



The Visionary

A Newsletter of St. Mary Magdalen Parish

June 2008 Volume XV Issue 6

A VERY SPECIAL FEAST DAY †

St. Mary Magdalen Parish was created by Bishop Povish on the feast of Apostles Peter & Paul (June 29, 1993). On the fifth anniversary of our founding (June 28, 1998), Bishop Carl Mengeling dedicated our new church.

We began in the Gathering Area where we officially handed over our spiritual home to Bishop Mengeling. Then we entered into our new worship area where the four walls were first “baptized with holy water”. Then the walls and altar were anointed with Sacred Chrism, consecrating the church as a sacred space dedicated to the worship of God. After the anointing the altar, a vessel of burning incense was placed on it to symbolize the sacrifice which would be offered upon it. Finally, a cloth and candles were placed upon the altar, recognizing the reality that this altar was also the family table of this community of faith. Now, fifteen years after our founding and ten years after we dedicated our worship space, we have begun the process of expanding and renovating our facilities.

All of these make the weekend of June 29 a very special feast day for our community. On that weekend we will celebrate Sts. Peter & Paul, the great founders of our Christian faith. We, the people of St. Mary Magdalen Parish will celebrate the founding of our community of faith and rededicate ourselves to living it more fully!

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

In May, we received the very good news that the bids for our construction and renovation project were less than we had projected by almost \$150,000. And by the time you read this, the construction should be well underway.

The first phase of the project will begin by rerouting our entrance and driveway to give us more “stacking area” for people who are leaving the property and to give us a new drive entering the parking lot on the south side. The second phase will begin with the construction of the bell tower\columbarium; the formation & activity wings; the office addition, and the new Blessed Sacrament Chapel. All of this is projected to take about 12 months.

Phase III is the renovation of the existing building. During that phase, we will move into the activity wing (the Community Room and Activity Room) for Sunday Liturgy. The new formation wing will accommodate our meetings and Religious Formation until the renovation is complete in time for Christmas of 2009!

That is the plan as it has been presented to us. But as all of us know, that is subject to change. During the construction and renovation Sunday Liturgy will be celebrated here. As the need arises, weddings and funerals will be celebrated here or at the “little church” at St. John (like we did before!)

JWJ - OUR SUMMER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We are in the planning stages-trying to get just the right formula for sharing God’s fun! This summer our Journey with Jesus will help our youth become “Jr. Funologists” exploring the power to be thankful, the power to help others and the power to tell others about God. Join Dewd and the rest of his gang as we give thanks to God!

If you can help our experiment to get just the right ingredients to help our week explode with wacky, wonderful and true stuff about Jesus or if you need more information call Lisa Klein at 810-844-0074 or Peggy Weingartz at 810-220-1678. Registration forms are in the Gathering Area to register now for this exciting week-long adventure! We are powering up for a great week!

Aug 4 - 8 from 9:30 to 11:45!

from the PASTORAL COUNCIL

Our Pastoral Council met in May and completed our Pastoral Plan that will provided direction to our parish pastoral efforts for the next three to five years. Our Council has established five goals and each of the ministry teams has provided a series of strategies that will enable our parish to accomplish our goals.

The budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year was reviewed and approved. Our subsidy policy was expanded to include our parishioners who attend St. Patrick, St. Mary, St. Joseph and, (for at least the coming year) Agnus Dei Academy.

We also discussed the Regional Mass to welcome our new bishop. Not only was it considered a success, but we also hoped that something like it could become an annual event to bring all the parishes of the region together.

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

As of April 30, 2008

<u>REVENUE SOURCES</u>	<u>Apr 30</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Projected Budget</u>
Sunday Stewardship	86,573	939,387	1,208,900
Religious Formation/Donations	6,901	87,680	88,800
TOTAL	93,473	1,027,067	1,297,700

BUILDING FUND: \$1,757,086

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>Apr 30</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Projected Budget</u>
Programs & Staffing	68,311	673,679	837,100
Building Operations	14,070	139,506	160,600
Building Pledge	25,000	250,000	300,000
TOTAL	107,381	1,063,186	1,297,700
BALANCE (plus/minus)	-13,908	-36,119	

The Members of the Finance Council

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

from the STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

The Stewardship Council has been working to solicit stories from some of the real stewards of time and talent who do wonderful work for others in our community. The "My Story" series was continued as a part of our preparation for the Spring Stewardship Fair. They became a part of the our Spring Stewardship Fair with its theme of "The Greatest Stories Ever Told".

