



The Visionary

A Newsletter of St. Mary Magdalen Parish

September

Volume XVI Issue 9

COME TO THE PICNIC !!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 12**. That is the date for our annual picnic. The evening will begin with 4:30 Liturgy, followed by the picnic, games for all ages, wagon rides and outdoor movie. Don't miss out on this great event. Come for all or any part of the evening. It's a great way to meet your fellow parishioners!

You are asked to bring a dish to share in a disposable container & something to drink (water will be available). The parish will provide serving utensils, hot dogs, ice cream, and table service.

Sign up sheets are in the gathering area so we know how many places to set for Mass and the meal! Games, a movie, fun, prizes, youth tin can raffle will also be a part of the evening fun!

SAYING GOODBYE



For over 11 years we have gathered to celebrate the Lord's goodness and mercy in our worship space. On the weekend of September 12\13 we will say good bye to it. At each of the Liturgies that weekend, we will slowly remove everything that has been a part of the space. Then everyone will be invited to come up and "kiss the altar" good bye.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

On the weekend of July 18\19 we celebrated the feast of St. Mary Magdalen with a "walk through" of our new construction. A large majority of those who attended that weekend took the time to walk around the addition. Many of those who viewed what has been built so far expressed amazement at how big it is! "I'll get lost! I'll need a map!" and other similar comments were made to the CTG members who answered your questions. Everyone seemed really pleased with what they saw. Catechists were delighted to see all the cabinets in the formation rooms; others were delighted by all the sunlight. And despite the fact that the chapel is the least finished of all the new construction, almost everyone remarked at how beautiful it will be!



Thirteen months after we started the construction, the second and largest addition will be open. *Magdalen's Little People*, our pre-school, will open its doors in the formation wing right after Labor Day. Soon after that we will move out of the church and into the activity wing where the community room and gym will be located. We will move 750 of our 800 chairs into the space. We will also resurrect the altar and ambo we used when we first began in Farms School almost 16 years ago! Our sound system will be relocated to the new space and weekend Liturgies will begin the following weekend.

Over the fall, the new Blessed Sacrament chapel will be completed and the rest of our original building will be remodeled. The church will expand into what had been the day chapel and rooms 1-3 (to the south) and the social hall (to the west). What had been the nursery and room 4 will become the adult formation room (and the bride's room for weddings). What had been the library will become the expanded library with the addition of many more books from the libraries of Bev Sinke and Fr. Dave. The old youth room will become the new vesting sacristy. And the west side of the social hall (nearest the pond) will become the larger nursery and two formation/meeting rooms. In the end, only the restrooms will stay the same – except for a new coat of paint.

The renovation project will take four months and hopefully will be complete in time for Christmas. Finishing the community room and gym will take about another month; so the project will be finished in February!

from the PASTORAL COUNCIL

Our Pastoral Council met in August and finalized our Building and Grounds Usage Policy. We decided that none of our facilities will be rented out for private use, but we will make them available for community organizations. No activity that has gambling as its primary focus will be permitted, but parish and charitable events could include minor things like 50\50 raffles as part of their activities. Moderate use of alcohol will also be permitted.

We also reviewed the policies that were proposed to govern our columbaria (The Resurrection Tower and the Shrine of the Cross) and we hope to finalize them at our next meeting. These policies will be given to anyone who reserves a niche or space in the Resurrection Tower or at the Shrine of the Cross.

We did assign ministries to the council members, but postponed the selection of a chair and vice chair to September. We also postponed further discussion of a program of marriage enrichment called 8 Great Dates; a Ministry Spotlight; and a directory of ministries & contacts.

The Members of the Pastoral Council

Jan Baldinger	Karen Luck	Madelyn Gostomski	Tom Callaghan	Dave Naumowicz
Sandy Oliver	Mark Wright	Ken Kuna	Mike Lamberjack	Mary Beth Rupp
Dan Schifko	Colleen Schulte	Roni Hargenrader (Youth)	Debbie Dehanke, Secretary	
Sr. Maryetta Churches, OP	Fr. David F. Howell			

from the FINANCE COUNCIL

July 2009 - June 2010

As of June 30, 2009

<u>REVENUE SOURCES</u>	<u>June 30</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Projected Budget</u>
Sunday Stewardship	78,715	1,098,560	1,183,900
Religious Formation/Donations	230	71,581	89,600
TOTAL	78,945	1,170,141	1,273,500

