



The Visionary

ST. MARY MAGDALEN

JANUARY 2012

Volume XIX 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 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.

Monday, Jan 9: **THE SACRAMENTS**: Fr. Dave will be the instructor for this class on the history and meaning of the Seven Sacraments of the Church. The Sessions will be held on Mondays from 7-9 pm.

Tuesday, Jan 10: **APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE**: Sr Maryetta will be the instructor for a study of this strange kind of language found not just in the book of Revelation, but in other New Testament and late Old Testament Books. Sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7-9 pm.

You can register by either calling Sr. Joyce (810) 229 -8624 ext. 116 or online at www.saintmarymagdalen.org. You will find School for Discipleship under Adult Formation.

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME

Have you been away from the Church for awhile and feel called to start again? There are as many reasons as there are people, who somehow find that Church attendance has slipped by and now no longer feel comfortable coming. We are here to help. For 6 Monday evenings beginning January 9 at 7 pm, a small group of people will come together to guide those interested in returning to regular Church attendance. The evenings will offer the changes that have occurred in worship, give updates on current spiritual & formational offerings in Parishes, give an overview of essential Catholic beliefs and attend to any personal issues one may have. Let us know how we can help. Please call Sr. Joyce (810) 229 -8624 ext. 116 to attend or for further questions.

JIM CHEVALIER

On Sunday, December 18, Jim slipped on the ice (yes, he was out on skates) and fell, breaking his hip. On Monday, his hip was replaced in surgery, but the recovery was slowed by a blood clot. He is now in therapy at Caretel in Brighton until he returns home to Linda's watchful care. Notes and cards are welcome and can be sent to their home or by way of the parish.

FAMILY NIGHT

Saturday, January 14, will be our next **Family Fun Night** from 7 - 9 pm. The evening will be filled with Gym activities, Table Games, a Card Game Room, Small Children's room, Snacks and Movie. Sign up in the Gathering Area or just show up!

COUNCIL COMMENDATIONS

The Pastoral Council would like to commend **Father Jim Lothamer** for all of his time and talent and for all that we received from him while Father Dave was on sabbatical. Father Jim did a wonderful job meeting all of the needs of the community. Thanks for your goodness to us, Father Jim!

from the **FINANCE COUNCIL**

The Pastoral and Time and Talent Councils did not meet in December. Here is the annual parish budget for the year:

PASTORAL COUNCIL BUDGET REPORT

INCOME PROJECTIONS 2011-12

	2010-2011 Budget	2010-2011 Actual Thru 6/30/11	2011-2012 Budget
Bequests & Donations	\$0	\$0	\$0
Building Fund Pledges	\$163,600	\$432,050	\$338,690
Diocese of Lansing Interest	\$0	\$0	\$0
Stipends & Offerings	\$2,600	\$2,340	\$2,500
Religious Ed Tuition	\$24,000	\$23,497	\$24,000
Preschool Tuition	\$64,000	\$60,619	\$68,000
Sunday & Holy Day Offerings	\$1,150,000	\$1,165,651	\$1,150,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,404,200	\$1,684,157	\$1,583,190

EXPENDITURE PROJECTIONS 2011-2012

SALARIES & BENEFITS

	2010-2011 Budget	2010-2011 Actual Thru 6/30/11	2011-2012 Budget
Salaries	\$495,965	\$498,086	\$507,915
Benefits	\$129,440	\$128,916	\$146,625

PARISH OPERATION

Parish Administration	\$105,100	\$113,916	\$121,200
Capital Expenditures	\$408,000	\$1,125,065	\$527,250
Christian Service	\$12,700	\$10,350	\$11,700
Tuition Assistance	\$52,000	\$51,313	\$52,000
Stewardship	\$9,200	\$9,659	\$10,300
Parish Life	\$14,300	\$17,514	\$15,000
Plant Operation	\$100,895	\$137,169	\$113,500
Worship	\$15,400	\$13,808	\$16,100

RELIGIOUS ED/FORMATION

Religious Education	\$39,200	\$35,613	\$39,400
Preschool	\$4,200	\$4,544	\$4,200
Adult Formation	\$6,300	\$8,024	\$6,500
Youth Ministry	\$11,500	\$6,165	\$11,500

TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$1,404,200	\$2,160,141	\$1,583,190
TOTAL EXCESS	\$0	(\$475,985)	\$0

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 will be talking about vocations in our classes, 6 more of our youth will be Confirmed, the Family Program is attending the DIA, we are 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! (We are in need of aides for Thursday and Sunday evening.)

