



The Visionary

A Newsletter of St. Mary Magdalen Parish

“JOURNEY WITH JESUS” VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 30- August 3 This year our theme is “Shipwrecked; Rescued by Jesus” Children 4yrs old through grade 5 are welcome to participate. Registration forms are in the gathering area for children to attend and for adult volunteers. You may also register online on our website www.saintmarymagdalen.org. Please register early for this awesome week of fun!



VOLUNTEERS! As the registrations come in we are in need of more adult volunteers. Please sign-up (in the Gathering Area or online) to help during the week of JWJ. I promise you will not have to be in charge of any area. These tasks have all been taken on by great volunteers. Carlene Demers (our JWJ leader) or Roxanne Hundsrucker will be contacting adult volunteers over the next few weeks to give assignments and specific information we need to collect from parish volunteers.

HOME COMING: Celebrating 25 years of Old Friends and New!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SATURDAY, JULY 21: Following our 4:30 Liturgy on the Feast of St. Mary Magdalen, we will head outdoors for a fun night of food and music! (Bring your own lawn chair if you like) We welcome Michael Jay (and his food truck with the grills) offering a variety of great foods for adults and kids, an ice cream cart, beer, wine and pop. A “suggested” donation is \$12 for adults and \$8 for kids. Don’t miss out on this great event!

OUTDOOR LITURGY AND PICNIC

Mark your calendars for **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9**

Our Sunday morning Outdoor Liturgy will be celebrated at 11am (bring your own chairs) followed by a picnic, ice cream, hay ride and lots of fun and games. Come for all or any part of the day. It’s a great way to meet your fellow parishioners! **For the 25th year celebration the Knights will be grilling hot dogs and we will provide the salads, chips and ice cream for dessert** so all you need to bring is your own drinks and chair!

The Youth Group Tin Can Raffle will once again offer a variety of items. The money earned funds their service trips. As always we will have Wagon Rides, Gaga Pit, Bingo, Games and prizes for all. If you have a favorite portable outdoor game that you would like to bring and set up, please do. **Assistance is needed** in many ways to make this an enjoyable event for all, so please **see the Sign Up Sheets** at the Community Life Board in the near future. Many hands make for light work. Also, we ask you to sign up if you are coming. We need to know how many we are preparing for! It makes a difference. Plan to come and enjoy the afternoon with fellow parishioners. You will be glad you did.



A Letter from Father Dave

My dear Sisters and Brothers;

Last January, I celebrated my fortieth anniversary of ordination as a priest. As I ponder those years, I realize most of them have been spent here on the western edge of Livingston County. In the spring of 1992, the Diocese of Lansing bought 20 acres with a house, a barn, a stable and a duplex from Christine Schifko. This property was six miles from St. John in Hartland and six miles from St. Patrick in Brighton.

On June 29, 1993, the feast of the Apostles Peter & Paul, Bishop Povish established a new Catholic Parish in the Diocese of Lansing. He invited all the Catholics who lived in Brighton Township north of I96 to form this new community. On June 30, he assigned the task of creating this new parish to me.

Earlier this year, I began to write the story of those early years. I was reminded of all the hope and enthusiasm that was a part of those early years. I also remembered all the work that went into starting a new community. Most of all, I was reminded of the many people who came and shared in this wonderful undertaking we call St. Mary Magdalen Parish.

The members who formed this community lived in the area for years and others were new to Livingston County. They signed up to serve as Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Singers and Musicians; they volunteered to be Altar Servers and Hospitality. They offered their homes to host meetings and Wednesday evening Liturgies during Lent and Easter. They signed up to be Catechists and Aides in our Religious Formation Program.

People signed up to turn a residence into a rectory with offices, meeting space and a bedroom for the pastor. Folks painted and built, tore down fencing and cleaned out the barn. They responded to the request to serve on Parish and Finance Councils and to organize ministry teams for Worship and Charity & Justice.

There have been so many folks who have done so much over these last twenty-five years. A few of the original 300 plus families are still around. They remember setting up chairs and portable altar furnishings and stacking those same chairs (*twelve to a stack!*) and putting everything away after the last Liturgy.

As many of those original members died or moved away, others came. These parishioners planned buildings and raised money for the construction – not once, but twice. They moved furniture and planned parties, picnics and other celebrations. Most of all, they formed friendships with people who sat near them at Liturgy or worked with them in a variety of ministries. They were also inspired to begin and serve in ministries to feed those in need and reach out to those in need of compassion.

Over these twenty-five years, we have celebrated Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation with both children and adults. We have rejoiced with those who have entered the Sacrament of Marriage and we have mourned and prayed with those who have lost loved ones. We have shared faith with our younger sisters and brothers and with each other in small groups.

We have accomplished so much in twenty-five years. While the buildings are the most visible part of what we have accomplished, the most important part is the community of the faithful that gather inside these buildings.

This year especially, we give thanks to God who has enabled us to accomplish so much over these years. We pray God will enable us to accomplish even greater things in future. But most of all, we pray that God who began this good work, bring it to its fulfillment!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. David Howell
Pastor



25TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

OUR OPENING LITURGY

We celebrated the opening of our 25th year on January 13, 2018 with Bishop Boyea!

THURSDAY, JUNE 28

**25TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR
PARISH & 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE DEDICATION OF OUR
CHURCH LITURGY 6:30pm**
A RECEPTION FOLLOWS IN THE
COMMUNITY ROOM!

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Our 25th Anniversary Church Photo Directory is underway.

25TH ANNIVERSARY QUILT

Our quilters are working on over 100 squares from every aspect of parish life!

PHOTOS AND STORIES

Photos of parish life and stories of how the parish has been important to you and your family are still needed!! Email photos to photos@saintmarymagdalen.org
Stories can go to Skip Dorrington at maskip25@gmail.com.

25 FOR THE 25TH If you would like to donate \$25 for the 25th, there are envelopes in the Gathering Area. *Thank you!*

PARISH PICNIC SUNDAY, SEPT. 9

We will supply the food: hot dogs, salads, chips and ice cream.

FINAL LITURGY AND RECEPTION

Saturday, December 1, at 4:30pm

The Anniversary of our First Liturgy!

SAINT MARY MAGDALEN

CELEBRATING

25

YEARS

SAINT MARY MAGDALEN

ST MARY MAGDALEN PARISH

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MARKING THE CALENDAR

June 28 (Thursday) **FEAST of PETER & PAUL** *our DEDICATION*

This Feast marks the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of our parish and the Twentieth Anniversary of the Dedication of our church. Both of these will be commemorated with **Liturgy at 6:30pm**. An elegant reception will follow!

July 21/22 **THE FEAST of ST. MARY MAGDALEN**

With permission from the bishop we celebrate the Feast of St. Mary Magdalen rather than the 16th Sunday of the Church Year. A parish outdoor "Homecoming Party" follows the 4:30 Liturgy.

July 30 (Monday) **"Shipwrecked" VBS/JWJ**

Our Vacation Bible School/Journey with Jesus begins Mon. July 30 and runs through Fri. August 3.

August 15 (Wednesday) **FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

The Feast of the Assumption celebrates our belief that after the death of the Blessed Mother, she was taken up to heaven. The Liturgies of the Assumption will be celebrated **9am and 7pm**.

August 10-11 (Friday-Saturday) **10 GRADE CONFIRMATION RETREAT**

6pm Friday until 9pm Saturday for our Confirmation Candidates

August 19 (Sunday) **BLOOD DRIVE**

The Blood Drive will take place in our Gym\Activities Center from 9:30 am—3:30pm!

August 20 (Monday) **K of C MEMORIES CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

From 4pm til dusk on the back Forty!