

# *St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church*



*2017 Guide Book & Directory*

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7232 KY 56 • Owensboro, KY 42301 • (270) 771-4436

# *St. Mary Magdalene*

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## *Mission Statement*

*To proclaim as St. Mary Magdalene the good news  
Of the risen Christ and to come together  
As a parish family to love, worship, and  
Serve God the Father through the Body and  
Blood of his Son Jesus.*

## *Pastoral Staff*

### **Fr. Mark Buckner**

Pastor

[mark.buckner@pastoral.org](mailto:mark.buckner@pastoral.org)

### **Debi Hopkins**

Dir. of Faith Formation

[debihopkins7@hotmail.com](mailto:debihopkins7@hotmail.com)

### **Jacob Hein**

Dir. of Music

[jacob\\_hein@hotmail.com](mailto:jacob_hein@hotmail.com)

### **Crissy Stevenson**

Youth Minister

[crissystevenson1@yahoo.com](mailto:crissystevenson1@yahoo.com)

### **Patti Bartley**

Secretary

[patti.bartley@stmarymagd.org](mailto:patti.bartley@stmarymagd.org)

### **Susan Calhoun**

Bookkeeper

[Susan.Calhoun99@yahoo.com](mailto:Susan.Calhoun99@yahoo.com)

**Parish Pastoral Council:** Purpose to initiate, promote, undertake, and carry out needs of the Parish with the approval of the Pastor.

Sara O'Bryan, Mark Payne, Benita Drury, Danny Ebelhar, Jason Elder

**Finance Committee:** The committee meets to review parish financial status and plan for future needs. The committee reports on financial activity to the Parish Council.

Kenny Knott, Rebecca Schwartz, Rita Wood, Sean Byrne

**Stewardship Committee:** This committee meets to review, plan, and implement the annual stewardship renewal in the parish. The committee's goal is to promote stewardship as a way of life for each parishioner. The committee encourages parishioners to utilize their talents and abilities to enhance our faith community. The committee provides guidance to the four pillars of liturgy, parish life, hospitality and building & grounds.

Kurt Osborne, Kara Drury, Matt & Jane Thomas, Logan Elder

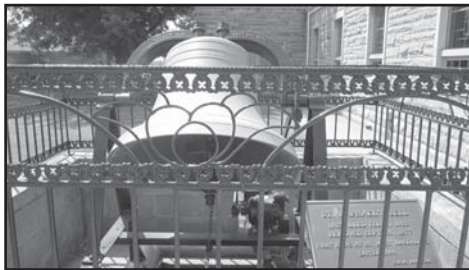
### *Mass Times*

Saturday	4:00pm
Sunday	7:30am & 10:30am
Weekdays, Tues.-Sat.	7:00am
Holy Days	As announced

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday	2:30pm or by appointment
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### *Parish History*



Some of the first parishioners attended St. Elizabeth's, St. Raphael's, St. Martin's, and St. Peter's Churches. The Rev. Joseph A. Wright, who was the priest at St. Elizabeth's, helped to get the building project started for Sorgho. Mr. W. E. Clark, Sr. donated a one acre tract of land for the church to be built. Work was begun in early fall of 1907 and according to the Owensboro Messenger was to be completed to hold services in by Christmas Day. It was a 32x60 wooden frame structure. In July, 1907 the St. Elizabeth parish held their picnic and proceeds from it formed the nucleus of funds for the building project.

The article also said that there were several families who could not go anywhere else conveniently and they desired to have a church near them in Sorgho. By January 15, 1908, the new church had been completed, except for putting in the altar and the pews. The total cost of the new church was put at \$2,000.00. There were about 20 families in the parish. The dedication was to have taken place on April 23 but had to be postponed due to stormy weather. The church was fully completed by then.

On June 27, 1908 the church held the dedication. On the morning of the dedication there was a total eclipse of the sun. The church had mostly wooden statues and simple furnishings. It had a choir loft and in the front of the church was the organ. Frank and Matt Schadler built the altar and communion rail from wood. On special occasions, Frank Schadler, Sr. would play his violin in the choir.

