

DIRECTORY OF MINISTRIES

We are an active parish here at Saint Mary Magdalene; the list of services, activities, and ministries is robust and active with great participation from our parishioners. We are incredibly blessed as a faith community to have a rich choice of ministries in which to participate as we contribute toward the building of God's kingdom.

If you are new to our faith community, we hope this directory will help you quickly become one of the family. If you are a current parishioner not currently involved in a ministry or are looking for something new or different, we hope this will help you find your niche.

We are grateful for all our ministers who make these programs possible. Without the time, dedication and generosity of these individuals and families, none of this would be possible.



Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless his people.

Prayer of Saint Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

An alphabetical index of the Ministries is located in the back of this book. See the parish calendar or visit smmcatholic.org for contact information.

JUST FOR OUR YOUTH

Everyone is called to follow Jesus and get connected to transform their parish into an engaged & vibrant community, there are numerous opportunities for Children and Teens to serve in our parish.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD Children in Pre-K – 5th grade are invited to participate in the Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9:00 AM Mass on the third Sunday of the month from August through May. After the Opening Prayer the children will be invited to come forward for dismissal and then will reverently process with their adult leaders to the parish hall for the Children's Liturgy of the Word. During this time their leaders will engage the children in the scriptures of the day, using words they can understand. They will participate interactively and have the opportunity to pray an abbreviated version of the Creed and offer their own Intercessions. In this small-group environment, they learn to participate fully in the Liturgy of the Word and to connect the Good News Jesus preached to their daily lives. The children will process back into Mass during the Children's Offertory.

CHILD & TEEN STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES Envelopes are available for children in grades Pre-K through 12th grade. Although envelopes usually mean just money, that's not the case with the children's envelopes. The envelopes give the child the opportunity to contribute something other than money. Both versions have a space for them to fill out what they did with their time and talent for the week.

Envelopes are collected at all Masses. At the 5:00 PM Mass their offering is placed in the regular offertory basket. At the 9:00 AM and 12 Noon Masses the children in Pre-K through 4th grade are invited forward to place their offering into a special basket, while the older children place their envelope in the regular offertory basket. If your child(ren) would like to participate in our Children's Stewardship Program, envelopes can be found in the Narthex before or after any Mass.

YOUTH COMMITMENT CARD A Commitment Card created specifically to highlight Ministries that welcome involvement from our youth and/or their families. Available in the Narthex.

PRAYER & WORSHIP

ALTAR LINENS We do laundry for the Lord! The Altar Linen Ministry takes special care of the sacred linens used in our Eucharistic celebrations. Each week, a dedicated parishioner picks up the small altar linens, washes and irons them and returns them to the sacristy for use the next week. There are no meetings and caring for the linens can be worked easily into your schedule. Ministers are scheduled 2 or 3 times a year.

ALTAR SERVERS The Altar Server Ministry is a great way for youth to serve the Lord and Saint Mary Magdalene's community. Altar serving is the ultimate "Family Friendly" ministry. Both Boys and Girls are welcome to participate. Servers must be at least 10 years old (rising 5th graders) and have received First Holy Communion to assist during Mass. We have several training sessions throughout the year and are always looking for new servers. Each Server typically serves one Mass a month, of the family's choosing, with additional opportunities to serve on Holy Days of Obligation, Holy Week, and Christmas. Throughout the year we have fun activities for our servers which include an altar server picnic, campfire and movie night.

