



The Visionary

September

Volume XVIII Issue 9

A Newsletter of St. Mary Magdalen Parish

COME TO THE PICNIC !!

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 11**. That is the date for our annual picnic. The day will begin with 11am Liturgy, followed by the picnic, games for all ages, wagon rides and ice cream. Don't miss out on this great event. 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, fun, prizes, and the youth tin can raffle will also be a part of the fun!

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 all our parishioners who teach or work in an educational setting during our **GREEN MASS on Sunday, Sept. 18 at 9 am!**

THE SABBATICAL JOURNEY *from Fr. Dave*

GETTING STARTED It is hard to believe that a month has passed since I left the parish. Over the past two weeks I have finished the work on the cottage; anything needing paint has been painted, brush has been cut, gravel covers the drive and all the wood has been sealed.

At the same time I have begun doing some reading related to my project. One book is written by a skeptic, not a believer; it is entitled "The Believing Brain". The author Michael Shermer examines the biology and psychology of why people believe. He continues by examining the belief in God, in the supernatural, the paranormal, conspiracy theories and more. In his opinion, first, most people believe and then develop reasons for their belief. It is interesting, but will probably not be a significant help to my project.

The other book I am reading is "Wake Up, Lazarus!" written by Pierre Hegy. It was given to me by a friend who knew about my project and thought it might be helpful. The author looks at the decline of the Catholic Church and mainline Christian Churches and the increase of among the Evangelical Protestant Churches. His main concern is the Catholic community, but he draws from the experience of the other believing communities to both explain and contrast what is happening among Catholics. In the end he offers his prescriptions for what can be done in Catholic communities to make them dynamic to the members. Beside the reading and work, I have taken the opportunity to walk through the countryside.

The other part of my project is to begin interviewing people. My first interviews have been with lay people – friends – that I have known for years. While I have known their story and shared much with them over the years, talking about how their spiritual life evolved and where it is now has never been a part of our conversation. So I find the time I spend with them very enlightening. I am also taking advantage of this time off to reconnect with some priest friends that I have made over the years. In most cases they have been very interested in my project and have been very generous in sharing their ideas on what I might find out and on how I might use what I learn from the interviews. This coming week I begin to hit the road. My niece will take care of the dogs while I begin doing some traveling. First I am going to visit another priest who I met on my last sabbatical 19 years ago in Rome. We have kept contact over the years, but it has been difficult to get together. So now he is retired and I am on sabbatical with time to travel. Then I will be off to the north of Michigan where I am going to visit with friends – and interview them. The second week of September, I will be in upstate New York on retreat at Our Lady of the Genesee Trappist Abbey.

from the PASTORAL COUNCIL

Our Pastoral Council met on Wednesday, August 17. The council again welcomed new members and reviewed May Directions 2011. Council continued with planning for Directions 2012 scheduled for September 14. The purpose of Directions 2012 is for each ministry team to put together their goals/strategies based on the new pastoral goals which are:

- Being a community of simplicity, peace, joy and inspiration, we will continue to enrich the spiritual life of the individual members within our community.
- Building on those spiritual lives, we will continually cultivate a welcoming and inclusive community.
- Embracing the Great Commandment of Christ to “Love one another as I have loved you,” we will expand those practices to address the needs of the greater community.

The Members of the Pastoral Council

Dwayne Bilicki	Madelyn Gostomski	Ted Eisenhut	Laura Meader	Dave Naumowicz	Patti Conahan
Denise Putnam	Karen Tuthill	Cindy Finelli	Dan Schifko	Susan Vitale	Colleen Schulte (Chair)
Debbie Dehanke, Secretary	Sr. Maryetta Churches, OP	Fr. David F. Howell			

from the FINANCE COUNCIL

July 2010 - June 2011

Projected Budget for 2011-2012

<u>REVENUE SOURCES</u>	<u>Fiscal Month</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Projected Budget</u>
Sunday Stewardship	95,833	1,150,000	1,150,000
Building Fund Pledges	28,433	341,190	341,190
Religious Formation/Donations	7,667	92,000	92,000
TOTAL	131,933	1,583,190	1,583,190
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>Fiscal Month</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Projected Budget</u>
Programs & Staffing	73,995	887,940	887,940
Building Operations	16,104	193,250	193,250
Building Mortgage	41,833	502,000	502,000
TOTAL	131,933	1,583,190	1,583,190
BALANCE (plus/minus)	-	-	

