



The Visionary

A Newsletter of St. Mary Magdalen Parish

May 2011 Volume XVIII Issue 5

ONE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST *from Mary Mahar*

As we come to know the Risen Christ more fully, we gather around the Table of the Lord to receive the Body of Christ, the Bread of life. Eucharist is the very heart of our faith as Catholics. We give thanks for all who are joining us at the table for the first time as our youth celebrate their First Eucharist!

We also want to thank our Parents and Catechists/Aides. Your teaching, witness, and faith-sharing have helped them to prepare for this special time in their lives as they begin fully participating in our Eucharistic celebrations! Please welcome these youth who join us more fully in the celebration of the Risen Christ:

Anthony Albanelli	Kimberly Darish	Emily Holthus	Nicholas Morley	Julie Ross
Evan Ansbro	Abby Davis	Andrew Hurlbert	Connor Murphy	David Sapp
Andrew Barabas	Nicole Deychakiwsky	Dominic Joseph	Shannon Myers	Avery Schaeffer
Hannah Battersby	Ryan Doyle	Connor Joyce	Nicholas Nagle	Ryan Shafi
Sydney Bayoneto	Mitchell Fedewa	Jacob Kazyak	Sophia Oakes	Jill Snyder
Rebecca Black	MariaBeth Finn	Joshua Kazyak	Erica Operti	Gabriel Tappen
Allison Blanck	Collin Foley	Daniel Kehn	Alexander Perez	Katherine Tarnacki
Aidan Bonney	Gabriella Geise	Charles Kingsley	Maya Petrous	Leah Tarnacki
Elizabeth Bosio	Jacob Gilbert	Megan Korch	Casey Pezzoni	Jacob Turner
Gage Brown	Hannah Grimes	Emma Lord	Andrew Pfaff	Shelby Urquhart
Noah Budd	Jason Habarth	Raquel Matras	Joseph Pierzynski	Jenna Vaske
Kyle Camilleri	Benjamin Hauck	Casey McCarthy	Adam Pompilius	Lillie Waldron
Nathan Canning	Charles Held	Devon Miller	Alexandria Preiss	Ethan Walters
Abbigail Chaka	Cade Helms	Reed Miller	Mackenzie Pulka	Ella Willard
Isabelle Clark	Abigail Hesano	Erin Moltane	Brooklyn Purdom	Benjamin Zawisa
Lauren Cooper	Elizabeth Hesano	Grace Monte	Alexander Rice	Deidre Zvosec

WHY I BECAME A CATECHIST *by Jill Gautheraut, Lead Catechist, First Grade*

When my husband and I came here 5 years ago, I wanted to become active in the parish and meet people. I was quickly made aware of our religious education program. I thought at first I didn't know how to teach. I was given all the tools through the guidance of my lead catechist. I learned a lot about our faith and how to present it to the third-grade class. I brought my husband on as my aide, and we started to teach together.

After a few years, I became lead catechist for first grade and he stayed with the third grade! I have discovered my love of teaching and guiding new catechists to grow in their faith, as they learn about our Lord.

We are looking for Catechists to help out for next year. If you think you would like to share your faith like I did, contact me at jillybean0329@hotmail.com or Mary at mmahar@parishmail.com. Thank you.

IN THIS ISSUE

- ✘ Page 2 The Councils
- ✘ Page 3 Of Faith & Service
- ✘ Page 4 Preschool & Youth
- ✘ Page 5 Charity & Justice
- ✘ Page 6 New Members
- ✘ Page 7 Activities Calendar

FIFTY DAYS *from Diane Kubus*



At the Easter Vigil, we joyfully welcomed through the waters of Baptism:

Jessica Sawyer

Miranda Sawyer

Derek Sawyer

Brett McKenzie

Sebastian Cowgill

Then together with our candidates,

Tracy Helms

Nancy Barnes

Erica Barnes

Rodney Simon

Nate Geinzer

Drew Sutter

Steve Jones

Todd Bonney

Stephen Kingsley

Anna DeMonaco

Geraldine Short

we celebrated our new life, as they received the gift of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation. Finally, along with our youngest candidates, **Christopher Piraino, Veronica Piraino, Connor Gordon** and **Cameron Gordon**, all shared with us in the Eucharist at the Lord's table. We have entered with them now into the fifty days after Easter known as the time of "Mystagogia", meaning, "the mysteries revealed".

