



# The Visionary

ST. MARY MAGDALEN

JANUARY 2010

Volume XVII Issue 1

*Saint Mary Magdalen Parish  
cordially invites you  
to share our joy as we celebrate  
the Dedication of our newly renovated  
Spiritual Home and its Altar.*



*Bishop Earl Boyea  
will preside at the  
Mass of Dedication  
on Saturday the ninth of January  
at four o'clock in the afternoon  
2201 South Old US 23  
Brighton, Michigan*

*A reception will follow the Liturgy  
in the community room.*

## SCHOOL FOR DISCIPLESHIP - WINTER TERM from Sr. Joyce

We continue to experience an interest in learning more about our faith, and over the last year we have seen an increase in the numbers of folks who have come from other parishes to join us. This winter term, which starts early in January, there will be two classes; one on Monday and one on Tuesday evening, both at 7 pm. The winter classes will last six weeks; both classes are two hours long.

Monday, Jan 11: **Apocalyptic Literature in the Bible:** Sr. Maryetta will lead this exploration of the Book of Revelation and other similar types of writing found in the New & Old Testament.

Tuesday, Jan 12: **The History of the Church:** Dave Scharf will lead this class on the history of the Catholic Church from the time of the apostles to today.

Call Sr. Joyce if you have any questions.

You can register for a class by calling her or online at [www.saintmarymagdalen.org](http://www.saintmarymagdalen.org).

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## CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME

from Sr. Joyce Hoile, O.S.F.

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

All of the Catholic parishes in our region are presenting this six-week program for **Catholics Returning Home**. The sessions will begin on Monday, January 11, from 7 – 8:30 pm here at St. MM. Come alone or bring a friend. For more information or to say you are coming, call Sister Joyce 810-229-8624.

## from the PASTORAL COUNCIL

The December agenda of our Pastoral Council was similar to our November agenda. We continued our discussion of the ideas that came out of our Spring Gathering of Pastoral Councils with the other parishes of our region. We will be sending 4\5 couples to St. Pat's to participate in their marriage enrichment called, "8 Great Dates". Then these couples will begin the program here next year. We also discussed the Ministry Spotlight and a directory of ministries & contacts. The last two items we will be a joint effort with the Stewardship Council

We also continued our discussion of what we might do to announce the completion of our project to the wider community with an open house, perhaps a concert or other activities. All of these would be advertised to the community with invitations sent to our neighbors and other folks in our area.

Our council members continue to send postcards to parishioners before contacting them. They appreciated the thoughtful dialogue the card engendered.

### 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 November 30, 2009

<u>REVENUE SOURCES</u>	<u>Nov 30</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Projected Budget</u>
Sunday Stewardship	104,208	451,893	1,160,000
Religious Formation/Donations	23,495	50,979	82,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>127,703</b>	<b>502,872</b>	<b>1,242,600</b>

← BUILDING FUND: \$23,622 →

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>Nov 30</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Projected Budget</u>
Programs & Staffing	71,935	324,620	841,800
Building Operations	11,962	54,853	171,800
Building Pledge	19,083	95,417	229,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>102,980</b>	<b>474,890</b>	<b>1,242,600</b>
<b>BALANCE (plus/minus)</b>	<b>+24,723</b>	<b>+27,982</b>	

**BUILDING EXPENSE NOV 09: \$46,674**

### The Members of the Finance Council

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

## from the STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

The Stewardship Council met on Monday, Dec 7 at 7 pm in the office conference room.

The Council is looking for ways to improve the welcoming packet we give to new parishioners. We are also working with members of the Pastoral Council to develop a new Ministry Booklet which would list all the stewardship opportunities in our parish. Each booklet would have a separate sheet inserted that would list all of the names and phone numbers for interested parties to contact to volunteer for a ministry.