ARTS & ENVIRONMENT The Arts & Environment Ministry seeks to develop our worship space in such a way that our faithful can experience worship more fully through symbolism & imagery. We prepare the décor of our worship space for Mass & special liturgical celebrations during the various seasons. Our duties include arranging & caring for the altar & Narthex flowers, decoration & setup for Christmas, Holy Week, Easter & other special liturgical celebrations.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Adoration provides individuals the opportunity to silently adore Jesus Christ present in the Holy Eucharist. Adoration is every Thursday from 4 - 7 PM and every First Friday of the month from 6-8 PM. The ministry is looking for parishioners to participate as a committed hour adorer and/or substitute adorer. A committed hour adorer visits regularly at his/her chosen hour and a substitute adorer fills in, when called, for an absent committed adorer. Committed hour adorers that are also Extraordinary Ministers can further adore Our Lord by Exposing and Reposing the Blessed Sacrament. Adorers commit to their chosen hour on a weekly and or monthly (for First Friday) basis. Committed and Substitute Adorers must be parishioners over 18 years old. If you cannot commit to a schedule you can drop by for a visit. Everyone is welcome but youth should have a parent present when visiting.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assist the Priest and Deacon at Mass by distributing the Body and Blood of Christ to our parishioners at all weekend liturgies, Holy Days of Obligation, and other special Masses. Ministers are expected to serve at least once a month and sign themselves up online for the Masses of their choice. No prior experience is necessary, but training is required and is offered once per quarter. Ministers need to arrive at least 20 minutes prior to Mass to sign in and prepare. Extraordinary Ministers are also encouraged to assist the Welcome Committee in the Narthex to greet parishioners and visitors prior to Mass, if needed.

LECTORS The Lector Ministry is a deeply satisfying and joyful expression of faith. Lectors reflect on the readings, attain a deeper and clearer understanding of what the “words” signify, and then deliver the first and second readings. Lectors must have an adequate speaking voice, self-confidence, maturity, poise and the ability to read aloud. Lectors are assigned for regular weekend Masses as well as Holy Days and special occasions. This requires arriving at least 15 minutes prior to Mass to sign in and review the set up. The most important time requirement is to become familiar with the message of your reading and to practice several times prior to Mass. Youth that have been Confirmed are encouraged to participate in this Ministry. Training is provided and Ministers are assigned to a Mass of their preference.

LITURGY COMMISSION The Liturgy Commission is formed by a dedicated group of liturgical chair ministers that together with our Pastor and Deacon, plan to derive true Christian Spirit, in accordance with the Atlanta Archdiocese and our Church’s norms, the celebration of the liturgical seasons, special liturgies and sacraments. We meet once a month, to discuss, evaluate and enhance the liturgical experience in such a way that leads to a conscious, active and full participation of the faithful as we come together to worship. It is our passionate goal through Liturgy to transform hearts and help our faithful walk closer to Christ. Members include Ministry Heads from each of our Liturgical ministries.

MUSIC MINISTRY The Music Ministry provides contemporary sacred music for the parish’s liturgical celebrations, both vocal and instrumental. For the 5 PM on Saturday and 9 AM and Noon Masses on Sunday any adult parishioner who wishes to be a part of the ministry is invited. Musical expertise is not required, just a desire to learn. For the Praise & Worship Band, an audition is required. This group handles retreats, and praise and worship events for the parish. Anyone under the age of 18 (9th grade and up) who wishes to become a part of the Music Ministry will need to demonstrate a desire to practice and learn. All members practice on Monday nights. Additional opportunities to participate include special liturgies and Holy Days of Obligation. Safe Environment Training/Screening is required.

PRAYER LINE The Prayer Line Ministry sends out prayer requests and special intentions by email. Prayer requests go under the categories of Health & Healing for Physical & Spiritual needs; General for undisclosed needs; and Deceased back three months, and infants. This Ministry is private because no details are printed in the bulletin and unless requested no details are passed on to the volunteers. This Ministry is very workable for those who are busy with other programs or jobs.

When sending email requests, please put prayer request in the subject line.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL MINISTRY The General Intercessions (or Prayers of the Faithful) are a series of prayers which form part of the liturgy. These prayers introduced by the celebrating priest are said at the conclusion of the Liturgy of the Word. The people are invited to pray for a number of intentions, typically read by the lector as a member of the faithful. These intentions, which adhere to a standardized format, are offered for the holy Church, for civic needs, for our parish, for those weighed down by various needs, for those in need of healing and the deceased. This ministry involves the writing of the Prayers of the Faithful (POF) through prayerful thought and consideration - being first inspired by the readings of the day, current needs and then by other supplied resources. Members of the POF Ministry are assigned by month. The writers are responsible for writing the POF for each Sunday Mass, Holy Day and other special liturgical celebrations of the month that they have been assigned.

