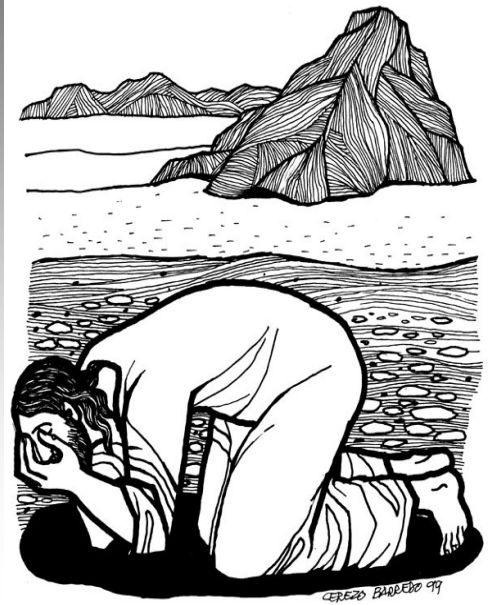


St. Mary Magdalene

CATHOLIC CHURCH



1st Sunday of Lent
February 18, 2018



Reflection

DESERTS

What are they for us? The hard testing times when we wander and wonder? Are they the anxiety of losing a job and wondering where God is? Are they the temptations to compromise our ideals? Should we go back on a promise made? Should we cut corners in our lives and live with less integrity? In the desert of the Jews, as they faced temptations and even betrayed God, God stayed with them and lead them out. Genesis reminds us that God sees the sign, the rainbow, and stays faithful to the covenant God made with all living beings. God makes sure that we do not have to pass through our deserts alone and visits us in various "angelic" ways.

Father Jude Siciliano OP

Mass Today—38

Offertory Helpers— Last Name's I—P

Weekend Masses—Saturday—5pm & Sunday—9am & 10:45am

Sunday Youth Mass—Youth Mass Feb 25—No Youth Mass Feb. 18

Weekday Masses— Monday through Friday—8:15AM

Reconciliation—After Daily Mass or check the Pastor's Letter in bulletin and the E-News to see if Confessions are on the schedule for this Saturday at 10:30am.

Baptisms—See Guidelines on Website—Email the Pastor

Weddings—See Guidelines on Website—Email the Pastor

625 MAGDALA PL.
APEX, NC 27502

(919) 657-4800
WWW.STMM.NET

Gathering:

Led by the Spirit—124

Psalm: 25

To you, O Lord I lift up, I lift up my soul, my God.

Preparation:

We Belong to You—643

Communion:

On Eagle's Wings—437

Turn to Me—661

Come Follow Me—505

Sending Forth:

Blest Be the Lord—431

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

My Dear Friends,

We continue this weekend to ask for support for our Bishop's Annual Appeal. So far we have received pledges of \$185,037 from 540 families. I hope we are on our way to a record for our BAA. We are at the 32% level of parish family participation. And we have reached 97% of our parish goal of \$191,507. Many thanks to our generous givers, and we look forward to hearing from all members of the parish.



Please consider a pledge of \$187 over a six month period. \$32 per month – the Diocese will send you a reminder each month.

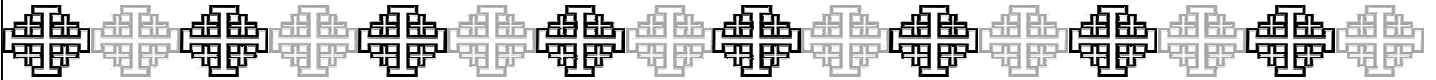
During Lent our Deacons will lead Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7 pm in the Church

ABOUT BAPTISMS: We do not have baptisms during Lent, so the next opportunities will be after Easter. I do have baptisms at the Easter Sunday Masses. CONFESSIONS: There will be Confessions on Saturday February 17 and February 24 at 10:30.

During this season of flu and colds – use good judgment about using the Communion cup and giving the handshake of peace.

This weekend we have one of our National and Annual 2nd Collections for Black and Indian missions in the USA.

