



The Visionary

ST. MARY MAGDALEN

JANUARY 2008

LET THE WALLS FALL *from Ann Lindamood*

The educational program of our Pax Christi group will continue on Friday, January 18. The evening will focus on racism, sexism, and diversity. Sister Constance Supan, IHM, will present a one-woman dramatic performance of the life of Sr. Theresa Maxis, cofounder of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary from Monroe, Michigan. Sr. Maxis was born in Boston in 1810 to a Haitian mother and a British father. She spent a part of her life passing as white and trying to conceal her mixed-race heritage. She was strong willed and eager to start and expand Catholic schools in Michigan, but when the bishops found out about her mixed heritage, she faced both the sexism and racism present in the Church. The program is about 40 minutes long.



Following Sister Constance's performance, members of the Livingston County Diversity Council will give a short presentation on the Council's mission and vision, and share some experiences. The Livingston County Diversity Council began in the Fall of 1988 in response to a cross burning in Howell. The council is made up of business and education professionals, clergy, hospital personnel and concerned citizens. The evening promises to be very interesting and informative. Both Sister Constance and LCDC members will take your questions at the end of the evening. Please plan to join us on **Friday, January 18, at 7 pm.**

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME *from Sr. Joyce Hoile, O.S.F.*

Most of us do not have to look far to find non-practicing Catholics; but often, we do not know how to help them. You can make a tremendous difference in someone's life simply by reaching out to them and telling them that we miss them and would like them to return to our Church family.

All of the Catholic parishes in our region are presenting this six-week program for **Catholics Returning Home**. The sessions will begin on Thursday, January 10, from 7 – 8:30 pm at St. Joseph Parish in Howell. For more information or to say you are coming call Sister Joyce 810-229-8624.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE *from Fr. Dave*

For more than two years now, our Construction Task Group has been hard at work attempting to turn the hopes and dreams of many parishioners into a reality. Three additions will add almost 30,000 sq. ft. to our present facilities. These will provide a new Blessed Sacrament Chapel open for prayer 24/7, additional offices to provide staff who now share offices with a space of their own, a new social hall and kitchen; a large youth room and activity room\gym, 16 formation rooms and a new chapel. All through this process, the CTG has been careful and even made difficult decisions to make sure that our project stays within our \$8.8M budget.

The work continues in the new year. The CTG is now making the final decisions on colors, stains, carpets and a whole host of other finishes. This month, we will be going to the Zoning Board of Appeals to make sure we can add a new handicapped entrance with parking nearby at the back of the building and to “grandfather in” a few things that ordinances have changed since we built our present facility.

In February, we will seek bids for the construction and go before the township to get approval for our site plan and the project in general. In March, bids will be awarded and, hopefully, construction will finally begin as soon as the weather permits.

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from the PASTORAL COUNCIL

In December, our Pastoral Council reviewed the strategies prepared by each of our ministry teams for implementing our parish five goals that will guide our parish leadership over the next three to five years. Most of the Ministry Teams have completed their strategizing, but we are still waiting on a couple of them to complete their work. We hope that after our January meeting we will be able to publish a complete list of the five goals and various strategies to achieve them.

Once more, the five goals are: (1) increase and strengthen a variety of small communities among all our parishioners to encourage connectedness, personal interaction, and mutual support; (2) increase and enhance opportunities to explore, better understand, and deepen our Catholic faith to live the Gospel more fully; (3) expand our efforts to work for a more just and charitable society in the surrounding area and beyond; (4) enhance communication through traditional means and by leveraging expanding technology and resources; (5) develop plans for the effective utilization of our future space to achieve our parish goals and vision.

