

St. Mary Magdalen Parish Ministries Directory





*Know Christ.
Be Christ for Others.*

St. Mary Magdalen is a diverse and vibrant community of people sharing faith and worship together. Part of the vibrancy of the parish is the result of parishioners truly becoming part of the parish community through ministry, volunteerism, educational and social opportunities.

In this directory you will find descriptions of the various committees, groups, and organizations that help make up St. Mary Magdalen. Through participation in these various organizations, members develop friendships and ties that bind the community together.

We encourage all parishioners to review this information and prayerfully consider participation in parish life beyond attending Sunday liturgy.

Volunteers are always needed, even if they're not specifically noted. If you are interested in one or more of our Services and would like more information, please get in touch with the contact listed or email the Parish office at (receptionist@smmchurch.org) noting your specific interest and we will pass along your information. Thank you!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. James T. Kirk, Jr.,
Pastor

St. Mary Magdalen Parish

7 Sharpley Road
Wilmington, DE 19803
302-652-6800

www.smmchurch.org
receptionist@smmchurch.org

Office Hours

Monday 9AM - 3PM
Thursday 9AM - 3PM

Parish Staff

Very Rev. James T. Kirk, Jr., Pastor

Business & Finance Manager	Marc Minnick
Director of Music	David Ifkovits
Director of Religious Education	Karen Yasik
Maintenance & Facilities Manager	Harry Hurst
Parish Office & Communication Coordinator	Stephanie Casey
Technology & Ministries	Melissa Pollio
Executive Assistant	Ryan Ifkovits
School Principal	Patrick Tiernan

Updated 11/4/20

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Christian Formation

Adult Formation: This committee plans and coordinates programs pertaining to adult spiritual formation.

Contact: Teresa Carisio tmcarisio@yahoo.com

Moms' Faith Group: A group of mothers typically meet in our homes to pray, discuss Bible studies, and support each other through intentional faithful friendship. Moms are welcome to join & bring their young children with them.

Contact: Stephanie Casey
302-652-6800 Stephanie.casey@smmchurch.org

Religious Education: The SMM Religious Education program provides catechetical formation for children in grades pre-K through 8th grade. The program also provides sacramental preparation for First Communion and Confirmation.

Contact: Karen Yasik
302-652-7141 Karen.Yasik@smmchurch.org

Young Adult Ministry: Offers spiritual, social and service events for those age 18 – 35 years old whether you are single, dating, married or divorced; with or without children...this is for you. You do not have to belong to SMM or be Catholic to attend: all are welcome. Any 18 -35 year olds wanting to make friends or explore faith or have fun...this is for you!

Contact: Melissa Pollio
302-652-6800 mcalvanicopollio@smmchurch.org
www.facebook.com/smmyam

Youth Ministry: The goal of youth ministry is to empower young people to live as Disciples of Christ and to draw young people into responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community. We value each and every young person of St Mary Magdalen and hope that they will find themselves welcomed and encouraged to get involved in our youth ministry programs.

Youth Groups:

Jr. Youth Group 6th – 8th grade
High School Youth Group 9th – 12th grade
Contact: Melissa Pollio
302-652-6800 mcavanicopollio@smmchurch.org

Youth Events (Other): We hold other various activities throughout the year:

➤ Soup & Stations (Lent) ➤ Vacation Bible School
➤ Summer Service Trip ➤ Baminelli Brunch (Dec.)
Contact: Melissa Pollio
302-652-6800 mcavanicopollio@smmchurch.org

Liturgy

Altar Servers: The role of the Altar server is to assist the Priest in the celebration of the liturgy during Mass. Children in grades 1-12 are welcome to train as altar servers. Children in grades 4-12 are welcome to train as altar servers. *(Exceptions can be made for those under 4th grade on a case by case basis.)*

Contact: Justin Pollio
302-530-7901 justinpollio@gmail.com

Environmental Coordinator: This individual creates the environment for our Masses. In addition to regular Sunday liturgies, is responsible for wedding decor, holidays, and sacraments, etc.

Contact: Richard Heiss
302-428-0525 gaynorheiss@comcast.net

Eucharistic Ministers for Liturgy: A group of parishioners who are Diocesan certified through the Office of Worship. They assist the pastor during communion by distributing the Eucharist.

Contact: Karen Yasik
302-652-7141 Karen.Yasik@smmchurch.org

Extraordinary Ministers for the Sick & Homebound: Parishioners that bring the comfort of Christ, in the form of the Eucharist, to those parishioners who are unable to come to the church for Mass. They are a group of parishioners who are Diocesan certified through the Office of Worship that pray and distribute Eucharist to the sick.

