

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

My Dear Friends,



During Advent I will use the Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation. These are appropriate for a Penitential Season.

In another part of the bulletin is the list of Advent Penance Services. I will be at some of them. There are only 2 more this Advent: December 17 at 7 pm at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral and December 18 at 11 am at Saint Bernadette, Fuquay Varina

Thank you for your generosity to the 2nd collection last weekend for the Retired Sisters. We received \$6,693.

There are envelopes in the pews to help us purchase flowers for Christmas and throughout the year. You are welcome to place names on the envelopes and we will publish these names in the Christmas bulletin.

One of the groups helpful to me as Pastor is the Parish Council. They meet monthly and members serve for a term of 3 years. There will be 4 vacancies at the end of this year and during Advent we ask people to nominate themselves. There are yellow forms on the lobby tables. Please place the form in the collection basket. We will choose 4 new members early in the new year.

CONFESSIONS: There will be Confessions on Saturday December 14 at 10:30 and on Saturday December 21 at 10:30, after Baptisms.

Father Donald Staib

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IMPORTANT PARISH DATES December 14—StMM Choir Carol Celebration—6pm—Church 15—PREP & Catechesis of Good Shepherd Programs off 15—Youth Mass—6pm 15—Parish Mission—7:15pm—Church 16—Catholic Senior Org—11am—Church Room 1 and 4 16—RCIA—7:30pm—Church Room 4 19—Family Rosary—7pm—Chapel 19—Christmas Flower Envelope Deadline	Mass Intentions Dec 14—5pm—Theresa Panza—Fran & Sal Mastropolo Dec 15—9am—Betty Bedotto—Jim Bedotto Dec 16—10:45am—parishioners of StMM Dec 19—8:15am—Richard Duley—Fran Duley Dec 20—8:15am—Martha Tranchida—Dave & Jane Garbarz For Mass Intentions/Mass Cards—Call the Parish Office ***********************************
22—All Religious Ed Programs off this week 22—No Youth Mass 23—No RCIA Class 24—Christmas Eve Mass—3pm, 5pm, and 9pm 25—Christmas Day Mass—10am 29—All Religious Ed Programs off this week 30—No RCIA Class January	 CONFESSIONS – Always check the Pastor's Paragraph in the weekly Bulletin or our E-News mailed on Fridays. Confessions are usually, but not every week, at 10:30am on Saturdays in the Church. WEDDINGS – See the Guidelines on the Website – then email the Pastor.
1—Solemnity of Mary Mass—10am 5—Rosary for Life—10:10am—Chapel 5—All Religious Ed Programs resume this week 5—Youth Mass—6pm The Parish Office is closed from Dec 24th through Jan 1st. Deadline for Bulletin submission is the Wednesday Morning prior to	FINANCIAL MATTERS OUR NEW CHURCH – We have the obligation to make large monthly payments for 14 years for the construction of the church. In addition we are challenged to respond to new parish endeavors in all our parish programs. We are grateful to those who help us in the weekly Offertory for regular expenses and in the month- ly white envelope for debt payments for the church.
the weekend of publication (Send bulletin requests to info@stmm.net)	The annual financial report to the parish community is now available on the St MM Church website



Elementary Religious Ed



Christmas Holiday Schedule - All PREP & Catechesis of the Good Shepherd programs are closed from Sunday, December 15th through Friday, January 3rd. Programs resume the week of January 5, 2020.

Advent Parish Mission - In the hustle and bustle of the season, please consider making time to prepare the hearts of everyone in your family at the Parish Advent Mission. Our presenter is Mary Bielski, is a nationally known Catholic speaker who has led many STMM retreats. Please join us on Sunday 12/15 at 7:15 pm in the Church.

Inclement Weather Policy – PREP & Catechesis of the Good Shepherd does NOT follow the decisions made by the Wake County school system or StMM Catholic School. Decisions are made by the program coordinator. Once the decision is made to close the elementary programs, we notify WRAL with a posting. If you don't see StMM on the band running across the bottom of the television than it is safe to conclude that we are in session. When available we will also post it on the parish website as well as send an email to all registered program families.

