

Connect With Us

Join Our Mailing List

Forward to a Friend



Visit Our Church Website

St. Mary Magdalene E-News

December 13, 2019

A Note From Father Donald Staib

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

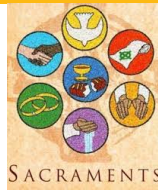
donfs22@aol.com

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

Expectations can be lofty things and it is disappointing when we see someone fall short or when we ourselves fall short. Then again, how often are we held to expectations beyond our ability or opposed to our own priorities? If and when we fail to meet the expectations of others, especially when we've had no say in these expectations, the fallout may be significant. Not many of us like to be told what we need to do or how we need to do it. So it is incumbent upon us not to lay unrealistic or uninformed expectations on others either.

Today we learn about John's expectations for Jesus, the one he baptized. John was likely offended at Jesus' behavior and preaching because it was not what he had foretold. The disconnect was so great that John wondered if there was someone else who was to come. This is a good reminder for us to temper our expectations of others. We are ultimately responsible for ourselves, not anyone else. We can let God raise up in others the special gifts, talents, and abilities given to them. We would do well to let die any desire to control others through the expectations we might place on them.

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.

DONATE NOW TO OUR NEW CHURCH

(Click on the above link to Donate)

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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

Picture of the Week



The Youth Ministry Teens were able to raise almost \$700 for House in Haiti with photos with Santa.

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.



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 participants 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 stmmclow@gmail.com.



Refresh - An Adult Program held during PREP. Apex is a great place to live, but the number one city for you is where you can build your village. Get to know those around you at Mass. Meet other StMM families. Have a cup of coffee. We're meant to live in community, to connect with others. If it takes a village, let's build one! Join us on Sundays at Noon in the Science Room on the second floor of the StMM School Building while your child is in PREP. Questions? Contact Nicole, nicolesebik@yahoo.com or Joe, jsebik@icloud.com.

Youth Ministry

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!!!)

(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.

When & Where: 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 at 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: <http://www.stmm.church/religious-ed/highschool.cfm>. 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.

GUYS ONLY HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! 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: <http://www.stmm.church/religious-ed/highschool.cfm> 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.

Haiti House Building: 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.accesssacs.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>

RCIA



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.

Angel Tree



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!

StMM Choir Christmas Carol Celebration



the season.

The **STMM Choir** will be hosting a Caroling and Christmas music event on December 14th, following the 5:00pm Mass. You are cordially invited to join us in the Church for some traditional Christmas music and to sing along with your favorite carols. Please join us if you can, the event will last about an hour. There is no better way to get you into the spirit of

Advent Parish Mission

hope

was born this night.....

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



Christmas Art Sale

NATALIA BARNACK DESIGNS

CHRISTMAS ART SALE



25% OF ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO STMM HAITI MISSION

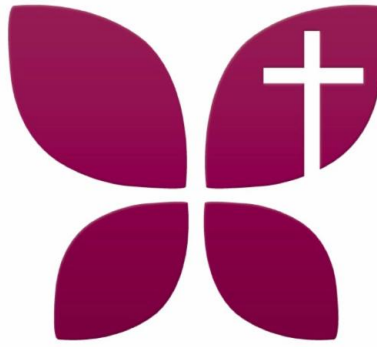
Prints and orders for sale Dec 15th after all masses and the Advent Parish Mission



Stmm School Applications

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.

Discipleship Quads

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 Conference

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 wernerjoe@aol.com steubenvillemissionNC@gmail.com. Bus travel optional. Please use this link to register: <http://bit.ly/LauraWernerPPC20>

Western Wake Crisis Ministry

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.

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 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 pre-screened homeless families as they transition into permanent housing (<http://www.familypromisewake.org/>). Reminder: 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 mbwire@gmail.com or 919-749-8932 with questions or to discuss position details.

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, December 16, 11am - 1pm, in Church meeting room #1. For more information, please contact Miriam Moore, miriamdel79@yahoo.com, 919-387-8676 or Fran Hughes, gmomfran@gmail.com.

First Friday Adoration



First Friday Adoration will be on Friday, January 3rd. 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 ALANITABECKER@AOL.COM 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 m.brinkley@hotmail.com
