen, a converted great sinner, became a follower of Christ and has been the classic example of the repentant sinner from earliest times. She is identified with the sinner who anointed Christ's feet in Simon's house (Luke 7:36ff.) and traditionally is thought to be Mary, the sister of Martha. She had seven devils cast out of her by the Lord (Mark 16:9; Luke 8:2), ministered to him in Galilee (Luke 8:2), was among the women at the Crucifixion (Matt. 27:56; Mark 15:40; John 19:25) and with Mary, the mother of James and Salome, discovered the empty tomb and heard the angelic announcement of the Resurrection of Christ (Matt. 28:1ff.; Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-10). She was the first person to see Christ later the same day (Matt. 28:9; Mark 16:9; John 20: 1-18). According to tradition, she accompanied John to Ephesus, where she died. Her Fest Day is July 22.

CLOSER LOOK

The New Testament and tradition are the Church's sources for Saint Mary Magdalen, who is almost always depicted in art with flowing red hair, either with Christ in the house of Simon or beneath the Cross, or alone with her jar of precious oil and or a book, symbolizing the knowledge she had from both Jesus and Mary. Our Saint gets her full name from the town she came from, Magdala, near Bethany; the actual site of the town is in ruins and has been given a variant of the name today.

When our Lord began preaching and going about the countryside He no longer had a fixed abode; He visited the homes of friends or those open to hospitality. The domicile of the two sisters, Mary [Magdala] and Martha, and their brother Lazarus, is considered the house He most frequented. Bethany is only two miles from Jerusalem. Mary and her sister were devoted to Christ and it was at their home that Christ spent His last days before the Passion. The

Saturday before Palm Sunday, St. Mary Magdalen showed her complete reverence for the Son of God when she poured out the costly nard, approximately the yearly salary of today's typical working man or laborer, onto the feet of Our Savior. Not only did this act reveal her deep repentance for a former life of sin, but it signaled the price Our Lord would pay for our salvation a mere six days hence. Before she anointed the feet of the Lamb of God, she performed the custom of the times concerning honored guests - she refreshed the top of Jesus' head with the oil first. To be so lavish as to then bathe His feet was not only an extraordinary event, it was inspired by the Holy Spirit, for once again His Heavenly Father was well pleased with His Son. In keeping with Jesus' words in St. Matthew 26: 10-13, the memory of St. Mary Magdalen's work is now immortalized in art. The Scripture passages that tell of this marvel are perhaps among the most often repeated and well known among most Christians.

We have to look to the tradition of the Church as to who Mary Magdalen really was, as there is more than one Mary in the Gospel identified with a famous sinner. Pope St. Gregory the Great is considered the most authoritative source. He identifies Mary of Bethany with Mary Magdalen, the converted sinner.

*(excerpted from: www.catholictradition.org)

LEGEND

**Suggestions of commentators and legend continues her story. Fourteen years after the ascension, Lazarus with his two sisters, Martha and Mary; with Maximin, one of the seventy-two disciples, from whom they had received baptism; Cedon, the blind man whom our Saviour had restored to sight; and Marcella, the handmaiden who attended on the two sisters, were by the Jews set adrift in a vessel without sails, oars, or rudder; but, guided by Providence, they were safely borne over the sea till they landed in a certain harbor which proved to be Marseilles, in the country now called France.

The people of the land were pagans, and refused to give the holy pilgrims food or shelter; so they were fain to take refuge