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# St. Mary Magdalene E-News August 21, 2020

#### A Note From Father Chris

"Who do you say that I am", Jesus asks the disciples. Does the answer say anything about who we are? Knowing Jesus Christ and being active in Faith says something about who we are. There is always a lot of change around us, and central to that change is our desire to be better. That we change in good ways. Because God is active in the world we can be active in becoming better people.

The Diocese of Raleigh is putting together another group of candidates to consider deacons. We need more deacons in service of the church. Check out the information in today's E-News about the formation process.

The parish council is supporting the return in safe ways to Mass in person on Sundays. On **September 20th** we will open the **9:00am** Mass to public attendance. Following all of the safety guidelines we follow at the daily Masses. Communion outside will continue to be available for the vulnerable. The livestream of the Mass will continue as well. We will need many volunteers to help us offer this in safety.

There will be a **Youth Outdoor Mass** on the soccer field on Sunday, September 20th at 6:00pm with a rain date of September 27th.

We are all changed people because of Jesus Christ. Thankfully this truth helps us with change. Thank you to all our teachers and students for a great start to the school year!

Gratefully yours,

Fr. Chris



## **Our 9am Mass is Live Streamed!**

Click HERE to Live Stream our 9am Mass

Please remember to subscribe to our channel STMM Church Live to receive reminders when events are added and go live.

#### Music for this week's Mass 8/23/20

Gathering: Sing a New Church #417

Psalm 138: Lord your love is everlasting. Do not forsake the work of your

hands.

Preparation: Be Not Afraid #431
Communion: You Are Mine #456
Sending Forth: Go Make a Difference #498

If you would like a copy of the Breaking Bread hymnal to use at home, there is a box in the covered drive at church.

## **Distribution of Communion**

Hello StMM parishioners,

Until we can gather together as a community again inside the church, we are obligated to abide by the guidelines set forth by both the Governor of NC and the Bishop of Raleigh. Our plan for the summer is to continue **live streaming the 9am Mass** and on our <u>YouTube channel</u>. We also invite you to come to the church after the 9am Mass to receive Communion. This will begin about 10.

The assumption is you will have watched the live stream Mass & then come to church where we will be distributing Communion. Please drive to StMM, park your car, and proceed on foot to one of the Communion stations. We will give Communion until all have received, until 10:30.

Extraordinary Ministers will be located in different locations to distribute Communion. There will be 5 stations located around the church & school property (please see the map which has the marked spots and the flow for foot traffic)

We have never done anything like this before so we please request that you show great patience, respect social distancing guidelines, & remain reverent.

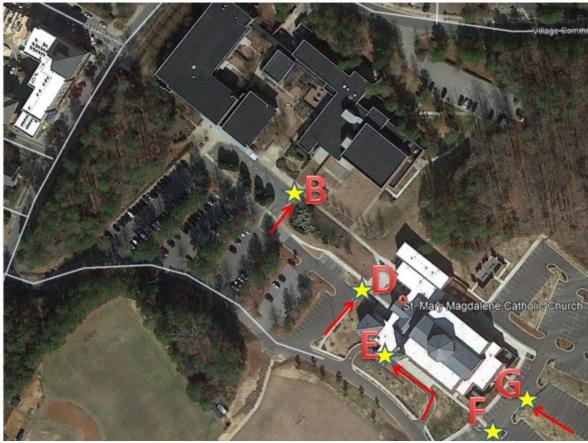
If inclement weather should occur, please check the website at <a href="https://www.stmm.net">www.stmm.net</a> for updated information.

- 1. Please see the overhead image of St. Mary Magdalene Church for the marked distribution stations located around the property and notice the direction you should follow while waiting to receive.
- 2. There will be a station under the drive thru portico on the chapel side of the church for anyone who meets the following criteria: Parishioners over the age of 60, anyone in the medically high risk population, & those who require a gluten free host. In the drive thru please

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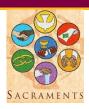
- stay in your car to receive the Eucharist.
- 3. According to the CDC guidelines, each person is asked to wear a mask
- 4. Ushers will be on hand with hand sanitizer at each line. Please sanitize your hands prior to receiving the Eucharist.
- 5. We ask you not to receive the Eucharist on the tongue, only in the hand. Please extend your hands in a flattened manner stacked one on top of the other.
- 6. After receiving Communion please return to your vehicle and exit the property safely
- 7. Do not engage in casual conversation before or after receiving, please remain prayerful as you would in church.

We miss gathering together and look forward to when we can be united again under one roof.



