

St. Mary Magdalene

CATHOLIC CHURCH



**The Epiphany of The Lord
January 6, 2019**



Reflection

How could the Magi abandon everything and set on the road to who-knows-where on the basis of the testimony of a star?

How could the Magi see something unnoticed by so many others?

A characteristic of God's signs is: they are only visible in the dark.

At night, when the noise of words diminishes, when the business slows down, then God manages to speak to the heart. The night strips us of certain pretensions and protections, disguises, and distractions.

Mass Today—30 **Offertory Helpers— Last Names Q—Z**
Weekend Masses—Saturday—5pm & Sunday—9am & 10:45am
Weekday Masses—Monday, Wednesday—Friday—8:15am
Sunday Youth Mass—Youth Mass Jan 6, Jan 13, No Youth Mass Jan 20

PARISH CONTACTS

Pastor—Father Donald Staib,—919-387-3648, donfs22@aol.com
School Principal—Bob Cadran, 919-657-4800 ext. 7294, bcadran@stmm.me
Parish Office—Deb Prewitt, 919-657-4800 ext. 7281, prewitt@stmm.net
Parish Bookkeeper—Ann Cadran, 919-657-4800 ext. 7282, acadran@stmm.net

**625 MAGDALA PL.
APEX, NC 27502**

**(919) 657-4800
WWW.STMM.NET**

Gathering:

O Come All Ye Faithful 96

Psalm: 72

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. O God. Lord every nation on earth will adore you.

Preparation:

We Three Kings 104

Communion:

What Child is This? 106
Hark the Herald Angels Sing 95
O Little Town of Bethlehem 91

Sending Forth:

Go Tell it on the Mountain 101

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

My Dear Friends,

Happy Epiphany to all. This is a feast to remind us to continue to search for the presence of the Lord.



King Herod 'was greatly troubled and all Jerusalem with him.' We keep in prayer rulers in our world so they may always strive to bring good to their people And not terrible trouble as did King Herod.

After Mass please join in our retirement reception for Celeste Usischon. We are grateful to Celeste for her devotion to our parish and the children who have benefitted from her Religious Education knowledge and devotion over many years. We wish her great days in her retirement and are happy that she will continue to be a part of our parish.

CONFESSIONS: There will be Confessions on Saturday January 5 and Saturday January 12 at 10:30, after Baptisms.

Father Donald Staib

IMPORTANT

PARISH DATES

January

- 6—Youth Mass—6pm
- 7—RCIA—7:30pm—Church Room 4
- 13—K of C Sunday Breakfast after Masses—Dining Hall
- 13—Youth Mass—6pm
- 14—RCIA—7:30pm—Church Room 4
- 20—No Youth Mass
- 21—Catholic Seniors—9:30am—Church Room 1
- 21—RCIA—No evening session
- 27—Safe Environment Training
- 27—Youth Mass—6pm

Deadline for Bulletin submission is the Wednesday Morning prior to the weekend of publication (Send bulletin requests to info@stmm.net)



Mass Intentions

- Jan 5—5pm Parishioners of StMM
- Jan 6—9am—Betty Bedotto—Jim Bedotto
- Jan 6— 10:45am—Gregory Hichson—Chatten Family
- Jan 7— 8:15am—Frank Lanuti—Deborah Lanuti
- Jan 11—8:15am—Kay Lucas—Joe & Bernadette Lucas

For Mass Intentions/Mass Cards—Call the Parish Office

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS – See the Guidelines on the Website – then email the Pastor. First time parents must attend a baptism class [a good time is during the 9 months prior to birth.] Baptisms are usually, not always, at 10am on Saturdays or at weekend Masses.

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.

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 monthly white envelope for debt payments for the church.



Catechetical Corner

2019 Sacrament Families - All Grade 2 Tuesday, Wednesday, and STMM School and Wednesday Night Intermediate Sacrament program student's parents who did not attend or were excused from one of the meetings on December 3rd or 4th have all received a packet of information from the meeting with important information concerning First Reconciliation. Sunday families will receive the packet on January 6th when classes resume. Please contact Suzanne if you have not received your packet or have any questions.

Inclement Weather Policy - As stated on the parish website religious education page as well as on the class session calendar, the elementary program 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 site as well as send an email to all registered program families.

Sunday Grade 2 Families - You need to sign up for child's First Reconciliation. Your choices are Tuesday, February 5th at 5p Or 6:30p **OR** Wednesday, February 6th at 5p OR 6:30p Please contact Suzanne Will at will@stmm.net with your choice by January 9, 2019.