BUILDING FUND: \$22,463

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>June 30</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Projected Budget</u>
Programs & Staffing	68,839	845,062	860,100
Building Operations	14,041	153,102	164,400
Building Pledge	20,826	250,000	250,000
TOTAL	103,707	1,248,164	1,274,500
BALANCE (plus/minus)	-24,762	-78,023	

BUILDING EXPENSE JUNE 09: \$504,292

The Members of the Finance Council

Elaine Tripi	Mark Zawisa	Sandra Howe	Deb Guidos	Sharon Rossiter
Ken Kuna	Duke Davis	Mary Brummer	Larry Memmer	Ben Lindamood
Bruce Heatley	Erin Wolfe	Chair, Dan Grattan	Bookkeeper, Dave Wisniewski	Fr. David Howell

from the STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

The Stewardship Council began its work by preparing a calendar for the coming year.

The fall Stewardship Fair will begin early in September. This fair offers parishioners the opportunity to share their gifts of time and talent with the community through a variety of task oriented ministries or special projects. A list of these ministries will be found in this issue of the *Visionary*.

In the future the council would like to expand this fair by listing many more specific, limited projects. These would especially appeal to folks who are unable to make a year long commitment.

The 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	(Chair) Sharon Wagner	Sr. Maryetta Churches, OP
Fr. David F. Howell				

GOD BLESS OUR EDUCATORS

The people of our parish have a wide variety of occupations, but three groups in particular stand out. That is because in many ways their job is also a ministry within our larger community. The first group is those who work in an educational setting – teachers, assistants, secretaries, bus drivers, maintenance and more. They enable others to grow in knowledge, wisdom and understanding (the first three gifts of the Holy Spirit!) We will pray for and bless our parishioners who teach or work in an educational setting during our **Green Mass on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 9 am!**

RELIGIOUS FORMATION *from Mary Mahar*



Welcome back to Religious Formation! We are so excited to be moving into our new space! We have 14 new formation classrooms, including 4 rooms with sinks and circle rugs that are dedicated to our youngest children! Several of our classrooms have cupboards built right in that will make it handy to keep supplies right in the rooms. We have new bathrooms and a new workroom for us all to get organized in and prepared in to offer the best we can to our youth!!! Parents that sit and chat with friends during class times are invited to grab a cup of coffee out of the workroom and sign up to be hall monitors for one of the many hallways we need watched!

Welcome to our new lead catechists; in Grade 1-Jill Gautherat, Grade 3-Kelli Habarth, and in Grade 9 we welcome Devon Wolfe! Our returning lead catechists are Peggy Weingartz-Gr. 2, Diane Neitzke-Gr. 4 *and* Family Program Coordinator, Jennie Ross-Gr. 5, Kevin Blanck-Gr. 6, Sandi Phillips-Gr. 7, Beth Slack-Gr. 8, 10, *and* Home Study. We are all excited to start this year with new ideas and lots of energy!

Home Study: Start-up meeting for parents and youth will be on Sunday, September 20, at 10:15 right after the 9am Liturgy. All those in long-term home study must attend this meeting with Beth Slack (our Lead Catechist for Home Study) to receive all the information and details for home study families. *Short-term* home study students must attend the first day of class to pick up their materials. In addition, parents need to contact their child's catechist for the information needed for the 6 weeks of home study.

Grade 10 Classes have begun and will resume on Sept. 13! The **Rite of Enrollment** will be celebrated at the **11am** Liturgy on **Sept 20** followed by class that evening at 5:30. Confirmation will be Saturday, Nov. 21 at 4:30.

Family Program will start Sunday, Oct 4 with classes at 10:30 (no start up meeting).

Classes will begin Sunday, Sept 20! **Kindergarten** will begin at 9 & 11, and **Grade 9** begins at 5:30pm.

Classes will begin Wednesday and Thursday Sept. 23 & 24! our traditional classes begin! (Summer seems to fly by!) Parents of all grades are invited to attend our beginning prayer service during your child's class time to start our year. At the end of class, please stop in so our catechists can introduce themselves and give you handouts and information for the upcoming year! We also invite parents to walk through the new space.

