



The Visionary

ST. MARY MAGDALEN

JANUARY 2011

Volume XVIII Issue 1

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 number of folks who have come from other parishes to join us. This winter term, there will be two classes- one on Monday and one on Tuesday evening, both at 7 pm. They begin January 10 and 11 and will last six weeks.

Monday, Jan 10: **THE GOSPELS:** Fr. Dave will be the instructor for this class on the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John plus the Apocryphal. The Gospel Sessions will be held on Monday from 7-9 pm.

Tuesday, Jan 11: **CHRISTIAN MORALITY:** Mr. John Schultz will be teaching this in-depth study of the teachings of Jesus found in the Gospels. The course is Scripture-based on Christian principals of conscience and moral decision-making. Sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7-9 pm.

Call Sr. Joyce if you have any questions. You can register for a class by calling her or register online at www.saintmarymagdalen.org You will find School for Discipleship under Adult Formation.

BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday morning Bible Study group is using the "Come and See" guide for the Torah. Beginning January 20 we will start the Book of Leviticus for three weeks. If you would like to join this group, this would be a good time to do so. We meet 10-11:30 am in the East Room. Please call Sister Joyce in the office to register.

MURDER AT MAGDALEN

On Saturday, January 22, 6:30 pm we will have our Annual Murder Mystery at St. Mary Magdalen. Actors and helpers are needed for this event, so please call Jen Smith at 810-599-7332 to volunteer! Sign up will begin in January for this popular event!

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FAMILY NIGHT

We will have our first Family Night on Saturday, February 19, 7 pm. It will include a movie & snacks in the Community Room, physical games in the gym and board games & cards in the Quad! Fun for the whole family. We are in need of volunteers to 1.) Coordinate and advertise the overall evening 2.) Plan & organize the Table Games Room, 3.) Coordinate & organize the Food for the evening, 4.) Facilitate the showing of the DVD movie and 5.) Work with Chad & Jessica Guerts from the Activities Committee on the fun happenings in the Activity Center. Please call Sr. Joyce soon if you are willing and able to do any of the above.

from the PASTORAL & STEWARDSHIP COUNCILS

On Wednesday, December 15, our Pastoral Council assembled with the Stewardship Council to discuss topics of mutual concern after our monthly Mass of Remembering.

Four topics were on the joint agenda: A Ministry Directory, Ministry Spotlight, the length of commitment for ministry and the value of Directions.

Ministry Directory: Both councils have discussed the question putting together a booklet that would list all the various ministry teams, ministries and activities that are a part of our parish life. One concern about creating such a booklet is that it may soon be outdated. For example, in this past year we created two new ministry teams and several activities.

At a meeting of the Diocesan Pastoral Council this fall on Stewardship, Fr. Dave picked up a series of cards that another parish uses to advertise their ministries and activities. These 2.5x8.5 cards explain a ministry or activity plus give contact information. If properly displayed, it makes it easy for a visitor or a parishioner to readily discover information important to them. Moreover the cards can be easily updated if there are changes in the individual cards information.

Both councils thought this was a good way to proceed. The staff and volunteers will create the cards and Fr. Dave will arrange for a display cabinet to be made for the Gathering Area.

Ministry Spotlight: This would be a program that would use the bulletin and perhaps the video system to "shine a light" on a particular ministry in a way that it would help more people become aware of a ministry and the possibility of joining it. This would occur periodically.

Both councils believed we needed to talk to the Ministry Teams to ascertain their interest in such an effort.

Ministry Commitment: The last Stewardship Fair was not as successful in recruiting new parishioners to share their gifts with the community through service. Some have questioned whether people understand that we only ask for a ONE YEAR commitment for most activities and if people wish to continue from year to year, they need to sign up. We hope we can make this more clear to the members of the different ministries in the future.

Directions: Both groups thought that it was valuable to continue this effort. But we may make it more "reflective" in the future.