The Members of the Finance Council

Elaine Tripi	Mark Zawisa	Sean Carney	Mary Brummer	Pat Shiek	Madelyn Gostomski
Chris Topley	David Grinnell	Larry Memmer	Dick & Mary Walker	Marion Kocian	Greg Milosek (Chair)
Bookkeeper, Dave Wisniewski		Fr. David F. Howell			

from the TIME & TALENT COUNCIL

The Time and Talent Council did not meet in August.

The Members of the Time & Talent Council

Carlene Demers	Don Terns	Marion Kocian	Elaine Tripi	Sharon Wagner (Chair)	Mary Helen Buntin	Audrey Schilkey
Mark Wright	Sean Carney	Ted Zvosec	James Chevalier	Sherrie Kunkel	Dan VanTiem	Chris Topley
				Sr Maryetta Churches	Father David Howell	

RELIGIOUS FORMATION *from Mary Mahar*

Welcome back to Religious Formation!

We are starting out the year with an **OPEN HOUSE, Sunday, September 25**, from 10:15-12:30. This will give you the opportunity to see which room your youth are in and meet your catechists and aides. We are busy getting organized and ready for classes. We are still in need of some help in classes so call me to help! Parents who like to 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!

We have new changes to announce! We have Karen MacDonald as our Formation Assistant/Secretary. We are happy to welcome Stephanie Darish as Lead for grade 2, Laurie Murphy as Lead for grade 4, and Cathy Zremski as Lead for grade 7! Returning as Lead catechists are: Jill Gautherat - grade 1, Kevin Blanck - grade 6, Jen Ross - grade 5, Beth Slack - grades 8, 10 *and* Home Study, Devon Wolfe – grade 9, and Diane Neitzke Coordinator of Family Program and grade 3. 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 18, 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 September 18! Confirmation is set for Saturday, November 19, at 4:30 with rehearsal Friday, November 18, at 6pm.

Family Program will start Sunday, October 2, at 10:30.

Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 5/6 our traditional classes begin! (Summer seems to fly by!) Parents of all grades are invited to attend our opening prayer/instruction on the new Roman Missal during your child's class time.

Sunday Classes will begin, October 2! Kindergarten will begin at 9 & 11, and Grade 9 begins at 5:30pm. 9th grade parents please note there is a parent meeting on Sunday, October 9, at 5:30 with your 9th grade youth.

Register for fall classes in the office from 9am -8:30pm Mon-Thurs and 9am – 4:30pm on Friday. Our traditional classes meet Wednesday, 4:30-6 or 6:30-8; Thursday, 5:30-7; high school (9th & 10th grade) meet Sunday evening, 5:30-7; (they are invited to stay for Youth Group from 7-9). Kindergarten has openings Sunday during the 9 and 11am Liturgies. Our Family Program meets two Sundays per month after the 9am Liturgy, and is designed for formation for the whole family at the same time!