The fifty days from Easter to Pentecost (the Easter season) is one great Sunday celebration. But how can such joy be continued for a full eight weeks? Following the self-emptying of the Lenten season, our preparation and penance, we are filled with abundant joy at the Easter Vigil. Everything has built up to this great Feast! Everything we have been preparing for! We've reached the goal. But when we finally arrive we find that we have actually reached a beginning! We begin to live this new life in Christ, and we rediscover the wellspring of joy, the irrevocable love of God. We have risen to new life, and not only do we want to continue to celebrate, we want to explore its meaning. We will meet weekly in our mystagogia sessions to rediscover and look closely at the gift we have received and what it will mean for us in our lives. This is not, however, unique to those who were received into the Church at Easter. **This is for all of us.** This is what we do year after year as Catholics. Together we grow in deepening our grasp of the mystery we celebrate and in making it part of our lives. That, alone, is worthy of an entire season of celebration and reflection!

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

Baptismal Classes The Baptisms of infants and small children are celebrated twice a month. Children are presented to the congregation on the third weekend of the month. During this Rite of Presentation, the children are named, signed with the cross and anointed with the Oil of Catechumen. In this brief ceremony, the Church claims these children as her own.

The Baptisms are celebrated Sunday afternoon, usually on the first Sunday of the month, with one of the deacons as presider. Baptisms during the weekend Liturgy generally take place on the last weekend of the month. These are video taped and Father Dave is the minister. Parents who wish to have their child baptized, need to participate in a Baptism Instruction Class prior to the Baptism and the Presentation. The next class is **Tues, May 17, at 7:30 pm.**

50+ LUNCH BUNCH INVITATION

Thursday, May 14, at noon in the Community Room, the Seniors from Woodland Care Center will join us for a lunch and cake to celebrate individuals having birthdays in May. St. Mary Magdalen parishioners having birthdays in May are warmly invited to join in the fun. We will continue with our Birthday Bag Outreach, so if you wish to bring an item for the birthday bags that will be distributed from Gleaners Food Bank, please do, but this is not required. Suggested items for children ages 13 and younger are: cake mix, frosting, candles, birthday plates, birthday napkins, toy/gift, birthday card, and party favors. We will assemble the bags after lunch. Please call Sr. Joyce if you wish to come, so we can prepare enough food for lunch.



Ministry of Mothers Sharing

Join mothers of all ages for fellowship, friendship, and fun! Our MOMS group meets at the church on Wednesday mornings from 9:45-12 noon. Childcare is available for a small fee. We schedule speakers to visit and speak on important topics for moms and families; we have activities; and we offer a chance to share among others who understand the joys and struggles of motherhood. There is a snack every week and new friends await you! Contact Jill Angell at 810-231-1725 or email her at JMAngell02@hotmail.com for more information. See also the pink brochure in the display near the gathering space in the East Wing for our schedule of events.

MAGDALEN'S LITTLE PEOPLE *from Kathie Anderer*



It is hard to believe that our last month of school has arrived. We have plans to pack the month full of good times and wonderful moments of making memories.

In May, we will have our Mother's Day Tea. It is always so nice to have our moms come in and spend that special time with us. We are busy working on some special surprises. We are also having a special day for our dads, a little early for Father's Day, but special done the less! We invite our dads to come in early for "Doughnuts with Daddy" before heading off to work.

Springs feels GREAT!! It was such a long, long winter, and it feels so good to be in our short sleeves again!

We are busy working on next year's class lists. We still have openings available for next year (especially for 3 year-olds). If you, or someone you know, needs a preschool next fall, please stop by for a visit and fill out an application. We would LOVE to have you join us next year!

Last month, the preschool staff went to the Early Childhood Teaching Conference in Grand Rapids. It was a good conference, and we always return with new ideas to try. We are thankful for the opportunity to attend.

It has been a wonderful year. We love the new classrooms and gym. It is always hard to say goodbye to all of our little friends who will be going on to Kindergarten. We hope that we have sent them off with a strong foundation for their upcoming school years. We thank all of our students and families for the fun times and wonderful memories! Have a wonderful summer!

YOUTH GROUP NEWS *from Margaret Callaghan*

During the month of May, graduating high school seniors are invited to sign up for the graduation **Liturgy and Senior Breakfast** that will honor them and their achievement. The Liturgy will be 9am on June 5 with the breakfast afterward. Sign up is necessary so that we can provide breakfast for the senior and their immediate family. The sign up sheet is on the youth ministry table in the Gathering Area.

It has been our custom that the junior class students host the Senior Breakfast. Please sign up to donate food and to help set up, serve or clean up at the youth ministry table in the Gathering Area. For your convenience there is a reminder sheet for you to take home.

The teens participating in the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in November, will be having a **Car Wash** in the parking lot during the Sunday morning Liturgies on Sunday, May 15. Leave your car with us dirty and mud-covered, to come out from Mass and see it cleaned! We will be taking donations if you wish to support the teens and this great opportunity to travel and be a part of the conference in November.

