



# The Visionary

ST. MARY MAGDALEN

APRIL 2009  
Volume XVI Issue 4

## The Days Of Our Salvation

This month we celebrate a time like no other in the Church year: Holy Week. Unlike all other days of the year, these not only celebrate, but invite us to enter into the experience of the saving event of Jesus' Passover through death to life. The whole year leads up to and away from the last three days of Holy Week, called the Triduum. These three days stand as the pinnacle of our life and our hope!

On PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY we go back in time and enter Jerusalem, a city filled with expectation. We welcome Christ with shouts of "hosannah"! Then, tragically; we stand with the same crowd and cry "crucify"!

The Liturgies from Monday through Wednesday recall the quiet events leading up to the Triduum. On Wednesday evening, our parish will join together for a Jewish Seder meal, the same ritual meal which was the Last Supper of the Lord. Our sharing in this meal will help us to better understand Jesus, the new Lamb of the new Passover.

Holy Week culminates with the Triduum (which means "three days"). It is really a single Liturgy stretched over three days and three Liturgies. The pauses between these Liturgies enable us to go home and ponder what we have witnessed.

On HOLY THURSDAY, we gather as the Lord's disciples around the table of His passover. Through the symbolic washing of feet or hands, we understand the love that led the Lord to endure such a humiliating death. Then we go with Him to the garden to watch and pray until midnight, the time of His arrest.

On GOOD FRIDAY, through the Gospel of the Lord's Passion, we walk with Jesus in His final hours and stand at the foot of the cross to mourn the death brought about by sin. In the second part of the service, the assembly is invited to come before the cross to venerate and ponder its meaning. Finally, to show that the Lord of all compassion is with us in our suffering, we conclude with a simple Communion service.

On HOLY SATURDAY, we celebrate the greatest of all Liturgies, the Great Mass of the Resurrection. In our darkened worship area which was stripped the day before as it became the tomb, now we light a new fire to symbolize Christ's victory over sin and darkness. Then through a series of readings we recount how God saved us through the promise and gift of His Son. After this extended Liturgy of the Word, we share our most sacred gift, the Bread of Eternal Life.

## Preparing For Easter

We began Lent by proclaiming our determination to *turn away from sin and live the Gospel*. The prayer, penitential practices and works of charity helped us grow in the Gospel life. Now, before Easter we ritualize this new life in Both individual and communal celebrations of the **Sacrament of Penance**:

Monday, March 30	(7:30 pm)	Holy Spirit, Hamburg
Tuesday, March 31	(7:30 pm)	St. Agnes, Fowlerville
Wednesday, April 1	(7:30 pm)	St. Mary, Pinckney
Thursday, April 2	(7:30 pm)	St. John, Hartland
Saturday, April 4	(9 am)	St. Patrick, Brighton
Monday, April 6	(7:30 pm)	St. Mary Magdalen, Brighton



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The individual celebration of the Sacrament of Penance is scheduled for Saturday, April 4 from 11 am to 12 noon; Tuesday, April 7 from 12 noon to 1 pm and 7 to 8:30 pm; and Wednesday, April 8 from 4:30 to 5:30 pm.

## from the PASTORAL COUNCIL

Our Pastoral Council has begun our Facility and Grounds Usage Policy as a part of our planning for how we will use our new facilities. There are a couple of things that have been decided.

After much discussion of the problems of security, maintenance and other questions for the foreseeable future we will not be renting out any part of the building. That would mean that the new community room and kitchen will not be available for wedding showers, receptions or other social events; nor would any other part of the building be available for rental. We will still make our facilities available to Church related and community organizations; but the only costs would be those associated with set up and clean up.

There two areas where we need to develop more complete policies. Our fields beyond the parking lot have been used by Brighton and Hartland sports teams. This is a change from our original policy and after several years since the change was approved by the council, we need to be more specific in the requirements for usage and scheduling.

The other question that arises is how we will use our new activities room or gym. We hope to work with our youth and Community Life Team to investigate what kind of programming they would propose for the space.

Any suggestions or concerns about these policies should be addressed to a Council member.