Christmas Season - All elementary programs begin again the week of January 6, 2019.

Grade 2 Families - Your date for toilet paper contributions for Catholic Parish Outreach is the week of January 20th/22nd/23rd. Thanks in advance for your support.

First Reconciliation Retreat is Saturday, February 2nd for students in Grade 2 & the Wednesday Evening Intermediate Sacramental Program from 8:30am-12noon. The retreat will take place in the Activities Building. You will be receiving an email in January with general information about the retreat. Separate emails will be sent to all who have volunteered to help at the retreat.

First Reconciliation Dates are Tuesday, February 5th at 5p & 6:30p and Wednesday, February 6th at 5p & 6:30p for all students in our StMM Religious Education Program. StMM School Students are receiving on Thursday, February 7th at 10am.

First Eucharist Dates are May 11th/12th & May 18th/19th at all weekend liturgies.

All our programs serve only registered contributing families who use the electronic draft or envelope system.

Contact Suzanne - will@stmm.net with your questions.



Youth Ministry

StMM YM schedule this Sunday, 1/6/19 is as follows:

EDGE from 4:30pm-5:45pm

Apostello from 4:30pm-5:45pm

Youth Mass at 6pm

The Way from 7:15pm-8:30pm

Help build a house in Haiti! We are almost halfway to our goal!!! If you do not have a teen in one of our programs but you'd like to contribute to this effort, you can go to this link and select the fund "House in Haiti": <https://secure.accesssacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=102397&f>. StMM Youth Ministry programs are teaming up to build a house in Jeremie, Haiti through the group, Haiti Mission Inc. You can learn more about this organization on their website at <http://www.haitimissioninc.com/>. We are challenging every teen who is registered in either the EDGE, The Way, and Apostello to donate \$7.25 between now and April 1st. This would give us the \$3,750 to partner with HMI and provide a safe new home for a family in Haiti. Our vision is for our community to accompany the people of Jeremie and join HMI in their mission of moving people from despair into poverty. Thank you for your support!

Guys High School Retreat: Open to guys in 9th-12th grade. This year our guys retreat is being led by Joe Farris & Dom Quaglia (who spoke at the Advent evening) The guys are going to an awesome lodge in Eastern NC with TONS of activities for them to do. It will be a fabulous opportunity for these guys to get away, build brotherhood, have some fun, and possibly get a little dirty!! Guys from any church/denomination can attend this retreat!! When: Friday, January 18th-20th. This retreat does **not** meet the Confirmation retreat requirement. Spots are limited to 20 Guys so sign up fast.

"Speaking to Sparrows" Girls High School Retreat: Open to girls in 9th-12th grade. This year our girls retreat is being held at a house on Lake Gaston and will be led by the StMM Girls Retreat team, this will be our 6th year hosting this retreat at StMM. It is an amazing opportunity for girls to create community, build up sisterhood, spend the weekend in her pajamas/soft clothes and get away from the everyday stresses of high school life. Girls from any church/denomination can attend this retreat!!! When: Friday, January 18th-20th. This retreat does **not** meet the Confirmation retreat requirement. Spots are limited to 20 Girls so sign up fast.

High School Retreat: February 1st-3rd. This retreat is our 2nd co-ed high school retreat of this school year and it's being held at Camp Caraway in Asheboro. This year's retreat is being led by our good friend & amazing speaker, Mary Bielski. Worship is being led by the incredibly talented & 'tiny but mighty' Rita West. This retreat is open to anyone in grades 9th-12th. 11th/12th graders stay in separate housing from 9th/10th graders. The weekend includes time for prayer, fun, activities such as: paintball, zip lining, rock wall climbing, Gaga ball, and Bazoooka Ball. Any teen in High School can come on this retreat no matter what church or denomination they are, all are welcome so invite a friend to come too! This retreat **does meet the Confirmation retreat requirement**. Spots are limited to 53 seats on the bus. To secure your spot, please turn in the form with a 50% deposit to Liz Sams or you can drop it in the mail to: StMM, Attn: Liz Sams, 625 Magdala Place, Apex, NC 27502. .

All retreat forms can be found at <http://www.stmm.church/religious-ed/highschool.cfm>

Don't drop off and Drive away! StMM Youth Ministry is excited to announce we are offering time for our parents to park the car and come inside on Sundays for their own time to grow in their faith & community. There are no sign ups, just come when you can. The topic for these sessions is exploring encounters with Jesus as shared in the Gospel of John. These sessions will be held during the EDGE/Apostello from 4:30-5:45pm & during The Way from 7:15-8:30pm all in Room #3 in the Church building. The sessions will be facilitated by Mary Carey, Paula Hils, and Kathy Lynch. They will be held on the following dates: 1/6, 1/27, 2/17, 3/3, 3/17, 3/31



RCIA

The next session is January 7th from 7:30—8:30 pm in Church Room 4. Topic: Salvation & Jesus. Questions please contact rcia@stmm.net.