This month, we are starting up the **Dave Ramsey's Generation Change Program**; classes designed for teens on managing money and knowing what to look for with credit card offers. The first class is Tuesday, May 3, at 6pm. The cost is \$25. *For the first 25 students who sign up*, however, the cost is only \$10. A parishioner, who strongly wants to see teens financially succeed, is picking up the first \$15. There are still spaces open. Contact me at youth1@saintmarymagdalen.org. We will offer this class again, but not necessarily with this special discount.

We celebrate the wonderful and beautiful gift of our Moms on May 8. May your Mothers day be filled with all things good; may you be able to spend the day with your family and loved ones. For those who are missing their mom, may your heart and mind be filled with loving memories and the opportunity to share stories and laughter.

OPEN GYM for the high school students will continue to be on Wednesday evenings all through the summer from 7 - 9pm. All high school students are welcome.



THE EDGE (for grades 6-8)

The leaders just cannot believe how fast this year has gone by and what a year it has been! We made new friends and strengthened the old friendships!

It was a Fun Year!

We are looking forward to the new 6th-graders next year and will see the 8th-graders next year in the high school youth group!

CHARITY & JUSTICE *from Lisa Klein*

THANK YOU to all who participated in our Easter Tree of Life! All of the tags were filled with items and gift cards to the following senior centers: Howell Care Center, Howell Senior Center, Medilodge, Catholic Charities, Hartland Senior Center, and Brighton Senior Center.

PAX CHRISTI 30th Annual State Conference, "Behold, I Make All Things New" was held at St. Mary Magdalen on March 26. Thanks to all who made this statewide conference possible and very successful.

THE CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE

of Brighton will take place from **Sat., June 4, at 9 am through Sun., June 5, at 9 am** at Parker High School in Howell. *Sign up to walk with or to donate* to our team, "Helping Hands for a Cure", at the Charity and Justice table during the month of May or online at www.relayforlife.org. Click on "Find An Event" "Brighton, MI" then Join or Donate to Helping Hands for a Cure. *Luminaria Bags* will be sold for \$10 each at the

Charity & Justice table through the month of May. The bags can be decorated in memory of someone lost to cancer or to honor survivors and will illuminate the track during the Ceremony of Hope at dusk. *Survivors* are the guests of honor and are invited to participate in the Survivor Lap to start the relay.



SERVANT TO MANY

from Gary Prise

By the time you read this, we will have survived another Lent and Holy Week. As Father Dave was leading the R.C.I.A. catechumens and candidates through the Scrutiny Gospel experiences (the woman at the well, the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus), they were invited to look inward and explore their needs and wants. They were also challenged to explore the ways the world offers attempts at satisfying these longings.

There are many different opportunities offered by the parish to come together and either learn more about our Catholic faith or simply talk about our lives and faith. Twice a month, several men meet together to explore the Sunday Scripture readings and how they intersect with life with its ups and downs. The gatherings are very informal; we eat breakfast, listen to background information on the readings, hear the readings, discuss how they impact us as men and close with personal prayer. We meet the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, at 7:30 am, in the lower level of the Rectory and wrap things up by 9 am. Bring a friend, a neighbor, or a relative, if you feel a little unsure. If you would like more information or you have questions, Father Dave and/or the deacons are available to provide details.

MOTHERS' DAY CARNATION SALE

There will be carnations for sale in the gathering area the weekend of **May 7/8** in support of Right to Life of Livingston County.

SPRING CLOTHING DRIVE

Time for Spring Cleaning! Our clothing drive is scheduled for the weekend of **May 21/22**. There will be a pod in the church parking lot to place your donated items for St. Vincent dePaul.

PREGNANCY HELP CLINIC

is coming June 4-26. You are invited to take a tag and provide needed baby items to support Pregnancy Help Clinic.

COUNCIL COMMENDATIONS

The Council would like to commend John Lawler and Dianne Sweeter for their leadership in opening the doors of St. Mary Magdalen to the homeless. We also want to commend the many, many people who worked with Diane and John! You all did an awesome job to make the week so wonderful for all of our guests. Many people provided wonderful and tasty meals, comfortable rides to work, times of conversation and a safe and secure place for all our guests. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

THE DEACONS BENCH

from Dave Scharf

Social Justice is like walking; it take two legs and feet. Otherwise, we lose balance. It's not either - or, but both -and. If we use only one 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; extent 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.

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, come to our Charity & Justice meeting on Tues, May 10 at 7:30. We DO have openings.

New Members

IN APRIL

Doug & Karen Radtke
Brighton

Jim & Terry Kane
Brighton

Thomas & Karyl Smith
Christian & Grace
Brighton

WELCOME !

THE OTHER BENCH

from Jim Chevalier

In March of 1969, Astronaut Russell Schweickart shared his experience of looking down at earth while circling it once every hour-and-a-half. He woke up and looked down to see the Middle East and North Africa; the cradle of civilization. The spacecraft then moved over the Indian Ocean, and then out over the Philippines and out across that monstrous Pacific Ocean. From there, he saw the coast of California, across the Southern U.S., over the Atlantic Ocean, and back over North Africa.