We are taking registration for fall classes in the office from 9 am - 8:30 pm Mon-Thurs and 9 am – 4:30 on Fridays. Some of our classes are filled, so please have two choices ready when you come in to register! Our traditional classes meet Wednesday and Thursday, 4:30-6 or 6:30-8; high school (9th & 10th grade) meet Sunday evening, 5:30-7; kindergarten has openings Sunday during the 9/11 am Liturgies. Our Family Program has openings and meets two Sundays per month after the 9am Liturgy, and is designed for formation for the whole family at the same time!

We still need catechists, aides, nursery attendants, hall monitors and substitutes for all our class times. Please come forward to help as we can't start classes without you! Please see the poster in the gathering area or the office at 229-8624. Questions? E-mail me-mmahar@parishmail.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

September 2: Catechist/aide training ALL NEW & RETURNING CATECHISTS-6:30-8:00

September 9: Catechist/aide training 6:30-8:00

September 10: Protecting God's Children 6:30 (class for anyone working with children)

September 16: 6:30 Catechist/aide training

September 20: 9am "Green Mass" for ALL parishioners in the teaching/educational setting

Home Study parent meeting 10:15

Kindergarten & 9th grade classes begin! (10th gr. also at 5:30 pm)

Rite of Enrollment for 10th gr. Confirmation candidates 11 Liturgy

September 23/24: Classes begin for grades 1-8! Join us for our beginning prayer service!

YOUTH NEWS *from Margaret Callaghan*

Many of you know how I absolutely love this time of the year! The start of school and new boxes of crayons, the lights and sounds of high school football games, the much needed regimented day with a schedule; I love this time of the year. Now, my kids are all still young and Evelyn starts kindergarten in a few weeks. For many families, a member is leaving either again or for the first time for college. I am sure this time of the year is harder for you, but maybe not. No matter how you feel about what goes on, take a minute to spend time together as a family. Have a sit-down dinner and talk about what your favorite summer activity was these past months.

“In the Beginning...” This year we have an early fall retreat scheduled for **September 26-27**. Check out the website, www.saintmarymagdalen.org for all the information and paperwork. Plan to make this a part of your year, to get things started off on the right foot. I think you will find the topics interesting.

This year at the picnic we have many hand-made items at the Tin Can Raffle and services from the teens who will volunteer babysitting hours and lawn service. Be sure to bring \$1 bills and create labels with your name and number on them to make the bidding faster. See you September 12th! If you have something last minute you would like to donate, there is still time to add items.

If you haven't already stopped by, check out the painted youth room. I think it looks great! To be honest it was a bit of a challenge getting the right colors since the walls are so big, but it looks great! I am looking forward to a year full of lots of room for everyone to be in one space. And with EDGE having the new space too, it will get lots of use!

We begin meeting again on a weekly basis Sunday September 13th, the weekend of the picnic. We are all looking forward to seeing everyone again and getting the chance to make new friends. If you were not a participant in our annual lock-in, please do not think you cannot be involved at all. All high school teens are welcome Sunday evenings 7-9pm; following 9th and 10th grade religious ed.

EDGE for 6 - 8 graders



The core team and high school leaders are just as excited as you all are to get started with our meetings! We begin **Monday September 28th at 7pm**. Bring a friend and plan to be a part of the fun! We have a new larger meeting space to claim for EDGE meetings.

EDGE is a middle school program designed for students 6-8th grade. It is fun, faith filled, and exciting. All middle school families should have received a welcome letter in the mail with all the dates for the year. We look forward to seeing everyone again!

MAGDALEN'S LITTLE PEOPLE *from Kathie Anderer*

Back to school time has arrived! We are busy making plans for the new school year in our new space. How exciting!! We will be back into full swing the week of September 14th. We will start out the new school year making friends, and talking about all of the fun things that happen in the fall. We have a trip to Spicer's Apple Orchard planned and it includes a trip to the Pumpkin patch. **We do have a few openings available**, so if you or someone you know is looking for a Preschool, please call for more information: (810) 229-0010.



Our staff for the 2009/10 School Year:

- Kathie Anderer, director
- Sue Abraham, teacher 4 year olds
- Wende Cofield, teacher 3 year olds
- Ann Donohue, teacher 3 year olds
- Kathy Riccardi, teacher 4 and "Early 5's"

COUNCIL COMMENDATIONS

The Pastoral Council would like to commend George Schultz for all he does with the BeFriender Ministry. George takes a wonderful interest in the parishioners who need extra care, love and attention. George also works with shut-ins and those in prison. Thanks for all you do for others and for all you do in the parish!

