



# The Visionary

Newsletter of St. Mary Magdalen Parish

## PARISH PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 8  
beginning with  
11am Outdoor  
Liturgy



**OUR 11am SUNDAY LITURGY WILL BE OUTDOORS followed by our ANNUAL PARISH POTLUCK PICNIC! BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS AND A DISH TO SHARE!** Don't miss out on this great event. Come for all or any part of the day. It's a great way to meet fellow parishioners! The Knights will be grilling hot dogs and ice cream is for dessert.

As always we will have Hay Rides, the Ga Ga Pit, Bingo, Cards, Games, and Prizes will be awarded. The Youth Group Tin Can Raffle is always a hit and offers a variety of items!

**VOLUNTEERS are needed in many areas** to make this event possible, so please see the Sign Up Sheets in the Gathering Area! Plan to come to enjoy the afternoon with fellow parishioners!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ! JULY - AUGUST 2019

Mike and Beth Bryan  
Evan and Avery  
Hartland

Jack and Lee O'Connell  
Brighton

Garrett and Meredith Roe  
Bennett  
Brighton

Carol St. Onge  
Hartland

Brad and Ann Darin  
Brighton

Branden and Jamie Rize  
Jay and Georgia  
Brighton

Andrew Rumon and Morgan  
Copperstone  
Brighton

Doug and Meaghan Stoinski  
Lucien  
Brighton

Bill and Lois Lenaghan  
Howell

Michael and Jean Shebak  
Brighton

Brad and Jessie Terberg  
Zachary, Fenton

# OCTOBER THANKS

Our modern world has few equivalents of Harvest Time. While a few industries may have busy seasons, there is no real "harvest time" for most of us. Perhaps the only thing even remotely similar to a harvest time is April 15. On tax day, we can truly see how much we have received as income and then we figure out what percentage of it will be given to the government as taxes.

Perhaps it would be better to ask our parishioners to look at their financial stewardship in April rather than October. But real stewards are not motivated by a law like tax payers. Real stewards are motivated by gratitude and a genuine desire to return to God a portion of what has been received. So during harvest time, we are asked to look again at how much we have received and how much of that is shared with others for the love of God.

The Scriptures ask us to return a tithe to God, a tenth of the time, talent and treasure that has been received. As Catholics, we define the ideal of a tithe as giving 5% to the Church and donating the other 5% to worthwhile charities.

Many parishioners at St. Mary Magdalen make their offering electronically. If you would like to use electronic transfer (EFT), look for an EFT form in the Gathering Area, or go to our website, [www.saintmarymagdalen.org](http://www.saintmarymagdalen.org), click on ABOUT US / REGISTRATION / scroll down and "Print Sunday Offering Electronic Transfer Form". You may drop it in the collection basket on the weekend. You can also use a credit card to make your donation by clicking on "ONLINE GIVING" on the homepage of our website, [www.saintmarymagdalen.org](http://www.saintmarymagdalen.org).

## FROM THE FINANCE COUNCIL

### FISCAL YEAR July 2018 - June 2019

Year-to-Date 6/30/2019

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Actual Fiscal Year to Date</u>	<u>Annual Fiscal Budget</u>
Church	1,647,713	1,584,100
Witness To Hope	132,595	200,000
Religious Ed/Preschool	<u>154,124</u>	<u>132,200</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,934,432</b>	<b>1,916,300</b>
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Church	1,110,731	1,109,100
Building Mortgage	503,518	388,100
Religious Ed/Preschool	<u>426,965</u>	<u>419,100</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,041,214</b>	<b>1,916,300</b>
<b>INCOME/(LOSS)</b>	<b>- 106,782</b>	

**REMAINING BALANCE 6/30/2019 - Building Mortgage - \$1,942,558**

#### Members of Finance Council

Jill Angell  
Dominic DiCicco  
Jason Firek  
John Hammang

Catherine Hazen  
Danny Hazen  
Sharon Hazen

Fr. Dave Howell  
Nancy Little  
Matt Rolfes  
Betty Socia

John Spalding  
Marilyn VanTiem  
Jeri Gawlowski-  
Bookkeeper

# WHAT INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW

from Erin Wolfe

This fall we again begin  
"Faith Inquiry."

Have you considered becoming Catholic? Perhaps you were never baptized. Or maybe you have been attending Mass and do not 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.