The Members of the Pastoral Council

Jan Baldinger Cheryl Burda Gretchen Buslepp Tom Callaghan Kathy Carney Patti Conahan John Finn Ann Kehn
 Mike Lamberjack Rob Lintzenich Nancy Nychypor Mary Beth Rupp Josh Kehn, Youth Rep. Debbie Dehanke, Secretary

Sr. Maryetta Churches, OP Fr. David F. Howell

from the FINANCE COUNCIL

July 2007 - June 2008

<u>REVENUE SOURCES</u>	<u>Nov 30</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Projected Budget</u>
Sunday Stewardship	89,370	452,220	1,208,900
Religious Formation/Donations	15,883	46,212	88,800
TOTAL	105,253	498,432	1,297,700

BUILDING FUND: \$1,409,862

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>Nov 30</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Projected Budget</u>
Programs & Staffing	77,154	325,315	837,100
Building Operations	16,133	61,406	160,600
Building Pledge	25,000	125,000	300,000
TOTAL	118,287	511,721	1,297,700
BALANCE (plus/minus)	-13,034	-13,288	

The Members of the Finance Council

Chris Cousins Chris Cramer Dick Demmings Sandra Howe Bruce Heatley Sharon Rossiter Mike Lamberjack Marianne Quada
 Bob Reske Kristin Turner Ben Lindamood Sharon Wagner Chair, Deb Guidos
 Bookkeeper, Dave Wisniewski Fr. David Howell

from the STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

The Stewardship Council did not meet in December, but when we gather in January we will continue to discuss our stewardship series called "My Story" so that we can resume the series again starting in February.

Any one who would like to share their stories of how and why they share their time and talent with others and how their sharing shapes their lives of faith should contact Sharon Wagner or Sr. Maryetta.

Members of the Stewardship Council

Brigitte Burke Jim Chevalier Barb Colley Eric Feiler Mary Beth Rupp Ann Fraser Joe Martinez Sonia Petrous
 Rick Phillips Devon Wolfe Caryn Schmidt Sharon Rossiter Lisa Schifko Sharon Wagner (Chair)
 Sr. Maryetta Churches, OP Fr. David F. Howell

RELIGIOUS FORMATION *from Mary Mahar*

January is a hard time of year for our formation classes. With winter in full swing and the dark days by the time our youth get home from school, most families just want to hibernate! We have a lot going on and many activities planned to help make your classes bright! We'll be talking about vocations, getting ready to celebrate Rites and much more! At the end of the month, we will be giving out orange bags to all the families in formation classes to collect food for the third grade to take to Gleaners on Feb. 16!

FIRST EUCHARIST families are reminded to be working on your child's chalice which will be presented to Fr. Dave at the **Rite of Enrollment on Saturday, January 12, at the 4:30 Liturgy.**

ORDER of PENITENT (4th Grade) families are reminded to be working on your child's cross which will be presented to Fr. Dave at the **Rite of Enrollment for Order of Penitent on Sunday, Jan. 13, at the 9am Liturgy.** It is our hope to continue to have the altar cloth from each of the First Eucharist Liturgies present at Order of Penitent and then at Confirmation. It is our way of reliving the faith journey of our children! After these Liturgies, we will be passing out prayer partner cards with the names of our youth on them. We ask that you keep them all in your prayers as they go through preparation.

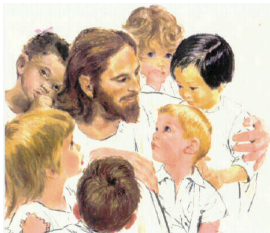
CONFIRMATION YOUTH will be celebrating the **Rite of Acceptance at the 11 am Liturgy on January 13** as well, to show they are ready to begin more involved study for this important Sacrament. **There is a luncheon and Confirmation parent and candidate meeting immediately following the 11am Liturgy.**

January Dates to Remember:

- 6- Classes resume from break!
- 12- Rite of Enrollment for First Eucharist, Chalices given to Fr. Dave during 4:30 Liturgy
- 13- Rite of Enrollment for Order of Penitent, Crosses given to Fr. Dave during 9 am Liturgy
Rite of Acceptance for Confirmation, 11 am Liturgy, Parent/Candidate.meeting
immediately following, lunch provided.
- 16/17- Penance for youth in grades 6-8 during class times Wednesday & Thursday
- 21- Formation Team meeting 7:00 pm
- 30 -Evening of Reflection for all Catechist/Aides/CLW Leaders in Social Hall
- Feb. 9-Souper Saturday, 8-12, Formation training for all catechists/aides

MAGDALEN'S LITTLE PEOPLE

from Kathie Anderer



Greetings from Preschool... Our Christmas Program is over and everyone seemed to have enjoyed the day's activities. The children looked so cute dressed in their costumes (there even was a giraffe at the manger!) and they did a wonderful job singing songs for their family and friends.