We 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! See the poster in the gathering area or call the office at 229-8624. Questions? E-mail me: mmahar@parishmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:



- September 7: Catechist/aide training ALL NEW & RETURNING CATECHISTS 6:30-8:00
- September 15: Catechist/aide training 6:30-8:00: Managing Student Behavior
- September 13: Virtus 6:00 (class for anyone working with children)
- September 18: 9am "Green Mass" for ALL those parishioners in teaching/education
Home Study parent meeting 10:15
10th grade at 5:30 pm
- September 19: Formation Team meeting 7pm
- September 21: Catechist/aide training 6:30-8: Lesson Planning/Using Your Manual
- September 28: Catechist/aide training 6:30-8, Commissioning of Catechists at 7pm Liturgy

Welcome New Members

AUGUST 2011

Kristine & Tom Donnelly
Connor, Mackenzie & Christopher
Howell

Matt & Andrea Farrugia
Emma
Brighton

Matt & Allison Sidorski
Olivia
Brighton

Jay & Annette VanderHorst
Jason & Jack
Milford

Catherine & Don Brugnone
Brighton

YOUTH NEWS *from Margaret Callaghan*

It's hard to believe that just a few months ago I was writing about what the summer months might bring. Now I am writing about football, cooler evenings, school and homework. I am talking about the parish picnic, haunted barn and Jamboree in November. Time goes by fast and if you don't take the time to reflect on what was, you might be wishing and planning time away looking forward to what will be. Stop this fall season and take in the smells and sights of all that fall offers and share your favorite summer 2011 moments.

We have so much coming up this fall to look forward and to plan for. So given what my first paragraph said, it is nice to just be together weekly to get to know one another, grow in relationship with God and with each other; to excitedly look forward to Halloween and the haunted barn, Jamboree and many of us participating in the National Catholic Youth Conference. Our weekly meetings begin again on Sunday Sept. 18th.

Speaking of looking ahead, we are going to plan a youth group, parish-wide National Relief Network (NRN) trip. The NRN is an organization based out of the Grand Rapids area that provides free of charge disaster relief for the victims of a natural disaster. The youth group here has been to the community of New Orleans, Punta Gordo, FL; Nashville, TN, and Iowa. We have traveled to southern Indiana, KY and back to TN another time. The trips are rewarding beyond words. The participants are moved to be the hands and feet of God. The teens do things they never thought they could. I am looking to put together a parish-wide trip scheduled for the summer of 2012. I will have an information meeting in early Oct. Please watch the bulletin for the exact date.

Stop by on Sept. 18th from 8-2 and let us do your dirty work in getting your car to shine! We are washing cars to help pay for our trip to Indianapolis to participate in the National Catholic Youth conference (NCYC). These two mentioned trips are expensive trips. To make these trips affordable, it is necessary to do fundraisers. We have sold Dearborn Hams this past spring; we worked at the Michigan International Speedway and collected returnables. We also held a car wash last June and are doing so again in just a few weeks on Sept. 18th from 8-2pm. The teens work hard to pay for these trips. They are appreciative of any monetary support given to them for these activities through the fundraisers they do. Thank you!

EDGE for 6 - 8 graders



Monday, September 26 stop by the youth room and gym for an EDGE open house. Come between 7 and 8:30pm to register, purchase an EDGE sweatshirt, meet the adult and teen leaders, shoot a few baskets with friends, pick up a schedule and sign up for snack. So much to catch up on! Check out the parish website at www.saintmarymagdalen.org, the youth tab and then you will find EDGE. There is a flyer to print off regarding this so you won't forget to join us!

MAGDALEN'S LITTLE PEOPLE *from Kathie Anderer*

"Train up a child in the way he should go; And when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Back to school time has arrived! We are busy making plans for the coming school year and we are looking forward to making great memories.

Our get acquainted Sunday is planned for September 18 and we will be back to full swing that week.

This summer we had some work done on the playground to make sure it is a safe place for some fun times. We thank the people who helped to make this possible.

We hope that everyone had a great summer. It is good to be back and see the kids again. We do have a few openings available for three year olds if anyone knows of someone looking for a preschool. Please call the preschool line for more information... (810) 229-0010. Leave a message with your phone number and we will get back to you as soon as possible. We would love to have you join us!

Our Staff for the 2011/12 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"



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

SCHOOL FOR DISCIPLESHIP School for Discipleship will begin with classes Monday September 26 and Tuesday September 27. The six-week series is offered at no cost to St. Mary Magdalen parishioners.