For many, Faith Inquiry is the first phase of the process that will lead them to become Catholic. We will begin meeting on Monday, Sept. 9, at 7 pm. Anyone who is interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith or thinking about becoming Catholic is welcome. Come have your questions answered in a no-pressure, relaxed environment. Even if you are unable to join us right away, come find out more on the Mondays in September and October. We also provide a children's session (for children 7 years of age and older) on Monday evenings.

Contact Erin in the parish office if you are interested or if you would like more information. (810) 229-8624 ext. 176. Email: [baptisms@saintmarymagdalen.org](mailto:baptisms@saintmarymagdalen.org)

## CHARITY AND JUSTICE from Ken Kuna

*Charity is the response to an immediate need; justice seeks to end the need.*

*So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. James 2:17*

The Charity and Justice Team has been busy this past year, with 26 projects supporting local and surrounding area organizations plus other on-going work in the Parish over the past 12 months.

Thanks are in order to all those of you who've supported these projects. Many people received the benefit of your concern and generosity. Thank you, all the volunteers who performed the hard work to make the projects successful. Thank you to all of you who supported these projects through your generosity. And thank you to the Charity and Justice Team, who planned and organized the projects.

"Backpack for Kids" project, we addressed the needs of local school children. 97 backpacks filled with basic school supplies were donated to give the children a fun and encouraging start to the school year. Thank you Ginny McMullen for your dedication in leading this project

Your generosity supporting the Migrant Camp Collection helped provide many personal items, greatly appreciated by the field workers and their families. Thank you Deacon Dave.

Charity and Justice members also spoke after masses this Spring on two important topics of local interest. In May, Ron Kardos led a discussion of local water quality issues with recommendations for treating home water supplies if problems are found. 60 parishioners attended the three sessions.

In June, Leo Hanifin conducted three sessions on the Livingston County discussing the Livingston County Master Transportation Plan. Parishioners living within the County are encouraged to review the public transportation plan on the website <https://www.livgov.com/lets/Pages/plan.aspx> and contact your County Commissioner to voice your opinion on adopting the plan. Contact information for the Commissioners is available at <https://www.livgov.com/boc/Pages/commissioners.aspx>.

This Fall, on October 20<sup>th</sup>, we will once again support the CROP Walk to address hunger. You'll hear more about this at Mass in late September, explaining the project. You will also have an opportunity to join the walk or make a pledge. Please consider participating and supporting this project.

**CROP HUNGER WALK**  
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME





This visionary article marks my first as Grand Knight of our Council. My predecessor, Ryan Bosn was a great role model in this position, and I appreciate his leadership and ongoing mentorship for this office. This is my 7th year as a Knight and am excited for the opportunity to act as the Chief Executive Officer of the council. A big description of a responsibility that I will progress with a simple actionable plan. Serve.

With the Knights I have found this opportunity to serve as a fit for me on many levels. The organization touches on my Faith, Family, Life and Community. Our council provides a culture that allows me to do and be the best I can be for the people I have a chance to serve. I am not everything to everybody, but I am enough to those who I serve. And it is my hope that it is enough for those who are in need. From family members to those I have never met, I shall empty so that they may be filled. And this is not just me. This is true for the men I call brothers who are not only in the Council but more than likely sit next to you at Mass.

Two things. See below the events we will be hosting over the next three months and think if any of them would be an activity you could see yourself serving. Would it be enough ...and if it is yes, would you consider being a Knight?

Here are the dates for the Knight's key fall events this fall:

Parish Picnic: Knights are Cooking the Hot Dogs	9/8/19
1st Pancake Breakfast of season - Green Mass	9/15/19
Hospitality Team Serves at 4:30 Mass	9/21/19
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Family Rosary	9/29/19
Hospitality Team Serves at 4:30 Mass	10/19/19
2nd Pancake Breakfast of season	10/27/19
Hospitality Team Serves - All Saints Day	11/1/19
3rd Pancake Breakfast of season	11/3/19
Hospitality Team Serves at 4:30 Mass	11/16/19
1st Spaghetti Dinner of season	11/16/19
Move Advent/Christmas Decoration from barn	11/30/19

George Barrera - Grand Knight - Council 12295 - [gk12295@mikofc.org](mailto:gk12295@mikofc.org)

## COUNCIL COMMENDATIONS

The Pastoral Council would like to commend Garrett Pogrnych who has been an active part of our Youth Group for just over a year. He is dedicated to his participation in all the events, activities, weekly meetings, service opportunities and leadership team. Garrett brings with him a love for our faith, a fire to learn about our faith and a true desire to live and share our faith!