The Members of the Pastoral Council

Jan Baldinger Cheryl Burda Gretchen Buslepp Tom Callaghan Kathy Carney Patti Conahan John Finn Ann Kehn Mike Lamberjack  
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	80,530	724,288	1,183,900
Religious Formation/Donations	11,532	65,697	89,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92,062</b>	<b>789,984</b>	<b>1,273,500</b>

**BUILDING FUND: \$46,329**

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>Nov 30</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Projected Budget</u>
Programs & Staffing	66,049	535,943	860,100
Building Operations	12,163	100,906	164,400
Building Pledge	20,834	166,672	250,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99,046</b>	<b>803,522</b>	<b>1,274,500</b>
<b>BALANCE (plus/minus)</b>	<b>-6,984</b>	<b>-13,538</b>	

**BUILDING EXPENSE FEB 09: \$411,540**

The Members of the Finance Council  
Chris Cousins Dick Demmings Sandra Howe Deb Guidos Sharon Rossiter Ken Kuna Duke Davis  
Bob Reske Karen Carter Ben Lindamood Dan Grattan Erin Wolfe Chair, Bruce Heatley  
Bookkeeper, Dave Wisniewski Fr. David Howell

## ON PREPARING THE BUDGET

Our Finance Council has put together a preliminary a budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year which begins on July 1. This year's income has been below projections, so for the second year now, we will decrease expenses. All salaries will remain the same as this year; some of the staff will pay more of their benefits; and staff went back over their plans and cut several thousand dollars from their budget. Unfortunately, we are still coming up with a deficit of about \$36,000 in a budget of \$1,240,000.

This year's income is down, but we have also cut expenses by almost the same amount. And the staff continues to look for economies in this year's & next year's budget.

In the new budget, there will be some increases. Salary costs will increase slightly as we welcome another deacon to our staff, Gary Prise. But salaries will be frozen or slightly decreased for the rest of the staff. Increases will result from the rising cost of health care and from the added utilities cost for the new additions. As we did last year, our goal is to create a realistic budget that will be less than the previous year. [07-08 \$1,297,700 ++ 08-09 \$1,274,500]

# RELIGIOUS FORMATION *from Mary Mahar*

April is a busy time! We have Holy Week and Easter which are central to our faith, and then we begin winding down the year. At our last meetings on April 22/23 each class will be presenting a skit or some form of entertainment for the whole group! These skits will be a way of showing or teaching the rest of us something each class has learned this year. We also have our First Eucharist Retreat coming up on Saturday April 25, with our First Eucharist Liturgies following in May. Along with the skits on April 23/24, our end-of-the-year celebration will include a closing prayer service. All families are welcome to join us!

## APRIL DATES TO REMEMBER:

19 Closing Meeting (required) for All Full-Year Home Study Families-10:15  
Last Class for Kindergarten, Family Program and Confirmation Youth  
22/23 Last Class for Grades 1-89  
27/28 First Eucharist Pictures in the Church - Anderson Studios (4-7pm)

## MAY DATES TO REMEMBER:

1 First Communion Rehearsal -6:30pm  
2/3 First Eucharist Liturgies  
4:30 First Eucharist Liturgy

## REGISTRATION: FALL RELIGIOUS FORMATION CLASSES AND MAGDALEN'S PRESCHOOL

Registration for Fall Religious Ed/Formation classes and Magdalen's Preschool will take place April 1/2, 15/16, and 22/23 (Wednesdays & Thursdays) from 4 - 8 pm in the gathering area. **CLASS DAYS/TIMES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

**SUNDAY** Kindergarten during the 9 & 11 Liturgies **WEDNESDAY** Grades 1 - 8 4:30 - 6:00 pm **OR** 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
\*Grades 9 & 10, 5:30 - 7:00 pm **THURSDAY** Grades 1 - 8 4:30 - 6:00 pm **OR** 6:30 - 8:00 pm

**SUNDAY** Family Program: 2x per month on Sunday mornings

\*If your 9<sup>th</sup> grade youth is attending a Catholic High School, please see Mary.

## HOME STUDY WITH PARISH INVOLVEMENT:

**Full-year and Short Term Home Study** will be available for children in grades 1-8 only. It will **not be available** for those youth in High School or for those children in any grade who are preparing for a Sacrament.

# MAGDALEN'S LITTLE PEOPLE *from Kathie Anderer*

Finally! I do believe that we have put Old Man Winter to bed for another year! It certainly was a long, cold winter... glad that it is behind us. With spring come thoughts of warm weather, flowers blooming and the new life that we receive through the resurrection of our Lord! The preschool age is full of cherished moments as the innocence of our children is at its peak. It is such a blessing working with the children, a true lesson in life each and every day.