Today's Announcements



Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) is co-op ministry is geared for children ages 3 years to first grade, guiding them through a portion of the Mass in a prayerful, kid-centered way. We would be delighted to have your family join us! Please be sure to register your child(ren) to participate by emailing our ministry at stmmclow@gmail.com, as all parents will need to use the online sign-up to **serve as parent assistant or C-Level leader** throughout the year. Thank you for helping to make this ministry flourish!



Do you love weddings? Would you like to become a member of the Wedding Ministry? A training for new wedding ministry volunteers and existing volunteers looking for a refresher will be held on Saturday Feb 9th at 10am. The session will cover volunteer responsibilities during the rehearsal and ceremony as well as information about becoming a Mentor Couple. If you are interested in joining this fun and rewarding ministry, sign up by sending an e-mail to weddings@stmm.net.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament/Eucharistic Adoration—StMM has Adoration available every Friday in the Chapel after daily Mass. On the First Friday of each month Adoration begins after daily Mass and ends at 7pm. Join us on Feb 1st. This requires that we have many people committed to praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day. We always need more people for this ministry! Please consider committing 1 hour each month. Take advantage of these opportunities to spend time with the Lord. If you would like to participate contact Anita Becker at 919-642-0441 or AlAnitaBecker@aol.com.



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, Jan 21, 9:30 – 11am, in Church meeting room #1. For more information, please contact Miriam Moore, miriamdel79@yahoo.com, 919-387-8676 or Fran Hughes, gmomfran@gmail.com.



Live stream StMM's 10:45am Mass at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7wpkWA5NgzXgQgmIxtNRZA?view_as=subscriber or Search YouTube for 'STMM CHURCH LIVE.'

Prayer Line—miriambeck24@gmail.com, 919-924-1413.



Safe Environment Training - Adults who wish to volunteer with youth at StMM are required to fill out a volunteer application and attend Safe Environment Training. Our next sessions are Sun, 1/27 at 12noon; Mon, 2/11 at 6:30pm. The session will last approx 2 hours and is for adults only as the presentation is not appropriate for children. **Must register to attend.** Email Bertha Smith (bsmith@stmm.net) to register and for meeting room.



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 20-26. Please stop by tables in the lobby the first weekend of Jan (Jan 5-6) to select your volunteer activity or item for donation. We could not do this without you, and need many volunteers for each day and night. Family Promise is a county-wide program that provides support to pre-screened homeless families as they transition into permanent housing. <http://www.familypromisewake.org/>. Reminder: All donations are dropped off at St. Andrew. Please contact Mary Wire at mbwire@gmail.com or 919-749-8932 with questions.

StMM Girl Scouts will be selling cookies in the narthex after all Masses on Jan 12/13 and Jan 19/20. All boxes are \$4 again this year. In addition to your favorite flavors, we have a new delicious caramel chocolate chip cookie that is both gluten-free and nut free! We will also be taking donations for Operation Cookie Drop, a cookie donation program for active military members. Thank you for supporting us!



St. Mary Magdalene School is now accepting applications for all grades. In addition to grades K-8 we also offer full-day and half-day preschool for children that are 3 and 4. We offer a loving environment with teacher assistants in the classrooms through grade 3, a full arts program including band and drama, textbooks in all subjects, and very low staff turnover. Financial assistance is available to registered parishioners that have demonstrated their stewardship to the parish. We also participate in the NC Opportunity Scholarship and Disability Grant programs. Email now to set up a time to visit the school: admissions@stmm.net or check out our website at www.stmm.net. We look forward to meeting your family!



Online Giving – Give instantly via our website. And don't forget, you can go to our website, www.stmm.church, click on **GIVING** and then on **DONATE TO STMM**. Direct your gift to a specific fund - Offertory, Debt Reduction, ASP Mission, In Memory or other. Your donations are tax deductible.

Now is the perfect time to become a registered parishioner of St. Mary Magdalene! You can pick up a parish registration form in the Narthex or email info@stmm.net and registration form will be emailed to you. The easiest way to return the form is to drop it in the collection basket when you come for Mass. Once you are registered you will receive a Welcome Packet in the mail and will be added to the Email Distribution list to receive our 'almost' every week E-News!