Father Donald Staib



IMPORTANT

PARISH DATES

February

- 18—2nd Collection—Black & Indian
- 18—NO Youth Mass
- 18—The Vigil Project—6:30pm—Church
- 19—1st Communion Parent Meeting—10:30am OR 7pm—Media Center
- 20—1st Communion Parent Meeting—10:30am OR 7pm—Media Center
- 23—KofC Fish Fry—5:30—7:45pm—Dining Hall
- 23—Stations of the Cross—7pm—Church
- 25—Youth Mass 6pm—Church

March

- 1—Penance Service—7pm—Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral
- 2—Adoration—8:30am—7pm—Chapel
- 2—Stations of the Cross—7pm—Church
- 4—Youth Mass—6pm—Church
- 7—Penance Service—7pm—St. Bernadette, Fuquay
- 8—Penance Service—7pm—St. Mary Magdalene
- 9—KofC Fish Fry—5:30—7:45pm—Dining Hall
- 10/11—CPO Food Drive
- 11—2nd Collection—Catholic Relief Services
- 11—Youth Mass—6pm—Church

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

Mass Intentions

- Feb. 17—5pm—Joe & Agnes Baker—John Baker
- Feb. 18—9am—Parishioners of St. Mary Magdalene
- Feb. 18—10:45am—Parishioners of St. Mary Magdalene
- Feb. 20—8:15am—Andrew Minarich—The Kellomaki Family
- Feb. 22—8:15am—Jennifer Varner—Her Mom, Dad, Husband & Children

For Mass Intentions/Mass Cards—Call the Parish Office

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Our parish has always made its goal and we hope we soon accomplish the goal this year. The goal is \$191,507. We will pass pledge forms at the beginning of the sermon. You can fill the form today and place it in the collection basket – or bring back as soon as you can.

Using time tested parish formulas we can make our goal easily if every parish family considers a gift of \$187, payable over six months. Larger gifts are most welcome. Our Bishop, for his first BAA, noted that he considers the 2 most significant items in the BAA are support for Catholic Charities and for support for our seminarians.

NOW THAT THE NEW CHURCH IS COMPLETED

We have the obligation to make large monthly payments for 15 years – and we are challenged to respond to new parish endeavors brought about by our new building. We are grateful for those who are completing their pledges and for new gifts that are given in the monthly 'white' envelope. We are especially grateful for extra gifts that were given at Christmas.

Parish Contacts

Pastor—Father Donald Staib,—387-3648, donfs22@aol.com
Deacon—Joseph LaPierre, 919-219-5217, deaconjoe1931@gmail.com
Deacon—John Hubisz, 919-302-4345, hubisz@mindspring.com
School Principal—Bob Cadran, 657-4800 ext. 7294, Cadran@stmm.net
Parish Office—Kathy Lynch, 657-4800 ext. 7281, lynch@stmm.net
Parish Bookkeeper—Ann Cadran, 657-4800 ext. 7282, acadran@stmm.net



Catechetical Corner

Thank You to all our 3rd grade families for their toilet paper contributions for Catholic Parish Outreach.

Grade 4 Program Families – Your week for donations is March 18th/20th/21st. Please leave your contributions in the lobby of the Education Building before or after class. Please be as generous as your means will allow. Thank you in advance for your support for the poor of Wake County.

All Program Families – Last week rice bowls for Catholic Relief Services were distributed after all our class sessions. Rice Bowl contributions are a great way for a family to participate in almsgiving during the season of Lent. If you'd like a rice bowl, see Celeste in the parish office. Contributions are due back the week of March 18th.

Our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program is a Montessori based catechetical program offered in levels of mixed grade groups. Each session is capped at 10 students/class. Students must be age appropriate by August 31st. Level I for 3's/ PK/K is offered on Sundays from 8:45a-10a OR 10:30-11:45. Level II for grades 1/2/3 is offered on Sundays from 12p-1:15p as well as Tuesdays from 5p-6:15p. Level III for grades 4/5 is offered on Wednesdays from 5p-6:15p. Level II is required for Level III. Sessions take place in the Atrium (old chapel) in the Activities Building. Program runs from late September through late April/early May depending on the Feast of Pentecost each liturgical year. Registration opens in June & runs through August 31st each year. To find out more about this second religious education program please visit www.stmm.church. Select Religious Education.