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

SUMMER SERVICE PROJECTS *from Lisa Klein*

JUNE Pregnancy Help Clinic project is underway. The Pregnancy Help Clinic offers a variety of services and baby items that are needed to assist expectant mothers. The dresser and crib in the Gathering Area on June 7 has teddy bear tags listing items that are needed for newborn babies. Please take a tag and attach it to the listed item and return it to the crib by June 15. Every year when we provide these needed items to Pregnancy Help Clinic, their clients are overwhelmed by the genuine care and support shown by our parish. Thank you for helping those in difficult times.

JULY Salvation Army Summer Collection. During our Salvation Army Summer Collection, we assist in providing the basic needs of daily life. When you are getting ready for your summer travels, please take a moment to purchase or collect extra trial size shampoo, conditioner, soap, lotion and other basic necessities. Our Summer Collection will take place July 12 - 26. The bulletin will list needed items before the collection begins.

PAX CHRISTI has scheduled Fr. Pete Dougherty from the Michigan Peace Team to be at our parish the weekend of August 16/17. His homily will reflect the message of our national Catholic Bishop's pastoral letter: *The Challenge of Peace*. The Michigan Peace Team will be at St. Mary Magdalen for a follow-up workshop on peace making on Saturday, September 20.

The Charity and Justice Team will participate in our Spring Directions Meeting on Wed., June 11. We will not meet in July, but we hope you will join us on **Tues., Aug. 12** to kick off the 2008-09 year! All new members are welcome at the Directions Meeting and again in August as we begin our new year together!

OF FAITH & SERVICE *from Sr. Joyce Hoile, OSF*

M.O.M.S. (Ministry of Moms Sharing) group will be starting their summer schedule beginning June 25. We will be meeting Wednesday mornings at 10 am, but our location changes from week to week. We find various places for the children to play. To find out where we are meeting, please call Gayle Zawisa at 220-6268. Please join us for some fun and fellowship. We always have a good time!!

ELDER SPIRITUALITY

We will meet in the parish library on June 18 and July 16 from 1:30-2:30 pm



SENIORS LUNCH BUNCH

Thursday, June 12: Lunch will be provided at noon followed by a walk on the Parish grounds.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST:

June 7 will be the last gathering at Sr. Joyce's. Beginning in September we will meet Thursday evenings from 7 – 8 pm for the "Sunday Reading". Men and women are invited to come review and discuss the Sunday readings.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: SUMMER SCHEDULE

On Saturday at 7:30 am in the rectory basement: June 14, August 9, September 13.



SPIRITUAL DIRECTION This summer we will delight in the wonders of nature and give praise to our God who communicates through them to us. Enjoy many of these moments! Nature is a first step to encountering God. We as Catholics encounter God in many ways and come to know the wonders of the divine through the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, pray, pondering the beauty of creation, sharing our faith and times of joy and tragedy and by serving those in need. There are times in our lives when we could use the insight of a spiritual companion, one who knows and shares our spiritual journey; the great moments, the questionable times, and the difficult times. A spiritual guide helps us to see and discern God's movement in our lives. This summer with more daylight time, you may want to take the first step to "try on just to see" if that is something that you are seeking. Sr. Maryetta, Sr. Joyce and Ann Lindamood are certified Spiritual Directors and able to see more individuals. They can also guide you to other men and women in the area who are well qualified to serve as a spiritual companion. Call me for more information.

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

We give thanks and praise to all who participated in the Regional Liturgy on May 17: lectors, musicians and singers, hospitality ministers, and participants who made this Liturgy a time to remember.

We also give thanks to Bob and Claudia Sexton, Dianne Sweeter and Betty Prise for all their efforts in making the Blood Drives so successful. Thanks for all you do for us!