The preschool staff attended the Early Childhood Conference in Grand Rapids for three days in March. It is always a great learning experience and we arrive back at school with fully charged batteries and wonderful ideas to share with the children. We are very happy to have had the opportunity to attend.

Our registration for the 2009-10 school year has begun. The parishioners from St. Mary Magdalen's and St. Patrick's have first priority, but only if you register by April 1. If you have a child in the 3 year-old class and you have not notified us if you will be returning yet please do so ASAP! We are so excited to be moving into the new rooms in the Formation Wing for next school year and extending our class times from 9 am until noon! We would LOVE to have you join in the fun next year! Give us a call for more information. Thanks!

# COUNCIL CANDIDATES

The terms of four Pastoral Council members will soon be coming to an end, making these positions now available to all registered and Confirmed members of St. Mary Magdalen. Members of the Pastoral Council are expected to demonstrate leadership and enthusiasm and solicit the opinions of other parishioners. Each member also serves on a ministry team, acting as liaison between the Pastoral Council and the team. They facilitate communication and understanding, so that together they work toward the fulfillment of our vision for the parish.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in serving on the Pastoral Council or if you have questions, contact Gretchen Buslepp at 248-446-6064.

# COUNCIL COMMENDATIONS

The Council would also like to commend the teens who were recognized by the Optimist Club! They are great young people for our Church, for the community and for the world! These wonderful people are Cassie Diamond, Patrick Duncan, Catharine Flynn, Victoria Graves, Hanna Grosso, Rebecca Hlavaty, Stefanie Perkins, Natalie Sulkowski, Ben VanHeusden and Rachel Weber!

All of us have received our new pictorial directories! Scheduling appointments for picture taking, creating and assembling the information for the directory! We all will be using our new directories to find people, reflect on who sits next to us at liturgy and just to realize what an awesome community we are a part of! Thanks to all who compiled the directory!

Last month at our weekly meetings and our new Faith Fuel meetings, we talked about how to spread the word of God not by preaching or forcing our faith onto others but by our actions. How we behave in certain situations or by the way we handle ourselves under pressure can be the preaching of all. If we stand for what we believe even in the face of our friends, we are acting for the glory of God. It is during these times when we proclaim our love and trust in God. Think about the people like being around; those people who just make you feel good about yourself. More than likely, these folks are at peace in their relationship with God and live for His glory and His glory alone. These people, our friends, are peaceful and joyful in a way that shines and as a result others just want to be around them. If you know someone like this, talk with him/her and start a discussion about their faith. We will be witness to His resurrection on Easter Sunday and what better time to give your life to God.

Celebrate the end of Lent during Holy Week with the Seder Meal when we come together as a parish family. Then begin the Easter celebration with Holy Thursday liturgy at 7:30 with the washing of each others hands and feet. It is a wonderful and AWESOME evening. Our teens will then present the Passion on Friday during the 7:30 service. What a great opportunity to share this event with your family. The teens do such a wonderful and prayerful re-enactment that many are brought to tears. They practice hard and put a lot of time into the Passion and it shows. Thank you to Richard Switzer who directs the teens and has for the past several years now.

Please remember that at any time during the month, any day during the week, or any hour during your day, you can drop off your empty bottles and cans by the barn door. We are returning them to help cut the cost of our National Catholic Youth Conference trip in November. Thank you in advance for your support.

## CELEBRATING THE EARTH



Each day 50 to 100 species of animals and plants are driven to extinction by human influences. How can you make a difference? If we all just used a glass instead of a water bottle and a coffee mug instead of a Styrofoam cup, we would save 244 billion bottles and cups made from petrochemical-based plastics from entering the U.S. waste stream each year, and stopping those chemicals from negatively impacting animals, plants and people.

Common household chemicals can be hazardous to the health of your family and to the earth. All purpose cleaners contain chemicals that are known to be bad for you, hence the skull and crossbones you see on the packaging. Chlorinated products form dangerous compounds, which are stored in human fat cells and are toxic to the liver and kidneys, as well as the central nervous system. Glass cleaners often have contaminants, like benzene, that are shown to cause cancer. What can you do? Switch to natural cleaners. Baking soda, white vinegar, and borax are a few examples that have been used for years. Also there are a great number of effective non-toxic cleaners now available at the grocery store.

