

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

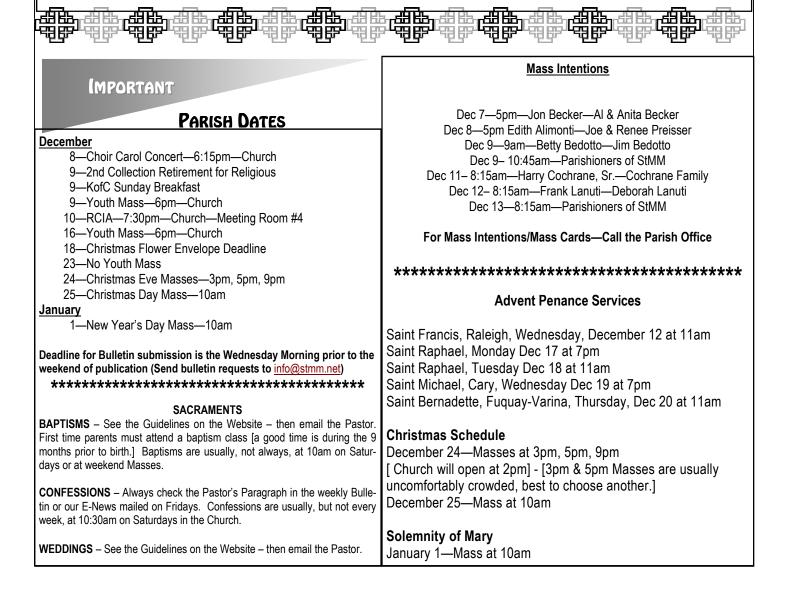
My Dear Friends,

On the octagon tables in the lobby this week are self-nomination forms for members of the parish to serve on our Parish Council. The Parish Council is most helpful to me in guiding our parish and its programs. These forms are orange color; they can also be downloaded from our e-news. They need to be returned before the weekend Masses of December 22-23.

This weekend there will be a 2nd collection for the Retired Religious, Sisters and Brothers, of the USA.

CONFESSIONS: There will be Confessions on Saturday December 8 and 15 and 22 at 10:30. The list of the Advent Penance Services is in our bulletin this week.

Father Donald Staib







Grades 3/4/5 Families - We are offering Advent Reconciliation on Tuesday, December 11th at 5pm **OR** Wednesday, December 12th at 6:30pm. Sunday students in grades 3/4/5 are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Celeste (<u>usischon@stmm.net</u>) & Suzanne (<u>will@stmm.net</u>) by Monday, 12/10 if you plan on attending.

Catechetical Corner

2019 Sacrament Families - Many thanks to all who attended last weeks parent sacrament meetings. Packets have been prepared for those who were absent as well as for families who were excused from attending. Please be sure to pick yours up in the parish office this week.

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 Holidays - All elementary programs are closed from Sunday, December 16th Friday, January 4th. 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 Celeste - <u>usischon@stmm.net</u> or Suzanne - will@stmm.net with your questions.





Youth Ministry

This Sunday, 12/9 StMM YM schedule is as follows: EDGE (6th-8th grade) meets from 4:30-5:45pm The Way(9th-12th graders not yet confirmed) meets from 7:15-8:30pm Apostello(11th & 12th graders already confirmed) meets from 4:30-5:45pm Youth Mass in the church at 6pm, all parishioners welcome!

Parents Night Out: 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. This is meant to be a low stress opportunity for you to continue on your own journey while your teen is in their StMM YM program. The topic for these sessions is exploring encounters with Jesus as shared in the Gospel of John. In each story the people are transformed by their encounters with Christ. 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 held on the following dates: 12/9, 1/6, 1/27, 2/17, 3/3, 3/17, 3/31

<u>Help build a house in Haitil</u>: 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!

<u>Guys High School Retreat</u>: 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 week-end includes time for prayer, fun, activities such as: paintball, zip lining, rock wall climbing, Gaga ball, and Bazooka 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 either on Sunday at The Way at the table in the lobby, 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 <u>http://www.stmm.church/religious-ed/</u> highschool.cfm



RCIA

The next session is Dec 10 from 7:30-8:30 pm in Church Room 4. Topic: Gospel of Luke. Questions please contact Celeste at rcia@stmm.net.



Today's Announcements



We are celebrating Advent at Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW). Please be sure you have registered your child(ren) to participate. To register, please send an email to 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. This coop 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. Thank you for helping to make this ministry flourish!



StMM Landscaping Committee is having the first Christmas Landscaping Clean Up and Refresh of our campus; we need volunteers to pick up trash/debris &

spread mulch/pine straw; December 9th starting at 2pm; bring yourself, family, and friends; if you have, bring rake, shovel, and wheelbarrow; email us at Landscaping@stmm.net if you are planning on joining us!



"Are you worried about someone in your life?" Join us for an informational seminar featuring Sister Anne Heath, Counseling Specialist from Catholic Charities on Sunday, December 9th at 10am in Room #1, immediately following

mass. For more information contact dana conte@yahoo.com



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.



The Angel Tree is in the lobby filled with ornaments for needy children and families from several Wake County non-profit organizations. Please attach the ornament to the gift/food/contribution to help us track all dona-

tions. Feel free to wrap or bag gifts for the children (star tags). No other gifts should be wrapped. All contributions should be placed under the tree no later than 10:45am on Dec. 16th .

The StMM first grades are sponsoring a pajama drive in conjunction with Scholastic books. For every pair of pajamas that is donated through the Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive, Scholastic Book Clubs will donate a brand-new book to Pajama Program to give kids affected by instability a good night - for a good day! Please consider donating a new pair of pajamas from size newborn to adult. There will be collection bins in the school lobby from Dec 3 - 12. Thank you for making a child's Christmas brighter!