First Communion 2018 Parent Meetings are set for Monday, February 19th OR February 20th at either 10:30am OR 7pm. All meetings will be held in the Media Center **NOT** the church as previously communicated. One parent attends only one of the 4 meetings. No one is excused from attending even if you have attended in the last 2 years. *This is the first set of First Communions in the new worship space so all families need to be informed.*

Parish First Communion Dates for 2018 are April 21st/22nd & April 28th/29th at all weekend liturgies.

Parish Families with 1st Graders in 2018-2019!! – First Reconciliation & First Eucharist are typically received in 2nd Grade. It is a two-year preparation. Kindergarten is optional & does not meet sacrament requirements. Grade 1 is required for Grade 2. If your child is starting 1st Grade in 2018-2019 then you need to register for class instruction with the parish in our Traditional Religious Education Elementary Program. A Catholic baptism is required. Updated information will be posted in May, 2018 for the new year. You can still access www.stmm.church. Select Religious Education. Select Elementary, Click on informational links to get a feel for the days & times class sessions are offered. You pick only one session & attend the same session each week.

Direct all questions to Celeste Usischon at Usischon@stmm.net



Youth Ministry

StMM YM Schedule for Sun, Feb. 18th:
The Vigil Project from 6:30– 8pm.
 (No Youth Mass Feb. 18th)

All are welcome to join us for this special night hosted by the talented Vigil Project from 6:30—8pm in the Church. This event is FREE & open to all ages! This would be a fantastic night for your entire family to enter into the Lenten season together. Park the car this Sunday and come inside to join us for this special event! Check out their website

www.thevigilproject.com

STMM YM Calendar for 2017-2018 can be found at this link: [http://www.stmm.church/2017-2018_Youth_Ministry_Calendar\(1\)_2.pdf](http://www.stmm.church/2017-2018_Youth_Ministry_Calendar(1)_2.pdf)

If you have a teen in year 2 of preparation/receiving the sacrament of Confirmation on April 25th, 2018 and have not created the online account for the electronic confirmation paperwork, please email Vicki at stmm.confirmation@kristoffs.com

St. Mary Magdalene's 2018 Confirmation liturgy will be held on Wednesday, April 25th in the church at 6:30pm.

If you have a teen who is currently in 8th/9th/10th/11th grade who will be entering either year 1 or year 2 of Confirmation preparation at STMM in the 2018-2019 school year, please be aware that it is required by our parish that you attend a Parent Confirmation Workshop. We offer 3 of them every year and it is required that 1 parent attend 1 of the 3 sessions offered. To see the complete list of Diocesan Guidelines for receiving the sacrament of Confirmation, please go to this link: <http://www.stmm.church/religious-ed/way.cfm> The dates for the 2018 Parent Confirmation Workshops are: **March 12th, April 24th, & May 9th at 7:30pm in the Media Center.**

2nd Semester Youth Masses will held: Feb. 25, March 4, 11 & 18, April 8, 15 & 22 (Senior Recognition Mass) **No Youth Masses** Feb. 18th (we are hosting The Vigil Project from 6:30-8pm in church (see page 7). March 25th & April 1st due to Palm Sunday & Easter.

Youth Ministry partners with parents of the teens in the YM Program! - Most of us have been raised that we go to church to receive our sacraments, get married, have kids and while our kids attend Faith Formation, we fit in as many errands as we can until pick up time. Jesus speaks in scripture of a very different kind of church where people join together to walk this journey as a community, where people prayed and learned about the faith together. We realize these are busy times, but we feel like now it is more important than ever to say connected to the 'vine.' It is with that desire that we are so excited to offer our parents an opportunity to come together while their teens are at our Youth Programs for some time to gather, pray, and grow in their own faith. Don't drop and run, drop and stay! We will offer these sessions twice during Apostello & Edge from 4:30—5:45pm & during The Way from 7:15—8:30pm in Church Meeting Room #3. All are welcome!



RCIA

Our next session is February 19th and our topic is **'Baptism & Confirmation.'** If you are interested in RCIA, please contact Celeste at usischon@stmm.net with your questions.