Looking ahead to early May, we have another joint retreat planned with St. John's in Hartland and St. Francis in Ann Arbor. Information will go home this month. These joint retreats are just so much fun, filled with the Holy Spirit, and overall a great exposure to other teens in the area who share in the same faith! You can email me at [margaretcallaghan766@msn.com](mailto:margaretcallaghan766@msn.com) if you have any questions.

## EDGE NEWS

(for 6 - 8 graders)

I cannot believe it but this month we will gather for the last time this school year. Our last meeting is Monday the 27. As in the past, this meeting will be a celebration of the fun we have had and the friends we have made. We will have pizza, games and a special prayer circle for the high school teens that will be leaving us for college in the fall. I encourage you to come and celebrate the year! Look in the bulletin for more details to come as it might be a themed meeting like crazy hats, silly sox, funny hair styles...the ideas are endless so keep an open eye!!!

## THANKS AND PRAISE

*from Sr. Maryetta*

We would like to praise and thank all Boy Scout and Girl Scout leaders in our community who direct, guide, and act as mentors for these young people. You are wonderful examples for our youngsters! Thanks for your sense of dedication!

We would like to praise our 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Religious Formation who tie fleece blankets for C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. They made some severely ill children very happy. Thank you!!

We also want to praise our third graders, led by Sue Hlavaty, who donated 1,100 pounds of food to Gleaners Food Bank. They also sorted and stacked the shelves. The Council would like to also commend Karen McNally, Patti Conahan, Betty Prise, Mary Jo Parsons, Carol McGrath, Joe Martinez, Vanessa Reineke, Betty Miller, Joe and Sally Buenas, Bob and Claudia Sexton and Kym Sulkowski. These wonderful people have worked tirelessly at Gleaners to assist those in need in a variety of ways. Thanks for all you do!

# THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER *from Diane Kubus*

## ON HOLY SATURDAY NIGHT WE WILL CELEBRATE THE LORD'S RESURRECTION.

The three day celebration begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and "culminates" on Holy Saturday night at the Vigil of Easter. This one celebration spread over three days is a must for every Catholic to celebrate if at all possible. On these holiest days of the year we enter into and celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord, the "Paschal Mystery". The Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday is the climax. It is the beginning of the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. We are set free from darkness, joined to Christ as one body and made a new creation in water and the Spirit.



**THE RITUALS ARE CELEBRATED.** They stir our baptismal consciousness and we renew our promises. They invite us once more to embrace ordinary, everyday dying and rising with Christ. We are urged once more to live no longer for ourselves. We are called once more to live every day in deed what we proclaim in Word. For to "put on Christ", to have the same attitude as Christ, is to serve others. We are called to peel away the layers of self-centeredness and false pride, and to place the needs of others before our own self interests. For forty days we have been looking within ourselves for those things that prevent us from doing that and we are called to change. Now it is time to celebrate this new creation, this new life in Christ. It's another opportunity to become more like Christ; to bring his kingdom to the world this day and every day.

Of all the celebrations of the Church Year, the Great Vigil of Easter is preeminent, for it alone vividly portrays all that was, that is, and that ever will be. Christ yesterday and today, the Beginning and the End, the Alpha and Omega. His are the times and ages and to Him be glory and dominion through all ages of eternity. Amen. This Night is the holiest of nights. No other event has more significance than this celebration.

### YOU SIMPLY MUST BE THERE. THE CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

*As I look out at the construction (and all the mess) I can't help but think about next Easter and how different it will be here! The worship space will be different and we will be different just as we are every year when we enter the Passion of the Lord during Holy Week. I wonder who I will be. I have come to be very grateful for Lent. Easter truly is a joy when we grow through Lent.*

## OF FAITH AND SERVICE *from Sr. Joyce Hoile, OSF*

### **SEDER MEAL** Wednesday, April 8 at 6:30 pm in the social hall

**Reclaiming our Jewish roots** is an important part of our understanding of Christ's life and passion. Each year, we as a parish family, celebrate a Seder meal during Holy Week. This Seder is a combination of specific Jewish prayers, ritual, foods and reflection on Israel's liberation from the enslavement called the Passover. Register early; seating is limited. Signup sheets will be in the gathering area. A potluck dinner is part of our celebration. Please bring a dish to pass that feeds about 12 people. Help is needed the day before (Tues., April 7) and the day of (Wednesday) to help prepare the items for each place setting. Signup is in the Gathering area or call Sister Joyce.