First Reconciliation Dates for Religious Education Students are

Tuesday, February 4th at 6:30pm & Wednesday, February 5th at 6:30pm. Parents do not attend. Sunday PREP Students will need to sign up for a Tuesday or Wednesday time if you have not done so at the Parent First Reconciliation Meeting.

First Reconciliation Date for StMM School Students is Thursday, February 6th from 10:00 am-11:00 am during the regular school day. Parents do not attend.

First Reconciliation Retreat is Saturday, February 1, 2020 for all students in Grade 2 & the Wednesday Evening Intermediate Sacrament Program from 8:30 am-12 noon in the Activities Building.

First Eucharist Retreat is Saturday, May 2, 2020 for all students in Grade 2 & Wednesday Evening Intermediate Sacrament Program from 8:30 – 12:00 noon in the Activities Building.

2020 First Eucharist Dates May 9th/10th and May 16th/17th. First Eucharist is received at the 5pm/9am/10:45am on either weekend. Families pick their own date. They are not assigned. Parents will give us date at the March First Eucharist Parent meetings.



Rock Calendar: There are no ROCK sessions on Sunday, December 22nd and Sunday, December 29th. The program will resume the week of January 5th, 2020.



STMM YM schedule for Sunday 12/15/19 is as follows: Apostello (Check with your small group leader) Youth Mass at 6pm in the church (open to all ages!!!) The Way 7:15pm-8:30pm (Our Advent Mission "Hope" is this Sunday, teens still sign in at the table in the lobby per usual)

We are excited to invite all STMM parishioners, families, and friends to a special night celebrating the beautiful season of Advent. <u>When & Where</u>: Sunday, December 15th. 7:15pm-8:30pm in the church Special guest speaker MARY BIELSKI Music by our own praise and worship group, "Rooted" Winter High School Retreat Registration is open: Our winter retreat will be held 1/31-2/2 at Camp Caraway in Sophia, NC. This year's retreat will be hosted by the amazing speaker and worship leader Andrew Laubacher! Andrew has spoken a youth conferences all over the world and we are excited to welcome him to a STMM retreat. Retreat is open to all in grades 9th-12th & the registration form can be found at this link: <u>http://www.stmm.church/religious-ed/highschool.cfm</u>. These retreats are packed with great music, games, prayer, fun, fellowship, and opportunities to grow in our faith as a community! To secure a spot teens must turn in a completed registration form with a 50% deposit. This retreat does meet the Confirmation guidelines. Forms can be turned in at The Way or to the attn of Liz Sams in the parish office. Spots are filled on a first come first serve basis & our spots are limited to the # of seats on the bus & beds available on site.

<u>GUYS ONLY HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT REGISTRATION IS NOW</u> <u>OPENI:</u> We are so excited to announce the GUYS ONLY HS Retreat 3/6/20-3/8/20. This retreat is open to all guys in grades 9th-12th and will be held at the same location as last year complete with paintball and so much more! Our retreat host will be Matt Regitz who lives in Houston, TX and loves ministering to dudes! The registration form can be found at this link: <u>http://</u> <u>www.stmm.church/religious-ed/highschool.cfm</u> and can be turned in at The Way at the sign in table or to Liz Sams attn in the parish office. To secure a spot a teen must turn in a completed registration form along with a 50% deposit. This retreat does not meet the Confirmation guidelines & spots are limited to the # of beds. Transportation is not included in the retreat cost. The retreat is held at a location about 1 hour and 45 minutes away from STMM in Eastern NC. Info is on the retreat form.