World Religions, again being offered by Derek Day, is a course he has written and uses for his High School classes. It has been well received and has continued requests. These classes will be offered on six Mondays beginning September 26, 7-9 pm. In the North Room.

History of Prophecy in Israel will be taught by Dave Scharf on Tuesdays. These will be 6 evenings, 7-9 pm in the East Room.

Other Scripture Courses offered this year in the School for Discipleship will be Apocalyptic Literature by Sr. Maryetta and Old Testament Wisdom Literature by John Schultz.

IMMORAL BIBLE USE?

Fr. David Neuhaus, S.J. used this term several times in a three day presentation he gave to Parish Faith Formation leaders in June. He says that if we use a scripture passage to prove one point in our white American culture then we are misusing the Bible. Sacred Scripture has inexhaustible, multilayer messages and meaning for people of all times and cultures. Private personal study and interpretation by itself, has no place in Scripture interpretation. We as Catholics often say we don't know the Bible very well. At St. Mary Magdalen, we offer various opportunities for Scripture study.

IN THE WEEKLY BULLETIN are the readings for the following Sunday with a reflection question.

LECTIO DIVINA will be offered three times a month from September 2011 through May 2012. The prayer sessions will be Tuesday evenings, 7pm in the parish library. The duration will vary, between 30-45 minutes. The sessions are open and you do not have to commit for every week. If you have any questions please contact: Linda Chevalier, 229.9734 or chevalierlinda@att.net. In the Gathering area there is a sheet for you to "sign-up".

SYNOPTIC GOSPELS STUDY

This is a 22-week study with a workbook. The many weeks spent in the study is well worth the knowledge gained. Meetings are Thursdays beginning September 10 with two daily sessions at 10 – 11:30 am and 7 – 8:30 pm. The sessions will cover the same topics for morning and evening so that if one is unable to attend their regular session, they can attend the alternate on the same day. Meetings will be in the North Room. Books are \$15 from Sister Joyce

ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sunday, September 11 beginning with 11 am Outdoor Mass.

The "rain date" will be the same day - only indoors. This picnic is a great social event for parishioners to spend time with friends and to meet those they see in Church but haven't yet met. Games and entertainment is being planned. The Knights of Columbus will have a Soccer Challenge. The Youth Group will have their famous "Tin Can Raffle". Your assistance with donations and personal labor is needed to make this parish event enjoyable. Look for further information in the Bulletin and at the sign-up station in the Gathering Area under Community Life.

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

Thanks and praise is given to Lisa Klein and Shannon Pereira for leading Journey with Jesus. These wonderful women organized, worked and made the week with the children something they will always remember. Thanks for your leadership and thanks for YOU! The leaders could not do it without awesome folks to assist. These great helpers are Diane Neitzke, Shannon McCarthy, Matt Williamson, Mike Luck and Jill Gautherat. Thanks also goes out to Kris and Brian Weber for painting the picnic tables under the pavilion for the parish picnic. Great Job!

Thanks also goes to the Journey with Jesus children for collecting 200 pounds of school supplies for Saint Mary's Parish in Joplin, MO devastated by the tornadoes. Good Job and thanks for all your caring!



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

Faith Inquiry is the first phase of the process of becoming Catholic. Our group will begin meeting on Monday, Sept. 12, at 7pm. Anyone who is interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith or thinking about becoming Catholic is welcome. Our sessions are every Monday evening at 7 pm. We also provide a children’s session (for children 7 years of age and older) on Monday evenings. Call me if you are interested (810)229-8624 ext. 128 or just come on Monday evening. Adults meet in the East Room and the children in the Library.

