

St. Mary
Magdalene
CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Joy to Our World!
September 1, 2016

A Note From Father Donald Staib

Members of the Parish,

It is not even Christmas, but we learned this week we have been given the gift of constructing our Chapel in this phase of construction. Thanks to our parish Project Manager Jim Galkowski and his team of helpers we were able to frame a Finance Plan acceptable to our Diocese - who loans us the money.

An example of money and construction: this past week we paid Clancy and Theys Construction Co. \$450,000 for the month's work. That payment will use up the last of our savings. From now on the funds will come from our allowed borrowing. You can see having cash right now would be most helpful.

In recent weeks we have received new pledges and gifts from old and new members of the parish, and some of those who gave in the past years have increased their gifts beyond what they had original pledged.

As I write in this week's bulletin: I offer my personal thanks to all who made donations in recent weeks - new givers and those who added to a pledge they already made. The Chapel is important to me because it is so helpful when we have funerals. I can do them in our own home parish, St Mary Magdalene, and not have to run around looking for places.

Another grateful note: thanks for the wonderful generous response last weekend for those who have suffered from the floods in Louisiana - we received \$5,736; that is a huge amount for a 2nd collection.

Pictures of the Week



Maybe someday these 16 windows can be changed into creative stained glass, but for now I want to put some words on them that will list all the books of the Old Testament.

Another new item under construction is the bell tower. I understand there is one more layer to put up.



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Father Donald Staib
StMM E-News
donfs22@aol.com

Reflection on This Week's Gospel

Big life decisions require calculated thought. We calculate the gains and losses of selling our home. We calculate the positives and negatives of accepting a new job. We calculate the strength and weaknesses of each candidate when voting. 'Great crowds' were

following Jesus. Did people have any inkling of the cost? Did they remain a great crowd or become drifters?

Faced with calculating the cost of discipleship, do we choose to be part of Jesus' faithful companions on the journey, or do we choose to become drifters? We are Jesus's faithful companions when we take the necessary steps to forgive someone who has seriously hurt us or stay the course of living with less so those with little can have what they need. We drift away from Jesus when we follow the path of least resistance in face of an unjust situation or we insist on our own way despite the needs of others in our family or workplace. The cost of discipleship is this choice: to be Jesus' companions - or drifters.

Words of Pope Francis

A few words from Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Prayer
for the Care of Creation, September 1, 2016

The Christian life involves the practice of the traditional seven corporal and seven spiritual works of mercy. We usually think of the works of mercy individually and in relation to a specific initiative: hospitals for the sick, soup kitchens for the hungry, shelters for the homeless, schools for those to be educated, the confessional and spiritual direction for those needing counsel and forgiveness.

But if we look at the works of mercy as a whole, we see that the object of mercy is human life itself and everything it embraces.

Obviously "human life itself and everything it embraces" includes care for our common home. So let me propose a complement to the two traditional sets of seven: may the works of mercy also include care for our common home.

As a spiritual work of mercy, care for our common home calls for a grateful contemplation of God's world which allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us. As a corporal work of mercy, care for our common home requires simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness and makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world.

9th Annual Monarchs in Motion 5K Run/Walk



SAVE THE DATE-9th Annual Monarchs in Motion 5K Run/Walk 10/15/16. The Monarchs in Motion Race has become a staple event for the town and Parish and has raised more than \$60,000 for the new church! The event has been moved to Fall this

year. We are expecting to meet our 600 person cap so register early! If running is not your thing, consider volunteering, sponsorship or both! Race date is 10/15/16 @ 8am Sharp! Information can be found at <http://www.monarchsinnmotion.com>/Follow us on Twitter @STMMmonarchs5k. Like us on Facebook at Monarchs in Motion 5k Race. Questions? Email mike5kgrace@gmail.com.

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

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