**EASTER EGG HUNT** Sat., April 11 at 12 noon on the parish grounds. Four age groups will be scheduled to do their hunt for eggs. Each group takes only 5 – 10 minutes. Please arrive early so your children will not be disappointed. Bring your camera. Grandparents, aunts and uncles are welcomed to bring their respective children as well. Peter Rabbit will make his appearance. The Fire Truck will be here and a fireman will give you a tour and answer your questions. Added this year will be 3 Free Raffles: a 2-foot Easter Bonneted Bunny, a Bunny Cake, and an Easter Lily. You must be present to win. There will be games for ages 4+: Jelly Bean Race, Easter Egg Roll, and Egg Relay. Come join in the fun!

**CONFIRMATION FOR ADULTS** Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation are the Sacraments which make us full members of the Catholic Church. By Confirmation, we are enriched with the special strength of the Holy Spirit and we become true witnesses of Christ. Only a Confirmed Catholic should serve as a Godparent for Baptism, Sponsor for Confirmation or enter into the Sacrament of Marriage. The 8 Catholic Churches in Livingston County combine efforts to offer 6 classes to prepare adults who have not yet been Confirmed in the faith. They will be held at St. John the Baptist Church, 7- 8:30 pm. Thursdays, April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28. Confirmation will be celebrated here on Pentecost Sunday.

**HOME BLESSINGS** The Evangelization Team is planning a Home Blessing which will start after Easter and run through the early fall. We are planning to bless the homes in groups, so we are seeking Host families for gatherings of 4-6 nearby families. The progressive blessing will end with a potluck dinner or dessert gathering as a "get acquainted gathering to conclude the blessing of all the homes. Father Dave or one of the deacons will be scheduled for the event. (In May, we will be blessed with our newest deacon, Gary Prise.) See the signup sheet in the gathering area or contact Sr. Joyce if you are interested in hosting, or coordinating with an E-team member, the Home Blessings in your neighborhood.

**SCHOOL FOR DISCIPLESHIP** (Spring classes April 20-May 19 from 7-9 pm) Registration forms are in the pamphlet rack or you can register online: [www.saintmarymagdalen.org](http://www.saintmarymagdalen.org). This spring, Fr. David Howell will be teaching *The Gospels* on Monday evenings beginning April 20. Dave Scharf will be teaching *The Writings of St. Paul* on Tuesday evenings beginning April 21. Sr. Maryetta Churches will be teaching *Apocalyptic Literature* on Tuesday evenings beginning April 8.

# DEALING WITH LOSS

Losing a job is one of the most stressful events that can happen to a person. It feels personal even when it is part of a mass corporate layoff or the closing of a business. Involuntary unemployment evokes a lot of emotions, from anger to sadness. It is easy to become depressed. Grief over the loss of part of one's identity or purpose is common. The difficulty of the experience can depend on the degree of emotional investment one had in the job. The aftermath of job loss also has a significant impact on family members, who are dealing with their own fears and other concerns.

If you (or a family member) has lost a job and are dealing with the transition it brings, you can request a BeFriender to be a companion on your journey. BeFrienders provide a listening presence that is respectful and nonjudgmental. To request a BeFriender or to find out more about BeFriender Ministry, call Gary Prise (810-533-4850), Rene Tolen (810-227-6035), Judy Scharf (248-202-3199), or George Schultz (517-548-4856).” Given Michigan's current economic climate many are finding themselves un-insured or under-insured. Attempting to secure needed health care services under these circumstances can be frustrating and at times distressing. In an attempt to assist with health related concerns we have provided a list of resources for consideration.

## WHERE TO LOOK FOR HELP



**FAITH MEDICAL CLINIC** This is a free medical clinic whose services are available to persons 18 to 64 years of age, without insurance. The clinic is located in Pinckney and operates Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm. Call 734-474-4627 for information and appointments, walk-in clients can generally be accommodated. Livingston County residency is not required.

