



**The Holy Myrrh-bearer and Equal to the Apostles  
Mary Magdalene  
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on July 22.**

Saint Mary was from Magdala in Galilee on the sea of Tiberias, and for this she was named Magdalene. when the Lord Jesus Christ cast out seven demons from her, from which she has been suffering, she became His faithful and inseparable disciple, following Him and ministering unto Him even to the time of His crucifixion and burial. Then, returning to Jerusalem together with the rest of the Myrrh-bearers, she prepared the fragrant spices for anointing the body of the Lord. And on the Lord's day they came very early to the tomb, even before the Angels appeared declaring the Resurrection of the Lord. When Mary Magdalene saw the stone taken away from the tomb, she ran and proclaimed it to Peter and John. And returning immediately to the tomb and weeping outside, she was deemed worthy to be the first of the Myrrh-bearers to behold the Lord arisen from the dead, and when she fell at His feet, she heard Him say, "Touch me not." After the Lord's Ascension, nothing certain is known concerning her. Some accounts say that she went to Rome and later returned to Jerusalem, and from there proceeded to Ephesus, where she ended her life, preaching Christ. Although it is sometimes said that Saint Mary Magdalene was the "sinful woman" of the Gospel, this is nowhere stated in the tradition of the Church, in the sacred hymnology, or in the Holy Gospels themselves, which say only that our Lord cast out seven demons out of her, not that she was a fallen woman. "Madeleine" is a form of Magdalene.

Wine and Oil allowed.

The Holy Myrrh-bearer and Equal to the Apostles Mary Magdalene.

Text: *The Great Horologion* © 1997 The Holy Transfiguration Monastery Brookline, Massachusetts 02455  
Icons courtesy The Holy Transfiguration Monastery Brookline, Massachusetts 02445

*Dismissal Hymn. First Tone  
The soldiers standing guard*

**W**HEN Christ God had been born for our sakes from the Virgin, \* thou faithfully didst follow Him, keeping His statutes, \* and heeding His sacred laws, O august Mary Magdalene. \* Hence, as we today observe thy holy remembrance, \* we receive the loosing of our sins and transgressions \* through thy holy prayers for us.

*Kontakion. Fourth Tone  
Thou Who wast raised up*

**W**HEN God, the Mighty, the Transcendent in essence, \* came in the flesh into the world, He received thee, \* O Mary, as His True disciple as was meet. \* For thou hadst thy whole desire and thy love set upon Him; \* wherefore, thou didst bring to pass \* many cures for the ailing; \* and now translated to the Heaven's heights, \* thou ever fervently prayest for all the world.



The Holy Myrrh-bearing Women