ROSARY GROUP The word rosary from the Latin word "rosarium" means a garland or bouquet of roses. Devotion to the rosary is one of the most notable features of popular Catholic spirituality. Pope John Paul II placed the rosary at the very center of Christian spirituality and called it "among the finest and most praiseworthy traditions of Christian contemplation." The spirit of the exercise lies in the meditation upon the fundamental mysteries of our faith. The rosary is recited before Mass on Sundays at 8:30 AM. Everyone is welcome to join! Our rosary group is also looking for parishioners that would like to lead the recitation of the Rosary before the 5 PM Saturday Mass and Sunday 12 Noon Mass.

SACRISTAN The mission of the Sacristan Ministry is to ensure that all things needed for the celebration of the Mass are in place and that the Mass is conducted in a prayerful and meaningful manner. The Sacristan is responsible for set-up and clean-up and any rites that may be performed during the Mass (e.g. Baptisms). The tasks include but are not limited to ensuring: the Lectionary and Third Roman Missal are marked for the Mass of the day, and sign-in sheets for all the Liturgical Ministers are in place in the sacristy. The Sacristan also prepares the credence table, the gifts table, and other items to be used in the liturgy. Occasionally, the Sacristan may have to substitute for the deacon in filling the cups with wine before the consecration. Individuals must be Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. Individuals can choose which of the three Masses they will serve. We are a small ministry, so we normally serve twice a month, but depending on the number of new ministers, the frequency could be reduced. Individuals must arrive at least one hour before Mass. The total time commitment for each Mass could be between two and a half to three hours.

SOUND MINISTRY This ministry provides the technical sound support for the Music Ministry and all other events that require sound amplification. Experience in the use of sound mixing boards, processors, amplifiers, microphones, and speakers is helpful but not necessary. Responsibilities of the ministry include managing sound system, handling the sound duties on the mixing board, and depending on experience be able to assist in trouble shooting when problems occur. Training is available to anyone interested in learning. Initially there is a large amount of training involved. Practices on Monday nights with the band are required. We also travel with the Music Ministry as requested to set up sound on retreats. Must be 18 years or older. Virtus Safe Environment Training/Screening is also required.

USHERS The goal of the Usher Ministry is to greet everyone who enters our church doors with a smile and a warm welcome. The Ushers need to ensure that the worship space environment allows the parishioners to focus on the word of God. Ushers will assist the priest by helping to ensure that the Mass runs smoothly and without disruption. The offertory collection and the communion flow needs to be handled in a timely manner. Ushers need to be ready to answer any questions and to assist people as needed. Ushers must have a welcoming and outgoing personality. Ushers arrive 30 minutes prior to the beginning of Mass and are generally done 30 minutes after Mass ends. Ushers are usually scheduled once a month to a Mass of their choosing with additional opportunities to serve on Holy Days and other special liturgical celebrations.

WEDDING GUILD A ministry dedicated to assisting couples who plan to be married at our Church. Working in pairs (and it's not limited to just women), members assist with the wedding rehearsal and coordinate the flow of events at the Church on the day of the wedding. They also serve as a resource for the couple's pre-wedding planning relative to the logistics of the ceremony.

FAITH FORMATION

ADULT CATECHISTS/PRESENTERS Seeking individuals to foster a loving knowledge and spiritual enrichment in all aspects of faith formation to build up the Body of Christ. Those wishing to volunteer as a Catechist, aide, or volunteer please contact the Director of Religious Education (DRE) or the appropriate Coordinator for more information. If you have expertise in an area of faith formation or a professional interest stemming from the environmental, communal or social teachings of the church, and would like to present a topic please contact the DRE.

ADULT FORMATION Adult formation is an opportunity for adults in the parish to continue to grow in their knowledge and love of the faith through bible study, group discussions, guest speakers, reflection time, and fellowship. Opportunities for life-long faith formation occur throughout the year. Please watch the bulletin for upcoming events or classes.