Congratulations, Garrett!!!

## THANKS AND PRAISE

from Sr. Maryetta Churches

We give thanks and praise for all the wonderful people in our community who have welcomed Father Shaun to Saint Mary Magdalen and have made him feel at home! We also give thanks and praise for all who made Journey with Jesus a huge SUCCESS!



## THE DEACONS PAGE

### **SERVANT OF MANY** *from Gary Prise*

I can't believe fall is a stone's throw away, but here we are. I am going a bit off my normal format to touch upon a social justice issue. If you go to the USCCB's web site you will find much material regarding the Church's position on immigration. This is a very hot topic depending on your perspective. The Catholic Church in the United States is an immigrant Church with a history of embracing diverse newcomers and reaching out to people on the move. The Church has consistently reinforced our moral opportunity to treat the stranger as we would treat the Lord himself. We are invited to a change of minds and hearts as it applies to these children of God. Our (the United States) Immigration System is in need of reform. My personal view of things sometimes is in conflict with "what would Jesus do." I invite you to go to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops site (<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/immigration/index.cfm>) and gander at the information that is offered. I suspect most, if not all of our ancestors came from somewhere else in the world. I am glad mine chose the opportunities offered here. They paved the way for me and the opportunities I may not have had in Poland where 75% of my ancestors came from.

### **THE OTHER BENCH** *from Jim Chevalier*

Looking at the news today, we do not see much good going on. Morals and values keep going down, good has become bad, and sin has become ok.

What can we do about it? One thing is in 2 Chronicles 7-14 "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place."

Have you ever noticed that for every promise in Scripture there is an "if" or an implied condition? You will often see phrases like, "If you do what is right in His eyes" or "If you obey my work." What we do or don't do can make or break the promise. If we humble ourselves or turn from our wicked ways and return to God he is always faithful and just. If we pray, what do we pray for? Asking God for forgiveness is always a good place to start 1Timothy 2-1 says, "I urge then first of all that requests prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone- for kings and all those in authority"

Our priests are the spiritual authority over us, so we should be lifting them up in prayers. We should pray for our church, all the people and all the ministries. Naming the ministries that are in our hearts would be good. Pray for our bigger community, Brighton, Hartland, Howell; where you live or work. Ask God to bless and give his Spirit and love to us and to others.

Jesus asked his disciples, "can you not pray one hour with me." It would be good to pray one hour in front of the tabernacle in the Eucharist Chapel. Take time for prayer, be still and let God speak to your hearts.

As we give ourselves to God and are open to receive him, he will fill us with his love, making us an outlet of his love. We can touch others with his love. The lady in Mark 5- 27, subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. When she did this, scripture says, power had gone out from Jesus. As we come before the tabernacle to receive Jesus, he will respond in the same way. Power and love will fill us, so we can go out to love others.

## LITURGICAL MINISTRY SIGN UP COMING OCTOBER 6-27!

**MINISTERS of HOSPITALITY**

**MINISTERS of the ALTAR**

**WELCOME DESK MINISTERS**

**MINISTERS of the EUCHARIST**

**SINGERS & MUSICIANS**

**VIDEO MINISTRY**

**MINISTERS of the WORD**

**RESURRECTION CHOIR**

**COFFEE & DONUTS**

## SERVICE MINISTRIES

These ministries require a brief training but almost no meetings!

**Those who choose these ministries make a one year commitment. SIGN UP Sept. 1 – Sept. 22**

**WELCOMING TEAM** (Staff Rep. Gayle Zawisa) 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. 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. *Members of this ministry arrange their own schedule. They are asked to meet with about 10 people over the course of their year of service.*

**MINISTERS OF PRAYER** (Staff Rep. Sr. Maryetta Churches) Hardly a day goes by without someone 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.

**SAMARITANS** (Staff Rep. Fr. Shaun Lowery) 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
- 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 need of volunteers, especially those who can help us during the day or weekdays.