Today's Announcements

NOTEWORTHY AND BIG CHANGE COMING—As noted in previous bulletins Kathy Lynch, who has been our Parish Secretary since the beginning, will be leaving the parish in May. A group has recently convened to study our StMM Staff needs in the light of this change. They are looking at both the short term and the long term. A note will be in this week's E-News about how we might begin to look for a way to continue the staff needs of our Parish.



The CSO (Catholic Senior Organization for men and women 60+) meets every 3rd Monday of the month, Sept. through May. Our next meeting will be Mon, Feb 19th, 9:30—11am in Church meeting room #1. Our speaker will be Allie Prelaske from the Apex Community Center. The CSO knitting and crocheting group will meet on Mon, Feb 26th, from 1—3pm in meeting room #1. For more info, contact Miriam Moore, miriamdel79@yahoo.com, 919-387-8676 or Fran Hughes, gmomfran@gmail.com



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 Thurs, March 8th at 6:30pm & Mon April 9th 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 the meeting room.



Stations of the Cross will take place in the Church every Friday during Lent at 7pm starting on Friday, Feb. 16th. On Good Friday, March 30th, they will take place at 12noon. Please join us!



StMM Columbarium—Prior communications indicated that the recommended urn program would end December 2017. Apex Funeral Home has recently extended their discounted urn pricing through December 2018. Therefore the Columbarium Committee will continue offering the StMM recommended urn through 2018 at \$150 each. This is a discount in excess of 50% off of retail pricing. Apex Funeral Home is also continuing their program of offering the recommended urn free of charge with a prearrangement contract. StMM is communicating an offer from Apex Funeral Home but is not recommending Apex Funeral Home over any other provider. Urns can be stored in reserved niches at no additional cost. Please visit www.StMM.church/welcome/columbarium.cfm for guidelines, Q & A, completing reservations and purchasing urns. Communication with the Columbarium Committee: columbarium@stmm.net



KofC Annual Lent Fish Fry... Friday, Feb. 23rd, March 9th, and March 23rd in the Dining Hall from 5:30-7:45pm. (Eat in or Take Out). Pre-order online at www.lentfishfry.com. We use top quality cod and shrimp, prepared fried or baked. Fried fish is freshly breaded just prior to cooking which delivers to you a perfect golden brown crispy filet. We serve our meals with your choice of seasoned French Fries, Parsley Potatoes, or Macaroni and Cheese along with Cole Slaw, Corn Bread and Dessert. Come out and enjoy a great meal with friends and family while supporting many worthy community causes championed by the Knights of Columbus.



StMM Girl Scout Troop 1383 Book Drive Feb. 26th—March 4th—We need your new & gently used children's books! The books collected will be donated to *Book Harvest*, a Durham-based nonprofit that believes in the power of books to change children's lives. We need books of all ages, especially board books and picture books for the youngest readers, as well as books in Spanish and bilingual books. Clear your cluttered shelves of books your children have outgrown so they can find new a home with a child who needs them. Look for the Book Collection Bins in the school lobby Feb. 26th to March 2nd and in the Church Narthex the weekend of March 3rd & 4th.

Attention Parents! Isn't it convenient to have 75 minutes every Sunday to run errands while your kids are tucked away in Religious Education? You bet it is! We did too, but then we had a better idea. Instead of hitting Costco, running to Target or Harris Teeter, let's get to know folks in our parish, learn something new and interesting about our faith and relax with a cup of coffee. Last Fall, a small group of parents gathered to do just those things. Our group meets during Sunday Religious Education classes from 12—1:15pm in the school's Media Center. When the kids are there, so are we! Join us! During lent we will watch and discuss Bishop Barron's renowned *CATHOLICISM* series. Journey with us around the world and deep into the Catholic faith. (<http://catholicism.wordonfire.org>) Questions contact Nicole at nicolesebik@yahoo.com or Joe at jsebik@icloud.com.