Stations for Communion

## **Sacraments**



**BAPTISMS** - See the Guidelines on the Website - then email the Church Office, <u>info@stmm.net</u>. First time parents must attend a baptism class [a good time is during the 9 months prior to birth.] Please contact the Parish Office to schedule.

CONFESSIONS - Confessions are usually, but not every week, at 10:30am on Saturdays in the Church. There will be Confessions this Saturday, August 22nd at 10:30am.

WEDDINGS - See the Guidelines on the Website - then email weddings@stmm.net

## **Financial Matters**

OUR NEW CHURCH - We have the obligation to make large monthly payments for 13 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)

## Pictures of the Week



Daniel Moore, Henry DiNofrio, and Evelyn Reckling received First Communion on August 17th.



Mark Bonilla, Eva Lopez, Alexandra Wood, and Samuel Boyer received First Communion on August 19th.



Kinley Farmer and Nora LeSaint received First Communion on August 20th



Edmund Joseph Sebik, Luke Beavers, Payton Bates, and Eli Poulk received First Communion on August 21st.

# **Elementary Faith Formation**



#### What is Gather?

Gather is StMM's Elementary Faith Formation program for grades one through six. This model is based on experiential learning and relational ministry rather than classroom learning. This program provides you with the tools you need to form your children into true disciples of Jesus Christ. The benefit of this program is that it only requires you to be on campus one night per month, while teaching your children at your convenience, the other three weeks of the month at home. Families will attend together in the church, arranged in pews by family, socially distanced seating every other pew and wearing facemasks.

Your choices include (pick one):

- 1. First Week of the Month on Wednesday night 6:30 7:45 pm
- 2. Second Week of the Month on Tuesday night 6:30 7:45 pm
- 3. Third Week of the Month on Wednesday night 6:30 7:45 pm
- 4. Fourth Week of the Month on Tuesday night 6:30 7:45 pm
- 5. GATHER Virtual Only with Monthly Packet Pickup

Beginning at 6:30 pm, we will open with prayer, enjoy praise & worship music and then a brief teaching lesson will be taught by either our priest, one of our youth ministers or a guest speaker. At approximately 6:50 pm, following the lesson, parents will remain in the church for the next 45 minutes to receive training on three more lessons to teach your children at home. Because of our space limitations, we cannot offer Pre-K or Kindergarten at this time. Children younger than first grade can remain with parents in church. During this time, the children will be escorted by their Catechists to classrooms on campus with no more than ten children per room, seated socially distanced, wearing facemasks. They will play games, or do an activity related to the lesson. At 7:20, children will return to church where they will be joined with their families for dismissal.

A packet will be sent home with each family that contains the lessons for the next three weeks of the month. Through engaging, down-to-earth, easy to understand lessons and activities, Gather brings parishes and families together to learn their faith in joy and with excitement. This shared learning experience develops traditions and spills over into families' everyday lives-incorporating the Catholic Faith becomes a way of life!

Should you have health concerns that prohibit you from attending a session, there will be a virtual component available. We hope you will join us in our efforts to continue your children's faith formation and that Gather will provide many blessings for your families.

"Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents." (CCC 2226).

Please see this addendum for more details: <u>Gather COVID Protocols</u>

#### **Gather Registration Link**

In response to COVID, this will be a one year commitment. We will be unable to take additional registrants or change your registration after the program begins.

Registration Fees Options:

- 1. Registration for registered/contributing StMM parishioners is \$80.00 per child until September 15th 2020. After September 15th, a \$50.00 late fee will be charged to all children registering.
- 2. If you are new to our parish your fee is \$160.00 for the first year regardless of date of registration.
- 3. If you are not a registered parishioner of StMM or a registered/non-contributing member your registration fee is \$160.00 for this year until September 15th. After September 15th, a \$50.00 late fee will be charged in addition to the \$160.00 fee.
- 4. Late online registration will remain open until September 30th. Registration will officially close on September 30th and spots will be considered on a case by case basis. Gather will begin in October.

# Youth Ministry News

We are grateful for your patience as we prayed, planned and prepped for what youth group would look like come Fall 2020. And we are excited to announce that online registration for all youth groups (Edge, The Way and Apostello) will go live this Saturday August 1st. It comes as no surprise to anyone, that all programs will look a bit different and extra measures will be needed in order to implement our vision for

this year's faith journey for our teens.