What exactly happens at Faith Inquiry? Our inquirers come with their questions and concerns; find answers and share stories about God, about Christ, about what we believe, about the Catholic faith and most importantly about our lives. Faith Inquiry helps us to recognize God’s activity in our lives. We look at the many aspects of being Catholic and what it means for us. Inquirers are embarking on a journey that we are all on: the journey of a lifetime, always changing, often surprising, the journey of faith!

Have you considered becoming Catholic? Perhaps you were never baptized. Or maybe you have been attending Mass and have not been able to receive the Eucharist with your family because you are not Catholic? Have you been baptized in another Christian faith but feel a sense of belonging in the Catholic Church? [Come to Inquiry and find out more about what it means to be Catholic](#) or call me in the parish office for more information. (810) 229-8624 ext. 128.

COUNCIL COMMENDATIONS

The Council would like to commend Hugh Conahan for all his ministry with Pax Christi. His endeavors to assist and help with this group have been outstanding and worth praise. Thanks for all you do, Hugh!

Karen Luck, Ken Kuna, Sandy Oliver, Mark Wright and Ayla Grace have received the Council Commendation for serving on the Pastoral Council. These wonderful people have met every month for three years to assist Fr. Dave in making our parish such a wonderful parish. Thanks for all your time and your talent!

DIVORCE AND BEYOND—RECOVERY AND HEALING

Have you experienced a divorce? Or, 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? This may be the information and support that you or that special person that you know is looking for. Co-hosted by the parishes of the Livingston Region and Livingston County Catholic Charities, this education and support group is available for you. Topics will include: The Process of Divorce, Self-Image, Stress, Anger, Blame and Guilt, Loneliness, Forgiveness, Happiness, and Pathways to Growth.

Divorce and 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. Finally, it suggests activities for making divorce a growth experience. Join us here Friday evenings, 7:00 – 8:30pm from Sept. 16-Nov. 18.

Facilitators are Deacon Jim Chevalier, Sr. Maryetta & Mark Robinson from Livingston County Catholic Charities. There is a \$10 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: Sept. 29, Oct. 7 and Oct. 21. Call Sr. Maryetta Churches, 810.229.8624 to register.



Knights of Columbus Corner

Hello, my name is Don Powell and I am the new Grand Knight of St. Mary Magdalen Council 12295. I would like to invite any of our male parishioners, 18 and older to become a member of our council. If you are a person who is interested in meeting new friends and developing long lasting friendships, we are the organization you are looking for. If you want to do something for your church and give back to the community, the Knights of Columbus is for you. Most of our fund raising activities are “fun” work. For instance, every year we host the St. Mary Magdalen Golf Outing. This year the Knights ran the charity gaming casino at the Brighton Americana festival. All net proceeds are for council charities. If you would like to have some fun and fellowship while giving back to the church and community, please contact me, at qk12295@mikofc.org or my cell phone 248-410-7264.

SERVANT OF MANY *from Gary Prise*

About three months ago, Father Dave came into my office one morning, with a smile on his face and nonchalantly mentioned, "Oh, by the way, I'm leaving you in charge when I go on sabbatical. We'll talk about what that means." I've been in charge in my former life, which is one of the primary reasons I retired after twenty-six years of service. I intentionally did not respond to Father Dave's offer. By the time you receive this edition of the Visionary it will be my one month anniversary of serving as the **temporary** parish administrator. A parishioner came into the office to conduct some business and she asked how things were going. Karen MacDonald, one of our outstanding secretaries, said by the time Father Dave gets back my hair will be curly. Baldness is a very strong trait on my mother's side of the family; both her father and brother were challenged in this respect. My response to the parishioner was that my prayer is that I have hair by the time Father Dave gets back. In all seriousness, the challenges have been minor in nature primarily because of the very competent staff I work with and the foundation of this parish. You, the parishioners who volunteer on every activity, make this parish the absolute best I've ever been a part of. My goal is to maintain our services over the next three months and only make the changes that are absolutely necessary. I appreciate your words of encouragement and confidence, and your offers of assistance. It is a gift to be able to serve you.