Parish Athletics

Parish Athletics—Spring Soccer (Apex-Cary) - Grades: Coed, PreK (3 year olds) to 8th - **Dates:** March to May; **Practice Locations:** Apex & Cary. **Game Locations:** Apex & Cary. **Cost:** PreK \$60; K thru 5th grade - \$65; **Note:** PreK has a combined practice/game on Sat. Kdg thru 8th grade have one weekday practice and a game on Sat. **Spring T-Ball & Machine Pitch Baseball - Grades:** Coed, PreK (4 year olds) thru 4th **Dates:** April to June; **Practice Locations:** Apex & Cary; **Game Locations:** Apex only; **Cost:** \$65;; **Note:** PreK has a combined practice/game on Sat; K—8th grade have one weekday practice and a game on Sat. **Lacrosse (Softcrosse) - Grades:** Coed; K—5th **Dates:** March thru May; **Practice/Game locations:** Apex only; **Cost:** \$65; **Note:** All will be on Sun. afternoons and will combine a practice with a game or scrimmage. We will need volunteer coaches for all age groups! **Required Equipment:** Stick, mouth guard, cleats or sneakers. Register at <http://www.parishathleticsnc.org>.



Lent Penance Services

March 1—7pm—Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, Raleigh
 March 7—7pm—St. Bernadette's, Fuquay—Varina
 March 8—7pm—St. Mary Magdalene (at S. Andrew in Advent)
 March 14—11am—St. Raphael, Raleigh
 March 14—7pm—St. Michael, Cary
 March 20—11am—St. Bernadette, Fuquay-Varina
 March 21—11am—St. Michael, Cary



TAX TIME

2017 Tax Statements were emailed to registered parishioners who have a valid email address with the parish. If you receive the E—News you should have received your tax statement. If you did not receive a statement, contact lynch@stmm.net, 919-657-4800 ext. 7281 and one will be sent to you. Be sure to check your junk mail if you receive the E-News



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 Sunday, March 11th. 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.

It's Official, the 40 Days of Life Spring Campaign begins Ash Wednesday in Chapel Hill. Feb. 14—March 25 (7am—7pm daily.) You are invited to join other Christians for 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion; to stand and peacefully pray in the public right-of-way outside of Planned Parenthood, 1765 Dobbins Drive; and to help spread the word about this important community outreach. For more information and to volunteer to help, go to 40daysforlife.com/chapelhill or email 40dayschapelhill@gmail.com. Be a witness for life!

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

Special Needs Mass All are invited to a celebration Mass, on Sat, March 3rd at 11am, with Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama at St. Andrew's in Apex. Join us for worship and fellowship as we pray for and celebrate the lives of the members of our community with special needs. A lunch reception provided by the Diocese of Raleigh will follow Mass in the Fellowship Hall, please register to reserve your spot: raldioc.configio.com/go/special-needs-mass. For more information or to volunteer to serve in the Mass, please contact Mary Beth Phillips at 919-719-8267 or Marybeth.phillips@raldioc.org

2018 Women's Retreat on Charisms and Contemplative Prayer Led by Angela Neumann Feb. 23rd - 25th, 2018 Avila Retreat Center, Durham. The gorgeous grounds of the Avila Retreat Center provide the perfect backdrop to strengthen our faith life. Through insightful sessions and discussion, Angie will help us improve our contemplative prayer life and learn our charisms, or gifts, that we can use in lives of service and faith as women of grace. Presented by Full of Grace Women's Ministry at Our Lady of Lourdes. Cost is \$180 for 2 nights, including meals.— checks payable to OLL. Contact Ami Robbins arobb20@gmail.com to register.



Join Catholic Charities for their Inaugural "Drive Out Hunger" Golf Outing at North Ridge Country Club in Raleigh on Mon, June 11th. Proceeds will benefit Catholic Charities food pantries across the diocese and provide groceries to the 16.5% of North Carolina families who lack reliable access to healthy meals. For more information and to register, please visit www.CatholicCharitiesRaleigh.org/golf-2018 or call 919-821-8142.

