

St. Mary
Magdalene
CATHOLIC CHURCH

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St. Mary Magdalene E-News

October 28, 2016

A Note From Father Donald Staib

Members of the Parish,

Tuesday November 1 is the feast of All Saints, a holyday in our church. Masses will be at 8:15 with the school children and at 7 pm in the evening.

Last weekend we had the 2nd collection for our worldwide church missions. We received \$3,359. Thank you very much.

We recently received a thank you letter from Catholic Charities for the 1,665 pounds of groceries and \$325 from the parish and 2,307 pounds of groceries and \$1,450 from our school - all for Catholic Parish Outreach. We also received a thank you letter from Urban Ministries for the \$216 in-kind donation to the Helen Wright Center for Women.

Two weeks ago I received the relic for the altar of our new church from Bishop Burbidge, who had requested the relic for us from the appropriate Vatican office.

It is quite small and contains a small piece of clothing of Saint Father Damien of Molokai, who ministered to lepers in Hawaii until he himself died of the disease in 1889. Here is a picture of the relic -



In the discussions leading to our decision to choose Saint Damien - though born in Belgium, he was American. But mostly he was a person who gave his entire life to serving the outcasts. He can be called a *'martyr of charity.'* At the age of 24 he arrived in Hawaii. I have seen no evidence he returned to visit his family in Belgium, though he did write letters to them

The lepers - people who are outcasts - can we identify with them? How does it feel to be shunned, abandoned, rejected, ignored, deserted? In recent weeks we have been reading Paul's letter to Timothy. Last week we heard: *'at my first defense no one appeared on my behalf, but everyone deserted me.'*

May Saint Damien of Molokai always remind us of generous service to others so no one feels deserted.

Reflection From Pope Francis on This Week's Gospel

It is the encounter between Jesus Christ and the rich tax collector Zacchaeus, as a result of which Zacchaeus made a radical decision of sharing and justice, because his conscience had been awakened by the gaze of Jesus. This same spirit should be at the beginning and end of all political and economic activity. The gaze, often silent, of that part of the human family which is cast off, left behind, ought to awaken the conscience of political and economic agents and lead them to generous and courageous decisions with immediate results, like the decision of Zacchaeus. Does this spirit of solidarity and sharing guide all our thoughts and actions?

Pope Francis to United Nations: Resist the Economy of Exclusion, September 5, 2014



Notes On New Church

A hopeful number: there are 36 more weekends to 'stack chairs two high' after 10:45 Mass until we worship in our new church. We will not be stacking the pews.

Thank you to all who have made donations or increased pledges in recent weeks to help with the expenses as we near the $\frac{1}{2}$ way milestone. New funds are helpful as we add enhancements: stained glass items for the chapel, wood panels in church, and help make up for pledges people have been unable to fulfill.

DONATE NOW

(Click on the above link to Donate)

Father Donald Staib
StMM E-News
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Children Singers Needed for Christmas Jam



Does your child like to sing? Have they ever wanted to perform on stage in front of hundreds of adoring fans? If yes, we have a great opportunity for them to be a part of a children's group at the StMM Christmas Jam on Sat, Dec. 10th. Practice will be on Tuesday nights from 5-6pm in the Music Room of the Activity Building. For more info and to

volunteer, contact Jacquie Isadore at jacqueline31@mac.com.

**For more Information about and to purchase tickets to the Christmas Jam
Click on the Link Below:**

[Christmas Jam Flyer](#)

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