Joe Stefanko is an Eagle Scout who deserves the commendation from the Pastoral Council. Joe has created a wonderful reflective space by the pond by providing beautiful benches to sit and reflect. Thanks Joe for all the work you have done!



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

INFANT BAPTISMS Tuesday, September 8 (at 7:30pm) is *Baptism Awareness Class* for first time parents. Since it is offered four times a year we encourage you to attend during your pregnancy.

Tuesday, September 15 (at 7:30pm) is *Baptism Instructions Class* is for everyone having their child Baptized at St. Mary Magdalen.

SENIORS 50+ LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, September 16 Noon Cookout at Pavillion

Wednesday, September 23 Senior Appreciation Mass at 11 am St. Mary, Pinckney followed by lunch. Tickets required so see Sr. Joyce.

Thursday, October 8 Noon Lunch & Health Talk from LCCSS

HOME BLESSINGS

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:17)

Recently, we had the opportunity to have our homes blessed, and we would like to provide feedback to those considering having their homes blessed in the future. In our group, we had four families participate which made it a very special and intimate gathering. As we went to each home, the personal touches of reading prayers for each home, along with the presentation of the beautiful certificate to commemorate this blessed event in our lives. Having the group of us go to each home to participate brought us a comfort in knowing we are not alone on our journey of faith, and we can gain strength and support from one another.

Interestingly, there was an additional family who could not participate at this time; however, did attend the blessing at the host family. They were very touched by the blessing service and definitely hope to have their home blessed in the future.

We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Ansbro's, Arnold's, Clift's, Gilbert's, and Bates families for hosting and to our staff for their support to our families in this celebration.

St. Mary Magdalen Parish is still scheduling House Blessings through the fall. If you would like your Home Blessed see the sign up sheet in the gathering area. Hosts are needed to coordinate with an E-Team member, the Home Blessings in your neighborhood.

GRIEF SUPPORT

It has been said that friendship multiplies joy and divides grief. If you or someone you know has suffered the loss of a loved one, consider joining with others who share the experience and understand the grief. Our Grief Support Group will begin anew on Monday, September 21.

If you would like to know more, please call Sr. Maryetta at 810.229.8624.

DIVORCE & BEYOND

It is a difficult and painful task to go through a divorce or separation; it is even more difficult to grow through the experience. If you or someone you know has experienced a divorce and would like to better understand and grow beyond it, please consider Divorce & Beyond. Our new group will begin on Friday, September 18. If you would like to know more, please call Sr. Maryetta or Deacon Jim at 810.229.8624.

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

We give thanks and praise to the wonderful gentlemen who moved our office furniture during the office renovation and then put together all the new furniture for the new offices. Hours and hours of work were spent assembling several desks and chairs! Thanks for all you did: Ron Abramovich, Dale Bist, Joe Shevock, Pat Keough, Dick Walker and Ed Bixler!



This month we will again begin our “Faith Inquiry” series.

Two questions people ask when they first inquire about becoming Catholic are usually, “What do I have to do to become Catholic?” and “How long does it take?” Becoming Catholic is a process that takes as long as it takes to meet a person’s needs. It’s flexible and adaptable. It’s really better defined as a “journey of faith” because it’s a time of conversion, a change or “a turning” of the heart. It’s a time of discovery, a time of learning and of growth. It’s a time of asking questions like; Who is God? What has God done in my life? What does God want me to do now, today, in this particular situation in my life? What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ? Am I? Is this what I want, or better yet, is this what I need in my life? What does it mean for me to follow Christ? It’s asking questions and sharing life stories... about God, about Christ, about what we believe and about faith.

When someone begins to take a look at their life and contemplates a change like becoming Catholic, they know when they are ready to take that first step; to ask the question, “What does the Catholic faith have to offer me?” Also, people come from different traditions and backgrounds: some are baptized; some are not; some have had religious education and some have not. Because we are so different the process must be constantly adapted to fit the need. We begin the process with what is called “**Faith Inquiry**” because it’s a time when a person simply inquires about the Catholic faith. It’s casual conversation, a time to explore Catholic beliefs, the beginning of a journey of faith. This fall faith inquiry for adults will be on **Tuesdays from 7 - 8:30pm**. The children (7 yrs. and older) meet on the same night (separate from the adults) from 7 - 8pm. We have a group **beginning on Tuesday, September 15**. If you have thought about becoming Catholic or know of someone who has expressed the desire and would like to find out more, please accept our invitation and join us. For more information you can call me in the office or email: rcia@saintmarymagdalen.org. *Blessings on the Journey!*