The Members of the Pastoral Council

Dwyane Bilicki Ayla Grace Ken Kuna Laura Meader Dave Naumowicz Sandy Oliver Denise Putnam Colleen Schulte
Dan Schifko usan Vitale ark Wright Madelyn Gostomski Debbie Dehanke, Secretary Sr. Maryetta Churches, OP Fr. David F. Howell

Members of the Stewardship Council

Carlene Demers Don Terns Marion Kocian Elaine Tripi Sharon Wagner Mary Helen Buntin Ted Zvosec John Wood
Mark Wright Joe Martinez Sean Carney Bob & Nancy Breakiron James Chevalier Sr Maryetta Churches Father David Howell

from the FINANCE COUNCIL

July 2010 - June 2011

As of November 30, 2010

<u>REVENUE SOURCES</u>	<u>November 30</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Projected Budget</u>
Sunday Stewardship	107,136	470,918	1,150,000
Building Fund Pledges	46,958	183,722	163,600
Religious Formation/Donations	12,489	48,429	90,600
TOTAL	166,583	703,069	1,404,200

BUILDING FUND NOV. 2010: \$46,958

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>November 30</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Projected Budget</u>
Programs & Staffing	57,142	322,763	869,275
Building Operations	17,684	73,550	174,925
Building Mortgage	0	0	360,000
TOTAL	74,826	396,312	1,404,200
BALANCE (plus/minus)	+91,757	+306,757	

BUILDING EXPENSE NOV. 2010: \$28,745

RELIGIOUS FORMATION *from Mary Mahar*

January is a hard time of year for our formation classes. With winter in full swing, the cold outside, and the darkness of the days, by the time our youth get home from school, most families just want to stay home! We have a lot going on (you should have seen our 8th grade classes do the living Advent wreath last month!) and much more to come!

We'll be talking about vocations with a special speaker-all are welcome to attend in Church during our 4:30 and 6:30 sessions on January 5/6. We are also getting ready to celebrate First Penance with our 2nd grade youth, Rites of Enrollment, continued service projects, and much more!

If you have not yet registered your youth for classes, regardless of your ability to pay, please give us a call in the office. Are you a High School youth who wants to prepare for Confirmation? Call me to set up an appointment. Are you in 8th grade or higher and want to do community service or a college youth or adult with extra time to spare? Our program needs you!

Order of Penitent (4th 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 Saturday, Jan. 8, at the 4:30 Liturgy*. **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 9, at the 9:00 Liturgy*. You are also reminded to get your child's Baptismal certificate into the office. 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.

Catechists are reminded to make reservations for the Evening of Reflection on January 26, 6:30. Babysitting is available, so call the office to let us know you are attending!

January Dates to Remember:

- 2** Classes resume from break!
- 5/6** Vocation Speaker at 4:45/6:30
- 8** Rite of Enrollment for Order of Penitent, Crosses given to Fr. Dave during 4:30 Liturgy
- 9** Rite of Enrollment for First Eucharist, Chalices given to Fr. Dave during 9 Liturgy
- 16** 9th grade parent/or sponsor along with your candidate meeting 5:30
- 26** Evening of Reflection for all Catechist/Aides/CLW Leaders
- 31** Lead Catechist meeting at 6pm

MAGDALEN'S LITTLE PEOPLE

from Kathie Anderer

Greetings from preschool...

Our Christmas program and our Christmas parties are now sweet memories to put into our memory bank. The children did a wonderful job singing for their friends and family at the Christmas program. It was a fun time for all who attended.

We are now back from our Christmas break and ready to get busy learning and having fun with our friends. Evaluations will be coming home the end of this month. We also have our BIG event of the year... VIP Night. That is a time that we skip day time school and come for an evening of fun at "Night School". We are looking forward to a fun evening with princesses and pirates. Everyone gets to invite one special person to come to school with them for the evening. We are all looking forward to this special event.

We have a few openings in our three-year-old classes. We have a great time here at St. Mary Magdalen and would love to share the experience with you. Give us a call.

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and everyone was blessed with joy, happiness, and many wonderful memories with family and friends. I know that I was in Nana heaven with my four Texas grandchildren here with me. It was great having my son (from Texas) and my daughter (from Maryland) here to celebrate the birth of baby Jesus with us. It was fun to see my Michigan grandson enjoy his first Christmas too. I smile just thinking about all of the good times.