Solemn Penance (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 on Saturday, January 14, 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 15, at 9. Unless your child was baptized at St. Mary Magdalen, you are also reminded we need a copy of your child's Baptismal certificate in 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 invite all of you to take one and be their "prayer partner" and to keep them all in your prayers throughout their preparation.

January Dates to Remember:

- 4/5** Classes resume from break!
- 14** Rite of Enrollment for Order of Penitent, Crosses given to Fr. Dave during 4:30 Liturgy
- 15** Rite of Enrollment for First Eucharist, Chalices given to Fr. Dave during 9 Liturgy
- 15** Home Study Meeting 10:15
- 15** 9th grade parent/or sponsor along with your candidate meeting 5:30
- 25-29** January break, classes resume February 1/2

MAGDALEN'S LITTLE PEOPLE

from Kathie Anderer

Greetings from preschool...

Our Christmas Program is now a sweet memory. From what I heard, everyone enjoyed the day's activities. The children looked so cute dressed in their outfits and they did a wonderful job singing songs for their families and friends.

We will be on break from December 21st through January 4th. When we return we will be busy working on Evaluations and getting ready for our BIG event of the year... VIP Night. The children get to invite one special person to come to "Night School" with them. It is one of the highlights of the school year. We are looking forward to a fun filled evening.

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and everyone was blessed with joy, happiness, and many wonderful memories with family and friends. My family was blessed to all be together for the holiday. My son and his family have moved back to Michigan after a five-year stay in Texas. It is so wonderful having them back home. My daughter's son, Oliver, had a wonderful time getting to know his cousins. He is also excited about a new baby sister joining his family in January. My daughter and husband were also with us from Maryland. How blessed we are.

All of us at Magdalen's Preschool wish you a wonderful New Year!

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

THANKS
and
PRAISE



We give thanks and praise to all who had a hand in transforming our church facility for the Christmas season. The simplicity and the elegance has made our worship space so beautiful. Thank you for all your hard work!

We are very grateful to Erin Wolfe for all her time and talent that she gave to make the Nativity Story so meaningful before the 6pm Vigil on Christmas Eve. Erin organized and practiced with the children to make it a prayerful reflection of the Nativity. Thanks for your ministry Erin!

from Margaret Callaghan

Happy New Year! This time of year is filled with hope, renewed energies for weight loss, budgeting money and sticking to it, mending relationships and getting in touch with long lost friends. We are hopeful for many things like perhaps winning the lottery this year, getting that promotion at work; perhaps you will get engaged or buy your first home this year. Maybe you are pregnant and will give birth, or you have been trying and you are sure this will be your year. Whatever you hope for or are planning for in 2012, think about looking for God in all things good and all things not so good. Maybe your plans fall through or don't go as you hoped for. BUT, no matter what happens, plan to keep God a part of it all. Perhaps HE is the relationship that you need to tend to, or maybe HE is your long lost friend.

Our annual Winter Weekend Getaway is scheduled for Friday January 27- Sunday the 29. We are going up to Edgett's Lodge again just south of Cadillac. For those who would like to ski or snowboard, we will head up to Caberfae in Cadillac. Check out caberfae.com for rental and lift ticket prices. Also, it is worth checking out edgettslogde.com to see where we will be staying. The cost for the trip is \$100 that includes all meals while at the lodge and your housing for two nights. Contact Margaret Callaghan at youth1@saintmarymagdalen.org

If you are interested in participating in the parish-wide National Relief Network week-long service trip this summer, contact me at the above email address.. I will be hosting another meeting on Tuesday January 10, 2012 at the Charity and Justice meeting at 7:30 pm. Plan to attend to find out what NRN is all about. This is a great family vacation, so please give it consideration.

Mark your calendars for our weekend joint retreat with other Catholic youth groups from the area. We will join together to grow in relationship with God and to share the Good News of his love for us. These retreats have proven from past years to be great fun and spiritual. Plus it serves as a great opportunity to become part of the greater Catholic community of faithful youth. It is scheduled for Friday March 16- Sunday March 18 at FaHoLo in Grass Lake. Mark your calendars now for a weekend you won't want to miss. Keep an eye on the weekly bulletin, messages on FB, the What's Happen' board in the youth room and online at our parish website.

EDGE NEWS

[for 6 - 8 graders]

We have had a fantastic start to the year so far! Since September we have met many new middle school students and have witnessed great growth in many of our 8th graders who have been with us since their 6th grade year. It is an awesome privilege to share in the journey! The adult core team is grateful to the parents who drive their student to our meetings twice a month so we can help them learn about themselves, grow in faith and in relationship with one another.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

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

THE OTHER BENCH

from Jim Chevalier

In our modern, fast-paced lives, it is difficult to find the time or energy to give in the name of our faith, especially since it is difficult to know what we can expect in return!