The DEACON'S BENCH *from Dave Scharf*

“New year, old saw,” as my grandmother used to say. Let’s talk about Social Justice again. **Social Justice** is like walking; it takes two legs and feet. Otherwise, we lose balance. It’s not either/ or, but both/and. If we use only the first foot (direct service), we could make matters worse by fostering dependency. If we use only the second foot (institutional change), we might become too far removed from the realities of the situation. A true Christian lifestyle requires of us that we live in solidarity with those in need and come to their assistance in emergencies. We cannot isolate ourselves.

Direct Service can provide us with the data needed for institutional changes; extend and kind of need, workable solutions, and a greater sense of urgency. Direct service is sometimes classified as “charity.”

Institutional Change is “working for justice.” There can be no love without justice. If we really love someone, we want them to have what is rightfully theirs and to be all that God intended them to be. If we really love, we will work to change structures, systems, laws and policies which are harmful to people.

Empowerment of low-income people and self-determination is our goal wherever possible. Self-help is our priority, helping people to become self-sufficient wherever possible. As ordinary citizens in a parish what might we do?

A story: Once upon a time in a little parish built on a river, the parishioners noticed human bodies floating down the river. They pondered several actions: moving the parish to get away from the problem; removing the bodies from the river and providing decent burial; setting up a clinic for those few that were still alive; going to the head of the river to see what caused this tragedy and trying to remove the causes. Which approach would you pick?

If you would like more information on what to do or just find out what is available here at St. Mary Magdalen contact me at deacon1@saintmarymagdalen.org or, better yet, come to our Charity and Justice meeting on Tuesday, September 8 at 7:30. We DO have openings for your gifts.

Welcome to our parish! **New Members - July - August 2009**

Joseph & Deborah Barraco
Caroline, Isabelle, Victoria

Wayne & Mary Fransted

Joe & Lisa Frappier
Justin, Connor

Thomas Keegan

Patrick & Sandra Grace
Colleen, Maeve

Joseph & Barbara Kowal

Robert & Andrea Kean
Sarah, Catherine, Jessica

Susan Honoway

Kathleen Breckenfeld

Denis & Cynthia Nissle

Mary Serio

Jim & Erin Zito

The OTHER BENCH *from Jim Chevalier*

We all know that dying is part of living; we do not believe that death is the end of our life. But most of us do not want to think about death until it's too late to do anything about it, even though dying is woven into the very fiber of our life from the very beginning. Faith reassures us that we need not fear death but at the same time, because we are human, we can still be anxious about the circumstances of our death. Not knowing what the future may hold, we do not want to give up all the opportunities and gifts our lives hold for us. When it is time for us to leave this world, it is fitting that we should want to die in a way that is meaningful, even beautiful and inspiring, for us and for those we love.

In the dying process, there is still a great scope for personal choice and responsibility: How we face the mysteries of suffering, dying, and death makes a critical difference for us and for our loved ones who wish to offer us compassionate support. As stewards of the gift of life, we see every aspect of life and death as part of a larger picture and part of our ongoing relationship with God. Let us pray to our Lord for a happy death so that when we are called home, He will say to us "Welcome Home Good and Faithful Servant."

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL DIRECTION?



Spiritual direction assists a person in discerning better her or his relationship with God. It is a process of unwrapping the mystery of that relationship and its underlying questions: "Who is God for me, and who am I for God?" It is the process of understanding the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit in our life, for the Spirit is the primary director. Spiritual direction is a confidential relationship between one Christian to another. It enables us to pay attention to God's personal communication, to grow in intimacy with God, and to live out the call of this relationship.

The spiritual director helps the other to address God directly and to listen to what God is saying. The process examines what happens when a person listens to and responds to God. It creates an increasing awareness of the path on which God is leading and it enables that person to be more willing to respond to God. The director never speaks for God or presumes to know God's will for the person, but always gives that person the freedom necessary to discover the voice of God arising from within. The director listens in order to help the other person grow in the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual direction helps us find and listen to God in the experience and relationships of everyday life; because every aspect of our daily life affects our relationship with God. Those seeking spiritual direction confidentially discuss the ordinary concerns of life such as work and career changes, family issues or problems, relationships, psychological trauma, emotional hurts, joy, anger, sexual concerns, fears, compulsions, addictions, dreams, etc.