For the first twenty years this parish remained a mission of St. Elizabeth's with five different pastors: Fr. Joseph Wright, 1908-1910; Fr. H. B. Gillenbeck, 1912-1913; Fr. Christian Wergand, 1913-1914; Fr. Robert Jenne, 1915-1922; and Fr. James Higdon, 1922-1928.

In 1928, SMM was removed from St. Elizabeth and was placed under St. Augustine in Reed. Rev. S. W. Luley was here until 1932. Rev. C. Hooiveld came in 1932 and left in 1935. In 1935 Rev. Paul Greenwell arrived and was here when electric lights were installed in the church in 1938.

In 1937, SMM bought the old Sorgho public school property where the present day rectory is located. It was the second lot purchased of the four lots that make up our church property today. In 1939, Fr. Greenwell was entertaining thoughts of a new church. The first fund raiser totaled \$103.00. The old church was getting too small and was hard to heat by the two pot bellied stoves. The windows were sagging with the cold winter winds blowing in. Fr. Greenwell left in 1943 and was replaced by Fr. Frank Ward. Money trickled in slowly during the war years. In 1946 Fr. Robert Wilson arrived and was in every way a real fund raiser. In 1948 the new (present day) church began construction. On January 27, 1949, the new church was dedicated by Bishop Frances Cotton with Fr. Wilson. Fr. Paul Greenwell delivered the sermon. The cost of the new church was put at \$65,000. Nancy Knott was the first baby to be baptized here. The first marriage was Martin Louis Mattingly and Mildred Thompson. Rev. Henry Willett filled in for one year until Fr. Wilson's return. Fr. Wilson got a new school started in 1951. Fr. Aloysius Powers followed in 1957 through 1962.

Fr. William Hagman arrived in 1962. In 1963 the Owensboro diocese changed the territorial line of SMM and had several families placed in Precious Blood parish. The school had reached its peak of 134 students and was extremely full. In 1964, Fr. Hagman supervised the building of the new rectory costing nearly \$24,000. He was moved from Sorgho before it was completed. At that time SMM was the largest mission church in the Owensboro Diocese.



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*It's at the Heart of What We Do*

Rev. William McAtee arrived in 1964 to complete the rectory, which he moved into in February of 1965. SMM had finally gotten a resident priest. In May 1965, SMM purchased another two acres from Posey Hancock. Also in 1965, Rev. Robert Garlick was here for a one year stay. In 1966, Rev. George Boehmicke started his 18 year tenure. In 1967 the home across the highway was purchased for the nuns to live in. By January 1969, there were 119 families in the parish. In 1975 construction began on the parish hall. A 50x90 building cost approximately \$40,000.

The new hall was built mostly by the parishioners. Bishop Soenneker dedicated it on November 9, 1975. Fr. Boehmicke retired in 1983 and was followed by Rev. Henry O'Bryan. The church was remodeled in 1984. New lights and carpet were installed and the communion rail was removed. The altar was turned around to face the parishioners.

In August 1987, the Sister's home was sold. In 1989, Father O'Bryan retired and was followed by Fr. Kevin Karl and Fr. Danny Goff, who would be the assistant priest. The rectory was renovated during that year. Fr. Danny Goff is the only priest to have made his First Communion and his Confirmation at SMM. As of December, 1990, there were 165 families listed as parishioners of SMM.

In May, 1988, the last 8th grade class graduated from SMM. In the fall it opened under the name of "Holy Angels".

In 1993, Rev. Steve Ulrich filled in for Fr. Danny Goff, who was ill for approximately one year.

In 1994, Fr. Pat Reynolds arrived. This was the same year that Holy Angels School was closed and moved to the former Sorgho Elementary School. The school was changed into the Parish Center.

In 1998, the parish hall renovation began with a new makeover. The parish hall was rededicated on February 7, 1999, the same day as the present stone church celebrated its 50th Anniversary, with Bishop John McRaith and Fr. Pat Reynolds.

Fr. Pat Reynolds was instrumental in getting our own parish cemetery close to the church. In 2003 a new cemetery was established. The road work was done and grass was sown in September. In June, 2004, Rev. Richard Powers was assigned to SMM. The new cemetery was dedicated by Bishop McRaith on September 11, 2004.