The Opportunity Scholarship Program expands school choice in North Carolina through financial grants for eligible children in kindergarten through 12th grade. This program provides funding of up to \$4,200 per year for eligible children who choose to attend a participating nonpublic school. For information, go to <http://www.ncseaa.edu/OSG.htm>



Save the Date! 15th Ignited By Truth Catholic Conference April 28, 2018 Reynolds Coliseum, Raleigh "Bringing to light the truth of the teachings of the Catholic Church and igniting in all hearts a love for the Faith" Speakers: **Dr. Scott Hahn, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Mark Hart, Fr. Donald Calloway, and Fr. Robert Spitzer!** For more details, visit www.IgnitedByTruth.org



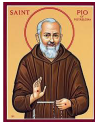
World Youth Day in Panama: January 28-21, 2019 Interested in going? Visit <https://raldioc.configio.com/go/wyd2019> For more information contact Ricardo Veloz at (919) 600-8750 or Ricardo.Veloz@raldioc.org right away.

Connect with the Diocese! Follow us on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter for inspirational, educational and entertaining content!

News From Other Organizations



"The kingdom of God is at hand." As we begin Lent, let us try to bring the kingdom of God to our marriages by participating in a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) Weekend**. The next weekends are: Aug 3-5, 2018 in Chapel Hill and Nov 9-11, 2018 in Atlantic Beach, NC. 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.



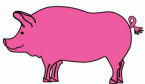
"Padre Pio Prayer Group"—Join us the first Saturday of every month for 8:00am Mass in honor of St. Padre Pio. Exposition, prayers, and confession, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Raleigh. Our next meeting is March 3rd. All are welcome!



Catholic Charities offers counseling in Raleigh & Cary. Each location has licensed clinical social workers who treat adults, children, couples and families. The Raleigh office has a bilingual therapist. Catholic Charities uses a subsidized fee scale based on income and number in the household. If you have insurance, Catholic Charities will file it for you. To make an appointment, call 919-790-8533 (Raleigh) and 919-388-3065 (Cary). Office hours are Monday to Thursday.



Single/Single Again Ministry – 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. 2018 Masses are: March 18, April 22, May 20, and June 17. For more information contact Celia at ckea-tor@nc.rr.com or visit www.singlesingleagain.com or on facebook www.facebook.com/singleagainraleigh



CPO Food Pantry's 5th Annual Pig Pickin' & Open House—Let's pig out to help feed more families! Sat, April 21st from 4–7:30pm (or until the pig runs out) 2013 Raleigh Blvd, Raleigh. Home-cooked Pork BBQ cooked on-site with beef hot dogs and a variety of side dishes & cold drinks, \$10/plate. Our chefs are the Cathedral KofC. There will be live Bluegrass music, Indoor seating, Bake Sale and so much family fun! Cash, credit & checks accepted. Sponsorship opportunities are available \$250—\$2,500. For more information visit CPOraleigh.org or contact Terry Foley at 919-873-0245 ext. 230, foleyt@raldioc.org.



Search Retreat for 10-12 Graders—Don't miss this opportunity to interact and share your faith with other Catholic teenagers from across the Diocese of Raleigh on March 9-11, 2018, at Camp Rockfish, Parkton, NC (near Fayetteville). "Search" is a peer-led retreat sponsored by the Diocese of Raleigh, which has touched the lives of teenagers for more than 40 years. Participants are led through a series of witness talks and activities prepared by a team of high school students who encourage participants to seek and find Christ in their own lives and in one another on their journey toward Christian maturity. To register follow the link, <https://raldioc.configio.com/go/search-189> and click on the appropriate registration type, youth or adult. The final day to register is March 4. Cost for the Search weekend is \$120; however, no one is denied participation because of inability to pay. Financial assistance is available, please work with your parish. Adult chaperones must be 25 years old and Safe Environment trained. The cost for adults is covered. For more information, please contact the diocesan directors of Search, Monique and Joe Wertis at 919-426-6608 or 919-520-7059.



Room at the Inn Catholic Maternity Home—Please help support our moms and babies through our upcoming raffle! Tickets are \$100 each. We will only sell 300 tickets. The grand prize is \$5,000! We would love to have you at our silent auction and event at "The Public" in Greensboro, but you do not have to be present to win. There is more info about the raffle and event on our website under the "events" tab at www.roominn.org. You can also buy tickets at our website. For more info, contact Marianne Donadio at 336-391-6299 or mdonadio@roominn.org.



"Why did I drop the collection basket? My left hand didn't know what my right hand was doing."

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