WHAT SHOULD I LOOK FOR IN A SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR? A spiritual director should be someone called to and well trained in this ministry. She or he should be grounded in the Scriptures, sustained by a deep prayer life, acquainted with the various ways of spirituality, and carefully trained in the area of discernment. The director's life should reflect the image of Christ. It is imperative that a spiritual director be in ongoing spiritual direction.

Spiritual directors have as their central task the facilitation of the relationship between the person seeking direction and God. The spiritual director's guidance is, in reality, nothing more than a way of leading another Christian to see and follow our true director –the Holy Spirit, hidden in the depths of the soul.

HOW OFTEN DO I MEET WITH MY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR? Frequency of direction varies with individual need and circumstance. Some people find that meeting every three or four weeks is ideal. Others require more frequent sessions with their spiritual director.

HOW CAN I RECEIVE SPIRITUAL DIRECTION? St. Mary Magdalen has been blessed with four spiritual directors. Each is available to any Christian for one-on-one spiritual direction. (It is customary to offer a fee to support the spiritual director in this ministry. You and the director will discuss this during your first session.) If you are interested in receiving spiritual direction, please contact:

Ann Lindamood: 517.552.1500
Sr. Maryetta Churches: 810.229.8624

Linda Chevalier: 810.229.9734
Sr. Joyce Hoile: 810.229.8624

MARKING THE CALENDAR

September 12 (Saturday) PARISH PICNIC

Our annual parish picnic begins with the **4:30 pm Liturgy** (our farewell to the church) and then continues outside with food & fun on our parish grounds. (If it rains—the picnic will be inside in our new space!!).

September 5 SIGN UP FOR TASK MINISTRIES

Sign up for a variety of ministries begins after each of our weekend Liturgies. NEW and RENEWING ministers must sign up to serve during the coming year. Thanks!!

September 10 (Thursday) PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

This is a program to protect children from sexual abuse. It helps adults to recognize warning signs and to create a safe environment for all of our children. All adult catechists, aides, anyone who works with youth in our parish, are required to attend by the Bishop, and all parents are also invited. Pre-registration is necessary. If you have any questions please call Mary or Sr. Maryetta in the office.

September 14 (Monday) CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Our Knights of Columbus are teaming up with *Memories* to host a classic car show on our parish grounds. The money raised by the event will benefit Hospice of Livingston County (St. Joseph Mercy) 5 - 8 pm.

September 20 (Sunday) GREEN MASS to bless all TEACHERS

We will pray for and bless teachers and all who work at educational institutions during this Liturgy at 9 am.

September 20 (Sunday) FIRST WEEK of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION of Youth

Religious Education begins with sessions on Sunday at 9 & 11 am for Kindergarten and at 5:30 pm for 9th graders (10th graders started with their retreat the weekend of August 16); on Wednesday at 4:30-6 and at 6:30-8 pm and Thursday at 4:30-6 and at 6:30-8 pm.

SAINT MARY MAGDALEN PARISH

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Kathie Anderer, Director
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PASTORAL MUSICIAN

Steven H. Schulte
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MAINTENANCE

Leo Camden



WHAT ARE YOU DOING - FOR GOD'S SAKE?

STEWARDSHIP FAIR BEGINS SEPTEMBER 5 !

It has been said that what we are as individuals with gifts, talents and abilities is God's gift to us. What we make of ourselves is our gift to God. Stewardship is an expression of our gratitude to God, by sharing with others some of the time, talent & treasure God has given to us!

The following are descriptions of the various ministry teams which are organized to advance our efforts to fulfill our Vision. Parishioners are invited to make a one year commitment to work with others in these ministries.

WELCOMING TEAM

The Welcoming Ministry Team enables new people to become full members of the parish. Team members contact those who have expressed an interest in joining and set a time and date to make a visit to the home. During the visit the member presents a welcome packet that includes our Vision Statement and other information on the parish. After explaining our parish, opportunities for involvement and answering questions, the team member fills out a registration form with the new parishioner. The team member then follows up by meeting the new parishioners at a weekend Liturgy in order to introduce them to other members of the parish. Those who volunteer for this ministry make a one year commitment.