BAPTISM PREPARATION Baptism Preparation instructs parents and godparents regarding the meanings, obligations, and rich symbols which flow from the Rite of Baptism. The seminar explains the requirements and the role of godparents and addresses any concerns or questions parents may have. The mandatory Baptism Seminar is offered on the fourth Sunday of every other month.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA) AND CHILDREN (RCIC)

A journey of faith for those interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith. Those who decide will come into full Communion at the Easter Vigil. Children ages 7-17 who have not been baptized, or children who have been baptized but who have no other formal religious formation may also be part of this process. RCIA SPONSORS needed; no degree in theology is required, just the desire to walk-the walk with your candidate during their faith journey.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION Together with Baptism and the Eucharist, the sacrament of Confirmation completes the “Sacraments of Christian Initiation.” St. Mary Magdalene offers programs for both Youth and Adults.

Youth Confirmation Our Youth Confirmation preparation program is designed to help our young people come to a deeper understanding of how the Holy Spirit works in their lives and in the life of the Church.

Adult Confirmation The Adult Confirmation Program is designed to assist adult Catholics (18 years of age and older) who have celebrated Baptism and Communion but have not had the opportunity to complete the initiation process by celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation. Classes meet Sundays between Masses starting in late Fall and continue until Confirmation.

FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION The Commission is dedicated to the education of the parishioners of St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. As an advisement of Catholic catechesis for both children and adults in the parish, its purpose is to assist in the faith formation of educating Christian individuals who attempt to live and proclaim the message of our Lord Jesus Christ. The intellectual and faith formation of all parish members is fostered by comprehensive and innovative curricula that are committed to the teaching of Catholic, Christian values in line with the Catholic Church and the Archbishop who as local ordinary, has the ultimate responsibility as teacher of the faith. Members are appointed.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION (GRADES PRE-K – 5) Our Elementary Faith Formation program is a weekly program that emphasizes what is being taught at home and assists in developing a Christian attitude and basic Catholic doctrine. Responsibilities and time commitments vary according to the volunteer position. Catechist training is offered several weeks prior to the start of the program year and additional opportunities for training will be offered throughout the year. Virtus Safe Environment Training/ Screening is required for all positions. Training includes on-site classes as well as webinars and diocesan training. All Catechists will be encouraged to participate in Catechist formation when offered.

Catechist Aids parents in the process of their child’s Catholic Christian education by preparing and teaching a weekly lesson from approved curriculum.

Co-Catechist Assists in the Pre-K – 5 classrooms providing instruction, supervision, and a helping hand.

Substitute Catechist Assist regular Catechist in the classroom when one Catechist is unable to attend. Substitutes do not have to teach classes but may be called to do so if they feel comfortable.

Hall Monitor Individuals are needed to help with miscellaneous office work craft ideas, and various activities both in and out of the classroom.

Car Duty Assist with dismissal on Monday and Tuesday sessions. Volunteer will help control traffic flow and safely load children into their vehicles.

MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6–8) In these challenging “middle years” ~ our catechists are eager to impart this: “You are not here to learn about the Good News; you ARE the Good News.” We strive to make Jesus be alive for them and have Him be the center of their lives and for them to take notice of the works of the Holy Spirit all throughout their school week and everyday lives. The program uses this framework: prayer and worship, catechesis, community life, evangelization, justice and service, leadership development, advocacy and pastoral care. We create a social setting during each session. We re-address the Mass, Liturgy and Sacraments and explore the Old Testament, finding connections to the New Testament in order to pour out the riches of our Catholic faith. It is a time for these youth to differentiate what is special about being Catholic and embrace this religion as their own. Middle School Faith Formation meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:45 PM–8:00 PM. Virtus Safe Environment Training/Screening is required for all positions.

Catechist An individual who is willing to share their faith with Middle School students and aid the parents in the catechetical process.

Co-Catechist An individual who is willing to share their faith with Middle School students. Co-Catechists work with one or two other Catechists.

Substitute Catechist Any individual who is able to be present in a classroom setting when a Catechist is unable to attend. Because regular Catechists always work in pairs; it is unlikely to be called to lead the class. In the event of a Catechist’s absence, the Co-Catechist would take the lead and a substitute would be present as an aid for discussion and supervision.

Volunteer Individuals who help with miscellaneous office work, chaperoning events, monitoring the hall or open areas, craft ideas, and various activities both in and out of the classroom.