The DEACON'S BENCH *from Dave Scharf*

A little child greets the father as he returns from work with a question: "Daddy, how much do you make an hour?" The father is surprised and says, "Look, my child, not even your mother knows. Don't bother me now, I'm tired." "But Daddy, just tell me please! How much do you make an hour?" the child insists. The father finally gives up and replies, "Twenty dollars." "Okay, Daddy," they continue, "Could you loan me ten dollars?" The father yells, "So that was the reason you asked how much I earn, right? Now, go to sleep and don't bother me anymore!" At night the father thinks over what was said and starts feeling guilty. Maybe his child needed to buy something. Finally, he goes to his child's room. "Are you asleep?" asks the father. "No, Daddy. Why?" replies the child. "Here's the money you asked for earlier," the father said. "Thanks, Daddy!" replies the child and receives the money. Then, reaches under the pillow and brings out some more money. "Now I have enough! Now I have twenty dollars!" says the child to the father, "Daddy, could you sell me one hour of your time?" Do we fall into this trap?

There is a profound lesson here for all parents. How involved are you in the lives of all of your children? Do you participate in their passions or only in what you think their passions should be? If the parents fail to do what is right and just in the sight of God they can hardly complain if their children turn out disobedient or indifferent. The young learn more from example than from teaching. If parents give their children the example of a life of respect and involvement to God, to their country, and to the child's interests, the children will in turn carry out their duties to God, to their parents, to their community, and to their fellowman.

All parents might examine themselves and see how well they are fulfilling the responsibility God has given them. As they heard during their marriage ceremony: "children are a gift from God to you." Children serve as the joy of their parents' young years and the help and comfort of their old age, but above and beyond that, they are a gift for which parents are accountable before God, as they must, in the end, return these, His children, to Him. How will God like what you did for and to HIS children? Let us pray for the grace of protecting and caring for one another in our own families, for each member of the parish family, and for all families of our community and the Church. May God bless and protect all our families in the new school year.

The OTHER BENCH *from Jim Chevalier*

When we come to church, we offer God three things: our time; our talents – our abilities to pray, praise, sing, worship; and our treasure. God accepts these, because God wants not our gifts, but US as Givers. God wants US. We are the living sacrifice. Did you prepare yourselves today to be a holy and pleasing living sacrifice to God? What kind of sacrifice does God want? How is your stewardship of God's creation sacrificed? Each Mass, we present ourselves at God's Altar – we pray for God's mercy that we and our gifts are acceptable to Him, the one who loves us.

You know that Jesus will ask us how we used our lives, with how much love we reached out to others, with what diligence we worked for the building up of his kingdom of love, justice, and peace. There are many ways to use your time, talent, and treasure. Your parish and community have many needs which only you can fulfill. You have only to step forward, because: "It is time!"



WHAT ARE YOU DOING - FOR GOD'S SAKE?

SERVICE MINISTRY FAIR BEGINS SEPTEMBER 18 !

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 meet. 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.

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 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.

BLOOD PRESSURE: Trained health professionals take blood pressures of their fellow parishioners once a month after Liturgy. A one year commitment to this ministry can improve lives!

BLOOD DRIVES: We have 6 blood drives annually. These volunteers assist with the registration, canteen and Red Cross staff. A one year commitment to this ministry can improve lives.

KITCHEN KEEPERS

With *Magdalen's Kitchen* soon to begin, we are in need of 10 people can commit to 1-2 hours a month to help in the kitchen with simple tasks that will keep everything in order (filling sugar, creamer, salt & pepper shakers; wiping and counting silverware; organizing equipment and paper products, etc) in short, keeping everything in order for use. Volunteers make a one year commitment to this ministry.

50+ MINISTRY TEAM

Members of this team will be attentive to the spiritual, social, educational, emotional and physical needs of our aging parishioners. Duties would include planning and leading meetings and activities, contact with seniors by phone or in person, driving Seniors and attending a County-wide meeting 4 times per year. Commitment would include a daytime planning meeting and an activity each month. Volunteers make a one year commitment to this

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.