Take care and God's Blessings, Kathie Anderer

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son." John 3:16

COUNCIL COMMENDATIONS

The Council would like to commend the SOLO WOMEN who made Advent by Candlelight such a wonderful and meaningful evening to begin the Advent season. Beautiful settings, meaningful prayer, warm friendship and tasty goodies made the evening wonderful! Thanks to all the SOLO WOMEN!

The Knights of Columbus are a wonderful group of men who go to the VA hospital in Ann Arbor and socialize with all the vets. Companionship, friendship and time spent together makes their time very worthwhile. Thanks to all the Knights. You are the best!

from Margaret Callaghan

Happy New Year! May 2011 be a year of God's grace, peace and happiness for you. May you find strength in the hard times and friends to share in the good times. With each New Year comes hope and renewal. We focus on goals we set for the year; we look forward to vacations during the summer and plan to see and visit with faraway family. Each January comes hope and renewal. May it be a good year for you and your family.

For your convenience, the weekend of January 15 and 16 Stasia and/or I will be in the gathering area after all three liturgies to collect paperwork and money for our Winter Weekend Getaway scheduled for February 18-20. Check the parish website for more information and the necessary paperwork at www.saintmarymagdalen.org or you can contact me via email at youth1@saintmarymagdalen.org. For prices to ski, check out <http://caberfaepeaks.com>

One of our meetings in January, we take to reflect on the past year of things that have happened, situations we found ourselves in and where God was with us in it all. We write a letter and set new goals and ask God for courage and strength. This is something we have been doing for a while now. The letters are sealed and self addressed. I keep them and in December I mail them out. It's a great exercise of reflection and prayer. Some of the teens remember all year what they wrote and hoped to accomplish keeping them on task. Others are surprised to receive the letter and find it fun to read it from themselves.

Plan a service trip this summer as a family. There will be a meeting on Monday January 10, from 7-8 to find out about the **National Relief Network** (NRN) service week opportunity this summer. Families are welcome. It is a great experience to share with one another. Also that same evening from 8-9 pm I will be talking about the **National Catholic Youth Conference** (NCYC) trip scheduled for November of 2011 to Indianapolis. This is a great and worth while trip as well. I will have the

EDGE NEWS



[for 6 - 8 graders]

Happy New Year! We have had so much fun since our first meeting back in September right up until our Christmas party just last month. We have grown in relationship with one another and in our faith. The second half of our scheduled year together will be no different.

Please note that there will be a change in our February schedule. We will meet as scheduled on Monday February 14 AND AGAIN on February 21 but this time at Rollerarama for their Christian Skate. The cost will be \$5, or \$7 if you wish to rent roller blades. Look for more details and information in the weekly bulletin. We will not meet on February 28.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

<u>Sundays</u>	7:00-9:00 pm	Youth Group	<u>Wednesdays</u>	9:30-11:00 am 11:00 am-12:00 pm 4:00 pm-5:45 pm 7:00-9:00 pm	Open Walk Pre-School CYO High School
<u>Mondays</u>	11:00 am-12:00 pm 4:00 pm-5:45 pm 7:00 pm-8:30 pm 8:30 pm-10:00 pm	Pre-School CYO Middle School Men's Basketball	<u>Thursdays</u>	11:00 am-12:00 pm 4:00 pm-5:15 pm 8:30-10:00 pm	Pre-School CYO Men's Basketball
<u>Tuesdays</u>	9:30-10:30 am 10:30-11:30 am 1:30-2:30 pm 4:00 pm-5:45 pm 6-9:00 pm	Open Walk Pre-School 50+ Exercise CYO Scouts	<u>Fridays</u>	9:30-11:00 am 11:00 am-12:00 pm 7:30-9:00 pm	Open Walk Pre-School Couples Volleyball
			<u>Saturdays</u>	8-9:00 am 9:15-10:15 am	Coed Boot Camp Women's Boot Camp

THE OTHER BENCH

from Jim Chevalier

The Gospels we hear during the closing days of December and throughout all of January come from the Gospels of Luke, Matthew and John. The stories have us journey through a lot of territory, both in time and in miles. We start with Luke and the shepherds coming to pay homage to the baby Jesus. Then we move into Matthew's Gospel and the story of the Magi. Then we learn of how Herod wanted to kill Jesus, driving Mary, Joseph and Jesus to flee into Egypt.