**RCIA HOSPITALITY** (Staff Rep. Erin Wolfe) R.C.I.A. hospitality ministers serve the candidates in our community by providing and setting up the refreshments at the sessions and retreats. *Members of the hospitality team serve approximately 5 times a year.*

**RELIGIOUS FORMATION - CATECHISTS & AIDES** (Staff Rep. Karen MacDonald)

Our Vision commits us to “*embrace our children as our younger brothers and sisters in Christ. We envision a strong religious education program that will excite our youth into learning and sharing with us fully.*” St. Mary Magdalen has a dynamic program dedicated to this vision. Catechists, Aides, Hall Monitors, Nursery Help and a Religious Formation Team are all vital to St. Mary Magdalen’s Religious Formation Program! *This ministry requires Virtus training and a back ground check. There are 24 classes each year plus the formation sessions at the start and over the course of the year.*

**LITURGICAL ART & ENVIRONMENT** (Staff Rep. Diane Kubus)

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. Most of the work is done in small groups or by individuals at the change of the Liturgical Seasons.

† WHAT ARE YOU DOING - FOR GOD'S SAKE

## SERVICE MINISTRIES

These ministries require a brief training but almost no meetings!

**Those who choose these ministries make a one year commitment. SIGN UP Sept. 1– Sept. 22**

**PARISH HEALTH TEAM** (Staff Rep. Fr. Shaun Lowery) 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:** 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!*

**MARTHAS TEAM** (Staff Rep. Mary Walker) The role of the Martha's is to assure that all of our sacred spaces are clean and well cared for. Each member of the Martha's is asked to donate about two hours a month to dust, vacuum and clean. On a periodic basis, the group works together for special cleaning projects. Martha's work on teams and receive training. The actual cleaning can take place whenever the team member is able. *This requires about three hours a month.*

**KITCHEN KEEPERS** (Staff Rep. Jeri Gawlowski) This ministry team helps to keep our parish kitchen organized and ready for the various groups that use it over the course of a month. Their task is to keep the kitchen in order (filling sugar, creamer, salt & pepper shakers; wiping and counting silverware; organizing equipment and paper products, etc.) in short, keeping everything organized and ready for use.

*This ministry team commits about ONE & A HALF hours a month to this ministry for a year.*

**PROPERTIES TEAM** (Staff Rep. Fr. Shaun Lowery) This is a *hands on* ministry team. The Properties Team will be concerned with the maintenance, upkeep, safety and continuing development of our parish buildings and property. The efforts of this team will involve our maintenance personnel. Special projects will require the recruitment and organization of volunteers or the hiring of contractors. Besides the ongoing work of this group, team members will meet about 8 times during the year for planning.

**SPECIAL ABILITIES** (Staff Rep. Fr. Shaun Lowery) 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 might arise over the next year.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** (Staff Rep. Sr. Maryetta Churches) Everyone who enjoys knitting or crocheting (at any level) is invited to join this ministry of creating shawls, lap blankets, chemo caps 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. This is a drop-in group, so come every week or just as it fits your schedule

**COFFEE & DONUTS** (Staff Rep. Diane Kubus) 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.

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

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## MARKING THE CALENDAR

### **SEPTEMBER 8 (Sunday) OUTDOOR LITURGY & PARISH PICNIC!**

This is your chance to get together with the whole of Mary Magdalen. Our parish picnic begins with the Outdoor Liturgy at 11am followed by a picnic, hay ride, games and a whole lot of fun. Don't miss out on this great event!

**SEPTEMBER 9 (Monday) FAITH INQUIRY BEGINS** If you have thought about becoming Catholic and are interested in finding out more, come to Faith Inquiry. It's for adults and children 7 years and older.

### **SEPTEMBER 1- Sept. 22 SERVICE MINISTRIES SIGN UP!**

Sign up in the Gathering Area for all new and renewed Welcoming ministers, Health ministers, Art and Environment Ministers, Ministers of Prayer, Properties, Marthas, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Befrienders and Samaritans, RCIA Hospitality and Sponsors, Magdalen Kitchen Team, Catechists & Aides.

**SEPTEMBER 16 (Sunday) GREEN MASS** We honor and bless all those who serve in a Teaching/Educational setting (in any capacity in any location) along with our catechists and aides at the 11am Liturgy. K of C Pancake Breakfast free for participants!

### **OCTOBER 6-27 LITURGICAL MINISTER SIGN UP**

Sign up in the gathering area through Oct. 27 for all new and renewed Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ministers of Hospitality, Altar Servers, Musicians and Singers, Children's Liturgy of the Word Leaders, Video Ministers, Welcome Desk Ministers and Coffee & Donuts Ministers.

**OCTOBER 6 (Sunday) BLESSING OF PETS AT 2 pm**

**OCTOBER 13 (Sunday) BLOOD DRIVE 9 am - 3:30 pm**