



The Visionary

A Newsletter of St. Mary Magdalen Parish

October

Volume XV Issue 10



THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Each Advent begins the new Liturgical year for the Church. This coming year the Gospel reading will come predominately from the Gospel of Mark. Sister Barbara Reid, O.P., Ph.D., will join us on Sunday, October 5 from 2-4 pm to help us better understand the meaning and theology of Mark's Gospel. Sister Barbara is a member of the Grand Rapids community of Dominican Sisters. She has a doctorate in Sacred Scripture and she is a professor of New Testament Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. She has written several books and magazine articles. She has also lectured extensively in the Diocese of Saginaw.

This presentation is open to everyone in the community. It will be helpful to those who have studied Scripture for years and to those who are just beginning!

Sunday, October 5 from 2-4 pm

SCHOOL FOR DISCIPLESHIP

The Fall classes begin early in October. The Tuesday session, Christian Morality, will be taught by Mr. John Schultz and will begin on Tuesday, October 14 from 7-9 pm. The Monday session, beginning October 20, is the History of Salvation taught by Fr. Dave. It also is from 7—9pm. This class will provide an overview of the Bible and how it was written. More information and registration forms can be found in the brochures in the pamphlet rack. You can also register online at saintmarymagdalen.org.

WE HELP THOSE IN NEED

Livingston County appears to be very prosperous, yet within our county over 7,000 people live below the poverty line. Most of these are the working poor, who survive payday to payday. But it takes very little to cause these folks to sink into desperate straits: an unexpected car repair, an illness or other emergency. Every day these people turn to churches for assistance especially the Salvation Army, all 8 Catholic parishes in the county and several other Christian churches.

At St. Mary Magdalen, we receive calls every day from folks looking for help. Our deacons, Dave Scharf and Jim Chevalier field these calls and use the money we have available to help them. Non-parishioners are directed to a county-wide, non-denominational group called LOVE, INC (love, in the name of Christ). They interview the one making the request to verify the need and avoid duplications. Then we write the check. This adds up to hundreds of dollars a week and several thousand dollars a month.

Where do we get this money? Like many churches in the county, we support LOVE, INC, for their work. We contribute \$500 a month from our general fund. The additional money we give away comes from the money donated to the Alms boxes located in our Gathering Area. Added to that is several hundred dollars from the VG receipts we collect, from the sale of the paper collected near the barn and from the Meijer's community program. All of this adds up to several thousand dollars a year. While we might not be able to help everyone who asks, we have been able to help most; while we may not have been able to fulfill every request, we have always been able to give them something.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Come one, come all to the Halloween Ball. Come in fancy disguises for music, dancing and prizes, games and food sublime. Have a spooky good time!!

**Saturday
October 25
7 pm - 9 pm**



HAUNTED BARN

Come one, come all for some adult fun!!

**Saturday
October 25
7 pm - 9 pm**

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from the PASTORAL COUNCIL

Last spring, our ministry teams finished their work on how each of them might advance our parish goals over the next 3-5 years. In September, our Pastoral Council members began discussing what strategies might be adopted by the council to advance these goals.

Several options were discussed including being more visibly present to parishioners on weekends to seek their comments and concerns. It was also suggested that we might add a “comment section for the PC” to the parish web site. We also discussed the possibility of creating an opening prayer format for all meetings that could include a faith sharing component based on the Gospel passage of the coming Sunday. Another possibility was to work with other parishes and churches to expand our charitable outreach. We also know that we need to revise our parish Facility Usage Policy over the next year.