The StMM second grade is hosting a shoe drive from Dec 3 – 12. During this season of giving, we are asking you to please donate new or gently used shoes to those in need. Boxes will be located in the school lobby for you to deposit your shoe donations. Please tie laces of shoes/sneakers together before bringing them to school. For shoes/sneakers without laces, kindly place them in a plastic bag. The shoe donations are given to Brown Bag Ministry who distributes them to those in need. These essential items of living will be greatly appreciated, especially with the cold weather.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament/Eucharistic Eucharistic Adoration-StMM has Adoration available every + •

Friday in the Chapel after daily Mass. On the First Adoration Friday of each month Adoration begins after daily Mass and ends at 7pm. Join us on Jan 4th. 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 "Seniors place Monday, Dec 17, 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.



Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings.

Your gift to today's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.

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

Stock Donations Before Year's End? If you are considering a tax deductible stock donation before the end of 2018 the process is easy. Go to http://dioceseofraleigh.org/give and download the stock donation form. A contact person is listed on the form should you have questions. All stock donations are processed through the Diocese of Raleigh and proceeds are forwarded to the parish.

ELECTRONIC

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.



, 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.



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, December 9. 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.

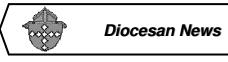


Fetal Development of Abigail—Abigail is now considered full-term but continues to gain and grow every day. Lungs are days from completion. I'm practicing breathing with my amniotic fluid. It is easy to grasp things with Abigail's little fingers. Typically, boys will weigh more

than girls at birth. Only 4% of babies are actually born on their due date. Mom, pack your bags, and don't forget the camera for those all -important pictures of the baby. *"They will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God."* (Isaiah 35:2)

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: <u>courage.sacred.heart@gmail.com</u>. 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 <u>encourage.sacred.heart@gmail.com</u>. Or call: (984) 221-0730. Strict confidentiality is maintained.



"Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Join us on one of the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends on Mar 1-3 in Hickory and Feb 1-3 in Columbia. Early sign up is recommended. For more information

visit our website at <u>https://NCMarriageDiscovery.org</u> or contact us at <u>applications@NCMarriageDiscovery.org</u> 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 <u>www.ourladyoflourdescc.org</u> 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?

Dedication of the Fisk Opus 147 Pipe Organ Please join us for the dedication of the Fisk Opus 147 Pipe Organ at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral on January 3. Vespers begin at 6:30pm followed by a concert with concert guest soloist Nathan Laube. Event is open to the public.

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 Men's retreat will be held Dec 7-9 and 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.

You Can Help Your Marriage – Do you feel A LITELINE FOR MARKED COUPLES alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue or have you just stopped talking to each other? **Retrouvaille** helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. For confidential information or to apply to attend the program beginning with a weekend on February 15. Call 800-470-2230 or email: <u>retrouvaillenc@msn.com</u> or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org



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:

- Setup StMM Christmas Nativity and hosted refreshments
- 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: <u>http://kofc7186.org</u> **Contact:** Grand Knight (Tom Blum) at <u>gkkofc7186@gmail.com</u> or our Membership Committee at <u>MembershipKofC7186@gmail.com</u>

<u>Event:</u> Christmas Cards are for sale (before and after all masses). We also have some Christmas Ornaments for sale as well.

Sunday Dec 9th: Sunday Breakfast (after 9am & 10:45 mass)- <u>"KIDS EAT FREE"</u> in celebration of St. Nicholas Day Tuesday Dec 25th: Serve meals at Men's Homeless Shelter (5:15pm-6:30pm)

StMM Principal

Recently our founding School Principal, Bob Cadran, announced his plan to retire at the end of this school year. We will soon establish a Search Committee, but meanwhile we are advertising in appropriate places. For additional information go to www.StMM.church. There is a link to the Job Description and additional details for applicants under Highlights.

News From Other Organizations



Give gifts that reflect the true meaning of Christmas! Catholic Parish Outreach Christmas Honor Cards- Did you know that ting Hope-Serving All 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 12 yearold CPO Volunteer Alexis Martin 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. Forms are available at in the Church Lobby.



Traveling St. John Vianney Project-We are looking for a few more families to join our ministry. Each family takes turns hosting our traveling statue of St John Vianney for a month. He is the patron saint of priests. While you are hosting, display the statue in your home as a visual reminder to pray for our priests and an increase in vocations. This is a

great way for families to participate in a ministry together. If you are interested please email Megan Brinkley m.brinkley@hotmail.com

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: Janu-

ary 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

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.

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. ***Prices will increase by \$5 on January 1st, 2019.

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



Yes, we all like Christmas, but is there another reas to choose St. Nicholas for your confirmation name?



we pray. we learn. we care.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2019-2020 school year for all grades from PK3 through 8th grade.

You have many opportunities to visit the school and speak to our teachers and administrators! RSVP on the Admissions tab of our website www.school.stmm.net/admissions

We will be in the narthex after all Masses on Dec 8/9 and Jan 26/27. Meet the kindergarten staff on Jan 7 at 6:30pm. We will start with a presentation and then the kindergarten teachers will lead tours of the school.

Mr. Robert Cadran, StMM Principal, will be hosting tours for grades 5-8 at 9am on Dec 7, Jan 11 and Feb 8.

Mrs. Christa lozzo, StMM Assistant Principal, will be hosting tours for grades K-4 at 10am on Dec 12, Jan 16 and Feb 13. Mrs. Barbara Senn, StMM PreSchool Director, will lead preschool tours at noon and 1pm on Dec 13, Jan 8 and Feb 12. PK-8th Grade Open House is from 9-10:30 on Tues Jan 29 during Catholic Schools Week. 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).