RELIGIOUS FORMATION *from Mary Mahar*



This year again we have been blessed by the many Catechetical Ministers who have come, week after week, prepared to share their faith with your children. Even during the week with no classes, many still met with others to plan ahead or to take Formation classes for catechist certification. We work together to assure that we are meeting the needs of each child and family, and to make Church teaching understandable at each grade level. We are grateful to all of you who shared their faith in the Risen Christ with our younger parishioners! **WE THANK THE FOLLOWING CATECHETICAL MINISTERS:**

Robin Shepard	Laura Obyc	Joseph Johnson	Judith Terns	Matt Weber
Denise Barr	David Obyc	Jessica Johnson	Louise Gentner	Ben Kehn
Kim Seelinger	Dianne Cramer	Claudia Bist	Sarah Jordan	Camille Sloan
Nicole Doyle	Laura DeRosier	Janice Finn	Laurie Murphy	Elaine Woods
Dorothy Koprowicz	Marie Collins	*Peggy Weingartz	Heidi Ditri	Carl Demers
Kathleen Koprowicz	Brenda Affatati	Kimberly Cauley	Herbert Langer	Elana Black
Kathleen Smith	Susan Hlavaty	Kelli Habarth	Tina Devine	Glen Black
Stephen Smith	Sam Horning	Cheryl Houy	Cheryl Comeau	Chris Wolfe
Jill Gautherat	Jennifer Malkowski	Linda Mosquera	Kevin Blanck	David Hornberger
Steve Gautherat	Ashley Wolfe	Barb Paison	Nancy Pytlak	Deborah Whitson
Ruth Badalucco	Daniel Tuthill	Tracy Yaros	Joe Curcuru	*Laura Rector
Anne Tucker	Taylor Tuthill	Julie Lindberg	Darcy Dowd	Kathleen Kunkle
*Diane Neitzke	Sydney Tuthill	Sharon Linck	Audrey Lavalley	Denis Ringle
Marie Cerbie	Fran Schutz	Karenmarie Barker	Denise Duncan	Tammy Lavalley
Mary Beth Potrykus	Rose Celmer	Emily Cesarz	Stacy Swann	Judy Gentner
Karen Kerr	Kym Sulkowski	Erica Myers	Kathryn Bidinger	Russ Gentner
Lori Sixbery	Karen Suszko	Carol Cesarz	Daphne Betley	Sean Carney
Karen Zapalski	Jessica Palmatier	Kathy Heatley	Kateri Eisenhut	Pat Erger
*Jennie Ross	Nicole Schutz	Mary Ellen Lezon	Jennifer Weingartz	Mary Ansbro
Helen Hackett	Duke Davis	Sr. Joyce Hoile	Monica Cauley	Mary Day
*Stasia Eisenhut	Priscilla Davis	Carla Sall	Amber Gray	Mary Ellen Magon
Maria Kottke	Diane Lapham	Elena Mann	Kevin Mahar	Michelle Chaka
Lisa Kroll	Cary Schmidt	Katheryne Friske	Alison Lanigan	Nicole Hurlbert
Leah Babiarz	Tanya Siemen	Kyle Fiske	Ellen Letters	Lori Feiler
*Elizabeth Slack	Patrick Duncan	Sharon Micallef	Carlene Demers	Jan Altermatt
Pete Iseppi	Michael Cronk	Janet Ross	Kristine Weber	

Thank you to our Lead Catechists for this year! A special thanks also goes out to all those who substituted in classes, and to those below who helped in the halls and nursery. We could not have done it without all of you!

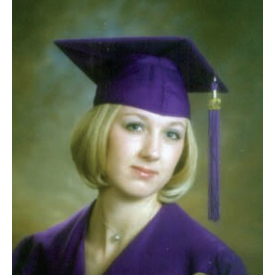
Joan Monforton	Linda Nagle	Mary Ann Hargrave	Trina Clark
Alison Wink	Denise Schifko	Matt Burke	Christine Murray-Slack
Michele Sixbery	Shelby Kottke	LindaParzuchowski	Colleen Rosso
Linda Keeling	Rosemarie Kennedy	Anne Gross	Gayle Zawisa
Kim Holt	Kitty McLaren	Corey Ann Gniewak	Jeanette Martin



YOUTH NEWS *from Margaret Callaghan*

Wow! Is it June already? The kids will be out of school and the summer routine of lazy days; picnic lunches and swimming in the lake are what's called for. With graduations and parties and vacations, it's easy to let the days slip by perhaps without a thought about God or time for prayer. These are the days when we need to keep our faith life alive and well with continued prayer and quiet time with God. Start and end each day wrapped in his love. Make good choices and be proud of the things you do.