**LIVINGSTON HEALTH PLAN B** This is a county funded health plan that assists with out-patient health care costs. Enrollment and physician participation is fairly limited and one must be a county resident. Eligibility based on annual household income equal to or less than 150% of the Federal Poverty Level, and limited assets. Call the Livingston County Department of Public Health at 517-546-9850 for additional information.



**MEDICAID** Medicaid is one Michigan health care program available to persons that are aged, blind or disabled, and families or eligible parents/caretaker relatives for a dependent child. All Michigan health care programs have income limits and possibly asset limits to qualify. Call the Livingston County Department of Human Services 517-548-0200 or visit [www.Mich.gov/dhs](http://www.Mich.gov/dhs) to learn more about Medicaid, the Medicare Savings Program, MIChoice, etc.

**PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION NEEDS** Many large stores with pharmacies, such as Target, Kroger, Meijer and Walmart now offer prescription medication assistance with \$4.00 generic prescription drug or free anti-biotic programs. Visit these pharmacies to see which medications are included in the program and ask your physician if these medications would be appropriate to treat your condition.

If you have a condition that must be treated with non-generic medications or medications not on the various drug formularies of these stores, you may want to visit [www.NeedyMeds.org](http://www.NeedyMeds.org) to investigate whether a patient assistance program or other program may be used to obtain your medication.



**ST. LUKE HOMETOWN HEALTHCARE** This Brighton clinic also offers basic health care and psychiatric services at reasonable prices for those without insurance. St. Luke operates from a “traditional Christian (Catholic) point of view” seeking to heal body, mind and spirit. Call 810-623-8182 for information and appointments, or visit [www.stlukehome.com](http://www.stlukehome.com).

**VINA (VISION, INTEGRITY, NEED AND ACTION) COMMUNITY DENTAL CENTER** This dental clinic is staffed by volunteer professionals and provides services to Livingston County residents. Adults 19 years of age and older that are without dental insurance and have household incomes at or less than 200% of Federal Poverty Level can qualify for service. Each visit costs \$15.00 regardless which service is rendered. Dental needs beyond defined scope of practice are referred to other providers or University of Michigan or University of Detroit Dental Schools. Call 810-844-0240 for initiate an application or visit [www.vinadental.org](http://www.vinadental.org) for more information. Volunteers are needed to staff office, if interested e-mail the office at [vinadental@yahoo.com](mailto:vinadental@yahoo.com).



**WHITMORE LAKE HEALTH CLINIC** This medical clinic offers basic health care services to those with or without insurance, and participates with the Livingston and Washtenaw County Health Plans. A sliding-fee scale is available to those without insurance. Call 734-449-2033 for information and appointments.

## THE DEACONS BENCH

from Dave Scharf

April is the Gift of Life" month. From the February 2009 Gift of Life news letter comes the following. "2008 marked a year of more lives saved through transplant than any other year on record of our state." The article goes on to say that 327 people gave the gift of life through organ donations, which is up from 301 the previous year. Furthermore, the number of organs transplanted from these individuals was 921. For more information go to [www.giftoflifemichigan.org](http://www.giftoflifemichigan.org). I have a number of other online resources if you want to delve further into becoming a donor, please contact me. You are also invited to attend one of our future meetings. Major religions support organ, eye and tissue donation as an unselfish act of charity. There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for donation.

## CHARITY & JUSTICE from Lisa Klein

**Senior Easter Tree of Life** Thanks to everyone who donated gift cards and items for the Easter Giving Tree. Your support is very much appreciated by the seniors in our area.

**Relay for Life** We would love for you to join us for the American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life which will take place at Brighton High School track on May 15 & 16. Anyone interested in participating in any way can contact Lisa Klein (810) 844-0074 or Deacon Dave (810) 229-8624. There will be sign-up sheets for those who would like to walk for our team.

**Clothing Drive** It's time for spring cleaning! On the weekend of May 9/10<sup>th</sup>, we will have a pod from St. Vincent dePaul in the back of the parking lot. Please bring your gently used clothing and shoes for donation. The items are sold at the St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores to assist those in need.

**Pregnancy Helpline Project** If anyone has a new or gently used small dresser for the Pregnancy Helpline "Fill the Dresser" project coming in June, please contact Jill Angell at [jmangell02@hotmail.com](mailto:jmangell02@hotmail.com) or (810) 231-1725.