YOUTH GROUP (GRADES 9–12) The High School Youth Group is a comprehensive, multi-faceted program comprised of faith formation, volunteer service opportunities, worship experiences, concerts, retreats, fellowship, and other events. The Youth Group meets on Sunday afternoons from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. The Youth Group needs adult individuals who seek to learn more about their faith while our high school students learn about theirs. Virtus Safe Environment Training/Screening is required.

EVANGELIZATION

BIBLE STUDY The essence of Catholicism is dynamic transformation. Being Catholic means to strive to live the Gospel. You cannot become more Christ-like and stay as you are. This dynamic approach to transformation: physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually—allows us to experience life “to the Fullest.” (John 10:10). Christ continually invites us to higher and deeper places and we are called to reach you at the stage you are in, just as Jesus did, so don’t be afraid. Announcements will be in the Church Bulletin stating when the studies will be offered.

CURSILLO/ULTREYA Cursillo is Spanish, meaning short course. It is often associated with a 3-day weekend retreat that examines evangelization as a very natural act of being Christ-like within all of our daily activities. Most people would like to live their lives in a Christ-like manner; however the pressures of the world often make this difficult. The Cursillo weekend provides a method and a technique to equip each of us with the tools, the mentality, the strength, and the support to make this natural type of evangelization possible. The Ultreya is the support system for those who have made a Cursillo weekend. Ultreya, held monthly at SMM, meets the third Saturday of each month following the 5 PM Mass and provides a gathering forum for those seeking to rekindle the “fire” of Cursillo on a regular basis.

RETURNING CATHOLICS Have you been away from the Catholic Church for awhile? No matter what happened in your life or how long you’ve been away, our Lord wants you to come back.

Think for a moment about Christ’s Parable of the Prodigal Son. The young man walked away from his father, certain that he was doing the right thing by leaving. But eventually, he had a change of heart and tentatively made his way home, full of doubts about whether his father would accept him back. Not only did the father welcome his son but threw a party in celebration of his son’s return. Our heavenly Father will rejoice the day you come home to the Catholic Church.

JUSTICE & CHARITY

ANGEL RIDES Do you want to be someone's angel? Volunteer to provide a ride to church for people in need! Someone you know need a ride to church? Ask us and we will set you up with a volunteer. Our ministry is one in which caring fellow parishioners bring those in need of a ride to Mass and various church functions. The parishioners who are eligible to participate in this program are those, who because of a temporary or permanent disability, are not able to drive themselves or their caregivers are ill or out of town. Permanent situations usually occur when an individual cannot drive due to a chronic illness or physical condition.

All drivers must meet the appropriate requirements of SMM and/or the Archdiocese, which includes but not limited to: completing required forms, producing appropriate documentation, and viewing the Archdiocese safe environment training video. The amount of time volunteered can vary according to the specific situation or need of the parishioner that you are helping. Please consider taking this opportunity to enjoy fellowship with parishioners while providing a helping hand to someone in need.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS The world's largest fraternal order of Catholic Men has been called "The Strong Right Arm of the Church," and has been cited by popes, presidents, and other world leaders for support of the Church, for programs of evangelization and Catholic education; for civic involvement and aid to those in need. There are four degrees in the order, representing virtues of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. Every day, Knights all over the world are given opportunities to make a difference. Membership is open to any practicing Catholic man over the age of 18 years.

MERCY MEALS Meals that heal...that's what Mercy Meals is all about. Mercy Meals prepares and delivers homemade meals to parishioners recovering from surgery or a serious illness. We also provide a small luncheon or reception after the funeral Mass for a loved one. Whether the recipient's need is temporary or long term, this compassionate outreach is as much about faith and friendship as it is about food. There are four teams which rotate on a monthly basis and cook once each quarter. No meetings and no experience needed. Mercy Meals operates out of your kitchen. This is a family-friendly ministry; you can involve your entire family. We're here to help. Please do not hesitate to contact us to volunteer, if you are in need of meals or know of a fellow parishioner who could use our help.