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, October 29 from 5:30-9pm)
- Advent by Candlelight: (December 3 at 7pm)
- Euchre Party (Saturday, November 12 from 6-9pm)
- Family Fun Night (January 14 from 5:30-9pm)
- Murder Mystery (Saturday, March 10 from 6-10pm)
- Mardi Gras (Saturday, March 18 from 6-9pm)
- Easter Egg Scramble (Saturday, April 7 at 12 noon)

ACTIVITY SUPERVISORS

Activity Supervisors oversee the use of the gym during the evening programs. They open the doors, set up equipment; lead a short prayer at the start and end of the activity and make sure the policies for the use of the gym are observed. At the end of the activity they make sure the equipment is properly put away, the facilities (gym and rest room) are left in good order for the next event, and the lights are out, doors locked and alarm is set. Volunteers for this ministry make a one year commitment.



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

MARKING THE CALENDAR

September 11 (Sunday) *PARISH PICNIC*

Our annual parish picnic begins with the **11 am Liturgy** outside and then continues with food & fun on our parish grounds. (If it rains—the Liturgy and picnic will be inside !!).

September 16 (Friday) 8PM TAIZÉ Join us for this ecumenical form of evening prayer; a quiet meditative quality of prayer consisting of songs, psalms, scripture, intercessory prayer, and periods of silence.

September 18 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 18 (Sunday) GREEN MASS to bless all TEACHERS !!

We will pray for and bless teachers & all who work at educational institutions during this Liturgy at 9 am. Participants can enjoy a free pancake breakfast afterwards! (compliments of the Knights of Columbus).

September 18 (Sunday) PANCAKE BREAKFAST !!

Our Knights of Columbus will be cooking up Breakfast! Pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon and more will be served in the Community Room from 9:30 to 12:30!! A great meal at a great price for all!!

October 2, 5/6 FIRST SESSIONS of RELIGIOUS FORMATION of Youth

Religious Education begins with the Family Program on Sunday, Oct. 2, sessions for youth on Wednesday at 4:30-6 and at 6:30-8 pm and Thursday at 5:30-7; on Sunday at 9 & 11 am for Kindergarten and at 5:30 pm for 9th graders (10th graders have begun and will resume September 18)

SAINT MARY MAGDALEN PARISH

2201 S. Old U.S. 23 Highway
Brighton, MI 48114-7609
(810) 229-8624 Fax (810) 229-6471
www.saintmarymagdalen.org



PASTORAL STAFF Office Hours Mon - Fri: 8:30 - 4:30pm

PASTOR

Fr. David F. Howell
pastor1@saintmarymagdalen.org

PASTORAL MINISTER

Sr. Maryetta Churches, O.P.
pastmin2@saintmarymagdalen.org

EDUCATION & FORMATION OF YOUTH

Mary Mahar
mmahar@parishmail.com
Karen MacDonaldAdm. Assist.
sect2@saintmarymagdalen.org

FORMATION & EVANGELIZATION OF ADULTS

Sr. Joyce Hoile, O.S.F.
pastmin1@saintmarymagdalen.org

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION & LITURGIST

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

SECRETARIES

Josie Doucette
sect1@saintmarymagdalen.org
Debbie Dehanke
sect3@saintmarymagdalen.org
Sandi Phillips
sect4@saintmarymagdalen.org

BOOKKEEPER

Dave Wisniewski
bookkeeper@saintmarymagdalen.org

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Kathie Anderer
preschool1@saintmarymagdalen.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

Tom & Margaret Callaghan
youth1@saintmarymagdalen.org

PASTORAL MUSICIAN

Steven H. Schulte
steve@colleengleason.com

MAINTENANCE

Leo Camden
maint1@saintmarymagdalen.org
Jack Hardy
Jeanette Moran