

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL (ACA), BEYOND SUNDAY & beONE are yearly campaigns among all Catholics in the Archdiocese to help fund schools and agencies, which assist thousands of people and charities in the St. Louis area.

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT offers programs for greater understanding of the Catholic faith and for spiritual growth.

ALTAR SERVERS Adult altar servers serve daily Mass, Funerals, and Holy Day Masses throughout the year. Youth altar servers serve weekend Masses and some special Masses throughout the year.

BLOOD DRIVE In conjunction with Mercy Hospital, an annual blood drive takes place at the parish.

CHURCH CLEANING CREW A crew of dedicated parishioners who meet every other Wednesday after the 8am Mass to clean and tidy up the church.

CHURCH DECORATING A number of enthusiastic parishioners who selflessly decorate the church and parish grounds for special occasions, especially Christmas, Lent, and Easter.

COFFEE AND DONUTS On the first and fifth Sunday of every month coffee and donuts are served in the school hall after the 8am and 10:30am Masses in order to provide fellowship for all parishioners and to welcome all new parishioners. Each coffee and donut Sunday is hosted by one of the parish organizations.

CRAFT FAIR The annual Holiday Arts & Craft Fair takes place the Saturday before Thanksgiving from 9am until 4pm at our School Hall. Baked goods and dinners are available. The Craft Fair is a key fund-raiser for the parish.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for private prayer and adoration after the 8am Mass every first Friday of the month. It concludes with Benediction at 12 noon.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION Assist in the distribution of Holy Communion at Sunday Masses, at Holy Day Masses and at Funerals. Some Eucharistic Ministers serve the needs of our homebound parishioners by bringing Communion to them at their homes.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Members serve to assist the pastor with the financial obligations of the parish. This includes preparing and reviewing the budget, regularly reviewing financial statements, and making recommendations and suggestions for maintaining good stewardship of all financial resources.

FISH FRY Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 453, and served by volunteers from parish organizations; the fish fry takes place every Friday in Lent and on Good Friday.

FIRST SATURDAY HOLY HOUR The Holy Innocents Chapel in the church is open every first Saturday of the month for prayer and private worship from 9 until 10am. The chapel opens at 9am and the recitation of the rosary takes place at 9:15am.

FOURTH OF JULY FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY All flags collected for the year are retired after the morning celebration of the Mass.

GREETERS Men and women of the parish greet parishioners before Masses on the weekend and on Holy Days. They also assist in distributing worship materials.

GROUND AND LANDSCAPING Comprised of parishioners who dedicate themselves to maintaining and improving the grounds around the church and parish buildings. They help to preserve a beautiful and inviting environment.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY is a specialized ministry open to all able-bodied parishioners to assist those parishioners who are homebound by making visits, helping with shopping, keeping in touch by regular phone calls, etc.

HOSPITALITY this ministry consists of serving guests of the parish on special occasions through setting up and decorating the School Hall, baking desserts, or serving and cleaning up during and after an event.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS (Council 453) & LADIES AUXILIARY The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic, family, fraternal, service organization, and serves as the right arm of the Catholic Church. Council 453 at St. Mary Magdalen is the oldest, active Council in the State of Missouri. The Knights and Ladies are dedicated to the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

LECTORS serve as proclaimers of the Word at Sunday, Weekday and Holy Day Masses. This ministry is open to all members of the parish community. Aspiring Lectors are

trained and commissioned into this service.

LITURGY COMMITTEE members exist to help lead our parish to a more effective expression of faith and commitment to God in worship. The committee helps with the planning, coordination, communication and evaluation of services, especially for Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter; and also with special liturgies such as the Mass of Anointing and the Mass of Remembrance.

VOCATION CHALICE PROGRAM was created by the Archdiocesan Vocation Office and the St. Louis Serra Club. We will be asking individuals and families to sign up to receive the chalice in their home for a week of prayer for vocations. Families of our Parish have already been instrumental in the lives of young ordained men who lived, worked and were assigned to our Parish.

MAGDALEN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION is the oldest, continuous parish organization since 1920. The organization sponsors parish events, a speaker series, and regularly supports social justice issues and other charitable events. The MWO meets every third Tuesday of the month, September through May, at 6:30pm in the School Hall.