Do you receive Father Staib's E-News? If not, let us add or update your email address in the StMM directory for online communication. Email info@stmm.net and we can add or update our Email distribution list.



Respect Life News



Pray the **Rosary for Life** at 10:10am on the 2nd Sunday of the month in the Chapel. Our next Rosary for Life is today Sunday, January 13th. It is a beautiful way to start the day whether you come before Mass or stay after. Prayer sheets are provided and families with children are welcome.

COURAGE is a prayer and fellowship group that assists individuals with same-sex attractions (or SSA) to live chaste lives in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church. Meetings are for men and women and strict confidentiality is maintained. For more information email: courage.sacred.heart@gmail.com. Or call: (919) 289-9489

EnCourage is the affiliate support group for parents, friends and family members of loved ones with SSA. EnCourage helps members to focus on their own spiritual development and offers a supportive environment to share information and guidance for maintaining healthy relationships with our loved ones. For more information, email encourage.sacred.heart@gmail.com. Or call: (984) 221-0730. Strict confidentiality is maintained.



Diocesan News



Start the new year out right by enriching your marriage. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are Mar 1-3 in Hickory and Feb 1-3 in COLUMBIA, SC. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: <https://NCMarriageDiscovery.org> or contact us at applications@NCMarriageDiscovery.org or 704-315-2144.



Holy Family Perpetual Adoration Chapel at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church 2718 Overbrook Drive in Raleigh is YOUR Adoration Chapel, open 24 hours/7 days a week. Visit Our Lord in an intimate time of prayer, any time you want. Go to our website at www.ourladyoflourdescc.org for more details and to sign up for a **Holy Hour**—which is a weekly appointment with Jesus. **It will be the best time you spend on Earth. Are you called?**

Ignatian Spiritual Exercises for Men and Women at Avila Retreat Center - The Spiritual Exercises provides an opportunity to quiet your soul from daily distractions and focus on Christ. Mass, Confession and Spiritual Direction will be available with a Legionary of Christ priest. There will be guided meditations with time for private reflection. This is an opportunity to listen and discern God's voice in your soul. The Women's retreat will be held Jan 18-20 at Avila Retreat Center in Durham. Cost of the retreat is \$225 per person in advance or \$250 within two weeks of the retreat. Materials, meals and linens are included. For more information or to register, call (919) 274-9362 or email Raleighregnumchristi@gmail.com.

Mass honoring Martin Luther King Jr. We invite you to join Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama for Mass to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, January 21 at 10am at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, Raleigh. Event is open to the public.



4 Stages of Marriage are: (1) Romance, (2) Disillusionment, (3) Misery, and (4) Awakening. Many marriages experience the first three stages, but those that end in divorce never make it to the fourth. Don't give up without learning about this vital part of marriage. Contact Retrouvaille if your marriage suffers from Disillusionment or Misery. For confidential information or to apply to attend the program beginning with a weekend on February 15 call 800-470-2230 or email: retrouvailleenc@msn.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org.



Knights Corner

Calling all Catholic Men to the Knights of Columbus "A Catholic Fraternal Service Organization"

Your Knights at StMM Council 7186 have been active in: Hurricane Florence relief, CPO Food Drive, Coats for Kids, Building the Domestic Church, StMM Parish Projects, Visiting Seniors, Serving meals at Men's Homeless Shelter. **Are You Being Called? Please join us to help those in need.**

Did You Know Your StMM KofC Council 7186:

- Offer monthly breakfast for parishioners and their families for fellowship (Santa visited our Dec. 16th Breakfast)
- Moved Deacon John's books and book cases to StMM (donated by Jola Hubisz)
- Donated (36) winter coats for children to CPO as a result of our work and your support.
- Provided truck and Knights for CPO Food drive that collected nearly 3,000 lbs. of food and \$1,800.
- Distributed over \$30,000 in Hurricane Florence food and supplies and \$20,000 in gift cards donated by Knights of Columbus headquarters. Our local StMM council 'man power' distributed those supplies and money to Lumberton, Fayetteville, Wallace, New Bern, Wilmington and Jacksonville.
- Monthly we visit seniors in assisted living center and serve meals at Men's Homeless Shelter.