If you've been around STMM long enough, you know the reason why our youth groups are thriving. It isn't because we have the best curriculum, or the most innovative object lessons, or even the most creative skits and games. It has nothing to do with the "room rotations", or the guest speakers, or service projects. What makes our youth group so incredibly fruitful? The people. More specifically, our adult core team leaders. These folks show up week after week to love on our teens. It is through their love, our teens experience the love of Christ. So, when COVID hit and threatened to wipe out this kind of "love based ministry" that we are so accustomed to here at STMM, your answers to our parent survey did not surprise us one bit. When asked if you were comfortable sending your teens back to campus (give safe COVID protocols were instilled) a resounding 70% of you said yes. Another 24% said you would absolutely consider it. So after much prayer and planning we are thrilled to say we will be back on campus in the fall. If you, or a family member, is in the high risk category, and will be unable to join us on campus this fall, we will be offering you a virtual option. There are many changes to all of the programs. We ask for your continued patience as we move forward. You will find detailed instructions for all programs on their specific registration pages. Please read through all of the information before emailing questions. Once you've read everything, and if you still have questions please do not hesitate to reach out to one of us. Be assured of our continued prayers for each of you and your families as you continue to navigate these challenging times.

Online Registration for all youth groups runs from Aug. 1st through September 15th.

A late registration fee of \$50 will be applied to everyone who registers after September 15th.

Registration closes September 30th.

Registration is a one year commitment. Regardless of what changes may occur throughout the year you may not change your registration.

#### Online Registration Link

#### What is the EDGE?

The **EDGE** is a dynamic youth faith formation program open to teens in middle school, grades 7-8. The Edge meets every Thursday from 6:30-7:45pm. The EDGE topics-broken open by adult CORE team leaders-use different forms of media and instruction to teach teens the importance of their Catholic faith during their middle school years. The program schedule rotates through catechetical topics, service projects, social nights, and social justice issues. For the beginning of the year, all of this will be taught **only** in a small group environment. Please see the addendum for more details on what this specifically looks like. <u>EDGE COVID Protocols</u>

It doesn't take a village to run our programs, it takes a small army, and with COVID we will now need a battalion! We humbly ask for you to consider volunteering in some capacity. We need you. There are many opportunities in the EDGE: small group leader, Tech team, Safety Team or Service Team. If you can volunteer please email Janine McGann at <a href="mailto:ianine.mcgann@gmail.com">ianine.mcgann@gmail.com</a>

#### What is The Way?

The Way is a youth faith formation program open to teens in grades 9th-12th who are looking for community and also for those seeking the sacrament of Confirmation. At STMM we confirm in Spring of 10th grade. The Way meets every Sunday from 7:15pm-8:30pm. Youth Mass will be held on Sundays at 6pm in the church if the COVID guidelines for the state of NC allow. The Way topics-broken open by adult CORE team leaders-use different forms of media and instruction to teach teens the importance of their Catholic faith during their often times tumultous high school years. The program schedule rotates through catechetical topics, service projects, social nights, and social justice issues. For the beginning of the year, all of this will be taught only in a small group environment.

Please see this addendum for more details on what this specifically looks like: Way COVID Protocols

It doesn't take a village to run our programs, it takes an army, and with COVID we will now need a battalion! We humbly ask for you to consider volunteering in some capacity. We need you. There are many opportunities to assist with youth mass, small group leaders at The Way, service projects, and more! If you can volunteer please email Liz Sams at <a href="mailto:liz.sams@gmail.com">liz.sams@gmail.com</a>.

#### What is Apostello?

Apostello is for high school teens in 11th and 12th grade who are already confirmed and are interested in a youth group that focuses on building fellowship in the Catholic Church, growing in spirituality, and coming together to serve others. Apostello groups may meet on Sundays from 4?30pm-5:45pm in a room reserved for their small group or their group may pick a different time/day of the week that works best for them. If you are in a high risk medical group, we will be offering a virtual Apostello zoom small group option.

Apostello will consist of small groups focused on deepening personal Christ centered relationships. We'll do this through using and understanding how God's story intersects with our stories. The small group will utilize Scripture to get to know God and understand high school life in relationship with Him. A Catholic small group knows and lives 1 Corinthians 12:26 "If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it. If one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it". Apostello groups will follow the same COVID safety protocols in this addendum for The Way which can be found at this link:

#### Way COVID Protocols

## StMM School News

#### SCHOOL MASS LIVE STREAM

Our traditional Thursday school mass will be live streamed beginning this Thursday, August 27th at 9:15am. Children will watch the mass in their classrooms. Mass can be view at, <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7wpkWA5NazXqQamIxtNRZA?view\_as=subscriber">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7wpkWA5NazXqQamIxtNRZA?view\_as=subscriber</a>.