We work and receive a salary. If we spend time on a hobby, our reward is pleasure. However, whatever we devote to developing our faith, it is much harder to define what we get back. It is exactly when we become stewards of our faith that we learn the great paradox of spiritual life. While the rewards are intangible, the rewards from a life of faith are far greater than any we receive from our work or play. When we donate our time and talents, when we give of our treasure, we sense our faith growing stronger. Our awareness of God's love for us becomes easier to understand. We feel closer to God than at any other time. This is when we realize the deep bonds that hold us all together.

We cannot explain it, but we know it is true. When we give what we have to our faith, we receive a hundred fold in return!

SERVANT TO MANY

from Gary Prise

Well, it's a very safe bet you and I made it through another Advent. I'm writing to you and you are reading what I have to say. The Lord didn't come, that is his second coming did not occur, and we celebrated the birth of Jesus and New Year's Eve 2012.

I don't know about you but I am glad 2011 is behind me. It was a very difficult year. I lost some very dear friends who passed on, experienced the break up of a long term relationship and had a couple of medical challenges. Spiritually, I'm pretty much in the same place; not a good feeling.

I've been pondering the changes I need to make as I approach my sixth decade of life: lose some of the weight I've put on over the last few months, exercise regularly, confront a couple of relationships I need to change, read more to expand intellectually and grow in my spiritual relationship with the Lord and people I encounter.

I'm not big on New Year resolutions. It seems I do not approach them seriously, so consequently the results tend not to be long term. God has blessed me in countless ways and is giving me more time to make the changes I need to make. I have to remind myself as I plan necessary changes, that I can't change God, I can't change those around me as much as I try to, but I can change myself. Come Lord Jesus come, change me! I can be the change I want to see in the world and the best way that can happen is by loving others; that is by being the servant of many.

THE DEACONS BENCH

from Dave Scharf

It is a new year and some of us have gone into debt from Christmas and are worried how we will pay the bills. Or, work has been slow, or none at all, and we have bills piling up and no income to pay them with.

We need to keep in mind Jesus' teaching when He said *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me"*. (John 14:1). Maybe we should pray, Jesus *"teach me to love and then leave the rest to you."*

A short story I read over Christmas seems to fit about this time.

As they struggled one particularly difficult year to make ends meet, Kim and Dale Sheckler nearly gave up hope. Dale's new business was struggling and Christmas was coming. There would be no money to buy gifts for their children.

Even as Kim prayed for personal courage and direction, she tried to lift everyone's spirits by again playing a favorite family movie, It's a Wonderful Life.

A holiday classic with James Stewart, the movie is about an honest, generous businessman in despair because of an unexpected financial crisis. By the end, he learns how important his life is and how much he has unknowingly meant to others. He regains hope – as did the Shecklers, whose business eventually became a success.

Don't give up hope. You never know how much your life means to others. Remember to pray, Jesus *"teach me to love and then leave the rest to You."*



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

from Don Powell, Grand Knight

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Your Knights of Columbus Council at Saint Mary Magdalen would like to thank everyone that supports our fundraisers, such as the pancake breakfast and the spaghetti dinners just to mention a few. Without your support we would not be able to help those in need within our parish and other special requests of our pastor Father Dave.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Sean Secord as a new Knight to our council. He has already helped in our activities and has proven to be very enthusiastic in his efforts. If you would like to join Sean and thousands of other men of the Knights of Columbus in fellowship and fun all while giving back to the church and community, you can contact me at gk12295@mikofc.org or my cell phone 248-410-7264.

OF FAITH AND SERVICE from Sr. Joyce Hoile, OSF

M.O.M.S. Ministry of Mothers Sharing

MOMS Group meetings meet on Wednesday mornings from 9:45 am-12 pm! The scheduled activities run from 10-11:30 am with the rest of the time available for coffee and conversation. Moms of all ages and experience levels are welcome at anytime! Please contact Stephanie Darish at sadarish@yahoo.com, Ginger Bosn at ginger-bosn@gmail.com, or Linda Keeling at linda.keelingi@yahoo.com for more information We look forward to seeing you soon at MOMS group, where new friends await you!



Seniors Ministry

St. Mary Magdalen hosts a monthly Senior Birthday lunch to honor those celebrating a Birthday that month. The lunch is free. The Seniors also provide Birthday Bags for children to be distributed by Gleaners Food Bank as their special ministry. January's lunch is Thursday, January 12 at noon in the Community Room. Seniors Group at St. Mary Magdalen are those 50 + . Come Join us!