The Gospel of John tells us why the Baptist knew that Jesus was the "Son of God;" and then continues with Jesus beginning to preach and gather his disciples. We will end the month with Matthew telling us about how Jesus taught the people, including us, in the Sermon on the Mount.

While these passages from the three Gospels tells the story in a fairly chronological fashion, but that is not what the Gospel writers were trying to accomplish.

As we move away from the birth of Christ, the focus from my perspective, is to teach us about Baptism and how important it is for all Christians. As we proceed through the readings, we begin "Ordinary Time," we learn that Jesus brings us the Kingdom of God right here on earth. All we need to do is believe in His love for us, and for us to love Him by loving others. The Gospel stories of January certainly do give us something to pray about so that we may follow and become loving disciples of Jesus.

SERVANT TO MANY

from Gary Prise

Coincidence: God choosing to remain anonymous. You will not find this definition in any dictionary, not even a theology dictionary; one of my BeFriender peers came up with it. The week following the funerals of two children, I was thumbing through one of the many publisher catalogs I receive. A title caught my eye, "Where the Hell is God", by Richard Leonard, SJ, published by Hidden Springs. The author describes a vehicle accident his sister was involved in, leaving her a paraplegic. He questions where God was, why did God allow this tragedy to happen, his sister was a very good person.

I look around and I see many people who are going through some unspeakable challenges; losses of various kinds, suffering, disease, pain, disasters, and the list goes on and on. It is easy to blame God for these difficulties; what did I do to cause God to respond this way. This book is an easy read, sixty-five pages or so. It is written in very down to earth language. If we aren't going through some challenge I suspect we know someone who is and may be questioning their faith. This book may provide some answers and a new perspective.

THE DEACONS BENCH

from Dave Scharf

A new year and a new beginning to put our lives back in prospective. In the Old Testament, God uses rocks, and burning bushes to deliver messages, so do not question the power of what you hear or how you hear it if the truth res-onates within. You might be reading a story, watching a video, or talking casually with a friendly grocery clerk. Don't cut yourself off from sources of insight. One of the quantum leaps that come about on the life's path is the sudden awareness that you've spent your entire life going back-ward instead of forward. You may have believed that seeking a spiritual path was all about sacrifice and suffering and that only the worldly path could provide freedom, fulfillment, and good fortune. Then, one morning you make a connection. When you do, you realize that you have to practically unlearn everything you've taken for granted.

This is not as hard as it sounds. Has the other path worked? Have any of the world's gifts given you true happiness? Has the perfect job, relationship, house, money, or anything else you thought would do it for you, fulfilled you for longer than a week? So trust your experiences and impulses; you have had them for a reason. Real life has a steep learning curve, but once you respond from personal knowledge instead of by rote, it is easier than you thought. Real life actually becomes fun.

I think that just before we come to earth to begin this life, we are given a photograph of our futures-the Divine Plan-to get us excited about the great adventure ahead. As the photo pops out of the celes-tial camera, we are in such a hurry to get on with it; we grab the negative instead of the photograph. Now we have got the pattern of a fabulous life, but the perspective is reversed. What is white looks black. What is black appears white. We have got the big picture, but it's backward. So we cry when we should be laughing, are envious when we should feel inspired, experience deprivation instead of abundance, do it the hard way instead of the easy way, pull back instead of reaching out. And worst of all, we close our hearts so we won't get hurt, when opening them is the only way we will ever know joy. How many times have we waited for Spirit to move for us, when in fact, Spirit is waiting to work with us? So, take the negative of your Divine Plan and let Love develop it and begin living the life for which you were created. Happy New Year, it's time to move forward.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLVE: TO GROW SPIRITUALLY

Perhaps this year you are ready to take a step in your personal relationship with the Lord. Those trying to discern God's will in his or her life have the opportunity to seek a spiritual director as a companion and guide. This person is trained and certified to help you see God at work in your life and encourages you to follow God's lead.