When you go around the Earth in an hour-and-a-half, you begin to realize your connectedness with mother earth! You begin to wonder why you are so important to your creator God. You wish you could take people from both sides of the various conflicts in the world and say, "Look. Look at it from this perspective. What's so important?" When you look out past the earth to the infinite universe, you realize the earth is so small and so fragile and such a precious little spot in the universe that you can block it out with your thumb. So why am I so special to be touched by God, to have some special experience that others cannot have? And then it hit's you: you are experiencing this for everyone.

You look down and see the surface of the earth, you've lived on all this time, and you know all those people down there and they are like you, they are you, and somehow you represent them, and that's a humbling feeling. It's a feeling that says you have a responsibility. And, somehow, you recognize that you're a piece of this total life. And you're out there on that forefront and you have to bring that back somehow. And that becomes a rather special responsibility; it tells you something about your relationship with this thing we call life. And that's a change. That's something new.

When you come back, there's a difference in the world now. There's a difference in that relationship between you and that planet and you and all those other forms of life on that planet. God made you and all other human beings in His image and likeness. Our responsibility is to live together in peace and harmony, as a member of the "human race."

THANKS AND PRAISE *from Sister Maryetta Churches, OP*

We give thanks and praise for all those who made Holy Week such a moving and prayerful experience. It took over 250 people who served as musicians and singers, altar servers, readers, hospitality ministers, Eucharistic ministers, the art & environment team, technicians and folks who set up and hosted the Easter Vigil reception. A special thank you to Marcus Haight and his Schoolcraft College students for creating and donating the stupendous desserts and chocolate centerpieces we enjoyed at the reception. Your talent is incredible and much appreciated!

We also want to especially thank our high school youth who reenacted the Passion of our Lord on Good Friday: Joel Sieman (Jesus), Emma Schulte (Caiaphas), Cameron Martin, Emma Pressel (Pilate), Carolyn Kehn, Conner Mohrenweiser, Leanne Horning, Christie Eisenhut and Chelsea Bielicki. Ben Kehn was the director (a high school senior) and Jen Ross was their adult advisor. Bill Ross built the stand for the cross.

Thanks and praise to all who participated in the Walk to Jerusalem. We are grateful for all who walked and participated and all who came weekly and had their passports stamped. Thanks for making the journey with us to meet the Lord in a prayerful way.



ACTIVITIES CALENDAR (Gym & Soccer Fields) MAY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7-9pm Youth Group	9:30-11am Muscle Strength & Stretching 11am-12pm Pre-School Until 5/23 5-6pm Soccer 5-8:30 Begin. 5/16 (Soccer Field) 6-8pm La-Crosse- Until 5/9 (Soccer Field) 7-8:30-8pm Middle School 8:30-10pm Men's Basketball	9:30-10:30am Open Walk 10:30-11:30am Pre-School Until 5/23 5-8:30pm Soccer (Soccer Field) 6-9pm Scouts	9:30-11am Open Walk 11am-12pm Pre-School Until 5/23 5-6pm Soccer 5-8:30 Begin. 5/16 (Soccer Field) 6-8pm La-Crosse- Until 5/9 (Soccer Field) 7-9pm High School	9:30-11am Muscle Strengthening & Stretching 11am-12pm Pre-School Until 5/23 5-8:30pm Soccer (Soccer Field) 8:30-10pm Men's Basketball	9:30-11am Open Walk 11am-12pm Pre-School Until 5/23	8-9am Coed Boot Camp Gym Until May 7, and then by Barn after that 9:15-10:15am Women's Boot Camp Gym Until May 7, and then by Barn after that May 7 only 9am-1pm LaCrosse (Soccer Field)

MARKING THE CALENDAR

May 4 (Wednesday) RELIGIOUS ED CATECHIST APPRECIATION DINNER

May 5 (Thursday) ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN All Adults and Youth who have missed receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation are welcome to attend these six classes to prepare to receive the sacrament in their own Parish on Pentecost Sunday, June 12.

May 8 (Sunday) MOTHERS DAY Our Knights of Columbus will be cooking up Breakfast! Pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon and more will be served in the Community Room from 9:30am to 1pm!

May 20 (Friday) TAIZE EVENING PRAYER

This is a contemplative and ecumenical form of Evening Prayer in church at 8 pm!

May 21/22 (Saturday & Sunday) ST.VINCENT DE PAUL CLOTHING DRIVE bring your donations of clean, usable clothing in plastic bags anytime during the weekend. Place them in the PODS in the parking lot by the playground.

May 30 (Monday) MEMORIAL DAY This national holiday commemorates all those who have died in defense of our national freedom. Our Liturgical commemoration will take place at 9 am in the Day Chapel.

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