Livingston Region Seniors 50+ Lenten Retreat

Will be at Holy Spirit Parish (9565 Musch Road - Brighton / Hamburg) on Tuesday, February 21. The retreat will be from 10 am – 2 pm, with registration at 9:30 am. Register and get your tickets from Sr. Joyce.

Marriage Annulment / Marriage Blessed

Individuals needing an annulment from a previous marriage in order to marry again in the Church, and persons who are married without the Catholic Form of Marriage and may want that now, may talk with any of the following Staff members to begin the process. Sr. Joyce, Sr. Maryetta, Deacon Dave Scharf, Deacon Jim Chevalier, Deacon Gary Prise, or Father Dave will be happy to assist you..

Community Life

This Team has the task of inviting “play” into our Parish life. Saturday, January 14, at 7 pm a planned Family Fun Night is scheduled with Gym activities, Table Games, Card Game Room, Small Children's room, Snacks and Movie. See the Community Life Board in the gathering area for more information and to sign up so we know how many to prepare for. February 18 offers Mardi Gras for adults and children. Plan to come.



8 GREAT DATES



For those who want to make their good marriage more meaningful: this program will be starting Jan 13! It is a wonderful opportunity to make your marriage much closer to what you had hoped for on your wedding day! Last year's participants varied widely in age and in length of their marriages; but all of them were really pleased with the experience.

A candlelight meal for two, an entertaining video, time just for you, childcare provided, if needed. Sign-up is in the Gathering Area. Limited space - \$200 per couple. Call Sandi Phillips in the office for more info. at 810 229-8624.

PARISH SCRIP PROGRAM

Are you familiar with the parish Scrip program? Gift/cash cards for many well-known stores, restaurants, and gas stations can be purchased through our Scrip program **EVERY SUNDAY after Mass** in the community room. The cards are purchased at face value, at no extra cost to you. St. Mary Magdalen receives a rebate back from the sale of each card that goes to support our community meal (Magdalen's Kitchen) on Monday evenings. The gift/cash cards can also be used for everyday purchases. We have some cards on hand for immediate sale and/or orders can be placed for cards (to be picked up the following weekend). Gift/cash cards can be ordered online too at www.shopwithscrip.com. (An enrollment code is required when placing orders online; call the parish office 810.229.8624 during office hours for the code.) Online orders must also be paid for before they are placed. A complete list of participating retailers can be found at www.glscrip.com. Come to the Community Room after weekend Masses for more information, to purchase cards, or place an order.

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

There are four adults and two teens in our parish who are in the process of 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 weekend Liturgies.

The journey one makes in becoming Catholic takes place through dialogue, conversation, storytelling and prayer. It is a sharing of faith with the other members of our Catholic community. 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 is, as is every sacrament, a ritual encounter with the risen Lord that brings us into the presence of God and brings God's overwhelming love to us. God makes Himself known in and through all of creation; people, things, and events teach us about God and lead us to God.

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; that their journey with us will truly be a sacramental encounter with the Lord. Blessings on the Journey!



EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 8

A Eucharistic Day ADORATION

We will process with the Blessed Sacrament after the 11:00 Sunday Liturgy to the Chapel where we may come to pray anytime between **noon and 4pm**.

At 4pm - We close with **EVENING PRAYER**.

Everyone is invited to spend some quiet time in prayer.

You may come when you like and stay as long as you like. Especially invited are the members of the Worship Ministry Team, Eucharistic Ministers and Ministers of Prayer.

SAINT MARY MAGDALEN PARISH

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MARKING THE CALENDAR

January 8 (Sunday) FEAST of the EPIPHANY

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 9 & 10 (Mon/Tues) SCHOOL FOR DISCIPLESHIP (WINTER SESSION BEGINS)

The theology tract will be **The Sacraments** on Mondays beginning January 9, with Fr. Dave. The other class on Tuesdays will be part of the Scripture tract is **Apocalyptic Literature** with Sr. Maryetta on Tuesdays beginning January 10. Both classes will be from 7-9 pm.

January 13 (Friday) TAIZÉ PRAYER

Taizé is an ecumenical prayer service (forty-minutes) that consists of songs, psalms, Scripture, intercessions, and periods of silence. Come and enjoy this time of quiet reflection on Friday, Jan. 13 at 8pm.

January 14 (Saturday) FAMILY FUN NIGHT is planned for 7pm on Saturday, Jan. 14 with Gym activities, Table Games, Card Game Room, Small Children's room, Snacks and Movie. Sign up in the gathering area to come.

January 15 (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

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