Fr. Richard Powers retired in June of 2007. He was replaced by Fr. Pat Bittel who was moved in 2009, Fr. Mark A. Buckner is the current pastor.

There are still several families living in the parish whose ancestors were here when the parish began 100 years ago. They are the following:

The Beyke Family, The Willet-Elder Family, The Mulligan Family, The Clayton Family, The Wimsatt (Thompson) Family, The Stephens Family and The Head Family.

Presently there are 270 families in the SMM Parish as we enter into our second 100 years. Thanks to all of those who have gone before us and help make SMM what it is today.



## How Do I...

### **find out about having my child baptized?**

Call Fr. Mark to set up an appointment for instructions and arrangements for the Baptism. You will need to attend baptismal preparation sessions.

### **find out about registering my child for PREP classes?**

Contact Debi Hopkins (270) 771-4438

### **schedule a Mass Intention?**

A Mass intention is a way to remember a deceased loved one or friend, and is also a way to celebrate in thanksgiving or praise for a special date or anniversary. To schedule a Mass intention please call Patti Bartley in the church office.

### **reserve the Parish Hall or a meeting room?**

Call or email Patti Bartley in the church office.

### **put something in the bulletin?**

Email Patti Bartley. The deadline is Monday morning at 9:00am.

### **purchase or inquire about a Cemetery plot?**

Call the parish office and talk to Patti.



## Liturgical



### **Liturgical Committee**

The Liturgical Committee consists of a group of parishioners representing various Liturgical ministries, the pastor and director of music and liturgy. The group meets to set goals, direction and standards for the overall liturgical life of the parish.

### **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

Being an Eucharistic Minister is very rewarding and is an honored area of liturgical service. Ministers take part in distributing the Body and Blood of our Lord to the community. Ministers are commissioned by the Pastor and serve at the Mass of their choice. Training is required prior to being added to the schedule. You must have received the Sacrament of Confirmation and be at least 16 years of age.

### **Eucharistic Minister to the Sick & Homebound**

Takes Communion to the Homebound

### **Lectors**

The Lectors are a group of dedicated individuals who make a significant contribution to our Liturgy by proclaiming the Word of God. Through the proclamation of scripture, the Lector shares with us the very presence of our God. Lectors are scheduled at the Mass of their choice. Training is required prior to being added to the schedule. Open to adults and high school youth. Contact Fr. Mark Buckner or Debi Hopkins for training.

### **Altar Servers**

Assist at the various liturgical functions throughout the year. Open to both boys and girls third grade and older. Training is provided for all new servers. Servers are scheduled at the Mass of their choice. Adults are also encouraged to serve. This is a great way to be involved and learn more about the Liturgy. Contact Fr. Mark Buckner for training.



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### **Greeters/Ushers**

Greeters are the first persons to welcome individuals as they arrive for the liturgical celebration. Greeters locate themselves by the entrances of the church; open the door for those entering and sharing a few words of welcome. As an usher, they help with seating, assist with offertory collection and procession of the Eucharist. Ushers are scheduled at the Mass of their choice. Open to adults and high school youth.

### **Music Ministry**

Many people in our faith community are blessed with the gift of voice or instrumentation in music. We are always looking for more people to share their musical talents with the Parish. A strong music program, made up of a variety of talents, is a real blessing to our liturgical celebrations. Opportunities to participate include adult choir, children's choir, youth choir, cantors, instrumentalists, funeral choir and hand chimes

Contact Jacob Hein for more information (270) 771-4436 or [jacob\\_hein@hotmail.com](mailto:jacob_hein@hotmail.com)

### **Art/Environment**

Assist in the set up and take down of decorations in the church. Helps with care of flowers and plants.

Contact Molly Kinney (205) 331-6425

### **Monthly Church Cleaning**

Helps with general cleaning of the church. Groups clean the church one month during the year.

### **After Mass Housekeeping**

Provides light housekeeping following the masses by straightening books, envelopes and flyers in pews, raising kneelers and removing any trash from pews.