The Members of the Pastoral Council

Jan Baldinger	Karen Luck	Tom Callaghan	Kathy Carney	Sandy Oliver
Mark Wright	Ken Kuna	Mike Lamberjack –Chair	Gretchen Buslepp –Vice Chair	Rob Lintzenich
Nancy Nychpor	Mary Beth Rupp	Debbie Dehanke, Secretary	Sr. Maryetta Churches, OP	Fr. David F. Howell

from the FINANCE COUNCIL

July 2008 - June 2009

As of August 31, 2008

<u>REVENUE SOURCES</u>	<u>Aug. 31</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Projected Budget</u>
Sunday Stewardship	91,267	174,180	1,183,900
Religious Formation/Donations	3,780	15,760	89,600
TOTAL	95,047	189,940	1,273,500

BUILDING FUND: \$1,594,237

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>Aug. 31</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Projected Budget</u>
Programs & Staffing	68,539	116,217	860,100
Building Operations	16,565	21,460	164,400
Building Pledge	20,834	41,668	250,000
TOTAL	105,938	179,345	1,274,500
BALANCE (plus/minus)	-10,891	+10,594	

The Members of the Finance Council

Chris Cousins	Dick Demmings	Sandra Howe	Duke Davis
Sharon Rossiter	Mike Lamberjack	Bruce Heatley -Chair	Bob Reske
Karen Carter	Ben Lindamood	Dan Grattan –Vice Chair	Deb Guidos -Secretary
	Bookkeeper, Dave Wisniewski	Fr. David Howell	

from the STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

The Stewardship Council reviewed its calendar for the coming year and made some adjustments.

Then we discussed the fall Stewardship Fair. We decided to extend it for one more week to offer parishioners the opportunity to share their gifts of time and talent with the community through a variety of task oriented ministries or special projects.

The third task of the evening was to begin the discussion of creating a new mission statement for the council. The primary purpose of this exercise would be to help all the council membership to have a clearer vision of its role.

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

OCTOBER THANKS



The days are shorter but are brightened by a wash of color. In gardens and farmlands, the planters hurry to gather in the bounty of fruits, vegetables and grains. There are fruits and vegetables to be canned; grain to be milled and other foods to be carefully stored so that they can last through the long winter. The sheer bounty leads many to be genuinely grateful.

Our modern world has few equivalents. While a few industries may have busy seasons, there is no real "harvest time" for most of us. Perhaps the only thing even remotely similar to a harvest time is April 15. On tax day, we can truly see how much we have received as income and then we figure out what percentage of it will be given to the government as taxes.

Perhaps it would be better to ask our parishioners to look at their financial stewardship in April rather than October. But real stewards are not motivated by a law like tax payers. Real stewards are motivated by gratitude and a genuine desire to return to God a portion of what has been received. So during harvest time, we are asked to look again at how much we have received and how much of that is shared with others for the love of God..

The Scriptures speak of returning to God a tithe, a tenth of all the time, talent and treasure that has been received. As Catholics, we define the ideal of a tithe as giving 5% to the Church and donating the other 5% to worthwhile charities.

Every fall, we send out the third quarter statements to our members along with our annual budget. We ask every household to assess their personal finances and their giving to the parish. Then in November, our Finance and Stewardship Councils will pass out a new packet of stewardship envelopes. Each packet begins with a commitment card which helps our Finance Council to budget for the coming year. But more importantly it is a statement of what will be returned to God in thanks for all we have received..

While most use weekly envelopes, many parishioners at St. Mary Magdalen now make their offering electronically. The electronic transfer makes your commitment automatically each month. If you would like to use this option, check the box on the commitment card.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION *from Mary Mahar*

As we journey into October and wonder at the change in the leaves starting to fall around us, so too, we wonder at the change in the youth in our parish as they settle into classes once again! They are taller, they are excited to be with their friends in classes, they chatter about things that have happened during their day and most of all they are ready to learn more about their faith in the formation process here at St. Mary Magdalen!

I would like to thank our Lead Catechists for this year. We have a few new changes that are very exciting! These catechists are the ones who help organize each grade level with lesson plans, help plan retreats, are support for the classes and catechists and assist with any issues that arise each week! Laura Obyc is our new 1st grade Lead Catechist, Peggy Weingartz continues to work with the 2nd grade, Sue Hlavaty continues to lead the 3rd grade, Jennie Ross leads our 5th grade, Kevin Blanck is now in charge of the 6th grade, and Beth Slack continues to guide our 8th grade and our Home Study program. Diane Neitzke leads both our 4th grade catechists and is our new Family Program Coordinator! Amber Gray is our new lead catechist for our Confirmation program grades 9 and 10! And back this year is Stasia Eisenhut as Formation Administrative Assistant. All of these people have been working very hard over the last year and this summer to help our formation classes grow to meet your ongoing needs and those of each of our youth and families in formation!



