

- **The Native Women's Transitional House** is a program for single women (16 to 24 years) and children (newborn to 6 years) who need a safe and supportive environment. The program provides on-site support to women striving to improve the quality of their life. Parishioners are invited to **donate wrapped Christmas gifts for adults and children** which will be **delivered to the home on Boxing Day**. Please indicate the gift and the age for which a child's gift is appropriate. Items such as cosmetics, stockings, scarves, etc. which will help build self-esteem in the women, will also be appreciated. **Boxes will available at the back of the church on Sunday, 11 December until Sunday, 18 December**, to receive the gifts. Thank you.



THE CHURCH of ST. MARY MAGDALENE

ADVENT III

11 December 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the Church of St. Mary Magdalene.

We invite you to stay following the 9.30 and 11.00 masses for refreshments in Hiscocks Hall, which is located in the basement. It can be reached by the door next to the baptismal font. There is a wheelchair accessible lift and washroom in the office area on the main floor, which can be reached by the door in the north-east corner. **Please speak to a sidesperson for assistance.**

SMM CALENDAR 12 – 18 December, 2011			
12 Monday	6.00 pm	Mass	Feria
13 Tuesday	7.15 am	Mass	Feria
14 Wednesday	10.00 am	Mass	Ember Day
15 Thursday	7.15 am 10.00 am	Mass La Messa	Simon Gibbons, P., 1896
16 Friday	6.00 pm	Mass	Ember Day
17 Saturday	10.00 am	Mass	Ember Day
18 Sunday	8.00 am 9.30 am 11.00 am	Said Mass Sung Mass Solemn Mass	Advent IV
Advent IV II Samuel 7: 1-11; Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38			

Confessions are heard by appointment.

Submissions for Sunday Announcements should be sent to the church office by email (office@stmarymagdalene.ca). The deadline for submissions is Wednesday morning.

- **December SMM Office hours:** Please be advised that in December the SMM office will be closed on Fridays and will close at 2.00 pm on Mondays.
- **Our Faith -- Our Hope: Good news! SMM has met and surpassed our goal** of raising \$328,250 over five years for the diocesan campaign. Thank you to all who gave prayerful consideration to this campaign. The generosity of parishioners is particularly impressive given other requests for financial support, including sponsoring our refugee family and the ongoing Advent Appeal to address our current operating deficit. **Profound thanks go to the steering committee and those who agreed to ask other parishioners for support:** Heather McGregor (chair), Allan Risk (secretary/treasurer), Alice Bastedo, Norah Bolton, Rob Castle, Brian Clarke, Elizabeth Cowling, Fr. William Cruse, David Greig, Martin Greig, Sandra Guillaume, Fr. David Harrison, Julie Kretchman, Phyllis McCurdy, Elizabeth Rael, Lorna Scott, and David Widenmaier. As someone remarked this past week, **we have stepped forward in faith. Thank you to all who continue to give generously to make our ministry at SMM happen.**
- **Advent Bake Sale:** Thank you to all who contributed to and helped at the Advent Bake Sale. To date we have made a **total of \$1012.00!!** There are still some goodies in the fridge which can be purchased.
- **Prayers of the People: Specific requests for prayers** to be incorporated into the Prayers of the People at mass can be offered by writing them in the **black book on the stand at the back of the church**. The list is renewed at the beginning of every month.
- **Christmas flowers:** If you would like to donate money for **Christmas flowers** as a memorial, please fill out the form included in the leaflet, **printing** the names of those to be commemorated, and put it and your contribution in a pew envelope on the offering plate. The deadline for having names printed in the Christmas leaflet is **Sunday, 18 December**.

