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# *Seasoning the Seasons™*

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Saint Mary Magdalene

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On July 22nd, the Church celebrates the Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene. Mary Magdalene is



**Do Not Touch Me**  
Early 16th Century; Cretan  
Institute of Greek Studies, Venice

one of the most well-known figures in the Christian Scriptures. She is also perhaps one of the most misunderstood. Throughout the centuries, many people have often equated Mary Magdalene with the sinful woman of Luke 7:36-50. Yet that Gospel passage never names this woman, and Scripture scholars tell us that this passage does not refer to Mary Magdalene.

What do we know of Mary Magdalene from the Bible? Mary Magdalene accompanied Jesus and the Apostles as they journeyed in their ministry. She also helped support them financially (Luke 8:2-3). She witnessed Jesus' crucifixion and death (Matthew 27:56; Mark 15:40; John 19:25). She witnessed Jesus' burial (Matthew 27:61; Mark 16:47). Mary Magdalene was also there on that first Easter morning and witnessed the empty tomb. Matthew 28 tells us that Mary Magdalene and her companion, the other Mary, witnessed the empty tomb and encountered an angel who sent them to break this news to the disciples. On the way they encountered the risen Christ who sent them to tell the others in Galilee. Mark's Gospel tells us that the risen Christ first appeared to Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9), and Mary then went to tell the Apostles, but they did not believe her. Luke 24:1-12 also tells us of Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary, the Mother of James witnessing the empty tomb and encountering two men in dazzling garments. The women went to tell the Apostles, but again were not believed. John 20 also tells us of Mary Magdalene arriving and witnessing the empty tomb. She went to tell the news to Peter and the beloved Disciple, and the two men returned to the tomb to witness this for themselves. But it is to Mary Magdalene that the risen Christ first appears and speaks, and Christ sends Mary as a messenger of this Good News to the other disciples (John 20:11-18).

An Apostle is one who is sent. The risen Christ, himself, sent Mary Magdalene to the other Apostles with the Good News of the resurrection. This has earned her the title, "Apostle to the Apostles." We have much for which to be grateful to Mary Magdalene!