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St. Mary Magdalene E-News December 6, 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.

Sunday December 8 is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. It is also our USA national patron feast.

There is a 2nd collection today for all the retired Sisters in our country. Members of our parish have always been generous for this collection.

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.

The hackers are at it again! They have found ways to send emails from me to some in the parish asking to purchase money cards. I never email anyone for funds.

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 7 at 10:30 and on Saturday December 14 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

We live in a world in which prophecy has been swamped by prediction: the weather, elections, the stock market. But John the Baptist did not conduct polls; Isaiah's accuracy did not have a margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Prophets simply tell the truth. And we focus on them during Advent because it is the season leading up to the greatest truth of all: God is with us. He is here, now. We are saved. It is an extraordinary message that all of us utterly ordinary Christians-parents, teachers, parishioners, pals-are supposed to pass along.

At baptism we were anointed to be prophets to one another and to the world, to bear witness to the great light, to burn with the Spirit and fire and to echo the voice of God at the heart of us. And yes, we may go unnoticed in our hometowns; but if we are lucky, we might raise an eyebrow in the kingdom of God. - Jeffrey Essmann from America Magazine

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.

Elementary Religious Ed

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.

Advent Our Annual Gathering Prayer will begin today and continue on days we have class sessions. Upon arrival, please walk your child/ren to the Media Center where the students are to gather around our displayed Advent wreath & not proceed down to the classrooms. When our prayer is complete, catechists will walk their students to class. Dismissal procedures remain the same. Parents are welcome to stay & should stand around the perimeter of the Media Center.

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.

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.

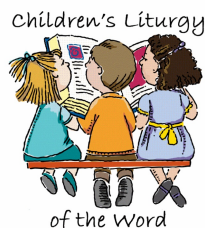
First Eucharist Retreat is Saturday, May 2, 2020 for all students in Grade 2 & Wednesday Evening

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 12/8/19 is as follows:

EDGE 4:30pm-5:45pm in the gym

Apostello 4:30pm-5:45pm in the media center

Youth Mass at 6pm in the church (open to all ages!!!)

The Way 7:15pm-8:30pm starting in the church

ALL ANGEL TREE GIFTS ARE DUE THIS SUNDAY IN THE CAFETERIA!

THIS IS A SEPARATE ANGEL TREE PROJECT FROM THE ONE IN THE CHURCH LOBBY.

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"

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.accessacs.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>

Registration has now closed for all STMM YM programs

Please contact Janine or Liz directly if you missed our registration period.

Janine McGann can be reached at janine.mcgann@gmail.com

Liz Sams can be reached at liz.sams@gmail.com

Angel Tree



The Angel Tree will be in the lobby filled with ornaments for needy children and families from several Wake County non-profit organizations beginning this Saturday, November 30th. Please attach the ornament to the gift/food/contribution to help us track all donations. 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. 15th.**

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



Pictures with Santa

GET YOUR PICTURE WITH SANTA

and Help Raise Money for Haiti!

- Sunday, Dec. 8th
- St. Mary Magdelene Church Lobby
- 10:00 AM - 1 PM



STMM
the way

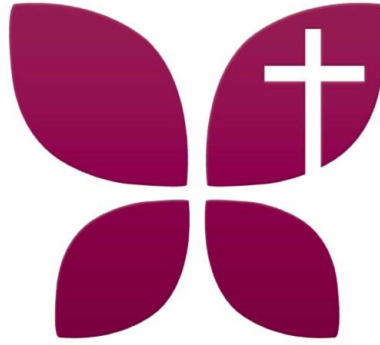
Help our Youth Ministry raise money to build homes in Haiti.

Minimum \$5 Donation. You will receive a digital print of your child with Santa. Candy canes and sugar cookies provided!

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

Discipleship Quad Information Meeting - Sunday 12/8 between the 9am and 10:45am mass in Room 3. A Discipleship Quad is a group of four people who journey together as disciples through weekly gatherings of fellowship, ongoing conversion, and learning. If you are a person who has a desire to grow in faith as a Catholic and also learn how to share the gospel with others, this is for you! Come ask questions and learn how to get one started. It is FREE. For more information, go to <https://steubenvilleconferences.com/discipleship-quads/>. If you still have questions or cannot make the meeting, send an email to Laura Werner at steubenvillemissionNC@gmail.com.

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.

St. Nicholas Shoe and Sock Drive



Second Grade St. Nick Shoe and Sock Drive December 3-10th - During this season of giving, we are asking you to help families in need by donating new or gently used shoes/sneakers, new socks, and new men's work boots. Donations can be placed inside the boxes located in the school lobby. Please tie shoelaces together or put them in a plastic bag. Brown Bag Ministry distributes all of our donations. Thank you for supporting this important service project.

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 December 6. 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.

Parish Athletics

PARISH ATHLETICS

www.ParishAthleticsNC.org

Winter Basketball (Apex)

Grades: Coed, Pre-K (4 year-olds) to 6th.

Dates: November - February.

Location: StMM Gym in Apex.

Cost: Pre-K & K, \$60; 1st & 2nd Grade, \$65; 3rd - 6th Grades, \$70; (includes medal, shirt, and picnic).

Format: Pre-K & K have practices/games on Saturdays; 1st - 6th Grades have week night practices and weekend games.

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. K - 8th graders have one weekday practice per week and weekend games.

Spring T-Ball and Machine

Pitch Baseball (Apex)

Grades: Coed, Pre-K (4 year-olds) to 4th.

Dates: April - June.

Practice Locations: Apex only.

Cost: \$65 (includes medal, shirt, and end of year picnic).

Note: Pre-K players have a combined practice/game on Saturdays. K-4th grade will have one weekday practice and a game on Saturday.

Spring Softcrosse (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.