## THE OTHER BENCH

from Jim Chevalier

How can we thank God for all the blessings He has provided? We can find the answer in Sacred Scripture. In the New Testament, there is a clear, straightforward message about what is expected when the master gives unearned gifts to his stewards. The stewards are expected to use what they have been given wisely, and return a portion to the master to help build his business. In other words, the master expects gratitude expressed through good stewardship.

Being a good Christian steward involves at least these three responsibilities: (1) the wise use of God's gifts and resources, which means taking good care of ourselves and our environment; (2) the use of our talents and skills in a manner that is pleasing to God and consistent with Gospel values; and (3) the grateful return of a portion of God's resources – our time, talent and treasure – for God's work in the world.

Why should Christians want to be good stewards of God's gifts? How about the personal satisfaction of knowing we have made a positive contribution to the human condition? How about the never ending joy that will be ours at the end of life when we hear the Master calling us to join the elect as "good and faithful stewards?" What more could a disciple of Jesus Christ want?

## THE KNIGHT'S KORNER

from Ron Weingartz

On Palm Sunday weekend Knights will be blanketing the community in yellow vests, raising money to support the Mentally Impaired. Please support our annual Tootsie Roll Drive.

Also, join us for a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, March 8, and a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 30!



## NEW TO OUR PARISH IN MARCH

Joseph & Isis Esbrook  
Sofia

Aaron & Amy Lawrence  
Dylan, Aidan, Mia

Kevin & Ellen Gaddy

Kimberly & Jill Minnick  
Madeline, Valerie

Daniel & Linda Lachowicz

Lawrence & Sharon Waligora

Peter & Jeanette Moran

Duane & Mary Vaske  
Mitchell, Nathan, Jenna, Erica

Curt & Janet Vogel

## BLOOD DRIVE: A HUGE SUCCESS! from Claudia and Bob Sexton & Diane Sweeter

Thanks to all who participated in the blood drive in February. It was a huge success! Those who participated saw a great improvement: the additional help provided by the Red Cross almost eliminated waiting time. Thanks to all who helped us reach this goal, and a special thanks to the 16 first-time donors! We hope to see all of you at our next blood drive **Friday, April 17.**

# SAINT MARY MAGDALEN PARISH

2201 South Old US 23 Highway

Brighton, Michigan 48114-7609

Phone: (810) 229 - 8624

Fax: (810) 229—6471

Email: [info@saintmarymagdalen.org](mailto:info@saintmarymagdalen.org)

Website: [www.saintmarymagdalen.org](http://www.saintmarymagdalen.org)

## MARKING THE CALENDAR

**April 6 (Monday) COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE -- 7:30pm**

**April 9 (Wednesday) SEDER MEAL -- 6:30pm** Seating is limited! Sign up in the gathering area!

**April 9 (Holy Thursday) MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER -- 7:30pm**

Our celebration of Holy Thursday will begin with **Morning Prayer** at 8 AM. In the evening, after the Mass of the Lord's Supper, we will **watch and pray with the Lord** in Holy Cross Chapel from 9 pm until **Tenebrae** at 11:30. The night watch will end at midnight.

**April 10 (Good Friday) LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION -- 7:30 pm**

9 am Our celebration of Good Friday will begin with **Morning Prayer**.

1:00 pm A special **Way of the Cross** will commemorate the Lord's Passion and Death.

7:30 pm The traditional **Good Friday Service**, with the re-enactment of the Passion.

**April 11 (Holy Saturday) SOLEMN CELEBRATION OF EASTER -- 8:30 pm**

Our celebration of Holy Saturday will begin with **Morning Prayer** at 9 AM. In the evening we will celebrate the most important Liturgy of the year and the completion of the Lord's Passover through death to life! It is a Celebration of the Resurrection, rich in ancient symbolism. We who have made the journey of Lent renew our Baptismal commitment as we strive to live the new life Christ has given us through His death and resurrection.

**EASTER EGG HUNT** All children are welcome to attend from 12 noon to 2 pm.

We will gather promptly at 12 noon back by the barn.

**April 12 (Easter Sunday) THE CELEBRATION OF EASTER -- 9 & 11 am**

These two Sunday Masses continue the celebration from the evening before. These Liturgies include the renewal of our Baptismal promises.

### PASTOR

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### THE PASTORAL STAFF

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