<u>Haiti House Building:</u> We have begun our fund raising for another house to be built in Haiti! If you'd like to see a picture of the house that St. Mary Magdalene built through the generous donations of our parish community, please go to this link to see the house and learn about the family who now calls it their home:

> https://www.haitimissioninc.com/hmi-houses-147-current (our home is #151)

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this cause last year. We will begin collecting again this Sunday at our different programs to build more houses this year. If you'd like to help us with this effort, please go to this link to donate online via the STMM payment online system:

https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=102397&f

Use the drop down button "Select a fund" and select "House in Haiti" so we can make sure it goes to the right account. For every \$3,750.00 we fund raise, Haiti Mission Inc will match it and a house gets built for a family in Jeremie, Haiti!!! If you do not want to donate online, please mail in a check to the parish office with "House in Haiti" in the Memo Line to StMM, 625 Magdala Place, Apex, NC 27502

If you have a teen who:

- * attends Catholic HS
- * currently in 10th/11th/12th grade
- * does not participate in The Way youth group at STMM
- would like to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in May 2020 at STMM

Please go to this link to register your teen for Confirmation 2020 preparation at STMM. They must have attended Catholic HS for their previous school year to enroll & your family must be a STMM registered parishioner There will be 5 sessions held during the 2nd semester of this school year on Sundays:

3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, AND 4/5

The instructions and link to use the online registration are on the right side of this page: http://www.stmm.church/religious-ed/highschool.cfm

Money Matters

The Pharisee in the Gospel of October 27 gave to the Temple 10% of his income. The Tax collector in the November 3 Gospel gave 1/2 of his possessions to the poor. How are we doing at St Mary Magdalene?

Our annual Financial Report [July 2018 thru June 2019] is published on our website. You can find it at under 'Welcome' and 'Parish Council'

http://www.stmm.church/Text of annual report 2019 to parish.pdf

Since July 1 2019 our Offertory is about \$10,000 per month short of our budget for 2019-2020. We know some folks choose to give once a year, toward the end of the year. We also hope the 212 new households we have since last January will help us reach our parish needs.

Here is a snapshot of giving patterns since January 2019:

20 families have given between \$6,000 and \$20,000

- 95 families have given between \$3,000 and \$5,999
- 459 families have given between \$1,000 and \$2,999
- 349 families have given between \$500 and \$999
- 474 families have given between \$100 and \$499
- 207 families have given less than \$100
- 433 families have no record of giving

[We have written to most of these 433 families to ask if they are still here and wish to continue to be members of StMM.]

We also have come to realize that some members who made a pledge to the new church will not be completing their pledge. This amounts to \$73,000.

We are so grateful to all who use the White Envelopes; we use these funds to pay our debt for the construction. Blessings to all who help our parish like the Pharisee and the Tax Collector in the Gospels.

If you would like to increase your electronic debit, complete the form at http://www.stmm.church/giving/electronicoffertory.cfm Choose the last option to change the amount.



December 17 at 7 p.m. December 18 at 11 a.m.

Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, Saint Bernadette Fuquay Varina



Today's Announcements

The Angel Tree

All contributions for the Angel Tree should be placed under the tree no later than 10:45am on this Sunday, December 15th. Please attach the ornament to the gift/ food/contribution to help us track all donations. Gifts do not need to be wrapped unless stated on the tag. Thank you for all your generosity!

Introducing a new convenient, small-group, opportunity for STMM adult parishioners - Discipleship Quads!! Quads are based on a model that has over thirty years of success. It is gender-specific and free. Start any time. Your journey with the Discipleship Quad will deepen your faith and equip you with the tools you need to help rebuild our Church at a time when we desperately need disciples. Contact Laura Werner at steubenvillemissionNC@gmail.com or go to https://steubenvilleconferences.com/discipleship-quads/.

POWER AND PURPOSE/HOLY SPIRIT CONFERENCE JUNE 5-7,

2020. Will you join us next June? Travel to beautiful Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH with fellow StMM parishioners to learn more about the Holy Spirit and what He can do in your life. Discover a purpose for your life and experience the true freedom and healing He wants to offer you. Contact Joe or Laura Werner at wernerjoe@aol.com steubenvillemissionNC@gmail.com. Bus travel optional. Please use this link to register: http://bit.ly/LauraWernerPPC20



The CSO (Catholic Senior Organization for men and women 60+) meets every third Monday of the month, September through May. Our next meeting will take place Monday, Dec 16, 11am-1pm, in Church meeton the Go! ing room #1. For more information, please contact

Miriam Moore, miriamdel79@yahoo.com, 919-387-8676 or Fran Hughes, gmomfran@gmail.com.