October Dates to Remember:

- 4 Souper Saturday for Catechists/Aides St. John Church
- 5 9th Grade Parent Confirmation Information Meeting 5:30 pm in Church
- 12 Rite of Acceptance-First Eucharist 11am Liturgy immediately followed by Parent Meeting
- 22/23 Touching Safety Presentations in Class

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

SCHOOL FOR DISCIPLESHIP Brochures can be found in the pamphlet rack. The Fall classes begin with Mr. John Schultz teaching Christian Morality on **Tuesday Oct. 14**. On **Monday, Oct. 20**. Father Dave will teach "History of Salvation" which is an overview of Sacred Scripture. Classes begin at 7pm.

M.O.M.S. (MINISTRY OF MOTHERS SHARING)

This vibrant group meets **Wednesdays, 9:30 – noon**. Childcare is provided in the nursery. The group prays together, has speakers, reads and discusses books, share about family, play, do service and is a great support to each other. New members are welcome any time. Jane Larson is the Coordinator.

PARISH HALLOWEEN PARTY It's not too scary, please come!

It's on **Saturday, October 25, from 7 – 9 pm**. *Families are invited to submit their "Carved Pumpkin" for the Judging contest to be held at 8 pm as a part of the fun!* Costumes are welcome but not required!

SOON TO COME! ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT is an evening of fellowship, prayer, entertainment and dessert, to help prepare us for the holy season of Advent. Sign Up sheets will be in the Gathering Area soon. Table Hostesses and Hosts are greatly needed. Feel free to invite friends, neighbors, persons needing an invite to "take a step toward God" on **Saturday, November 29, 6:30 pm**



YOUTH NEWS *from Margaret Callaghan*

Congratulations to Veronica Burt who has been appointed to the Diocesan Youth Advisory Council and to Kateri Eisenhut who was asked to serve on the youth planning committee for Jamboree '09. Both attended the Diocesan Youth Leadership Camp this past summer where they learned leadership skills and grew in their faith. Both committees are an essential part of what the diocese offers for the youth. The committees work all year long to plan events that brings youth together from across the diocese.

Last month several of our youth participated in a weekend retreat with youth from three other parishes. We made new friends, created fun, lasting memories and grew in our relationship with God. We focused on taking inventory of our life and prioritize what matters most. Living The Life means including God in our decisions, asking for guidance and listening for answers. It isn't easy and sometimes not fun, but including God in our life can truly help us achieve balance and make better decisions. God wants to help; all we have to do is ask.



We will be getting the haunted house ready for Saturday October 25. It will be open as a part of our parish Halloween Party. The teens put a lot of time and effort into creating this experience for you. I hope you will take time to come out and walk through it. Shane Neitzke is our Haunted House Director and Creator. This will be his third year in charge! Thank you Shane for taking on this responsibility.

Take time this month to enjoy the beauty of nature and the awesomeness that is fall! The colors, the cooler air, the decorations, cider mills, pumpkins and the smell of it all! What blessings God has given us to enjoy. Take some time to make an apple pie, an apple crisp with ice cream, a pumpkin pie or create candied apples. Have fun this season and take it all in. God is good!

THE EDGE *for 6, 7 & 8 graders*

We have started and are underway! It was so nice to see everyone come back and then to meet and see new faces! Our meetings for October are Monday, October 13 and 27. We are headed out to a corn maze. Please watch the bulletin for more details. We are so excited to begin a new year with you all. I hope your enthusiasm for what is good and right continues throughout the year. Welcome back to EDGE!!

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

We give thanks and praise for the Youth Leadership Team who were fabulous on the Fall retreat for the rest of our youth. Your sense of dedication, insight and words of wisdom meant a great deal to our young people and we are truly grateful to you!