When we return on January 6, we will be busy working on evaluations and getting ready for our BIG event of the year... VIP Night. The children get to invite one special person to come to "Night School" with them. It is one of the highlights of the school year. We are looking forward to a fun evening.

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and everyone was blessed with joy, happiness, and many wonderful memories with family and friends. All of us wish for you a wonderful New Year!

COUNCIL COMMENDATIONS

The Council would like to commend Jake Wood, Jason Terns, Ryan Iseppi and Aaron Soberay who have worked very hard and attained the Eagle Scout Award. We are so proud of you and know that you have made the world a better place. Congratulations!

Cathie Osdras is being commended for receiving the Diversity Award from the Livingston Diversity Council. The award states that Cathie has done an outstanding act of compassion and initiative in the field of diversity and inclusion. Thanks Cathie for ministering in the community.

LOVE & LOGIC *from the Mom's Group*

Beginning in February, the Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MOMS) group will be offering the Love and Logic Seminar at a reduced rate. The fee is \$60 per couple, which includes workshop materials. Classes will be on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm., beginning February 26, and run consecutively for four weeks. Babysitting will be available at no cost, but you must register your child so we have enough babysitters. For more information and to register, please call Julie Hogland, 810.220.4847.

from Margaret Callaghan

Happy New Year! It is the time of year when we are hopeful for good things, when we feel like we can and will accomplish anything. We make new years' resolutions to be better and create better habits. This is a time of hope for many of us; a time of new beginnings, new projects. All these "things" are good, but if we do not resolve to make God a part of it all, we lose sight of what really matters and where we should truly put our hope. Resolve to make this year a year of growing in relationship with God.

The month of January brings rest and relaxation from the hectic season of Christmas. We will look back at the year just past and reflect on where God was a part of all that we did. We will look ahead and reflect on how God can be a part of what is to come. Think about your life in both these directions and then take a minute or two to write yourself a letter. During the month of January we will devote a meeting to do just this. Then in December I will mail them out and the teens will have a chance to read what they wrote and think about where they were on their faith journey just 12 months earlier. If you would like to participate in this, please feel free to join us on Sunday, Jan. 13 or write your letter at home and send it in to me. I will send it back to you in December.

There will be a sign up sheet for snacks in the youth room on the bulletin board as you enter. Take a minute to look at the sheet. You and a friend can sign up and be responsible for

bringing in snacks for the next week's meeting. This helps out immensely for everyone to take turns bringing in food and keeping the selections different from week to week. I will be talking more about this at our first meeting on Jan. 6.

Our high school youth group meetings are Sunday evenings from 7-9 pm in the youth room. All high school youth are welcome to join us. We would love for you to come. Come and be a part of what we do and what we are planning. We are planning a ski trip up north soon, our annual Souper Bowl Sunday collection for the less fortunate and our weekly meetings are always fun! See the bulletin for more details regarding the ski trip.

If you have any questions about anything we do, contact me in the office at (810)229-8624 or e-mail to margaretcallaghan766@msn.com



JOURNEY 2007 - 2008

[for 6 - 8 graders]

Our meetings in January are Mondays, January 14 and 28. We have some great ideas planned to begin the New Year. We hope your plant from our first meeting is doing well, that you have taken time to nourish it and water it. How fun it will be to see them in the spring.

Take time with your family this month and reflect on the past year, talk about the fun times you had, the difficult times you went through and then focus on what is to come during this year. Make plans to do things as a family and create special moments.