At St. Mary Magdalen, four women are trained Spiritual Guides; Linda Chevalier, Ann Lindamood, Sister Maryetta Churches, O.P. and Sister Joyce Hoile, O.S.F. If you would like to speak to someone about this for yourself, please call Sister Joyce at the Parish Office (810) 229 -8624.

SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH

Each month Seniors gather for a free lunch and time together to celebrate people having Birthdays that month. We will also put together Birthday Bags for Gleaners to give to the children. Our next gathering is Thursday January 13, at noon. Lynn Albanelli will speak to us about the service of "Seniors Helping Seniors".

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

Moms of all ages are welcome to come and enjoy the joys and struggles of motherhood in a fun, Christian environment. Our meetings are held on Wednesday mornings from 9:45-11:45 am in the North Room next to the Nursery. Childcare is available for a small fee. Call Jill Angell at (810) 231-1725 for more information

THANKS & PRAISE from Sr. Maryetta Churches, OP

Thanks and praise goes to all those who have organized *Magdalen's Kitchen*. The atmosphere, the wonderful meals, the community spirit and the sense of hospitality have made this endeavor very rewarding and meaningful to our community and to our guests. Great ministry and great job!

We give thanks and praise to Julie Hogland who designed and created the *Magdalen's Little People* preschool keepsake. The book is beautiful and is a precious memory for the wonderful year the children had in the program. Thanks for your hours and hours of work Julie. We really appreciate what you did for us.



DIVORCE & BEYOND – RECOVERY & HEALING

Have you experienced a divorce? Are you currently in the process of seeking a divorce? Do you know someone who is going through a divorce, or who has gone through a divorce but is still wrestling with the social, spiritual or psychological aspects of the divorce?

Divorce & Beyond is for people who are already divorced or have filed for divorce. It examines what happens to most spouses going through marital breakup. It helps participants understand what they are going through and that others have gone through the same things. It suggests activities for making divorce a growth experience.

This education and support group is co-hosted by the parishes of the Livingston Region and Livingston County Catholic Charities. Topics will include: The Process of Divorce, Self-Image, Stress, Anger, Blame & Guilt, Loneliness, Forgiveness, Happiness, Pathways to Growth.

REGISTRATION: Sr. Maryetta Churches, 810-229-8624

FACILITATORS: Deacon Jim Chevalier & Sr. Maryetta Churches, St. Mary Magdalen, Mark T. Robinson, Livingston County Catholic Charities.

WHEN: Friday evenings, 7 – 8:30pm January 21 – March 25

There is a \$10.00 fee for the program materials. For those attendees with school-aged children, three sessions will be provided specifically to address the unique needs of the children.

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

There are thirteen adults and six children in our parish preparing to be initiated into the Church this Easter. Over the next few months the entire community will see them being dismissed from the assembly after the homily at the different Liturgies on Sundays. This is because becoming a Catholic is not private process. It takes place within the midst of the Church, the Catholic Community. 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 one makes in becoming Catholic takes place through dialogue, conversation, storytelling and prayer. It is a sharing of faith with other believers. Not only are there sponsors and catechists but this can only take place in the midst of the entire community of faith. This 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.

This journey is an exciting and challenging time for the candidates and for all of us who share the journey with them. Please 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

Trish Breslin
Brighton

Steve & Leanne Chaplin
Jacob, Natalie, Amanda
Milford

Marc & Leigh Crumm
Michaela, Max
Fenton

Arthur & Evelyn Dowel
Brighton

Steve & Jeannette Falk
Valerie, Allison, Paige
Brighton

Al & Teri Firek
John
Howell

Douglas & Judith Fekete
Brighton

Therese Hocking
Howell

Ron Garrison
Brighton

Joe & Cyndi Kenrick
Emily, Rachel, Ian,
Hannah
Howell

Kevin Miceli
Howell

Mike & Michelle Nied
Maggie, Mary, Olivia
Hartland

Jacob & Laura Ortiz
Helena, Henry, Louis
Brighton

Tim & Jacqueline
Smojver Henrik
Brighton

John Stead & Donna Blair
Brighton

Steve & Lynn Sypniewski
Meaghan, John
Howell

Julie Touchette
Keego Harbor

Georgia Valentine
Liz
Brighton

WELCOME!