Thanks to all who volunteered to teach religious education this year. Your sense of dedication, your ability to listen to the young people and your coming every week to teach is a real gift to our parish.

CHARITY & JUSTICE *from Jan Carpenter*

The Homeless Shelter (R.E.A.C.H.)

(R.E.A.C.H.) Homeless Shelter is sponsored by the Salvation Army and Livingston County churches who take turns hosting homeless over the winter.

Our turn to host at St. Mary Magdalen will be **October 27 through November 3**

Parishioners are invited to volunteer to help make St. Mary Magdalen a welcoming destination for our guests. The following are opportunities for you to help:

Morning Chaperone and Breakfast Host

– Arrive at church by 6:30 a.m. Set up the breakfast supplies, make coffee, make lunch sandwiches, clean up, and oversee participant's well-being and activities until 8 am.

Morning Driver – Arrive at church at 7:30 am and drive the clients needing transportation to the Salvation Army in Howell by 8:30 am.

Evening Driver – Arrive at the Salvation Army (in Howell) by 6:15 p.m. Drive guests to our church. If possible, stay and have dinner with the guests and volunteers. Leave after dinner.

Dinner Hosts - Plan and prepare a meal with the other dinner hosts. Deliver the meal to church by 6:30 pm. Serve the meal, eat with guests, clean-up and leave about 8:30 pm.

Evening Chaperone – Arrive at church by 6:30 p.m. Help serve dinner, eat with guests, visit, play cards, etc. until about 10 pm when overnight chaperones arrive.

Overnight Chaperone – Arrive at church by 10 pm. The 3 chaperones may take turns sleeping so that we maintain a watchful presence in the shelter until the breakfast hosts arrive at 6:30 am.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A PART OF THIS
TO "SHELTER THE HOMELESS"**

Please sign-up in the Gathering Area!

If you have any questions, please contact John Lawler at lawler@peoplepc.com or Jan Carpenter 810-227-5269. An informational meeting for volunteers will be held on Sunday, Oct. 19 after both Masses (10:15 & 12:15).



LIFE CHAIN

October 5

2 pm

Meet at Pregnancy Help Clinic at 1:45 and join thousands of others in prayer for the protection of the sanctity of human life!

CROP Walk

October 12

Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty!

**Sign up in the
Gathering Area!**

It's neighbors walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world. Together we raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting agencies.

Approximately 2,000 communities across the country take part each year. If you are unable to walk on October 12, you can make a donation to the St. Mary Magdalen team at the table in the Gathering Area from Sept. 27 to Oct. 12.

**Thank you
for your support
of this important event!**

MAGDALEN'S LITTLE PEOPLE *from Kathie Anderer*

It is great to be back! Our Open House is over and we are busy getting to know one another. We have many fun activities planned for our first full month of school. The teachers will be attending a workshop at the Brighton High School on October 1. We will learn all about learning through play from the "Ooey-Gooey Lady". Her real name is Lisa Murphy and she has been involved with early childhood education for nearly 20 years. She is the founder and CEO of Ooey Gooey, Inc. We are looking forward to the learning experience.

The month of October we will be talking about Sharing, Caring and Manners and all about Fall, Apples, and Pumpkins, and ending the month with Halloween fun and parties. Our school pictures will be done on October 7 & 8. We have our field trip to Spicers Pumpkin Patch on October 9 & 10. We always have such a great time walking around the pumpkin patch searching for the perfect pumpkin to make a jack-o-lantern out of. The week of October 13 is Orange Week and our Halloween parties are planned for October 29 & 30.



ON THE JOURNEY *from Diane Kubus*

We continue to invite people to Faith Inquiry, the first phase of the process of becoming Catholic. Anyone who is thinking about becoming Catholic or are interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith are welcome to come. Our sessions are on Monday evenings from 7 - 8:30 pm. Please call me in the office if you have any questions. We also provide a children's session (for children 7 years of age and older) on Monday evenings as well.