- **2012 SMM Calendar:** Copies are now available downstairs after the 9.30 and 11.00 masses at a cost of \$5.
- **SMM Parish List & Communications:** You are invited to add your name to our Parish List, which is the database of all of those who consider themselves members of the parish. **Please send your names, address, phone number and email address to office@stmarymagdalene.ca, or fill in one of the pew envelopes and put it on the collection plate.** If you are already on the Parish List but would like to be added to the **SMM Email list**, in order to receive periodic news updates, **please email David Widenmaier at singbass@hotmail.com.**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Solemn Evensong, Benediction & Advent Carols. TODAY, 4.30.** A wonderful liturgy to invite a friend, colleague or neighbour to join us.
- ***One Christmas Night:*** Again this year the SMM players present *One Christmas Night*, **Wednesday, 21 December at 7.00 pm.** Anyone who is able to help or would like to sing, please **speak to Viola Lang (416-536-3579) or Kim Kendrick (416-539-2702).**
- **Advent Confessions:** Clergy are always ready to hear confessions by appointment, and Advent is a particularly appropriate time. I will be available **in the church from 6.00 to 6.45 pm on Wednesday, 21 December and Thursday, 22 December and at other times by appointment.**
David+
- **Masses of Christmas: Christmas Eve** – Solemn Mass and Procession at 11.00 pm. **Christmas Day** – Said Mass at 8.00 am and Folk Mass at 10.00 am.
- **“On the Feast of St Stephen”:** The **Said Mass on Monday, 26 December will be at 10.00 am, not 6.00 pm** as stated in the SMM calendar.
- **Chant Club** has started its fall season and would like to invite anyone interested in learning about chant to join in. Sessions are generally **every second Sunday and run from 1.15 pm to 3.15 pm.** (We start at that time to allow members from other parishes to make their way to SMM). Our approach is very informal and supportive. **You need no previous singing experience -- all you need is the desire to sing chant.** This season we are learning the **Marian Anthems** and the music for **Candlemas**, where members of the Chant Club will be able to join with the Ritual Choir to sing that service. **Everyone is welcome.**

SPIRITUAL GROWTH for CHILDREN:

- **Sunday School during the 9:30 mass:** We are in the midst of planning a children's program for the remaining Sundays in Advent, and a Folk Mass at 10 am, Christmas Day.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH for ADULTS:

- **Wednesday Bible Study:** The Wednesday morning Bible study continues. We **meet from 11.00 pm to noon**, following the 10.00 mass. We are studying St. John's gospel.
- **Advent Study:** The Wednesday night Advent study has been cancelled owing to lack of participation.
- **Lenten Retreat:** We have booked a **return visit to St. John's Convent for the SMM Lenten retreat.** The dates for **Friday, 2 March until Sunday, 4 March, 2012.** Our leader will be **Sister Constance Joanna**, and the topic will be **how our image of God affects the way we pray – and vice versa.** Our ten spaces have now been spoken for, but if you wish to be on a waiting list, please speak with Fr David.

OUTREACH & SOCIAL JUSTICE:

- ***Hands Across the Sands:*** The refugee team met and chose to **sponsor a family of four, currently living in a refugee camp in Lebanon. The family is composed of a husband, wife and two adult children.** A third child, also an adult, is living in Detroit, but will not be part of our sponsorship. The family fled Iraq, and they are recognized refugees due to persecution on the basis of their ethnicity and faith, which is Chaldean Christianity. Due to privacy restrictions we cannot divulge further details about their profile. However, we can say that **we were deeply moved by their plight, and felt that, of the three profiles we considered, we could be most helpful to this family.** Although we can't be certain, at present our best guess is that **the family will arrive in early January.** Our plan is to look now for **interim accommodation of two or three weeks, beginning with their arrival. THIS IS A MOST PRESSING NEED.** Any suggestions for short term housing would be most welcome. Furniture and household items will be useful once we have secured a more permanent apartment. (Please speak to Richard, Wendy, Catherine, Sally-Beth or Fr. Paul.). We feel both excited and privileged to have taken this step. There will be many challenges ahead. In the meantime, **we can make our preparations for the family's arrival and pray for their safety and journey.**
- **O'Neill Centre Nursing Home:** Our Ministry at the O'Neill Centre Nursing Home continues **THIS Tuesday, 13 December at 2.30 pm.** Please consider joining this ministry of sacrament and presence. **For more information, speak with Fr David or Fr William.**
- **Community Dinner:** Just a head's up for our next community dinner dates. Our next session will be on **Friday, 23 December. Friday 30 December** is a fifth Friday, so there is no assigned team for that week. St. T's has asked that everyone who can to please pitch in. As for the 23rd, it would be really nice if we could something special. Might anyone have an artificial Christmas tree they could donate? Tree and other Christmas decorations? That would help make the hall look festive, and also give everyone something that they join in. We are working on music for the evening. Some have been asking if kids/youth are welcome. The answer is yes, most certainly. The more the better. Kids/youth like to hang out together. And a multi-generational presence does pick up the mood. And when we get busy there's no shortage of things to do.