Become a Monarch! Apply Now!



Applications for the 2020-2021 school year are available on our Admissions website: http://school.stmm.net/ admissions/ Need more info? Call Lydia Binanay at 919-657-4800 ext. 7296 for a tour of our campus.



RCIA - These adults are progressing toward receiving full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, when they will complete their Sacraments of Initiation. The RCIA process continues Monday, Dec. 16th at 7:30 pm in Church Room 4. This Monday's discussion topic is:

Salvation and Jesus. Question please contact Kathy or Scott Strednak at RCIA@stmm.me.

Visit The Halle Cultural Arts Center between December 6-19 to support Western Wake Crisis Ministry by bidding on a tree & wreath donated by STMM groups! St. Mary Magdalene School & STMM Youth Ministry Band donated items to benefit WWCM! All proceeds go to WWCM! WWCM's mission is "actively working with those in crisis, helping them gain stability through basic supports for food, financial/ housing assistance, education, and opportunity." Bidding on the trees and wreaths ends on December 19 at 1pm. The Halle Cultural Arts Center is located at 237 N. Salem Street in Downtown Apex.

"Prayers & Squares" A prayer quilt group We are literally covering people in prayer. A prayer quilt is a lap blanket with ties. A prayer is said with each knot that is tied. All guilts are blessed by Father Staib. To request a prayer quilt to be made for someone or if you are interested in sewing for this group or donating fabric or would like to make contributions to this group, please contact Lorraine Morris at Icmorris0707@gmail.com



Do you use Donate to StMM on our website? When making your on-line donation, please add your envelope# in the "optional memo" field to ensure proper allocation of your donation. Thank you for your generosity!



First Friday Adoration will be on Friday January 3. All are encouraged to pay a visit to the chapel throughout the day and spend some time in prayer. However, it is essential that there are people that are scheduled to be

there each hour between 8:30AM and 7:00PM. Can you help by committing to 1 hour a month to spend with our Lord? Please contact Anita Becker at <u>ALANITABECKER@AOL.COM</u> or 919-280-8931 if interested.

Children's Adoration is held the first Friday of each month 230-3pm. All children are welcome. No one is too young to come visit Jesus! The dates for the remainder of the school year are: Jan 3, Feb 7, March 6, April 3, and May 1. Contact Megan Brinkley if you have any questions <u>m.brinkley@hotmail.com</u>



Children's Liturgy of the Word has begun and is held during the Sunday morning liturgies at 9:00 & 10:45 am. It mirrors the worship experience of the parish community in an engaging and interactive environment. Eligible partici-

pants are children 3 – 6 years old. This program is a co-op; dependent upon parishioner involvement. Volunteers must be Safe Environment Certified. If you'd like to assist with this ministry, please contact the Program Coordinator, Jennifer Jury at <u>stmmclow@gmail.com</u>.



Family Promise - STMM Supporting Homeless Families STMM will support Family Promise by volunteering time and donating items to homeless families that will be housed at St. Andrew Jan 19-

25. Let's start the new year by showing our support for others! Please stop by tables in the lobby the weekend of January 4-5 to select your volunteer activity or item for donation. We could not do this without you, and need many volunteers each day and night. Family Promise of Wake County provides support to prescreened homeless families as they transition into permanent housing (<u>http://www.familypromisewake.org/</u>). <u>Reminder:</u> All donations are dropped off at St. Andrew

***In addition, we are looking for individuals to serve on the St. Andrew/STMM Family Promise Core Team. Core team members serve twice a year and open positions include Food Coordinator, Activities Coordinator, and Overnight Host Coordinator.

Please contact Mary Wire at <u>mbwire@gmail.com</u> or 919-749-8932 with questions or to discuss position details.