Our "inquirers" come with their questions. They express concerns and we share stories. Inquiry helps us to recognize God's activity in our lives. We become more aware of God's presence and how God is intimately involved in our lives. When we do this, we realize that being "in relationship with God" makes a huge difference and, when we want to discover more, and we desire to deepen our relationship with God, we find that life changes. We turn our attention to God more often and we pray, recognizing that prayer is essential. There's a change in our attitudes and even in our actions. Even the people around us notice a difference in us. This may be the first time for some of the inquirers, but we all experience this -- Inquirers are embarking a journey that we are all on... this never ending, always changing, often surprising, journey of faith! Blessings on the journey!

Have you considered becoming Catholic? Have you been attending Mass and have not been able to receive the Eucharist with your family because you are not Catholic? Have you been baptized in another Christian faith but feel a sense of belonging in the Catholic Church? Come to Inquiry and find out more about what it means to be Catholic or call me in the parish office for more information. (810) 229-8624 ext. 28

Welcome to our parish! ... New Members ... September 2008

Jeremy & Shelley Brown
Andrew, Autumn

Brian & Jayme Hardy
Erika

Luis & Gioconda Perez
Alexander, Daniel

Donald & Carolyn Dembowski
Krystian, Kyle Anne, Angela,
Sebastian

Kenneth & Suzan Krupansky

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

COUNCIL COMMENDATIONS



Every weekend, *Panera* donates left over bread, bagels and other pastries to be shared with the needy. And every weekend Donna and Gary Cencer who made this arrangement, pick up the bread and bring it to the parish for distribution. The Council would like to commend Donna & Gary for all they do to make this possible!

We also commend Duke and Priscilla Davis who organize our monthly commitment to feed the hungry at God's Kitchen at St. Joe in Howell. We are grateful for their commitment to feed the hungry in Livingston County and involving others in this good work!

Each week our parish provides food for Saint Anne's Parish or Mary Lou Brown Mission in Detroit. Many people drive the food down to these places. We thank them for their thoughtfulness!

The DEACON'S BENCH *from Dave Scharf*

The Alms Box

This month I need to give you the annual accounting of your alms monies at work. So far this year, (from Jan. 1 thru Sept. 24), we have collected from the Alms Box, VG Receipts, Paper Recycling, Todd's Lawn Service, Printer Cartridge Return/Purchase and Meijers the sum of \$23,000. Our assistance requests and payouts during that period of 9 months has been \$19,400. In comparison, in 2003 we took in and distributed a total of \$9,000 for the year. In 2004 it was \$12,000 (these figures were for the total year). In just 4-5 years our requests for funds have more than doubled. The good news is that at the same time, even though the economy has gotten rough, you have increased your assistance to the brothers and sisters "who have fallen on hard times".

Our requests are usually for rent, medical bills, mortgage payments, utility bill payments, prescription drugs, car insurance, telephone bills and hospital bills. Without your generosity, we would not have been able to meet these needs.

St. John Chrysostom (c.374-407) stressed the close connection that exists between Jesus present on the altar and Jesus present in the poor: *"Do you," he asks, "wish to honor the Body of Christ? Then do not allow it to be scorned in its members, in the poor, who have nothing to clothe themselves with. Do not honor him in church with silk and then neglect him outside when he is cold and naked. What does Christ gain from a sacrificial table full of golden vessels when he then dies of hunger in the persons of the poor? First of all feed the hungry and only then dress the altar with what is left. Would you offer him a golden chalice and refuse him a glass of water? What need is there to dress his altar with gold, if then you fail to offer him some necessary clothing? . . . Therefore, while you adorn the place of worship, do not lock your heart to your suffering brother (sister). This is a more precious living temple than the other."*

Thank you for all that you have done and all you will continue to do.

THE OTHER BENCH *from Jim Chevalier*

Even though I have been a Catholic all my life and a deacon for over five years, I still have a hard time understanding everything that Jesus tells us in the Gospel. But the one thing I have learned from reading and trying to understand Scripture is the word "LOVE."