Every middle school student is welcome to join us for our gatherings. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via my e-mail and the phone number listed above.

Youth

THE DEACONS BENCH

from Dave Scharf

Things to ponder to help make the New Year meaningful: 1) Something **to dream**, 2) Something **to do**, and 3) Someone **to love**.

"I have a dream" said Martin Luther King. We should all have a noble plan of action for every day in the New Year. Remember the proverb: "Cherish your yesterdays; Dream your tomorrows; But live your today's." It had been truly said that an idle mind is the devil's workshop.

We must not be barren fig trees in God's vineyard. We must always be engaged, doing good to others. It is easy when we make God the center of our life and realize His presence in all the people around us. Let us light a candle instead of blaming the darkness around us. Just as the moon borrows the sun's light to illuminate the earth, we must radiate the light of God from within us. I suggest one resolution for all of us to pray:

Every morning: "Good morning, Lord. Here I am to do your will, O God." **Every evening, before we go to sleep:** "Good night, Lord. Thank You for everything. Thank You for helping me to do your will today;" **or, if this is not the case,** "forgive me, Lord, for saying no to your Love. Help me to do better tomorrow, and to say "Yes". **And then, as we close our eyes, say:** "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit," and surrender to pleasant dreams. Have a blessed New Year! overflowing with the "Yes" of God our Father, of the Lord Jesus our Brother and of the Holy Spirit our Advocate and our guide to every good deed. O our God and our hope, glory to you.

St. Mary Magdalen

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Revitalize your Marriage! Give yourselves the gift of a great marriage! There will be another St. Mary Magdalen-sponsored marriage encounter weekend on **Feb. 29—Mar. 2** in the Brighton Area.

A Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the opportunity to spend time as a couple with no outside obligations! No kids, no chores, no phone calls; just quality time with your spouse. The emphasis of the weekend is on communication between husband and wife. It allows you to rediscover each other and to focus on your relationship. Marriage encounter takes a good marriage and makes it great! Go to www.marriageencounterlansing.com for more information or call Erin and Devon Wolfe at 517.546.0417. If you are ready to register, call 1.888.628.7433. Sign up now! Spots are limited.

THE OTHER BENCH

from Jim Chevalier

Have you made a new year's resolution to grow in your faith? Would you like to pray better, beyond Sunday mornings? Would you like to make your faith the foundation your daily life? Well, the Men's Catholic Conference is designed to ignite faith, to help participants discover what some Christians have known for centuries—faith is more enriching than financial success and more fulfilling than earthly rewards.

The first annual Men's Catholic Conference will be held on Feb. 16 from 8am to 3:30 pm at St. Pat's in Brighton. Speakers will share with you how to face the challenges and pressures today in family, marriage, work, faith and church. Learn how to direct your time, thought and energy toward forming a personal relationship with God. Speakers will include: Robert Rogers who will share his personal testimony of trusting in God; Fr. Larry Richards with his insights into the forgiveness of God; Peter Herbeck on becoming an advocate for your faith; and Fr. Joe Krupp, of Faith Magazine, who will inspire young men "moving into manhood". Tickets are available from Deacon Jim for \$35 in advance (\$40 at the door) for men and for \$25 for high school or college students.



THE KNIGHT'S KORNER

from Ron Weingartz

These men they call Knights.

The first principle of the order is charity. One of the most visible fundraisers is the Tootsie Roll Drive on Palm Sunday weekend. Through this event we are able to help the mentally impaired by providing financial support to agencies in our community.

Our council is very active and offers many parish and community activities; the pancake breakfast, spaghetti dinners, a parish golf outing, reverse raffle, Vegas night, car show for Hospice, youth free throw contest and soccer challenge. We provide support and assistance to many groups within our community and through fundraising activities have been able to support those in need.

Many men have considered joining the Knights but feel they do not have time. While we seek active, involved members, we also realize the time demands of family, work and parish. Join, get involved with a couple of events and attend as many meetings as possible. You will find the time spent rewarding, and the friendships developed with fellow Knights will last a lifetime. To find out more about the Knights of Columbus, ask any Knight or call me at 810-220-1678.

