

# Report of the Special Congregation of St. Mary Magdalene, Equal to the Apostles Episcopal Church to the 138th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Colorado October 9-11, 2025.

## **Mission/Purpose of the Congregation of St Mary Magdalene, Equal to the Apostles**

We seek to be an active and authentic reformed Catholic Christian community within the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado, nourished by the spiritual, theological, and liturgical traditions of both East and West, committed to the Catholic creeds and to the Scriptures as containing what is necessary for salvation, and living a church life which is inclusive, diverse, ecumenical and welcoming. We seek to learn to be disciples of Jesus Christ and to love one another within a Christian Community grounded in the Baptismal Covenant, rooted in prayer and worship of the Trinitarian God, centered in the Holy Eucharist, and dedicated to a vision of social and ecological justice.

## **Welcome to St. Mary Magdalene Equal to the Apostles Episcopal Church!**

Whether young or old, rich or poor, whatever your gender identity or sexual orientation, you are welcome here. Wherever you come from, whatever the color of your skin, your ethnic background or your cultural heritage you are welcome here. Whether you have never been in a church before, have recently left another church, or regularly attend church elsewhere, you are welcome here. Whoever you are, you are welcome here because Christ welcomes you and, therefore, so do we.

Priest-in-Charge:	The Rev. Chrysostom Frank
Bishop's Warden:	Kathy Emme
Congregation Warden:	Alec Tsoucatos
Treasurer:	Fred Wamboldt
Committee Members:	Marianne Wamboldt Linda Rebrovic Christine Capra Lee Combs

## Executive Summary

Our congregation is a small community celebrating both the Prayer Book Liturgy and the Eastern Byzantine Liturgy on alternating Sundays. We are currently using St. Peter and St. Mary's Church in Denver, along with the congregation which has been there. As a "bi-ritual" community trying to "breathe with both lungs" and celebrating services in both Western and Eastern forms, we are quite unique within both the Episcopal Church and the wider Anglican Communion. An article about our work recently appeared in *The Living Church*, and an ecumenical group in Chicago has asked for our help in trying to begin something similar to what we are doing.

While the congregation is small, members are very committed to each other and to the work of the community, especially to its liturgical life. We have had Ukrainian egg-painting workshops, and we have an engaged group of musicians, iconographers, servers and readers, as well as one young person seeking ordination. Homilies on Sundays are dialogical, giving members a way of actively reflecting together on the readings of Sacred Scripture. Liturgy is tied closely to social involvement. Each year during both Advent and Great Lent, money and needed items are collected on a weekly basis for various organizations involved in social work, e.g., *The Gathering Place* in Denver. Congregants also participated this year in a *Habitat for Humanity* building project.

Our congregation is really an ecumenical experiment, rooted in a long and positive historical relationship between Anglicanism and Eastern Orthodoxy. As an "inclusive orthodox" community, we are striving to ground our discipleship and following of Jesus in the common traditions of Christianity before the Great Schism of East and West and also to respond to the Spirit's promptings with regard to various contemporary issues and developments in our own day.