### Members of the Stewardship Council

Brigitte Burke	Jim Chevalier	Ann Fraser	Joe Martinez	(Chair) Sharon Wagner	Sr. Maryetta Churches, OP
Dianne Sweetser	Mary Helen Buntin	Elaine Tripi	Ted Zsovec	Madelyn Gostomski	Fr. David F. Howell

## RELIGIOUS FORMATION *from Mary Mahar*

January is a hard time of year for our formation classes. Winter is in full swing, it is cold outside, and now gets dark far too early. By the time our youth get home from school, most families just want to stay home! However, we have a lot going on (you should have seen our 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes do the living Advent wreath last month!) and much more to come!

We will be talking about vocations with a special speaker. All are welcome to attend in the church during our 4:45 and 6:30 sessions on January 6/7. We are also getting ready to celebrate First Penance with our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade youth, Rites of Enrollment, penance for our middle school youth, continued service projects, and much more! Come check us out in the new wing, or plan on coming to the adult sessions Sr. Joyce is offering on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8 pm (while the youth are in Religious Formation classes)!

If you have not yet registered your child for classes, please give us a call in the office. We would like to provide quality religious formation to each of our children regardless of anyone's ability to pay tuition. Are you a High School youth who wants to prepare for Confirmation? Call me to set up an appointment. Are you in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or higher and want to do community service or a college youth or adult with extra time to spare? Our program would love to help you serve!

**First Eucharist** families are reminded to be working on your child's chalice which will be presented to Fr. Dave at the *Rite of Enrollment on Sunday, January 10, at the 9:00 Liturgy*. You are also reminded to bring your child's Baptismal certificate in to the office. **Order of Penitent (4<sup>th</sup> Grade)** families are reminded to be working on your child's cross which will be presented to Fr. Dave at the *Rite of Enrollment for Order of Penitent on Sat, Jan. 16, at the 4:30 Liturgy*. After these Liturgies, we will be passing out prayer partner cards with the names of our youth in formation for these Sacraments. We ask that you keep them all in your prayers as they go through preparation.

### January Dates to Remember:

**3-** Classes resume from break

**6/7-** Vocation Speaker at 4:45/6:30

**10-** Rite of Enrollment for First Eucharist: Chalices given to Fr. Dave at 9:00 Liturgy  
9<sup>th</sup> grade parent/or sponsor along with your candidate meeting 5:30

**13/14-** 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade First Penance during class times at 4:45/6:30

**16-** Rite of Enrollment for Order of Penitent:

Crosses given to Fr. Dave during 4:30 Liturgy

**27-** Evening of Reflection for all Catechist/Aides/CLW Leaders in Social Hall

## MAGDALEN'S LITTLE PEOPLE

*from Kathie Anderer*

December was a very busy month. We worked hard with the children on teaching the gift of giving. The Ronald McDonald House of Ann Arbor was our focus and we were able to put together boxes of food and toiletries to help the families that need a place to stay while tending to some very sick children. The lesson was well received and gave us all a warm fuzzy feeling to know that we could help in some way.

Our Christmas Program on December 6 was fun for all. The children did a wonderful job on the songs that they learned and the parents seemed to be very proud of the fine singing the children did. They all enjoyed the story time with Father Dave... he is a wonderful storyteller!

We start back to school on Monday, January 4. Looking ahead we will have blue week the week of January 11. The teachers will be working on Evaluations which will go home the end of the month. We also have VIP Night to plan for in February. That is always a highlight of the year. The children get to invite one adult person to come to "night school" with them. Fun!

We hope the New Year brings happiness to all.



## COUNCIL COMMENDATIONS

The Council would like to commend all the men and women who are serving in the military for the protection of our country. Thanks for your dedication to our country.

*from Margaret Callaghan*

Happy New Year! I Hope your celebrations for the holiday season were filled with love, laughter, and memory making moments. The Callaghan Clan enjoyed many family gatherings with friends and family. It was a good, happy season full of lots of laughter! May God bless you and your families in 2010 with strength to get through the hard times, friends to share in the good times and love to endure all.

What a few busy months we have coming up here. For any information regarding any of the following events we have coming up, visit [www.saintmarymagdalen.org](http://www.saintmarymagdalen.org) for the details and paperwork. What a great resource that is! First we are planning for our annual ski trip. We will be leaving Friday January 22 and returning home the 24<sup>th</sup>. We will be skiing at Caberfae near Cadillac. The cost will depend on the number of people going, \$85-100. You can check out the Caberfae website for rental and lift ticket costs.