Contact: Karen Yasik
302-652-7141 Karen.Yasik@smmchurch.org

Lectors (Readers): This group of parishioners is dedicated to reading the Scripture during Mass. Any parishioner who is interested and has a good speaking voice is eligible.

Contact: Justin Carisio
carisio@yahoo.com

Music Ministry

Adult Choir: This group of parishioners is dedicated to providing music to the SMM parish. We invite new members from high school age to adult to join us. All that is needed is the desire to be part of a very special, unique and integral ministry of the parish. It is NOT necessary for you to be an accomplished singer, or even be able to read music. All skills and techniques needed are taught at rehearsals. If you have often thought of joining this group, now is the time to give it a try. If you've always wanted to join but felt your voice was just average, just remember, there is safety in numbers and in the best choirs the majority of the members are average singers with a few soloists.

Contact: David Ifkovits difkovits@archmereacademy.com

Cantors: Cantors are both singers and facilitators of congregational song. A cantor must be able to sing in tune, and possess an understanding of the order of the liturgy, as well as different styles of liturgical music and singing. Previous experience is helpful, but not necessary. An informal interview and audition is required.

Contact: David Ifkovits difkovits@archmereacademy.com

SMM School Church Choir: The children's choir is open to all SMM School children from grades 3 through 8. This group rehearses Wednesday afternoons from 3 – 4PM in the choir loft. The children's choir sings at certain Masses, for all school Masses, and for other holiday and special liturgies throughout its season. There is no audition required to join.

Contact: Katherine Hayes
khayes@smmschoolde.com

Sacraments

Baptisms: Baptisms should be scheduled several months in advance by calling the parish office and giving the necessary information. Then, attendance at a parish class is required for all parents having a first child Baptized and any parents who have not had a child Baptized within the last three years. These classes are offered every other month but can also be provided outside the set schedule, if needed.

Contact: Sheila Meara, Baptism Coordinator
sheilameara@gmail.com

1st Reconciliation & 1st Communion: The sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion are offered in the 2nd grade. It is a Diocesan requirement that all children preparing to receive a sacrament need to be in either a Religious Education program or a Catholic school for two years prior to the sacrament. Reconciliation normally takes place the fall of 2nd grade, and Communion in May.

Contact: Karen Yasik
302-652-7141 Karen.Yasik@smmchurch.org

Confirmation: We receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation, offered to parish youth in 9th grade. Meetings begin in 8th grade, a year prior to the sacrament .

Contact: Karen Yasik
302-652-7141 Karen.Yasik@smmchurch.org

Right of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): RCIA is a program for individuals who are interested and/or would like to prepare for initiation into the Catholic faith. This program also assists adults who may not have complete all of their sacraments.

Contact: Melissa Pollio
302-652-6800 mcavnicopollio@smmchurch.org

Weddings: Weddings should be arranged at least one year in advance by calling the parish office. The engaged couple will be assisted by the priest or deacon in their preparation for marriage. Our wedding coordinator oversees and is present at the rehearsal and wedding, assisting where needed in the process.

Contact: Judy Aaron, Wedding Coordinator
Home: 302-479-0772 Cell: 302-373-1039

Anointing of the Sick & Last Rites: The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is administered both to the dying and to those who are gravely ill or are about to undergo a serious operation, for the recovery of their health and for spiritual strength. At a time when there are less priests available, it is wise to receive this Sacrament and, as the hour of death approaches, Viaticum (Eucharist as given to a person near or in danger of death), before the last moment. Last Rites refers to the sacraments that Catholics receive at the end of their lives, especially Confession, Holy Communion (called Viaticum when given to a person near or in danger of death), and the Anointing of the sick and the prayers that accompany them. Please let us know of your needs earlier rather than later if this is possible by calling the parish office.

Contact: Parish Office
302-652-6800

Funerals: After death the first contact is with the Funeral Director of your choice who contacts us. The Mass of Christian Burial is the norm but sometimes other arrangements are appropriate. Please note that eulogies are not allowed at the Funeral Mass and these are to be given at the wake or reception. Brief statements of thanks by a family

member are permitted after the closing prayer of the Mass. Effective September 2011, all wakes must take place in the Funeral Home unless it is a private wake for family or an extremely large special situation. After we are contacted by the funeral home, our Funeral Coordinator will call you to help arrange liturgy & music for the funeral mass. The two funeral homes we work closely with are Chandler Funeral Home (located right next to SMM Church) and McCreery & Hara Funeral Home (located a few blocks away on Route 202). Please review our Funeral Guidelines located on our website under Sacraments as a family planning resource.

