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St. Mary Magdalene E-News December 21, 2018

A Note From Father Donald Staib

On this weekend before Christmas - bring to Mass your Child Jesus from your Crib. At the end of Mass I will stand by the Baptism Font to bless your stature. This is not an old custom of our church, but one that I have recently heard of. A brief explanation:

Bambinelli Blessing

St. John Paul II began a tradition early on in his papacy where he invited the children of Rome to assemble in St. Peter's Square during Advent. He asked them to bring their little statue of the baby Jesus that would be placed in their Nativity set at home.

John Paul II blessed the figurines of those present and told them to assemble before the manger scene with their family in a spirit of prayer.

As I bless your little statues, beloved children, I think with serene hope of you, of the immense good that you can do, precisely because you are little, within your family, the school, and society itself. Not for nothing did Jesus himself choose you as models for those who wish to have a part in his Kingdom.

Take home, with great care, the little statue of the Infant Jesus, also as a sign of the Pope's love for you and your families. Put it in your Crib with the intense faith of the Blessed Virgin, the Mother of God, laid the new-born Jesus in the manger. Invite your family to gather round the Crib in these days of Christmas to recite together the prayers learned at home, to sing the sweet carols so charged with human and Christian sentiment.

May the Infant Jesus, present in the Crib of your home, be the concrete sign of a sincere faith, which will enlighten, guide and direct your life and that of your dear ones.

I trust you know our Christmas schedule: Monday 3 - 5 - 9 pm
Christmas Day at 10 am.

Last Saturday evening we had the unfortunate experience of someone breaking into cars during the 5 pm Mass. Then they went to St Andrew to do the same at their 5:30 Mass. Hide valuables in your car and be vigilant if you notice anything suspicious. This experience is sad, but we do not live in a perfect world. How did thieves know our Saturday Mass schedule and also know the schedule at St Andrew?

This weekend there will be a bulletin that we will also use for Christmas. So if you take one on the 4th Sunday of Advent, you will not need another for the Christmas Masses. This year - not enough time between Sunday and Monday.

Please note that there will not be daily Mass on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Our campus will be closed Monday through Thursday, except for Christmas Masses.

There will be an 8:15 Mass on Friday December 28.

Father Donald Staib
donfs22@aol.com
St. Mary Magdalene E-News

Our 10:45am Mass is Live Streamed!

Click [HERE](#) to Live Stream our 10:45am Mass

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.

Reflection

A Christmas Wish

May we break down boundaries, tear down walls, and build on the foundation of goodness inside each of us. May we look past differences, gain understanding, and embrace acceptance. May we reach out to each other rather than resist. May we be better stewards of the earth, protecting, nurturing and replenishing the beauties of nature. May we practice gratitude for all we have, rather than complain about our needs. May we seek cures for the sick, help for the hungry, and love for the lonely. May we share our talents, give our time, and teach our children. May we hold hope for the future very tenderly in our hearts and do all we can to build for bright tomorrows. And may we love with our whole hearts, for that's the only way to love.

Financial Matters

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.

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.

DONATE NOW TO OUR NEW CHURCH

(Click on the above link to Donate)

Youth Ministry Haiti Service Project

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. In April 2018 Janine and Liz went on a mission trip to Haiti and saw firsthand the incredibly life changing work HMI is doing in the Jeremie area and felt a strong call to connect our StMM YM teens & families with HMI. Our youth can have a profound impact on the life of a family living in complete despair and allow them to have a safe place to sleep, gather, eat, live....something all of us take for granted. Anybody can donate to this cause and if we raise more than the \$3,750 minimum, we'll build two houses! 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! To donate, click [HERE](#).

Children's Liturgy of the Word

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 co-op ministry is geared for children ages 3 years to first grade, guiding



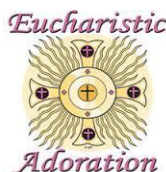
them through a portion of the Mass in a prayerful, kid-centered way. Thank you for helping to make this ministry flourish!

Wedding Ministry



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.

Eucharistic Adoration



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 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.

Catholic Senior Organization



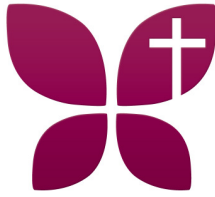
The CSO (Catholic Senior Organization for men and women 60+) meets every third Monday of the month, September through May. Our next meeting will take place Monday, Jan 21, 9:30 - 11am, in Church meeting room #1. For more information, please contact Miriam Moore, miriamdel79@yahoo.com, 919-387-8676 or Fran Hughes, gmomfran@gmail.com.

Family Promise



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.

St. Mary Magdalene School



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!

'Knight's Corner'



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from 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 last week 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>

Please Contact: Grand Knight (Tom Blum) at gkkofc7186@gmail.com or our Membership Committee at MembershipKofC7186@gmail.com

Event Highlight: *Christmas Cards and Ornaments are for sale* (before and after all masses).

Calendar

- Tuesday Dec 25th: Serve meals at Men's Homeless Shelter (5:15pm-6:30pm)
- Sunday Jan 13th: Sunday Breakfast (after 9am & 10:45am Mass)

STMME-News, 625 Magdala Place, Apex, NC 27502

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