This month we will begin the planning for our work fair to be held in May. For those teens interested in making money over the summer and who are willing to work, you will need to start thinking of your talents and skills. The idea is to create a resume showcasing your abilities. We will get started on these ideas and then meet in February. For those

people who are looking for yard work, babysitting, or dog services over the summer, hopefully these will be the teens you will want to hire. Everybody wins! The first date for the teens interested is Tuesday February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm. Please come prepared with an idea of how you want to market yourself. We will meet in the youth room.

The weekend of February 6-7 we are participating in another joint retreat at FaHoLo. We will be one of five parishes spending the weekend on retreat. Joining us will be St. Francis, St. Johns (Hartland), St. Augustine, and St. Pat's. We are looking forward to seeing the friends we have made on past retreats and the opportunity to make more. These regional retreats have been very successful, fun and meaningful. If you are interested, please visit the website or e-mail me at [youth1@saintmarymagdalen.org](mailto:youth1@saintmarymagdalen.org)

Last month we held our first girls overnight during the winter break. It was a great opportunity together to talk, visit, and discuss important relationships in our lives, including our relationship with God and how He is a part of our everyday life. There will be another one in the spring.



*[for 6 - 8 graders]*

What great and giving middle school students we have here! Last month we collected shoe boxes filled with necessary toiletries for those in need. Many boxes were returned filled with great stuff and will be handed out to the needy in Flint from the Women's Center.

Also we had the students create their own Advent calendar with good deeds and positive activities to do each day. Many of them brought them back mid-month filled with stickers for each day they were successful. The leaders were quite pleased at how seriously the calendars were taken. Hopefully a better Advent season was had by their families and friends. It is my hope that their goodness and kindness will continue into the New Year!

We have acquired few new things in the youth room. There are four new huge bean bags, a couch, loveseat and chair. The bean bags will be off limits for use by the middle school students and reserved only for the high school students. They were donated by a parishioner and out of respect for the care of them I will see this rule is followed. The first meeting back of the New Year will be Monday January 11, 7-8:30pm.

## THE OTHER BENCH

from Jim Chevalier

At the beginning of this new calendar year I would like to share with you a prayer that my wife gave me a few months ago, and that I have committed to say each day in 2010: "Come, Holy Spirit, fill my heart with love. Grant me wisdom to choose what is good and true; understanding to embrace your plan of salvation; right judgement to act according to your will; courage to share my faith in Jesus with others; knowledge to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ; reverence to respond faithfully to your grace each day of my life; wonder and awe in your presence to enjoy your abiding love now and for all eternity in Heaven. Amen!" As my 96 year old friend is fond of saying "If I can do it, you can do it."

## SERVANT TO MANY

from Gary Prise

You may have noticed in the parish bulletins under the weekly calendar that on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at 7:30 am there is an entry: *Men's Breakfast (Rectory Lower Level)*. All men of the parish are invited to come. We eat a wonderful breakfast prepared by one of the men, we hear the Sunday Scripture readings and we talk about what these readings mean and how they impact our lives. Our gatherings are very informal, just a bunch of guys getting together to share life and faith in very practical terms. We make it a point to wrap things up by 9 am with prayers petitions. Bring a friend, a neighbor, or a relative if you feel a little unsure. Please consider this opportunity to share your experience and insights, or simply come and listen to the conversation, because we are all on a similar journey and our lives intersect in so many interesting ways.

## THE DEACONS BENCH

from Dave Scharf

Three or four years ago I shared with you an article titled, "Lenten Give Ups" by Fr. John Catoir, who was the director of the Christophers. Not long ago, someone asked if I still had a copy of it. They wanted to use it for their Religious Ed class. I do, and I will share it with you again even though Lent does not begin until February. Maybe this will help you decide what you want to do, but first a short story. I find this story funny because it illustrates how confused Lent's purpose has become for some.