Contact: Melissa Pollio
302-652-6800 mcavanicopollio@smmchurch.org

Ushers: Assist congregation with Mass participation (i.e. seating, assisting physically challenged individuals, direct parishioners to communion, and providing emergency help to those in need before, during, and following Mass.) Ushers select individuals to present the gifts (2nd graders' families assigned for part of the year) and take up the offertory collections at weekend masses and other special times. They also help maintain order during the liturgical celebrations.

Contact: Ryan Ifkovits
302-652-6800 rifkovits@smmchurch.org

Outreach

Emmanuel Dining Room (2 ministries): This ministry cooks and serves lunch for the Emmanuel Dining Room East (EDRE) on the 27th. EDRE serves 180-250 people. We meet at 9:30AM and return around 2PM.

Contact: Lynn Lemon
302-478-8927 lynnl@comcast.net

Emmanuel Dining Room (2 ministries) cont.: This ministry delivers to the Emanuel Dining Room on Rogers Road, every 3rd Tuesday of the month. We

have a signup genius for preparing pans of hot dogs and beans at home. Everyone brings the prepared pans to the church hall and Patti Small delivers them around 9:30AM.

Contact: Patti Small
216-926-8559 Pattismall@me.com

Fall Food Drive: The last weekend in September the group distributes paper bags to parishioners and then collects the bags of food the first weekend in October. The project is collaborative endeavor with our Christian brothers and sisters at Aldersgate Methodist Church and benefits the local food closets in our community.

Contact: Beth Smith
Bethcostello@yahoo.com

Meals on Wheels: A dedicated group of parishioners who pick-up and deliver a lunchtime hot meal to the homebound in a local area. Time needed is about 1 ½ hours.

Contact: Joanne Hadley
302-478-2092

Nursing Home Visitation: Extraordinary Ministers takes communion, hold a short prayer service including readings, and homily for residents. Volunteers visit for a brief time with the residents. (See “*Extraordinary Ministers of the Sick*”)

Respect Life: This committee's purpose is to the make the parish community aware of life issues from conception until natural death. Annual programs include supporting Birthright of Delaware through:

Annual Rose Sale - In May we support Birthright's pregnancy services by selling roses after masses Mother's Day weekend.

Baby Bottles - In October, Birthright of DE makes available baby bottles after Mass. We ask that you take the bottles home (one per family), fill them with coins, cash or check & return them.

Contact: Madeline Rice
momeline9@aol.com

St. Vincent dePaul Society: A group of dedication parishioners who tend to those in need in the name of our parish community, supported through the generosity of parishioners via the poor boxes & the money collected from the children's envelopes. See parish calendar or bulletin to see when SVDP holds their meetings in the church hall.

Contact: Parish Office
302-652-6800 receptionist@smmchurch.org

Parish Advisory Council

Parish advisory council members contribute their expertise in direct and concrete ways to assist the parish Pastor, Vy. Rev. James Kirk, in parish governance. This governance model now ties the administration of the thriving parish community to parishioner engagement and lay leadership.

The Council's focus is to build liturgical richness, community outreach, communications, parish sustainability, and Catholic education in ways that will speak to everyone's faith journey and invite the active participation of all parishioners. Interested in learning more or getting involved with the parish council? E-mail: parishcouncil@smmschurch.org

Parish and Family Life

Athletic Association: Organizes all efforts to provide our athletes (grades 3-12) with the opportunity to play a variety of sports that focus on respect, Christian values, sportsmanship and a love of the game. SMM offers the following sports: Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Football, Wrestling, Outdoor Track and Field, Soccer, Softball, and Volleyball. Please visit the St Mary Magdalen Athletic Association webpage in order to get more information about registration, try outs, and schedules.

www.smmbulldogs.com

Bingo: A group of seniors from SMM and the surrounding area that gather for bingo, cards and light refreshments year round. The group meets on Thursday from 1pm-3:00pm in the Church Hall. Dues: \$5.00

Contact: Kathy Carver 302-584-5928
Jeanne Dorivich 302-478-8079

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Provide special liturgies for children every Sunday at the 9am mass during the school year. Liturgies include readings, prayer and music for children of all ages, especially preschool-6th grade. We are always in need of volunteers, both children and adults. Families who are able to act as weekly leaders would be greatly appreciated. We are also in need of readers, musicians, and guest speakers.