OF FAITH AND SERVICE

from Sr. Joyce Hoile, OSF

SCHOOL for DISCIPLESHIP – WINTER TERM

We are offering two classes in the winter term, which starts Monday, January 7. Sr. Joyce will continue the Theology tract with *The Theology of God and the Church* on Mondays, January 7 to February 11 from 7 to 9 pm. The Scripture tract will continue with John Schultz teaching *Wisdom Literature of the Bible* on Tuesdays, January 8 to February 12 from 7 to 9 pm. Both classes will be held in the social hall. Register with Sr. Joyce by phone or by turning in a registration brochure from the pamphlet rack. Outlines for the courses are also available from Sister Joyce in the parish office.



NEW!! ELDER SPIRITUALITY

Beginning in January, and each month following, persons 50 + are welcome to join in an hour of discussion and prayer. This will take place in the parish library on the third Wednesday of each month from 1:30 – 2:30 pm. We will be using the book *Towards Evening* by Mary Hope, which is available from Sr. Joyce for \$10. The gatherings will begin January 16.

CORRECTION – PAPER RECYCLING

I attended a recent meeting and received some important information. This company is among the largest recyclers of newspapers and magazines (into newsprint for 3 large newspapers) in the world. I would like to remind you that they do **not** recycle *cardboard, brown paper bags, or the thin cardboard from, cereal, cake mix, etc or tissue paper & wrapping paper*. These cannot be recycled into newsprint. They may be used as containers for what they do recycle: newspapers & inserts, magazines, school & office papers, and mail/junk mail. See www.AbitibiBowater.com for further information.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Each year the county parishes combine to offer a six week preparation period for those who have not yet been confirmed in the Catholic faith. This is for anyone who is Baptized and has received Communion and is older than the age offered for Confirmation in one's parish.

Confirmation will then be conferred in one's own parish on Pentecost Sunday, May 11. The classes will be held once a week beginning the first week of April, and include a Saturday retreat on May 29. Please call Sister Joyce if you are interested.

CHARITY & JUSTICE from Lisa Klein

Thanks to all who provided gifts for the Advent Giving Tree! Through your generosity, we were able to provide needed gifts to LACASA, Maxey Boys Training School, St. Agnes in Flint, St. Anne and Mary Lou Brown Mission in Detroit, Pregnancy Help Clinic, and the Salvation Army. You are truly a blessing. What an amazing parish we have!

According to Catholic Social Teaching, through our words, prayers and deeds we must show compassion for the poor. As a society, how do we treat our most vulnerable members? We are called to look at public policy decisions in terms of how they affect the poor. God will ask what each of us did to help the poor and needy:

Join the Charity & Justice Ministry Team and/or Beatitudes Pax Christi as we work together to promote awareness and education of social justice issues. Charity and Justice meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Pax Christi meets the last Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Contact Deacon Dave at the Church office or deacon1@saintmarymagdalen.org or contact Lisa Klein at 810-844-0074 or lmispitzley@aol.com for more information. Contact Hugh Conahan at hconahan@yahoo.com for information on Pax Christi.

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me. (Mt. 25:40)

ON THE JOURNEY... IN THE MIDST OF COMMUNITY *from Diane Kubus*

When someone first comes inquiring about becoming Catholic, they sometimes say, "I put off doing this because I'm a private person; I don't like getting up in front of people". Becoming a Catholic or even being Catholic is not something that is private. It is about being a part of a people, a community, a family of faith. Sometimes this is a difficult concept for people, especially when it comes to celebrating public rites. But in almost every case, after the Easter Vigil which is a very public celebration of initiation into the Church, this same person will say, "I now can see that celebrating the important moments of my life have deep meaning. In celebrating the rites with this community, it reinforced my decision and my commitment to becoming Catholic. I guess this really isn't just about God and me, is it?"

Becoming a Catholic always takes place within the midst of the Church, the Catholic Community. We are not *alone* with God and were never meant to be. If you want to touch Christ, look around the assembly because that is where you will find him. We can not truly embrace Christ without embracing Him in His people.