"Years ago a priest was walking through a bad section of a city at night. Suddenly someone stuck a gun in his ribs and demanded his money. When the priest unzipped his coat to get his wallet, the robber saw his collar and apologized profusely. "Forget it," he said, "I didn't know you were a padre." Relieved, the priest took out a cigarette and offered one to the would-be robber. Incredibly, the man refused, saying, "I gave up the weed for Lent." I hope the following will help un-confuse the purpose of Lent.

Give up bitterness; turn to forgiveness.  
Give up hatred; return good for evil.  
Give up negativism; be positive.  
Give up complaining; be grateful.  
Give up pessimism; be an optimist.  
Give up harsh judgments; think kindly thoughts.  
Give up worry; trust Divine Providence.  
Give up discouragement; be full of hope.  
Give up anger; be more patient.  
Give up pettiness; be more mature.  
Give up gloom; enjoy the beauty around you.  
Give up jealousy; pray for trust.  
Give up gossiping; control your thoughts.  
Give up sin; turn to virtue."

If you wonder which one(s) belong to me to work on, look at the last three in each column. Believe me they are harder than giving up candy, food or cigarettes.

## CHARITY & JUSTICE from Lisa Klein

THANK YOU for your generous donations to the Advent Giving Tree. Many lives were touched by your kindness. Almost 800 tags were filled to make a brighter Christmas for those in need.

Do you know someone who is struggling due to job loss or reduction in pay? Help is available! Food - utility - unemployment - housing - and medical assistance, as well as financial assessment and transportation are all available to you. The Livingston County Resource Guide provides valuable resource information to those surviving tough economic times in Livingston County. Copies are available at the parish office or at Livingston County United Way office at 810-494-3000.

St. Mary Magdalen will host the R.E.A.C.H. Homeless shelter the week of Feb. 22 - Mar. 1. There are many ways to volunteer: Drivers are needed to transport clients to and from the Salvation Army each morning and afternoon. Dinners and breakfasts are donated by our parishioners. Evening and Night Chaperones spend time with our clients and watch over the shelter at night. Sign up sheets and more details will be available in the gathering area in January. Short training sessions will be provided. Anyone interested in joining Charity and Justice can contact Lisa Klein at 810-844-0074 or [clmklein@gmail.com](mailto:clmklein@gmail.com) or Deacon Dave Scharf or Deacon Gary Prise at the parish office.

## WELLNESS

Do you suffer from the winter doldrums? You may have Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD. Prolonged darkness of the winter months depletes serotonin, which regulates moods. Some of the symptoms are: increase in appetite and weight gain, a drop in energy level, fatigue, difficulty concentrating, and irritability. Light therapy is very effective. The use of a full-spectrum light for 20 minutes a day can greatly improve one's mood. The light must hit your retinas to be effective. These are sometimes referred to as Ott Lights, and can be found at JoAnn Fabrics and other sources.



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

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### BIBLE STUDY: SOUP & SCRIPTURE

Beginning January 7, Sr. Joyce will facilitate this look at the "Jewishness of Jesus"; Christian formation inspired by Jesus and an ongoing study of the Gospel of Luke, which we are currently using in the Sunday Readings for Cycle C. The group will meet Thursdays from noon till 1:30 pm

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### CAFÉ': CATHOLIC ADULT FORMATION & EDUCATION

This is an opportunity for parents of Religious Education students to brush up on their understanding of the faith while their children attend class on Thursdays at 6:30 pm. It is also open to any interested adult. The classes include prayer, Catechism & Scripture references and discussion. Each week has its own topic so participants can attend at any time. The classes will be the Thursday evenings that Religious Education classes are in session. Thursdays, 6:30 -7: 50 pm. Topics for this month are:

- Thursday, January 7 Faith Formation & Prayer in the Family with Infants/Toddlers
- Thursday, January 14 Teaching / Showing God to Pre-School & Kindergarten ages
- Thursday, January 21 What Does a Second Grade Child Learn in Religion Education?
- Thursday, February 4 Grades Three & Four Religion Series

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### YOUR WHOLE LIFE: Winter Walk

Due to the winter weather and the current Parish construction Your Whole Life Group will meet to walk each week in January. Anyone wishing to join the small group to walk can join us at the Hartland Center that has free indoor walking. Please sign in each time. The group will walk Mondays, 9:45 am – 10:30 am beginning January 4. Sr. Joyce can be your contact person.