“ONE ROOF” OUTREACH One Roof Ecumenical Alliance Outreach is a part of our parish outreach program. It is a joint effort of churches of different denominations that serve the needy in Coweta County. The Coweta Community Food Pantry is located inside One Roof.

OUR MISSION: People serving the Lord in a unified way to meet the spiritual and physical needs in our community.

OUR PURPOSE: Bringing community resources together to meet financial and spiritual needs of those struggling in our community.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY Prayer Shawl Ministers provide physical, spiritual, and emotional comfort to community members during times of crisis, illness, and bereavement. Our prayers accompany tangible symbols of comfort including prayer shawls, lap robes, and chemotherapy caps. We meet monthly 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM on the second Friday of each month. We knit, crochet, quilt, or sew handmade items at home at our own pace. There are no age requirements, just an ability to knit, crochet, quilt, or sew simple patterns or the willingness to learn in a friendly environment.

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY We, the members of St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, in accordance with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and in union with the United States Catholic Bishops, proclaim that human life is a precious gift from God and all who receive this gift have a responsibility to God, self and society to protect and nurture human life at every stage of existence. We will promote the protection of life from the moment of conception to natural death, defend the sanctity of human life and the dignity of the family, and commit to fulfilling our mission through prayer, education, example, and service. Please watch the bulletin for meeting and event announcements. Our major parish events are the Baby Bottle collection and Catholic Relief Services Lenten Rice Bowl program annually.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL The SMM Conference, one of 75 in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Atlanta providing financial, material, educational and spiritual support to those in need regardless of background or faith. We collaborate with other organizations to empower people to achieve self-sufficiency. Vincentians are compassionate, patient, understanding and above all, nonjudgmental. One-hour meetings are usually held bi-monthly at a time agreeable to the majority of the members. Members may be asked to assist with fund-raising efforts and bi-monthly collections (food and monetary) for SVdP use.

Vincetian who desire to become caseworkers will also spend time conducting home visits which may last 30 to 60 minutes, with a second Vincetian. Additional time may be required to assist the person by making telephone calls to other charitable agencies or creditors to resolve problems. Vincetians agree to attend applicable training sessions: Ozanam Training; In Home Visit Training; Child Safety Training; CMS database, and on-the-job training with seasoned Vincetians. Caseworker positions require adequate assistance and training.

MINISTRY TO THE FAMILY & PASTORAL CARE

ADOPTION SUPPORT GROUP Do you have adoptive children? Would you be interested in meeting other families in our parish that have adopted? Are you thinking of adopting and don't know where to start? If so, then the Adoption Support Group may be for you. We have quarterly meetings in the Parish Hall to socialize and discuss relevant topics. See the bulletin for meeting dates/times.

DIVORCE AND BEYOND A special program that addresses the emotional issues and pain of divorce and separation. The goals of the 8-week program are to provide support within a caring faith community and to guide participants to find positive and healthy ways to deal with the many emotions they are experiencing during such a time of transition and beyond.

Each of the eight sessions consists of a closed group meeting which offers stability and an atmosphere that fosters ease and trust. The Divorce and Beyond program recognizes the primary emotions experienced by a person working through the "divorcing" process and tries to help the participant achieve some understanding and stability in their lives. Watch the bulletin for upcoming dates and times.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER TO THE HOMEBOUND Extraordinary Ministers to the Homebound wish to bring into community those persons who cannot physically be with us to worship, by bringing them the Body of Christ. To further care for those persons with Christ-like compassion in sharing his body in order that they may be strengthened for their journey through this life and to life everlasting.

The Extraordinary Ministers to the Homebound visit the sick, taking them Eucharist, and making them feel a part of our parish community.

GRIEF MINISTRY The death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend is devastating. As Catholics, we are able to claim an eternal perspective and can rejoice that the person they lost is now in the presence of God. Even so, we must grieve a loss so deep and significant. The grieving process may be long and intense. Even Catholics with a solid faith need ongoing comfort and encouragement during the grieving period. Those people without faith face a bleak mourning process. Without encouragement that comes from assurance of an eternal life, the issues that accompany grief are amplified. Grief ministry, a special support group for people grieving the loss of someone close; is a Christian based program designed as a weekly support group that combines teaching and small group discussions. Watch the bulletin for sessions.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING Certified Natural Family Planning teachers through the Couple to Couple League (www.ccli.org) offer courses throughout the year in NFP and work to raise awareness about Natural Family Planning and its 99% effectiveness. Watch the bulletin for class dates.