MARTHAS CIRCLE consists of a group of volunteers who set-up & clean-up in the School Hall after a funeral luncheon for family members and friends of deceased parishioners.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST is hosted every Mother's Day by the Knights of Columbus Council 453 for all mothers of the parish and their families. Mothers eat free! The breakfast is served after the Sunday morning Masses on the 2nd Sunday in May.

MUSIC MINISTRY Music is provided at all parish Sunday and Holy Day Masses and at all special Masses and other liturgical services. There are several volunteer musicians, singers and cantors who assist in leading liturgical music.

PARISH COUNCIL serves in an advisory capacity to the Pastor and helps to bring unity and coordination to the various parish organizations and committees. Meetings are held in the rectory meeting room on the third Monday of each month at 6:30pm.

PRAYER CHAIN consists of a group of dedicated parishioners who are committed to praying daily for the

needs and intentions of their fellow parishioners. Members of the prayer chain are notified by e-mail of current needs and requests for prayer.

PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE is an organization dedicated to the protection of the unborn and to the support of the sanctity of all human life.

QUILTERS are sponsored by the Magdalen Women's Organization. The club was formed in 1973 and meets every Monday morning to create hand-made quilts, given to the parish for fund-raisers.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiations of Adults) is the process of preparing those who are discerning membership in the Catholic Church and also for those who are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. The preparation time varies according to the needs of the participants but generally culminates at the Easter Vigil with Baptism or formal reception into the Catholic Church.

RETREATS In addition to the White House Retreat for men in November (see separate listing), there are a number of retreat possibilities available to women and men. These provide a variety of opportunities for spiritual growth both personally and collectively as parishioners.

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY is the greatest work of charity done by the parish, and assists people living within the parish boundaries who are in need of food, and other temporary financial assistance. A person in need does not have to be a parishioner to receive help.

SOUP KITCHEN OUTREACH Volunteers from our parish provide and serve the evening meal at Sts. Peter and Paul Soup Kitchen once a month. Food is donated and prepared by parishioners.

TRANSPORTATION FOR THE ELDERLY is provided by parishioners to others who are in need and do not have a means of transportation. This includes providing a ride to church on the weekend or providing a ride to the doctor or to the hospital.

TRIVIA NIGHT The annual Trivia Night is a parish fund-raiser that takes place in February and is held at the School Hall. Challenging questions, cash prizes, attendance prizes, raffles and 50/50 drawings. Beverages and snacks are provided.

USHERS maintain seating arrangements and assist the greeters in distributing worship aids. They take up the

weekly offering, maintain order in church, and care for any who may become ill.

VETERANS COMMITTEE A parish event held on the Sunday nearest Veteran's Day to remember and honor all veterans who served our Country to protect our freedom, especially veterans from our St. Mary Magdalen Parish Community.

WHITE HOUSE RETREAT An annual retreat for all men of the parish is scheduled for the second weekend in November. This retreat is a closed retreat and a great opportunity for spiritual growth and an excellent occasion to review the priorities in one's life.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY A ministry set aside for spiritual growth and for social and other activities for young persons, married or single, between the ages of 18 and 35.

Stewardship Thoughts

- "The Church never demands that we give more than we can afford, but the truth is that many of us can afford to give more than we do. It is funny how, to so many, a \$100 bill 'looks' like so much when you take it to church but so little when you take it to the mall."
- "All communication has a moral dimension. As the Lord himself has said, it is from the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:34-35). People grow or diminish in moral stature by the words they speak and the messages which they choose to hear."
- "If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up."
- "The pursuit of holiness is perhaps too often confused with a quest for happiness. For while we profess to know God, in practice we allow the contemporary idols of consumerism, self-help and self-fulfillment to have a higher claim on us."
- "How often do we miss God's loving response because we think God should do things our way?"
- "When we want what God wants, it becomes easy for Him to answer our prayers. Too often we use our prayer in a vain and futile attempt to impose our will on God."
- "Give thanks for the freedoms our independence gives us, but also remember our dependence on God."



Thanks to all who give of their prayers, participation, talent, and generosity to make our parish such a vibrant community of faith.

ST. MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

**4924 Bancroft Avenue
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God showers His Mercy on Us.



Stewardship means that we make a return to God for all the gifts and blessings He has given us. A gift to God of Prayer Participation Talent and Generosity is our expression of gratitude for all that we have received.