Contact: Shelia Meara
sheliameara@gmail.com

Coffee & Donuts: Coffee & donuts are served several times a year after the 9AM mass. See bulletin for specific dates. Come for the coffee & donuts and stay for the fellowship! If your group is interested in hosting coffee & donuts, call the parish office. It is a great venue to advertise your group to the parish!

Knights of Columbus: A fraternal organization for men aged 18 or older that are practicing Catholics. St. Mary Magdalen is part of the Bishop Curtis Council. They provide activities year around that support our parish and surrounding community. New members are always welcome.

Contact: Chris Flannery
302-478-6364 cpflann@msn.com

Parish Dinners: We offer the opportunity for parishioners to gather for liturgy and fellowship. On dates specified in the bulletin, we invite all parishioners to join us for dinner in the Church Hall. All are asked to provide either a free will offering to donate toward dinner or a snack, salad, or dessert to share.

Contact: Melissa Pollio
302-652-6800 mcavanicopollio@smmchurch.org

Scouts

Boy Scouts: An organization for boys 11-18 years of age (typically grades 6 through 11th or 12th grade) focused on promoting Christian values, character, service, and advanced outdoor skills. Troop # 342
Scoutmaster: Ed Schiavi edschiavi@comcast.net 302-463-8130
Committee Chairman: Bob Rivell Rivellrj@verizon.net 302-276-5165

Cub Scouts: An organization for boys in grades K – 5th, which focuses on building character, Christian values and learning basic outdoor skills.

Contact: Kristen Palmer
302-367-6230 kmpalmer@gmail.com

Girl Scouts: A worldwide organization where girls can build character, Christian values, and skills for success in the world. In partnership with adult volunteers, girls can develop strong leadership skills, social consciousness and conviction for their own potential and self-worth. At SMM we offer the following levels for girl scouts:

Cadettes: A Girl Scouts organization for girls in 6th – 8th grades. The girls mix and match activities and resources to suit their needs while giving back to their communities. They also participate in activities such as kayaking, archery and orienteering.

Juniors: A Girl Scouts organization for girls in 4th – 5th grades. We focus on providing community services and have fun trying new things such as tennis, hiking, camping, roller-skating, canoeing, and horseback riding.

Brownies: A Girl Scouts organization for girls in 2nd - 3rd grades. The main focus of this young group is public service projects and furthering the girls scouting experience.

Daisies: A Girl Scouts organization for girls in kindergarten and 1st grade. The main focus of this young group is an introduction to scouting and crafts.

Contact: Kristin Zoccolillo
302-428-3141 klzoccolillo@hotmail.com

Sodality: The Sodality promotes the Fatima First Saturday devotions requested by the Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus. They meet monthly in the church hall following the 1st Saturday Mass and Rosary (September – May). The following Monday they make rosaries in the church hall.

Contact: Jeanne Kaye
302-477-0168 jkaye2503@comcast.net

Socials

Celebration of Married Life Dinner: In 2020, St. Mary Magdalen held our 7th Annual Celebration of Married Life Dinner in March, the theme “Lucky in Love.” All that attended enjoyed a delicious free dinner, wine & fellowship! RSVP instructions will be posted in the bulletin in February/March.

Ladies’ Nights: Put together by Monica Hill (302-563-5637) and Madeline Rice (momeline9@aol.com), these take place at various times throughout the year. They are held in the hall usually on a weeknight from 6:30-8:30PM, with different themes throughout the year. When you sign up for this event, you can host a table. Hosting simply means you invite friends to join your table (8-10 seats per table), provide for your table plates, glasses, & oversee who from your table will bring goodies: drinks, wine, appetizers, etc. The organizers will supply coffee, tea, water, and decorated tables with napkins and plastic silverware. Make sure all your table members register or you can sign them up.

Midsummer Wine & Cheese Event: On the feast day of St. Mary Magdalen we join together to celebrate as a parish with Evening Prayer at 6:30PM followed

by our annual Midsummer Wine and Cheese in the Garden of St. Benedict at 6:45PM (rain – moved to Church Hall). The parish provides wine, beer, & bottled water, as well as some hors d'oeuvres for the evening. If your last name began with A-P you are asked to bring a hors d'oeuvre. If your last name began with Q-Z you are asked to bring a dessert.