## Parish Life



**Parish Religious Education Program (PREP)** serves the faith formation needs of children of the parish, generally those outside the Catholic school system, although all are welcome to attend. Presently, about 46 children are in attendance, Kindergarten through 7th grade. All “unconfirmed” 8th graders are in the parish Confirmation program, which is held separately from PREP. We have 75 min. catechetical sessions, on scheduled Sundays, between the Masses, from 9:05-10:20am. These are facilitated by 16 dedicated parish volunteers, and PREP normally goes from the end of August until the first Sunday in May.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** is a process of preparing the unbaptized, and those un-formed by Christianity (termed, un-catechized), for formal acceptance of the Catholic Faith, and reception of the Sacraments of Initiation. Full initiation normally concludes with the Easter Vigil (the night before Easter Sunday). The process can take a year, although there are exceptions certainly, usually due to age or infirmity.

**Catholic initiation (outside of the R.C.I.A.)** indicates that a person is already validly baptized, already accepts Christ, and now wishes to be Roman Catholic. This is planned according to the age and specific circumstances of the individual. The 2 initiation processes stated here and above are flexible and offered year-round here. In other words, those inquiring into the Catholic Church are not put off to wait for a “program” to start. We will try to accommodate your needs a.s.a.p. Welcoming into full communion with the Catholic Church is completed at any time during the year.

**Sacramental Preparation** for our 2nd grade parish children (already baptized): 2nd grade (about 7 yrs. old) is the normative age to receive First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. PREP 2nd graders receive that preparation in their regular PREP sessions and Catholic school 2nd graders receive their preparation at school. First Reconciliation is usually in mid-January. First Eucharist is usually the last Sunday in April. There is a parent meeting for all in the fall, and one in the late winter. All children receiving these sacraments have a mini-retreat together, normally on a Saturday morning, a week before the event.

**Study of the Sunday Scriptures** is a group that meets on Wednesdays, after morning Mass, about 7:45-9:00am. This is a “drop-in any week” group that meets from late Sept. generally until mid-May. All three of the Mass readings for the upcoming Sunday are read and studied. Commentary is prepared and shared by Debi Hopkins, the facilitator. There is coffee, something to eat, and lively discussion and fellowship. All are welcome with no obligation to attend every week, and no previous Bible study experience is needed. We will even provide the Bibles.

**Children’s Liturgy of the Word** is offered at weekend Masses, when volunteers and enough children are in attendance. Generally, this is for Kindergarten through 2nd grade. “Mature” 4 yr. olds and those younger (who are brought over to the parish center with someone attending to them) are also welcome. If Children’s Liturgy is being offered at a particular Mass, the priest will announce for the children to come forward, after the Opening Prayer. St. Mary Magdalene Parish follows the guidelines published for Children’s Liturgy of the Word, available on the Owensboro diocesan website, Office of Worship-Parish Liturgy Manual.



**Youth Ministry** is an integrated program for students in both the public and private school systems. The goals of Youth Ministry is 1) to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today, 2) to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community, and 3) to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person (*Renewing the Vision, USCCB*). Our Youth Ministry program offers opportunities for prayer, catechesis, community building, and service. Youth Ministry is for students in both public and private school systems in grades 6-12.

## *Parish Benefactors*

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### **Youth Ministry Volunteers**

Adult volunteers are a necessity to a good Youth Ministry Program. Any adult willing to come be a presence and mentor to our young people are encouraged to get involved. Our youth gain so much insight from the adults who are involved. Every adult who is involved is required to complete the Safe Environment training and background check provided through the diocese.

### **Youth Ministry Cooks**

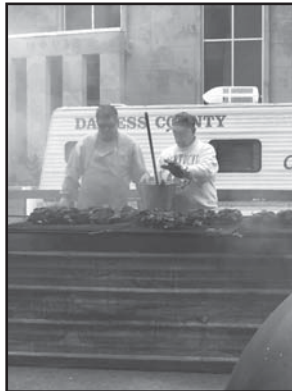
Once a month, we provide dinner for our Youth Group. We need adults to serve the youth group by preparing and serving dinner.