Congratulations to all the graduating seniors of 2008! We at St. Mary Magdalen are very proud of your accomplishment and wish you the best of luck with your future plans. To share our excitement and prayer with you, there is the breakfast scheduled in your honor on **Sunday June 8** following the 9am mass. **Come to Liturgy wearing your cap and gown.** You will process up the aisle with Fr. Dave and sit in the reserved seating for you. It is wonderful to share your joy and excitement as a community in this special time in your life. Please sign up in the gathering area so we can plan for the food.



We are planning a trip with the **National Relief Network (NRN) July 21-26**. If you have not already returned your paperwork, please do so by June 10th. We are going with St. Joe's in Dexter and expecting a large group. Our destination has not yet been determined but I know we will go where we are needed most. Spring can be a difficult time of the year in some parts of the country. I have never suffered a disaster like some of the ones we see on TV. I thank God everyday for my home and community. What are you most thankful for every day?

We are going to **Cedar Point** with St. John's, St. Francis and St. Augustine on **Wed., June 25**. This is a diocesan-wide event also, so there will be teens there from all around. How fun it will be to meet up with other friends from around the area for the day.

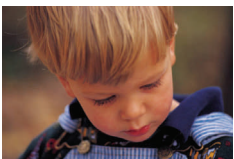
Congratulations to Justin Videto, Meredith Evancho, Kateri Eisnehut, and Matthew Williamson who will all be attending the Diocesan Youth Leadership Camp the week of June 15th. This is a camp that will enrich their leadership skills and light their heart on fire for God! I can't wait for them to go.

If you have any services or products you would like to donate for our annual Tin Can Raffle to be held at the parish picnic, please contact me at margaretcallaghan766@msn.com or drop your items and ideas off in the office. Before you know it I will be writing about the fall colors and the smell of burning leaves.....

THE EDGE (for grades 6-8)

What a great year we had. I am always excited to hear about what the middle school students liked most about the year and their ideas for next year to make it even better. The best part is being witness to all the new friendships that were made and will continue to grow over the summer and into next year. Have a fun and safe summer!

MAGDALEN'S LITTLE PEOPLE *from Kathie Anderer*



Our school year has come to a close. We had a great time this year and made many memories. This last month we had a fire drill, a field trip to Bordine Nursery, Our Mother's Day Tea, a visit from the fire department, and our last day picnic. So much fun...so little time to fit it all in.

Sign up for next year is ongoing. Let us know if we can be of service to you or someone you know. We have a few openings available if anyone knows of someone looking. Please call the preschool line for more information (810) 229-0010. Leave a message with your phone number and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you for your support and encouragement. Have a great summer! We will be back before you know it.