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

We would like to give thanks and praise to all our eighth grade youth in our formation program who planned and led the Living Advent wreath during that season for all of our younger children!

We would like to praise and thank Erin Wolfe for working with our children's choir for the 6 pm Christmas Eve Liturgy. You did a wonderful job! Thank you!

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

There are ten adults and one child in our parish preparing to become full members of the Church this Easter. Over the last few months, we met during the week and now we gather on Sundays. Over the next several months you will see them being dismissed from the assembly after the homily.

It takes a whole community to help an individual become a Catholic. We are not *alone* with God and were never meant to be. If you want to touch Christ, look around the assembly because that is where you will find him. We can not truly embrace Christ without embracing Him in His people.

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

As we move into our new church building, let us pray that we will be blessed with a deeper understanding of *who* we are as Church. It does not matter if we worship in a small country church or in a great cathedral. We are the same Body of Christ, blessed and broken and poured out for others. Let us pray for all those who are in the process of becoming Catholic; that their journey with God's people will truly be a sacramental encounter with the Lord. Blessings on the Journey!



## NEW TO OUR PARISH

IN DECEMBER

Carl & Janine Vitale  
& Anthony

Dianna Bosak

Michael & Shannon Barrigar  
Clara & Marc

Mike & Shana Radomski  
Meagan

Tim & Theresa Smith  
Emma, Abby & Ben

Gary & Terese Grondin  
Lyndsey, Natalie & Patrick

Andrea Nunez

Ben & Tricia McAllister  
John & Kale

## WELCOME!

Anthony & Molly Pulka  
Kylie, Mackenzie & Lexie

Joseph & Nancy Barnes

Dan & Beth Schrock  
Lexi, Danny

John & Elizabeth Lord  
Emma, Madaline & Charlie

# SAINT MARY MAGDALEN PARISH

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(810) 229 - 8624  
www.saintmarymagdalen.org

## MARKING THE CALENDAR

### January 3 (Sunday) FEAST of the EPIPHANY

This feast celebrates the arrival in Bethlehem of the Magi, the wise ones from the east. It also celebrates the revelation of Christ as the savior of all humanity.

### January 9 (Saturday) The DEDICATION of our CHURCH

At 4 pm, our parish will gather before the doors of our newly renovated worship space to await the arrival of our bishop, Earl Boyea. After formally handing over our new space to him, the bishop will lead us into it for the first time. During the Liturgy that will follow, the space will be "baptized & christened" and the altar will be consecrated as the table of the Lord and the center of our community of faith. It is one of the most significant Liturgies that will ever occur in any parish community and its anniversary is celebrated each year as parish holy day. Come and join in the celebration and in the party that will follow!!

### January 11 & 12 (Mon/Tues) SCHOOL FOR DISCIPLESHIP (WINTER SESSION BEGINS)

The Theology tract is **The History of the Catholic Church**, on Mondays from January 11. The other class on Tuesdays will also be **Apocalyptic Literature in the Bible** on Tuesdays from January 12. Both classes will be from 7-9 pm.

### January 16 (Saturday) MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT

Need a break from winter doldrums? The Community Life Committee invites you to participate in and solve the murder of the decade here at MM. It will begin at 7 pm and by 9 pm we will be clueless.

### January 22 (Friday) DIVORCED & SEPARTED GROUP

This is a new support group for those who are working through their divorce or separation. Pre-registration is helpful (call the office) but all are welcome. The group will meet on Fridays from 7-9 pm.

## THE PASTORAL STAFF

### PASTOR

**Fr. David F. Howell**  
pastor1@saintmarymagdalen.org

### PASTORAL MINISTER

**Sr. Maryetta Churches, O.P.**  
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### EDUCATION & FORMATION-YOUTH

**Mary Mahar, Director**  
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### FORMATION & EVANGELIZATION- ADULTS

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### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION & LITURGICAL COORDINATOR

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### DEACONS

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### PASTORAL MUSICIAN

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