### **Confirmation**

Children receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 8th grade. Our Confirmation Program integrates students in both public and Catholic schools. We expect those in the Confirmation Program to attend and participate in as many meetings, retreats, and service opportunities as possible in order to adequately prepare them for the sacrament.

### **Men's Club**

The Men's Club is a social and service club that is open to all men of the parish. The Men's Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month for a business meeting and social get-together. The Club runs two golf tournaments and conducts other fund-raising activities throughout the year. With the funds raised, the Men's Club makes financial contributions to the Church and other ministries within the parish. The Men's Club also performs various service projects on behalf of the parish. Contact John Brey for more information: (270) 316-3450



### **Knights of Columbus**

This Catholic fraternal, community, service, and family-oriented organization is devoted to furthering the goals of the Pope and the Catholic Church. Membership is open to male parishioners 18 years of age and older.



### **Angel Tree**

Our Angel Tree goes up the First Sunday of Advent. Each angel represents a *child*, one who might otherwise receive very little for Christmas, were it not for the generous spirit of God, *alive in people, like you!* *The angels each represent one gift for a child from one of the local elementary schools.*

### **Men's Club Breakfast**

The breakfast is provided free of charge by the Men's Club. They prepare and serve this meal to the Parish Family the 1st Sunday in February.

### **Parish Picnic**

A 100+ year tradition continues. This event is put on by the entire parish community. This fundraiser is always the Saturday before the 4th of July, Contact John O'Bryan (270) 302-1251.



### **Rummage Sale**

This fundraiser takes place twice a year...one sale in the Spring and one in the Fall. Items donated by the parishioners and sold during the Rummage Sale averages over \$7,000 a year.

### **Parish Feast Day Celebration**

This annual celebration is a way for the Parish Family to come together in thanksgiving and celebration of our Patroness, Saint Mary Magdalene. This event is free and a great way to spend the evening. This event is held the closest Saturday before the Feast Day on July 22nd.

### **Trunk or Treat**

Takes place each year on the Sunday before Halloween. The event is for the entire parish beginning with a chili supper at 4:00pm. Everyone is encouraged to dress up and participate in the costume judging contest and also to decorate their cars for the trunk judging contest as well. Prizes are up for grabs for both contests. After dinner, the Trick or Treating begins and the children go from car to car to get their treat.

## **VBS**

Vacation Bible School is a 4 Day event each summer. Our program allows for experiential learning by immersing into Bible-times experiences and meeting prominent people throughout the Bible. We allow participation from children ages 3 and up. This event is truly for every age: from the children who are participants, to our teens and adults who volunteer to lead crafts, become a Bible character, lead a Tribe, and more!

## **Parish Photography**

Volunteers are needed to take photographs during ministry activities and events and forward the photos to the Parish Office for use in the bulletin, website, facebook, or other publications.

## **Office Volunteers**

Volunteers assist the Parish Office staff with mailings, and other tasks. Flexible hours are available. Adult volunteers are recommended; college or high school age parishioners are welcome during school breaks.

## **Parish Appreciation**

Annual event provided to show recognition and appreciation to all our Parishioners.

## *Building & Grounds*

Buildings and Grounds Committee helps to keep the building and grounds well maintained. The committee monitors preventative maintenance needs and assists in hands-on maintenance projects that include carpentry, electrical, plumbing. Parishioners experienced in building and grounds maintenance are encouraged to participate. To volunteer or seek information, contact Josh Bartley (270) 231-1132.



## *Hospitality*

### **Bereavement**

The Parish offers bereaved families the opportunity to have a funeral meal prepared and served in the Parish Hall. Families are needed to prepare a dish or dessert and drop it off to the Parish Hall. Help is also needed with setup, serving and clean-up of the Parish Hall. Contact the Parish office if you would like to help.

### **Meals to the sick**

Volunteers prepare or provide meals to parish members who are sick. Contact the Parish office if you would like to help.

### **Card mailings**

This ministry of volunteers mail get-well cards (provided by the parish) to parishioners in the hospital and sympathy cards to families at the time of a loved one's death.