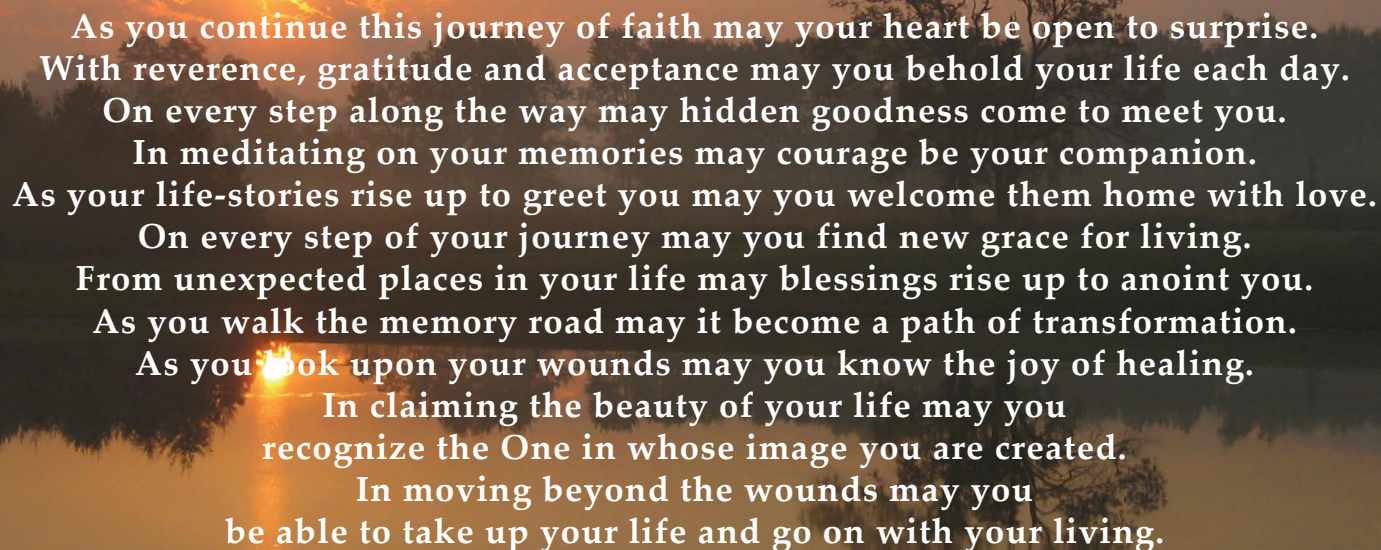
COUNCIL COMMENDATIONS

The Council would like to commend all those on the Properties Team who have helped make our buildings and our property a vision to behold. We appreciate all that you do to make Saint Mary Magdalen such a lovely place. Thanks!

The Council would also like to thank Judy Gentner for making all the priests and deacons stoles for the Regional Liturgy. Sewing is an art, and Judy, you possess the gift of an artist and we look forward to using these stoles for many years to come! Thanks again!

JOURNEY of CONVERSION *from Diane Kubus*

The process of Christian initiation into the Catholic Church is often referred to as a "journey of faith". Those who are seeking to become Catholic do not embark on this journey alone; they have joined us on the journey; the spiritual journey of our lives toward God. And it is always a journey of conversion; an opening to God that allows God to change us. This change comes from within and informs and affects the many dimensions of our lives. It happens when we allow God to love us enough that He reforms us, refashions us into men and women who value each other and our relationships in self-sacrificing love. It's never ending and all of us on our spiritual journeys experience conversion. Our relationship with God changes as well as our relationships with one another. Our prayer life changes, and it changes us. Conversion happens at different times in our lives, and all of our experiences of conversion are different.



As you continue this journey of faith may your heart be open to surprise.
With reverence, gratitude and acceptance may you behold your life each day.
On every step along the way may hidden goodness come to meet you.
In meditating on your memories may courage be your companion.
As your life-stories rise up to greet you may you welcome them home with love.
On every step of your journey may you find new grace for living.
From unexpected places in your life may blessings rise up to anoint you.
As you walk the memory road may it become a path of transformation.
As you look upon your wounds may you know the joy of healing.
In claiming the beauty of your life may you recognize the One in whose image you are created.
In moving beyond the wounds may you be able to take up your life and go on with your living.

Blessings on the Journey!

Welcome to our parish! ... New Members - MAY 2008

Ray & Consuelo Gradowski
Lorenzo, Madison
1722 Chelsea Circle
Howell, MI 48843
810.632.5346

Richard & Anna Gebstadt
1930 Sherlynn
Brighton, MI 48114
810.227.2092

Constance Mendell
1640 Helena Avenue
Hartland, MI 48353
248.529.3858

Chad & Jessica Geurts
1544 Fountain View Drive
Brighton, MI 48114
810.360.0753

Charles & Donna Freeman
6143 Pebbleshire Circle
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
810.694.5874

PAPER RECYCLING at MARY MAGDALEN!

Two green and yellow recycling bins have been placed near the barn to collect your paper for recycling! We invite everyone to bring unsorted, clean newspapers, magazines, office and school papers, shopping catalogues, shiny paper, mail, envelopes, thin cardboard. (Please NO phone books or hard bound books.) The pickup truck will come every 2 weeks to weigh the contents and credit us accordingly. We will use the income from this project to assist those in need in our area!



