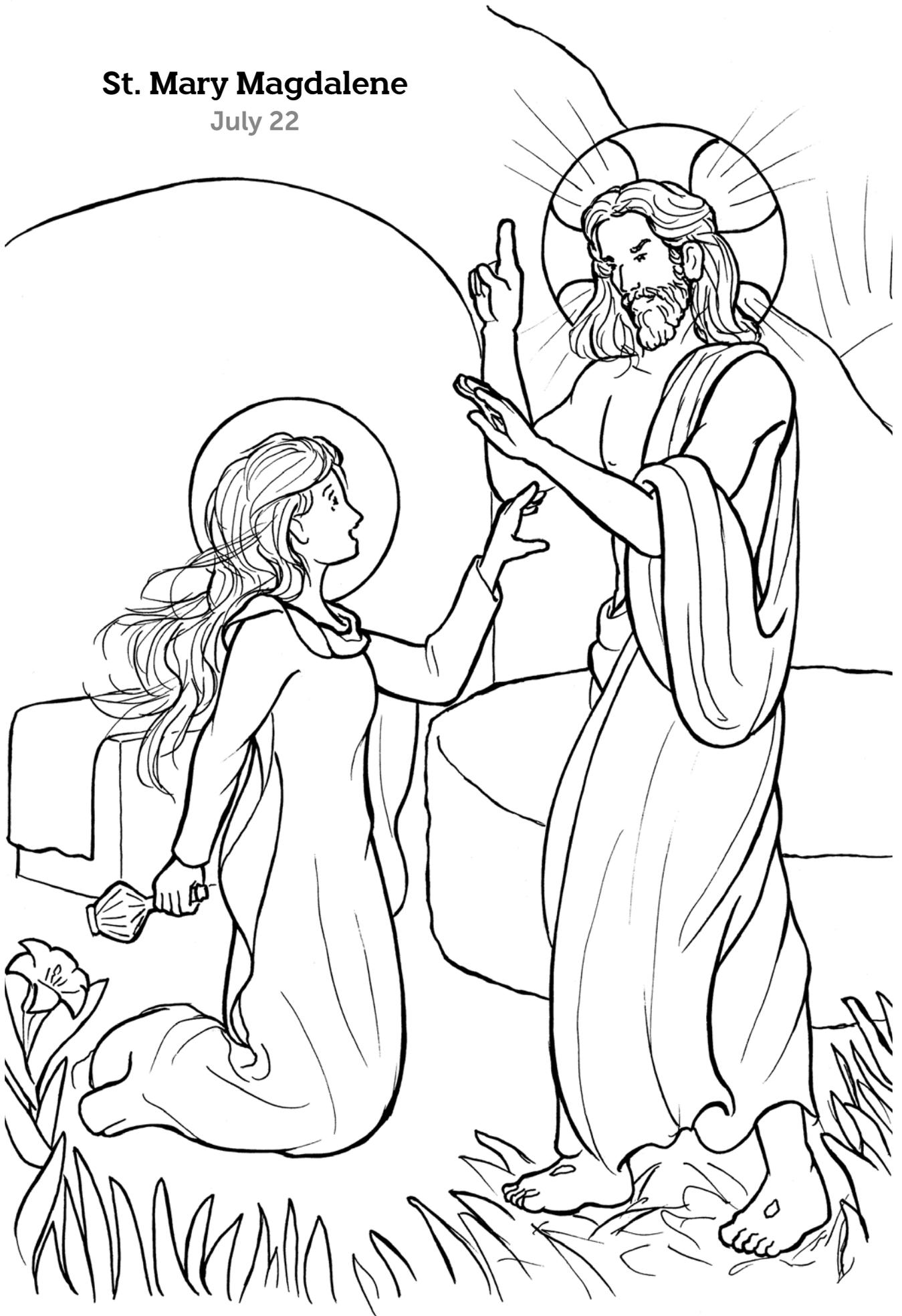


St. Mary Magdalene
July 22



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Biblical figure

Mary Magdalene lived in Galilee during the time of Jesus' life. She was a great sinner and was even possessed by seven demons! One day, Jesus found her and cast the demons out of her. Mary Magdalene was so very grateful to Jesus and loved Him very much. She followed Him as He preached to sinners, and, with some other women, she took care of Him.

When Jesus was crucified, Mary Magdalene stayed with Him. She remained faithful even though most of Jesus' friends had abandoned Him. She stood at the foot of the Cross, along with Jesus' mother and John, the beloved disciple.

After His death, Jesus was laid in a tomb. Mary Magdalene and some other women went to the tomb to anoint His body with oil according to Jewish custom. But when they looked into the tomb, Jesus was missing. They were shocked and sad because they did not know where Jesus' body was.

Two angels dressed in white told them not to be surprised that Jesus was gone, because He had risen from the dead, as He had told them He would! The women ran to tell the Apostles the news. The Apostles rushed over to see the empty tomb, but afterward they returned home.

Mary stayed behind at the tomb, weeping. Her heart was breaking because she didn't know where Jesus was. She turned around and saw a man standing in front of her. She thought He was the gardener, but it was Jesus, though Mary did not recognize Him.

He asked her, "Why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?"

"Sir, if you carried Him away, tell me where you laid Him, and I will take Him," she begged Him in reply.

Jesus responded to her request with a single word: "Mary."

At her name, she recognized Jesus and fell at His feet, trying to wrap her arms around Him. But Jesus did not let her touch Him because He had yet to see His Father. Instead, He sent her to His Apostles to tell them the Good News of His Resurrection.

Mary Magdalene ran to the Apostles as fast as her feet could carry her to tell them the Good News that she had seen Jesus and that He had risen from the dead. At first, the Apostles did not know what to think, but when Jesus finally did appear to them, they all believed. Mary Magdalene shared the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection until she died a holy death.

St. Mary Magdalene, help me always to turn to Jesus for forgiveness when I do something wrong!