SIX DATES/MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT Six Dates is a marriage enrichment program for couples that have been married for any length of time. It is comprised of "six dates" that focus on what is good about you together and the blessings you find in one another. It also spotlights what is positive in a marriage relationship and will focus on the strengths you as a couple possess through your Christian faith. Please watch the bulletin for dates offered throughout the year to attend this program with your spouse.

DISCIPLESHIP & COMMUNITY BUILDING

COLLEGE & CAREER MINISTRY This ministry is open to those who are no longer in high school and who are in the age group of 18 – 25. The ministry provides members with fellowship, an opportunity to continue building their faith, to understand God's plan for them, service projects and support as they navigate through college/work/life. Although the group meets year-round, opportunities to meet and engage in activities increase during the summer months and during those times when college students are home on break (Christmas, Thanksgiving, Spring and Summer break). Whether participants can attend an event once a year or ten times a year does not matter. We welcome everyone as their schedule permits.

COMMUNICATIONS The ministry seeks to communicate a positive image of Saint Mary Magdalene with parishioners and the general public through various forms of media including newspapers, social media, website, and emails. The goal of the communications ministry is to increase awareness of SMM's presence by encouraging new members to join the church and increase engagement and participation of current members.

DUSTING ANGELS Our beautiful sanctuary needs you! Led by parishioners, this ministry cares for the weekly upkeep of our worship space, including the altar and other special items adorning our sanctuary. The Dusting Angels meet weekly immediately after the Monday morning communion service for about an hour. Members do not have to serve weekly but are encouraged to come and help as often as they can.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE Responsible for monitoring the major maintenance and repair projects associated with SMM buildings and grounds. Develop Request-for-Quote packages for major repairs, ongoing grounds maintenance, and oversee the bid process. Consult routinely with the pastor, business manager, and Financial Advisory Council to insure adequate forecasting and planning for large-scale preventive maintenance and repair projects.

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY Welcomes all parishioners and visitors after Mass to come together for fellowship and light refreshments.

FINANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (FAC) Members of the parish, appointed by the pastor, who work in conjunction with the business manager to manage the budget and expenses of SMM in accordance with Archdiocesan guidelines and procedures. This group meets monthly to evaluate the parish's financial condition; to discuss and concur on significant expenditures; and to make recommendations to the pastor for cost savings and revenue generating initiatives. The FAC regularly communicates financial results to the parish and responds to concerns of parishioners.

GOLF CART MINISTRY Provide transportation for aged and ailing parishioners from a drop-off point in the parking lot to the front doors of the church. Volunteer cart drivers are always welcome.

GROUNDS The Grounds Ministry consists of fellowship, fun, and work. We weed, trim trees and bushes, plant flowers, lay pine straw and mulch, rake and general cleanup on the rectory grounds and around the entrance sign several times a year. This is a great opportunity for families to serve together.

HONORS & MEMORIALS—DONOR WALL Would you like to have your family name engraved forever in a permanent place of honor for generations to come at SMM? If so, stop by the narthex and check out the honors & memorial wall plaque. There are many opportunities left to purchase items in various categories to honor your loved ones, or you can also make a general donation or even a pledge payable over three years. Please check out the items available on the parish website www.smmcatholic.org. Click on "Resources" then "Parish Forms" and click on Honors & Memorial Catalog for pricing and availability. Pick up a gift form in the Narthex, fill it out, and drop it in the offertory basket on Sunday or at the church office during the week.

KITCHEN COORDINATOR The Kitchen Coordinator assists ministries in the use of the kitchen in preparation of food for events. This is achieved by: establishing policies on the use of the kitchen, ensuring the equipment is in working order, maintaining inventory, and creation of the schedule.