Live stream StMM's 10:45am Mass at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7wpkWA5NgzXgQgmlxtNRZA?view_as=subscriber or Search YouTube for 'STMM CHURCH LIVE.'



Dr. Scott Hahn Talk Friday, February 28th, 7:30 PM Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Pinehurst <u>https://stpaulcenter.com/pinehurst/</u>Dr. Scott Hahn, founder and President of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, is one of the world's leading biblical scholars, Catholic apologist, and a leader of the New Evangelization called for by Saint Pope John Paul II. DO NOT MISS this opportunity to hear a great motivational speaker and defender of the Catholic faith. Dr. Hahn has written 40+ books, speaks to thousands of persons each year, is frequently on EWTN, and has motivated hundreds to conversion in the Catholic Faith. Dr. Hahn will speak about Christ's Divine Mercy, Reconciliation, the Eucharist, and covenant relationship with God.



Change in Date for Ignited By Truth! The 17th annual Catholic conference will be held on April 18, 2020, at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh "bringing to light the truth of the teachings of the Catholic Church and igniting in all hearts a love

for the Faith." Join our mailing list to receive the latest updates! <u>IgnitedByTruth.org</u>

Cur marriage had gone cold. We were living as roommates. And not even GOOD roommates." Sound familiar? The Retrouvaille Program offers tools needed to rediscover a loving marriage. Tens of

thousands of struggling marriages have successfully overcome their marital problems by attending the program. It begins with a weekend experience that is followed by a series of follow-up sessions to help keep your healing on track. For confidential information or to apply to attend the program beginning with the weekend of February 14, 2020, call 800-470-2230 or email <u>retrouvaillenc@msn.com</u>, or visit the web site at www.helpourmarriage.org.



Single Again If you are a single, separated, divorced or widowed person, you are invited to join us at our monthly Mass held at Cardinal Gibbon HS chapel at 5:30 pm. A pot-luck social follows Mass. Upcoming Mass schedule: December 15. For more information, contact

Celia at <u>ckeator@nc.rr.com</u>, or visit <u>www.singlesingleagain.com</u> or on Facebook, <u>www.facebook.com/singleagainraleigh</u>

For the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community there is a sign language interpreted Mass usually at the 8:30am Sunday Mass at St. Michaels in Cary.



Room At The Inn of the is in need of \$25 gift cards for Target and Walmart for use as Christmas gifts for the mothers in the program. Cards can be mailed to: PO Box 13936, Greensboro, NC 27415 Thank you for helping to

make room at the inn for single homeless pregnant women in our community this Christmas!



Beginning January 5, the 10:10am Rosary for Life will be held the 1st Sunday of each month (instead of the 2nd Sunday). Please join our group to pray the Rosary for Life in the Chapel. The Rosary is the best, most effective weapon we have to fight the culture of death so prevalent today in our society.

\$4,193.02 was collected by St. Mary Magdalene's for it's 2019 Baby Bottle Fundraiser! (Church: \$3,779.52; School: \$413.50) Thank you from StMM Respect Life to all contributors and volunteers. Thank you also, from Eileen Mayhew at Birthchoice Pregnancy Center. www.birthchoicewake.org

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming March for Life events: NC Rally and March for Life – Saturday, **January 18, 2020**, Raleigh, NC and 47th March for Life - Friday, **January 24, 2020**, National Mall, Washington, DC.

If you have any questions regarding StMM Respect Life please feel free to contact Paula Hils <u>pshils@bellsouth.net</u> or Jane Breslin <u>breslinjane@verizon.net</u>



Parish Athletics

Spring Soccer (Apex-Cary) Grades: Coed, Pre-K (3 year-olds) to 8th. Dates: March - May. Practice Locations: Apex or Cary, you pick. Game Locations: Apex & Cary. Cost: Pre-K - \$60; K - 8th grade - \$65; (includes medal, shirt, and picnic).