SAINT MARY MAGDALEN PARISH

2201 South Old US 23 Highway
Brighton, Michigan 48114-7609
(810) 229 - 8624
www.saintmarymagdalen.org

MARKING THE CALENDAR

January 9 (Sunday) FEAST of the BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

The Holy Eucharist is clear and convincing witness to Jesus' promise:

"I am with you always until the end of time!"

After the 11 am Liturgy, the Eucharist will be brought to Holy Cross Chapel and remain there until 4 pm, when we will return the Eucharist to the church for Evening Prayer.

Throughout the afternoon, everyone, especially our Ministers of Prayer and our Eucharistic Ministers, are encouraged to come and spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

January 10 & 1 (Mon/Tues) SCHOOL FOR DISCIPLESHIP (WINTER SESSION BEGINS)

The Scripture tract is **The Gospel**, on Mondays from January 10, with Fr. Dave. The other class on Tuesdays will be part of the theology tract: **Christian Morality** with Mr. John Schultz on Tuesdays from January 11. Both classes will be from 7-9 pm.

January 15 (Saturday) SPAGHETTI DINNER

Let the men cook tonight! Our Knights of Columbus will prepare a wonderful Spaghetti Dinner - at a very reasonable price. Come share a meal with the family! Dinner will be served from 5 to 6:30 pm.

January 22 (Saturday) MURDER AT MAGDALEN

Need a break from winter doldrums? The Community Life Committee invites you to our annual Murder Mystery. Come solve the crime!! On Saturday, January 22 starting at 6:30 in the Community Room.

January 23 (Sunday) PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Knight will be fixing breakfast: pancakes, sausage, bacon and eggs – all for a low, family friendly price. From 9:30 until 1 pm – come share breakfast with your family and fellow parishioners!

THE PASTORAL STAFF

PASTOR

Fr. David F. Howell

pastor1@saintmarymagdalen.org

PASTORAL MINISTER

Sr. Maryetta Churches, O.P.

pastmin2@saintmarymagdalen.org

EDUCATION & FORMATION- YOUTH

Mary Mahar, Director

mmahar@parishmail.com

Nicole Hurlbert, Adm. Assistant

Karen MacDonald, Secretary

sect2@saintmarymagdalen.org

FORMATION & EVANGELIZA- TION- ADULTS

Sr. Joyce Hoile, O.S.F.

pastmin1@saintmarymagdalen.org

RITE OF CHRISTIAN

INITIATION & LITURGICAL

COORDINATOR

Diane Kubus

rcia@saintmarymagdalen.org

liturgist@saintmarymagdalen.org

DEACONS

H. David Scharf

deacon1@saintmarymagdalen.org

James Chevalier

deacon2@saintmarymagdalen.org

Gary Prise

deacon3@saintmarymagdalen.org

PASTORAL MUSICIAN

Steven H. Schulte

steve@colleengleason.com

MAINTENANCE

Leo Camden

maint1@saintmarymagdalen.org

Jack Hardy, Jeanette Moran

BOOKKEEPER

Dave Wisniewski

bookkeeper@saintmarymagdalen.org

MAGDALEN'S PRESCHOOL

Kathie Anderer, Director

preschool1@saintmarymagdalen.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

Tom & Margaret Callaghan

youth1@saintmarymagdalen.org

Stasia Eisenhut, Assistant

SECRETARIES

Josie Doucette

sect1@saintmarymagdalen.org

Debbie Dehanke

sect3@saintmarymagdalen.org

Sandi Phillips

sect4@saintmarymagdalen.org