NURSERY Ministers provide a safe, caring, and happy environment for children whose parents are attending Mass. Ministers read, play, and interact with the young children of our parish. A love of young children is the only gift you need. Any adult and teens 16 years old and older are welcome to participate. There are always two or more ministers in the nursery, with at least one person being an adult. Nursery ministers work 1 ½ hours every 4 to 5 weeks and other opportunities to assist in the Nursery occur occasionally during other parish events. Adults must attend Safe Environment Training/Screening. You must RSVP at least one week prior to the event to secure childcare.

PARKING MINISTRY Provide traffic and parking control for Christmas and Easter Masses as well as other special events at SMM where high volume traffic is anticipated.

PARISH OFFICE VOLUNTEERS Ministers who assist the Administration and Religious Education staff with answering phone calls, mailings and other clerical duties. Opportunities to serve vary by request or project. Contact the Parish office for more information.

PASTORAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) Elected and appointed members of the parish, the PAC communicate the concerns of parishioners, provide suggestions and advice to the Pastor on various issues relating to the parish. This body of leaders embraces the task of developing a strategy to promote growth in the mission of the church and parish community based on the principles of Holy Scripture.

SUPPER CLUB Supper Club is a social gathering of adult couples of all ages (no children please). Each Supper Club group has 5 couples who get together once a month. Each couple takes a turn hosting a dinner at their home with the host couple providing the entree. The other couples help by bringing an appetizer, salad, bread and wine, and a dessert. After dinner the host couple will decide what the group's activity will be to help get to know one another better. This is the easiest way to get to know other parishioners and to establish some lasting friendships.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL The mission of the Stewardship Council is to promote stewardship as the grateful, loving response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God's gifts of time, talent, and treasure, and shares this with others, both within our church community and beyond. This council oversees and coordinates the ongoing parish processes involved in the implementation of stewardship by offering suggestions and advice to our Pastor on how to best implement the process in our Parish. The Council is open to new members. We are seeking individuals within the parish community who most clearly reflect the eagerness and enthusiasm, and possess the energy and belief that it takes to invite, encourage, and provide the opportunity for others to become involved in the process of living stewardship as a life-long way of life. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM at SMM.

TENT MINISTRY The tent ministry is one that requires a commitment of only twice a year (June and October) unless a special situation arises. It usually takes about 3 hours to put up and take down so that is a small commitment of only about 12 hours per year.

The tent ministry is always open to anyone who can handle heavy lifting, operating a jack hammer and swinging a sledge hammer. This is a great father/son or teen ministry opportunity!

WELCOME COMMITTEE Welcomes parishioners and visitors into our parish. We are the first line of communication with new families, and assist in getting them information so they feel like they “belong.” We are dedicated to helping them find their place in our ever-growing parish and letting them know they are special, appreciated and will be cared for. Committee members are scheduled for welcoming the parishioners in the Narthex once or twice a month based on their availability at the Mass of their choice. We host the parish’s Advent Party, and assist in welcoming parishioners at our Annual Parish Picnic. We have committee meetings a couple times a year as needed.

Loaves of Love Loaves of Love was established to further enhance the Welcome Ministry. Our mission is to reach out to each new parish family on a personal level. One weekend a quarter, after each Mass but before dismissal, all new parishioners who have registered in the previous three months receive a special invitation to be introduced to the congregation, receive a blessing, and be presented a fresh baked loaf of bread as an expression of welcome. No baking skills required!

SMM COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN The Council of Women acts through its membership to support, empower, and educate all Catholic Women in spirituality, leadership, and service. The purpose of the Council is to further the spiritual welfare of its members, to help meet the needs of the parish community and offer opportunities for growth, fellowship, outreach, spiritual enrichment and service. All women in the parish over the age of 18 are automatically a member and invited to attend our meetings on the first Thursday of each month (rosary at 6:30 PM and meeting at 7:00 PM) for fun and fellowship. Please come share your talents as a Martha or a Mary in service to your parish, your church, your community, and your world! We can’t wait to see you there.

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May those who pass through these doors know that even though this is the most difficult time of their lives, they may be assured that they and their loved one will be served by a staff dedicated to their welfare and committed to professional, personalized service that is without equal.

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