Jesus is love, and he expects us to love, and he expects us to love everyone! So, while I may know what Jesus wants from me, it is still very hard to comply with his only commandment. Think about it! How often do we dislike, disrespect, dishonor, turn up our nose, or judge others simply because they don't speak or act the way "We" want them too! Who died and made us God? And why do we have to think, even for a second, that we are any better than anyone else?

The only answer I can come up with is the evil one, and our freedom of choice. And the only way for us to overcome the evil influences of life is to accept the graces given to us by the Holy Spirit. By this I mean pray often, help others, and receive the Sacraments, especially Eucharist, as often as possible.



AUTUMN PRAYER

Lord, we come before you in thanksgiving for the gifts you have given. The color of this season reminds us of the beauty you alone can create. We are thankful for the food you provide in the harvest. You have filled the earth with your gifts. You have blessed us. We are ever grateful, Lord, and will never stop singing your praises. To you be honor and glory forever. Amen.

MARKING THE CALENDAR

October 5 (Sunday) THE BLESSING OF PETS

Fr. Dave will lead this prayer asking God's blessing on our pets at 1 pm back at the picnic pavilion.

October 5 (Sunday) THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Sr. Barbara Reid, OP, PHD, will share her thoughts and insights, helping us better understand the meaning of Mark's Gospel from 2-4 pm.

October 11 (Saturday) K of C TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Our Knights of Columbus Council will celebrate their 10th Anniversary at the 4:30 Liturgy & a special dinner at Lakelands Country Club.

October 25 (Saturday) HALLOWEEN PARTY !

A family party with refreshments, music, a costume contest and games! Mark your calendar for an evening that will be *frightfully* fun!! It will take place from 7-9:00 pm!

November 1 (Saturday) ALL SAINTS DAY

This wonderful holy day celebrates all those who are with the Lord. Come celebrate our communion with all the saints. The Liturgy is at 9 am!

November 2 (Sunday) ALL SOULS DAY

This feast is a day of prayer for all those who have died. We pray that, if the dead are not already with God, the Lord might bring them into His glory. Our deceased relatives and friends will be commemorated at all weekend Liturgies. (A memorial wall will grace our worship space. Pictures of those who have died this past year can be included by giving the picture to Sr. Maryetta.)

SAINT MARY MAGDALEN PARISH

2201 S. Old U.S. 23 Highway
Brighton, MI 48114-7609
(810) 229-8624 Fax (810) 229-6471
www.saintmarymagdalen.org



PASTORAL STAFF Office Hours Mon - Fri: 8:30 - 4:30pm

PASTOR

Fr. David F. Howell

pastor1@saintmarymagdalen.org

PASTORAL MINISTER

Sr. Maryetta Churches, O.P.

pastmin2@saintmarymagdalen.org

EDUCATION & FORMATION- YOUTH

Mary Mahar, Director

mmahar@parishmail.com

Stasia Eisenhut, Adm. Assistant

Karen MacDonald, Secretary
sect2@saintmarymagdalen.org

FORMATION & EVANGELIZA- TION- ADULTS

Sr. Joyce Hoile, O.S.F.

pastmin1@saintmarymagdalen.org

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION & LITURGICAL COORDINATOR

Diane Kubus

rcia@saintmarymagdalen.org

liturgist@saintmarymagdalen.org

DEACONS

H. David Scharf

deacon1@saintmarymagdalen.org

James Chevalier

deacon2@saintmarymagdalen.org

SECRETARIES

Josie Doucette

sect1@saintmarymagdalen.org

Debbie Dehanke

evening1@saintmarymagdalen.org

BOOKKEEPER

Dave Wisniewski

bookkeeper@saintmarymagdalen.org

MAGDALEN'S PRESCHOOL

Kathie Anderer, Director

kanderer@juno.com

YOUTH MINISTRY

Tom & Margaret Callaghan

margaretcallaghan766@msn.com

PASTORAL MUSICIAN

Steven H. Schulte

steve@colleengleason.com

MAINTENANCE

Leo Camden