SAMARITANS

The Samaritans are a group, who, like the Good Samaritan in the Scriptures, tend to the immediate needs of fellow parishioners. There are four sub-groups: transportation, meals, household help and funeral luncheons. When a parishioner is seriously ill or hospitalized, the Samaritans provide short-term help of meals, transportation or other household help. Volunteers provide a dish for funeral lunches and some help serve. Transportation is provided to those who are unable to drive themselves to Mass, to medical appointments or to shop. We are in desperate need of volunteers, especially those who can help us during the day or weekdays.

RCIA SPONSOR

Each year some of our parishioners enter the "Journey of Faith" which leads them to join our Church at Easter. RCIA Sponsors join these candidates in the fall for the rest of their journey. Sponsors participate in the Sunday sessions and offer their candidate support and encouragement throughout the journey. Sponsors are people of faith who are willing to share that gift with others! Volunteers are placed in the sponsor pool and if chosen make a one year commitment to this ministry.

LITURGICAL SINGERS & MUSICIANS

Our Liturgies are prayer, some spoken and some sung. The Liturgical Singers and Musicians lead the sung prayer of the Mass. Our Liturgical Singers and Musicians meet weekly for rehearsal. Volunteers for this ministry make a one year commitment.

RESURRECTION CHOIR

Singers and musicians are invited to be a part of a new and special Liturgical ministry. They provide the consolation of musical prayer at funeral Liturgies. *If you choose this ministry, you need to be available to serve on weekdays, when most funerals occur.* Volunteers for this ministry make a one-year commitment.

PARISH HEALTH TEAM

This is a ministry team of health care professionals who work with our Parish Wellness Team to share their knowledge with the community in a variety of informational and service programs geared to our better health. Those who join this ministry should be a trained health care professionals. Folks are asked to sign up for a specific project of this ministry team: blood pressure weekends, blood drives, special events. Volunteers make a one year commitment to this ministry.

TECHNOLOGY TEAM

The Technology Team is responsible for the care and updating of our parish website. It is also responsible for the maintenance, care and updating of computer systems.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Everyone who enjoys knitting or croqueting (at any level) is invited to join this ministry of creating shawls, lap robes and baby blankets for people needing to be enfolded in God's love and care for them (and ours too!) Those who have these skills meet on Wednesday afternoons from noon to 2 pm. Volunteers for this ministry make a one year commitment.

LITURGICAL ART & ENVIRONMENT

The Liturgical Art & Environment Task Group works in conjunction with the Worship Ministry Team to enhance our worship space for the seasons and special feasts during the Church Year. They meet for planning but most of the work is done in small groups or by individuals. Volunteers for this ministry make a one year commitment.

MINISTERS OF PRAYER

Hardly a day goes by without some one asking for prayer for a special need. This is a commitment to pray for the needs of our fellow parishioners and the parish. Ministers of prayer commit themselves to pray for one hour each month in our Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Our prayer requests will be placed there. The prayer minister prays for these during their hour and takes the requests with them to continue their prayer through the rest of the month.

SPECIAL ABILITIES

There is always a need for folks with special skills. It may be woodworking, sewing, calligraphy, metal working and many others. If you have a special skill and would be willing to place this gift at the service of the community, there will be a sign up sheet for you. Those who sign up would be willing to donate their time and talent to the parish in response to a need that would arise over the next year.

COFFEE & DONUTS

Each weekend we serve coffee & donuts after the Liturgy, providing the opportunity for us to continue the community we have just celebrated. The role of those hosting is to set up beforehand and to clean up afterward. It requires about 30 minutes before and after the Liturgy. Those who choose this ministry serve about six times a year (once every other month) and are asked to make a one year commitment.

PARTY PLANNERS

The Community Life Team has five events planned for the coming year. We are looking for folks to help plan and run the events. Sign up for one – or all of them!

- Halloween Party: Trunk or Treating (Saturday, September 24 from 7-9 pm)
 - Euchre Party (Saturday, November 14 from 7-10 pm)
 - Murder Mystery (Saturday, January 16 from 7-9 pm)
 - Mardi Gras (Saturday, February 13 from 7-9:30 pm)
- Easter Egg Scramble (Saturday, April 3 at 12 noon)



"People may doubt what you say, but they will believe what you do." Lewis Cass