The journey one makes in becoming Catholic takes place through dialogue, conversation, storytelling and prayer. It is a sharing of faith with other believers. This can only take place in the midst of a community of faith, and it is so important that it needs to be ritualized and celebrated every step along the way. This journey with, through and in Christ is *sacramental*, meaning it is experienced, celebrated and nurtured along the way. It has a shape, a feel, and a touch. It is not just a *spiritual* moment, it is a sacramental reality...and a sacrament is a ritual encounter with the risen Lord that brings us into the presence of God and brings God's overwhelming love to us. As Catholics, we believe that God makes Himself known in and through all of creation; that people, things, and events teach us about God and lead us to God. God comes to us, speaks to us, and touches us through people and through all the good things of creation. For Catholics the world is a sacrament. Anyone whose conversion is not sacramentalized is a person whose conversion is incomplete. Blessings on the Journey!

NEW TO OUR PARISH

WELCOME!

IN DECEMBER

Ray & Teri Chaplin

Ronald & Dorothy James

Cornell & Erica Myers
Lindsey, Kyle, Shannon

Jamie Corcoran and
Matthew Esper
Savanna, Jessalyn

Keith & Maggie Gokey
Candice, Hannah,
Matthew, Rachel

Margaret Moilanen

Nichole Corcoran &
Shaun Walker
James

Michael & Darcy Dowd
Erin, Lauren

*The addresses and phone numbers of
new members have been omitted in
compliance with internet privacy law.*

THANKS & PRAISE *from Sr. Maryetta Churches, OP*

► We give Thanks and Praise for all those who worked so hard in making Advent by Candlelight a huge success. It was very special!

► We give Thanks and Praise to all the preschool teachers in Magdalen's Little People for the wonderful Christmas program.

► Anna DeMonaco and Todd Trainor have served all of us by keeping our computers in tip top shape. Thanks for sharing your giftedness with us.

► Every week, our altar linens are laundered and pressed by Sue Eagle. This is such a special ministry and we thank you Sue, for your service!

SAINT MARY MAGDALEN PARISH

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www.saintmarymagdalen.org

MARKING THE CALENDAR

January 6 (Sunday) FEAST of the EPIPHANY

The Holy Eucharist is clear and convincing witness to Jesus' promise: "I am with you always until the end of time!" After the 11 am Liturgy, the Eucharist will be brought to Holy Cross Chapel and remain there until 4 pm, when we will return the Eucharist to the church for Evening Prayer. Throughout the afternoon, everyone, especially our Ministers of Prayer and our Eucharistic Ministers, are encouraged to come and spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

January 7 & 8 (Mon\Tues) SCHOOL FOR DISCIPLESHIP (WINTER SESSION BEGINS)

The Theology tract is *The Theology of God and the Church* on Mondays from January 7 to February 11. The Scripture tract will continue with John Schultz teaching *Wisdom Literature of the Bible* on Tuesdays from January 8 to February 12 from 7 to 9 pm. Both classes will be held in the social hall from 7-9 pm.

January 12 (Saturday) EUCHRE CARD PARTY

Need a break from winter doldrums? The Community Life Committee invites you to our annual card party, Saturday, January 12 from 7 -10 pm in the rectory basement. Come and bring other card-playing folks.

January 18 (Friday) LET THE WALLS FALL!!

The evening will focus on racism, sexism, and diversity. Sister Constance, IHM, will present a one woman dramatic performance of the life of Sr. Theresa Maxis, the founder of the IHM Sisters of Monroe. Following the performance, members of the Livingston County Diversity Council will give a short presentation on the Council's mission and vision, and share some experiences. (7 to 9 pm)

January 19 (Saturday) SPAGHETTI DINNER

Let the men cook tonight! Our Knights of Columbus will prepare a spaghetti dinner - at a reasonable price. Come share a meal with the family! Dinner will be served from 5 to 6:30 pm.