Spring T-Ball and Machine Pitch Baseball (Apex) Grades: Coed, Pre-K (4 year-olds) to 4th. Dates: April - June. Practice Locations: Apex only. Cost: \$65 (includes medal, shirt, and end of year picnic).

Spring Softcrosse (Apex)

Grades: Coed, K thru 5th. Dates: April - June (6 weeks). Days/Times: Sunday afternoons. Location: Apex. Cost: \$65 (includes medal and end of year picnic). Equipment needed: Stick and mouth guard.

www.parishathleticsnc.org

News From Other Organizations

Tax Preparation Assistance Needed The St. Andrew Tax Preparation Assistance Ministry is in need of additional volunteers for the upcoming tax season. This ministry prepares federal and state tax returns at St. Andrew on Saturday mornings starting in February at no charge. Training will be provided during information sessions on December 14 and January 12. New volunteers will be teamed with an experienced tax preparer as part of the training. No previous experience is necessary. Anyone with questions and those interested in joining can call Gerry Smith at 919-379-3922 or email bronx57@aol.com. Your call will be returned promptly.

The Legion of Mary at St Michael the Archangel Church in Cary. All are invited to pray the Rosary with us every Monday night 7pm rm3 **Conference** Center



High School Placement Test - We are excited for students to apply to Cardinal Gibbons High School. All 2024 applicants must take the High School Placement GIBBONS Test (HSPT), and there are two opportunities to do so:

December 7th and January 11th. Please visit our Website at www.cghsnc.org/admissions/apply to sign up for the test. The next step is to complete the online application, which is due on January 3rd. We look forward to welcoming you to the Gibbons fami-Please contact Marianne McCarty, Director of Admis-Iv. sions mmccarty@cghsnc.org, with any questions.



John 6:35 Eucharistic Youth Retreat February 7, 8, & 9, 2020 at St. Thomas More Academy, Raleigh. Registration is now open All youth, ages 13-18, are welcome to 6335 come and deepen their faith as they are led to a personal encounter with the Eucharistic

Heart of Jesus. There will be Mass, adoration, praise and worship, talks, and workshops throughout the weekend. In addition, everyone will have an opportunity to receive God's mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Registration forms, schedule and speaker information can be found at john635retreat.org. Don't delay limited capacity at 175 participants.

Give gifts that reflect the true meaning of Catholic Parish Outreach A Drown of Catholic Charities Christmas! Catholic Parish Outreach Christ-- Serving All mas Honor Cards- Did you know that last year CPO gave food and children's clothes to 8,700

people a month? Honor the special people on your holiday gift list by making a donation to CPO. We will send a beautiful Christmas honor card designed by 17 year old CPO Volunteer Natalia Barnack to everyone on your gift list. Information on how to order the cards can be found at www.cporaleigh.org or call Catholic Parish Outreach at 919-873-0245 x230.

Grief Support for Children and Teens - Are you a parent, grandparent or caregiver for a child who has experienced a loss? Rainbows for All Children, a grief support program designed for children and teens, will begin its first 12-week season on Thursday evenings beginning in January at Holy Infant Catholic Church in Durham. Peer support groups provide a safe place to meet with their peers when a change arises in their families, whether it is a death, divorce, separation, deployment, loss of a pet, or any other difficult change. This change can be ongoing, a recent event, or something in the more distant past. For more information, visit holyinfantchurch.org or contact Leanne Woodward at leannew@holvinfantchurch.org.



"I've been thinking... do you suppose that Santa wears a 'What Would Jesus Do?' bracelet?"

Kope sight....

STMM Parish Advent Mission

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

What: Advent parish mission with special guest, nationally known Catholic speaker, Mary Bielski

Who: EVERYONE!!

When: Sunday, December 15th from 7:15 pm - 8:30 pm

Where: STMM church



Check these ads at www.StMM.church/welcome/bulletins.cfm



For bulletin advertising, call Kate Bartos, Advertising Works, (919) 906-1688 or info@My-Ad-Works.com (StMM Parishioner). 11/24/2019