#### JOB POSTINGS

Saint Mary Magdalene Catholic School is accepting applications for temporary employment for multiple teaching assistant positions for the upcoming school year during our time in Plans A and B. If you are interested in being considered, please email your resume to Principal John Mihalyo at <a href="mailto:principal@stmm.net">principal@stmm.net</a>. These positions are being added in addition to our current assistant positions.

## **New Cohort for Diaconate Formation**

The Diocesan Office of the Permanent Diaconate is preparing to start the next cohort for the Formation of Permanent Deacons. Practicing Catholic men that are discerning a vocation to the Permanent Diaconate should send an email to <a href="mailto:Amy.breindel@raldioc.org">Amy.breindel@raldioc.org</a> by Sunday, September 13.

Appointments will be made for those who express an interest to learn more about the Diaconate in the Diocese of Raleigh and have the opportunity to ask questions about the formation process. This is the first step for candidates who are interested in forming the next group of Aspirants to the Diaconate.

# Town of Apex Survey for Affordable Housing



# Town of Apex Affordable Housing Plan: Get Involved!

A survey is underway to gather public input about affordable housing issues and strategies in Apex, and we want to hear your thoughts!

Please share your comments by August 31, 2020 at: <a href="http://publicinput.com/affordablehousing">http://publicinput.com/affordablehousing</a>.

If you **need assistance** completing this survey, **please call** the Town of Apex Planning and Community Development Department between the hours of 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Monday-Friday at **919-249-3426**.



Questions? Contact Shannon Cox, Long Range Planning Manager at <a href="mailto:shannon.cox@apexnc.org">shannon.cox@apexnc.org</a>. Learn more about the Town of Apex Affordable Housing Plan and sign up for email updates at <a href="https://www.apexnc.org/affordablehousing">www.apexnc.org/affordablehousing</a>.





# Town Of Apex Plan De Vivienda Adquirible: ¡Participe!

Se está realizando una encuesta para recopilar información de los Ciudadanos sobre estrategias de vivienda Adquirible y queremos escuchar sus opiniones.

Por favor comparta sus comentarios antes del 31 de agosto del 2020 en: http://publicinput.com/affordablehousing.

Si no tiene internet y necesita un documento de esta encuesta en español, pase por el departamento de planificación de la ciudad y el departamento de desarrollo comunitario en el segundo piso de La Alcaldía en 73 Hunter St entre las horas de 8 am a 5 pm de Lunes a Viernes. Copias en papel estarán disponibles y se pueden completar y dejar con el personal.



Para preguntas favor de contactar a Shannon Cox, Gerente
De Planificación A Largo Plazo a shannon.cox@apexnc.org.
Obtenga más información sobre el Town Of Apex plan de
vivienda adquirible, favor de inscribirse para recibir un correo
electrónico en www.apexnc.org/affordablehousing.



# **Bereavement Ministry Program**

The Bereavement Ministry Program initiated in our parish in July assists the bereaved family at a critical time immediately following the death of a loved one. Volunteers will be asked to reach out to the family to arrange for a meal to be delivered to their home. If you are interested in assisting your fellow parishioners in this new ministry, or have questions, kindly email Theresa Parish at bereavementministry@stmm.net.

## Sunday Night Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study, consisting of men from St. Andrews & St. Mary Magdalene, is starting a Catholic Scripture Study on First Samuel. The group meets Sunday evenings from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM in Room #4 of STMM's Church building. The first lesson is on Sunday October 18th. TBD if it will be virtual or face to face. All men are welcome. The deadline for signup is September 13th and the cost of materials is estimated to be about \$40. If you are interested, please contact Mike Barnack at 919-637-4446

## AFSP - Out of the Darkness Experience

AFSP - Out of the Darkness Experience (November 7th): A virtual walk experience will be held on November 7th to support the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's mission to Save Lives and Bring Hope to Those Affected by Suicide. For more information, you can go to <a href="http://afsp.org/NCExperience">http://afsp.org/NCExperience</a>. To donate to the walk you can visit my fundraising page <a href="https://afsp.donordrive.com/participant/2318758">https://afsp.donordrive.com/participant/2318758</a>. If you have questions, please contact me (Mike Rota) at <a href="mikerota2018@gmail.com">mikerota2018@gmail.com</a>.