For more information to becoming a Knight:

Visit our website: <http://kofc7186.org> Contact: Grand Knight (Tom Blum) at gkko7186@gmail.com or our Membership Committee at MembershipKofC7186@gmail.com

Event High Light: StMM KoC Council 7168 is hosting a showing of Speaking to Sparrows as a fundraiser for Project Light and their continued efforts to create impactful resources for our youth and their parents. Fundraiser will be held on Thursday Jan 31st in StMM Chapel at 7-9:30pm for Knights and StMM Adult Parishioners. Link to purchasing tickets is as follows: <https://www.eventbrite.com/organization/project-light-ministries-15478073360>

Sunday Jan 13th: Sunday Breakfast (after 9am & 10:45 mass)

Thursday Jan 31st: Speaking to Sparrows Fundraiser 7pm Chapel

News From Other Organizations

Financial Peace University starts January 8 - Tired of being in debt and feeling broke? Learn how to get your financial house in order. FPU classes start Tuesday Jan. 8 from 7-9pm and continue for 9 weeks in the Sacred Heart Church School Hall, 204 Hillsborough St., Raleigh, 27603. Register at www.daveramsey.com, search "class finder". Sponsored by the Living Faith Committee, Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral.. Contact Dan & Elizabeth Dunbar with questions; dunbarcc@aol.com

ARE YOU SEPARATED OR DIVORCED? Join us for a Catholic based divorce healing program at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Whether you have been separated or divorced, ten days or ten years, this program offers comfort, counsel, and clarity. It also offers valuable insight regarding divorce and Catholic Church teachings. Using the CATHOLIC'S DIVORCE SURVIVAL GUIDE, the 12-week program features a 30-minute DVD each week with discussions to follow. It is confidential and an excellent support during a painful time. Cost is \$20 per person for the journal. The program will begin Monday, January 7th at 7 pm in the Fallon Center lounge. Please contact Christine Martin at beanieviola73@aol.com or Melanie Bailie at mbailie@nc.rr.com for a registration form.



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 follow Mass. January-June 2019 Mass schedule: January 13, February 10, March 24, April 28, May 19, June 23 Contact Celia at ckeator@nc.rr.com or visit www.singlesingleagain.com or on face book www.facebook.com/singleagainraleigh

A NEW approach to education in the Catholic Tradition is coming to our area very soon! Have you ever considered homeschooling? Do you desire a learning environment that is good, beautiful, and true for your children? Hybrid education will give you the culture, structure, and support needed to make homeschooling possible and successful for any family! With our unique classical methodology that "Trains the Mind to Form the Soul", RCA seeks to form students with the desire to seek knowledge and grow in wisdom. Regina Caeli Academy, is a hybrid academy, serving students in grades Preschool -12th grade in the Catholic tradition. RCA provides fully accredited academic and extracurricular classes for homeschoolers. Students attend classes using the Socratic (collegiate discussion) method two days per week with teachers and are homeschooled the remaining days with a directed curriculum. For more information on our hybrid educational approach, join us for an informational conference call **Wednesday, January 9th at 2:00pm. Please RSVP to the meeting by emailing kbeckman@rcahybrid.org. Call information [Dial-in = 302.202.1110; Access Code = 326601]** You may also visit www.rcahybrid.org. Regina Caeli Academy is Celebrating 16 years of service to homeschool education in the Catholic Tradition!

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.

Mass for Life and NC Right to Life The Diocese is partnering with NC Right to Life to continue the tradition of taking a stand for the dignity of every human life, from conception to natural death. The annual Mass for Life will be held at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral at 11am. All the faithful of North Carolina are invited to participate in the NC Rally for Life at 1pm and the NC March for Life at 2pm on Jan. 12 at the Halifax Mall in Downtown Raleigh. The keynote speaker will be Dr. George Delgado, a national Catholic Speaker on Pro-Life themes, and is a regular on "Catholic Answers Live". Along with the keynote speaker there will be live music, youth speakers, an invocation from our bishop, local politicians and much more.

Parish Athletics Spring Sports

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. **Note:** Pre-k players have a combined practice/game on Saturdays. Kindergarteners - 8th graders have one weekday practice per week and weekend games.

Spring T-Ball and Machine Pitch Baseball (Apex) - Grades: Coed; PreK (4 year olds) to 4th. **Dates:** April - June. **Practice Locations:** Apex only. **Cost:** \$65 (includes medal, shirt, and end of year picnic). **Note:** PreK players have a combined practice/game on Saturdays. K-4th grade will have one weekday practice and a game on Saturday.

Spring Softcross (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.

For more information, www.parishathleticsnc.org

Pastor Al™



"I said Pastor Al has a monstrose, Juan... not a monster."

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OF THE SACRED HEART

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When: Friday, February 15th, 2019 at 7pm -9pm

Where: St. Mary Magdalene Church,
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Admission is FREE & open to all!

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WRITTEN BY PHILIP MARTIN & DAN JOHNSON MUSIC BY SHAWN WILLIAMS

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