THE OTHER BENCH

from Jim Chevalier

With the coming of summer our lives generally slow down a bit. Some activities cease, so we may have more of a chance to do some reflection on our relationship with the Lord. We are all on a journey towards salvation, but each of us is at a different place along that path. Some are at the “Y” in the road trying to decide which way we should go; some have taken the wrong path, realized it, and are looking for the side road that will take us over to where we belong; still others have no idea where they are or even where they belong. They have never taken the time to pray, to reflect, or to move toward a loving relationship with their Creator.

If all of us are Christians, and I believe everyone reading this is, then we need to spend some time in prayer talking with the Lord asking Him for direction, asking Him to help us in our quest for eternal happiness. During the three stages of life (in the womb, life as we know it, and eternal life) this is the only stage where we can choose where we spend eternity, that final stage. So please, take some time this summer to understand where we are and where we want to end up.

The DEACON'S BENCH *from Dave Scharf*

Again I have been asked, “What do I have to believe to be Catholic?” Many have been given the sheet I have on the “Hierarchy of Catholic Belief and Practice”. If I publish it in the Visionary, maybe more people will have the opportunity to read them. So here they are:

Dogma: These are the teachings most central to the faith, most solemnly held/taught. Look at the Creed. The council of Trent said the Father sent the Son into the world to reveal God’s love and to redeem us from sin. This mystery continues to be acted out in the Church.

Doctrine: These flow out of dogma. They describe our understanding through rime of various teachings/truths. They are of varying authoritativeness and importance. The most important are declared infallible. Others are non-infallible. The council of Trent said Jesus Christ is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine at the celebration of the Eucharist. Vatican II said Jesus Christ is present *a/so* in the community celebration and in the Word proclaimed at the Eucharist.

Ordinary Teaching: The pope and bishops teach, guide, and inspire through encyclicals, pastoral letters, homilies, exhortations. These do not bind like doctrines, but should be received with respect and in the spirit of faith. The council of Trent said the faithful can receive the host on the tongue only.

Disciplines: The Church sets up rules and guidelines as an exercise of its teaching/leading role. These disciplines apply doctrine to specific situations. Again there are varying degrees of importance. Vatican II said we must honor Christ in the Word: Mass/Readings in the vernacular psalm of response, procession with the Book of the Gospels.

Practices: Certain ways of praying and acting develop over time that are appropriate and helpful in living the faith. The Church encourages and supports these. New practices may develop over time. The council of Trent said Catholics use the time right after Communion to commune privately with Jesus. Vatican II said Catholics receive communion more often. Interest in studying the Scriptures grows.

Hope this will help. If you have any questions email me deacon1@saintmarymagdalen.org

MARKING THE CALENDAR

June 11 (Wednesday) DIRECTIONS 08

This is our annual wrap of the year's activities. Each of our councils and ministry teams gather for a Mass of Thanksgiving at 7 pm. Then after a snack, each group meets to assess their efforts from the past year and then make preliminary plans for the fall. All new members of the team are especially invited to learn from the experience of the past (and in some cases, departing members) of the councils and team. The evening will also include the introduction of the new Pastoral Plan!

June 13 (Friday) BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Drive will take place in our social hall from 1 to 7 pm!

June 15 FATHER'S DAY

June 29 (Saturday\Sunday) FEAST of PETER & PAUL *our DEDICATION*

This feast marks the Fifteenth Anniversary of our parish and the tenth anniversary of the dedication of our church. Both of these will be commemorated at the weekend Liturgies when we also celebrate the pillars of the Church: Saints Peter & Paul.

July 21-25 NRN

Our youth will be going this week to do disaster clean up! Their destination will not be announced until shortly before their departure but their efforts will assist people who have no government assistance to begin anew after a natural disaster.

Aug 4 – Aug 8 (Mon-Fri) JOURNEY WITH JESUS

Our Vacation Bible School meets each day from 9:30 until 11:45 for one of the best fun filled times of faith and fun to be found anywhere! Register soon!

SAINT MARY MAGDALEN PARISH

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