# Rosary Thursday Nights

"The Rosary is .. the prayer of the ordinary people and the saints... it is a prayer from my heart." - Pope Francis Join the members of our parish praying the Rosary every Thursday at 7 p.m. Find STMM Rosary On FaceBook <a href="https://www.facebook.com/STMM-Rosary-115180550121735/">https://www.facebook.com/STMM-Rosary-115180550121735/</a> and Instagram <a href="https://instagram.com/stmmrosary?igshid=dk6zl88nql4t">https://instagram.com/stmmrosary?igshid=dk6zl88nql4t</a> . No experience necessary! Online guides are available from the Knights of Columbus. <a href="https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/cis/devotionals/4772.pdf">https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/cis/devotionals/4772.pdf</a> you may leave prayer requests on the Rosary page even if you are unable to join us online. For more information or to leave a prayer request contact Joe Sebik <a href="mailto:joeysebik@gmail.com">joeysebik@gmail.com</a>.

# Knights of Columbus Operation Feed Thy Neighbor

The Knights of Columbus Council #7186 (based at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church) is partnering with St. Mary Magdalene, Wake County Human Services and several other local churches in the area to serve desperately needed meals to children, as well as the unemployed & underemployed in the Apex area during the COVID-19 crisis.

We will continue to operate an emergency food distribution site on Saturday and Sunday evenings located here in Apex. In the first twenty weekends, we have served almost 11,000 dinners to Apex residents who are in need, and have distributed several hundred bags of non-perishable goods. A sincere **THANK YOU** to all who have supported our efforts through prayer, financial donations, or contributing to our non-perishable goods collection.

We are called by Jesus to be His hands and feet on Earth in feeding the hungry. Your support will enable us to continue to provide healthy meals to our most vulnerable neighbors during this crisis.

Please join (or partner with) us in performing a corporal work of mercy!

## Donate by clicking here

## Want to help, but don't know how? Here's an easy way

Dear StMM families,

StMM youth programs (Prep, The Rock, Edge, The Way & Apostello) have been looking for a way to help during this difficult time. Our own StMM Knights of Columbus have partnered with Wake County Human Services & several other local churches in the area to serve desperately needed meals to children, as well as the unemployed & underemployed in the Apex area during the COVID-19 crisis. They have set up

an emergency food distribution site on Saturday and Sunday evenings located right here in Apex. In the first two weekends, they have served over 900 dinners in total to Apex residents who are in need. Their supplies and funds are running low and we'd like to humbly ask you to help out in whatever way you can during this time. We realize that not everyone is in a position to give goods or financial donations, and if that's where you find yourself right now please just join our efforts through prayer.

If however, you are in a position to help here are 2 ways we need you:

1) The KOC are putting together bags with a list of food items in them. There will be tubs located under the drive through portico on the chapel side of the church starting Monday until Thursday of each week. One tub will be labeled "Completed bags" and the other will be labeled "Bag items". If you cannot fill an entire bag, please just give what you can and we'll put bags together out of whatever we collect. This allows for a 'no contact' way to help out during this difficult time.

Here are the items for one completed bag:

- · 1 Rice or dried beans
- · 1 Pasta & 1 Small Canned Sauce
- · 1 Boxed Meal (hamburger helper or Mac-N-Cheese)
- · 1 Canned Vegetable
- · 1 Canned Fruit
- · 6 Snack Items (individually wrapped)
- · 1 Breakfast Items
- · 1 Hygiene Item
- · 1 Roll of Toilet Paper

Please bag these items at home and only include "like" items from above. We are not able to date check the donations, so please fill these bags with in-date items we can hand directly to folks in need. Please make sure everything fits into ONE bag which can be double knotted!

2) If you would like to help by just a financial donation, you can go to this link and donate online: <u>Donate</u> by clicking here

We will keep this going over the upcoming weeks so if you can't participate this week, know you will have a chance in the weeks to come. This is a great family service project too and is an example of one of the corporal works of mercy to feed the hungry.

If you know of anyone within our parish that is sick, in need of food or any other kind of assistance with getting groceries, picking up prescriptions, etc. Please contact either Suzanne Will at <a href="will@stmm.net">will@stmm.net</a>, Janine.mcgann@gmail.com or Liz at <a href="liz.sams@gmail.com">liz.sams@gmail.com</a>.

# **RCIA**



Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Are you Catholic but not confirmed? We can help! The RCIA process at StMM assisted 10 adults in completing their sacraments of initiation this spring. Soon, we will begin another faith-filled journey. Will you join us? Let's have a conversation. Please contact Scott and Kathy Strednak at rcia@stmm.me with any questions.

# **Adult Faith Formation Opportunities**

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPTIONS: STMM offers a wide variety of adult faith formation options, and some are continuing to meet virtually during the pandemic. Prayerfully consider how you can

grow deeper in your faith and download our brochure of options by clicking here.

For more information and for the point of contact for each ministry, please see the website: Ministry Contacts

### **Bulletin Advertisments**

Check these ads at www.StMM.church/welcome/bulletins.cfm

