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St. Mary Magdalene E-News

July 10, 2020

A Note From Father Chris

The parables of seeds and of the earth preached at the Sea of Galilee speak to us today as powerful as when first heard. They speak of finding God in the everyday life we live. We are all farmers in a sense. Reaping and sowing. Very often the outside elements of our life bring unfair hardship on us. Just as the outside elements bring hardship on farming and the growing of crops for the harvest. In all of this, Jesus uses the layers of the parable to enlighten us to the truth. The truth that we are loved, and in the long run we can come to the harvest. The successful farmer is one who works over time through the cycles of sunshine and rain. The good old fashioned virtues of perseverance and hard work are important for us.

During this continued time of pandemic, I pray we continue to cultivate family, friendships, and our own relationship with God. We are to persevere and work for the harvest. We continue to find ways to safely minister here in the parish. The sacraments, all gifts from Jesus Christ, continue to bring grace and peace to life. We have begun scheduling First Communions and Confirmations. We ask that those who have completed their preparations sign up and bring your immediate family and Godparents, so we may safely open the grace and harvest that God has prepared.

We are here for you and your families. I remain thankful for the opportunities that our faith in Jesus Christ bring to us for grace and peace.

Gratefully yours,

Fr. Chris

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[to Offertory](#)

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 7/12/20

We Belong to You	#633
Psalm 65: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.	
Preparation: Seed, Scattered and Sown	#354
Communion: Open My Eyes	#393
Sending Forth: How Can I Keep From Singing?	#442

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 this **Sunday, July 12th is to move live streaming to the 9am Mass** and on our [YouTube channel](#). This week 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 10:45.

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)

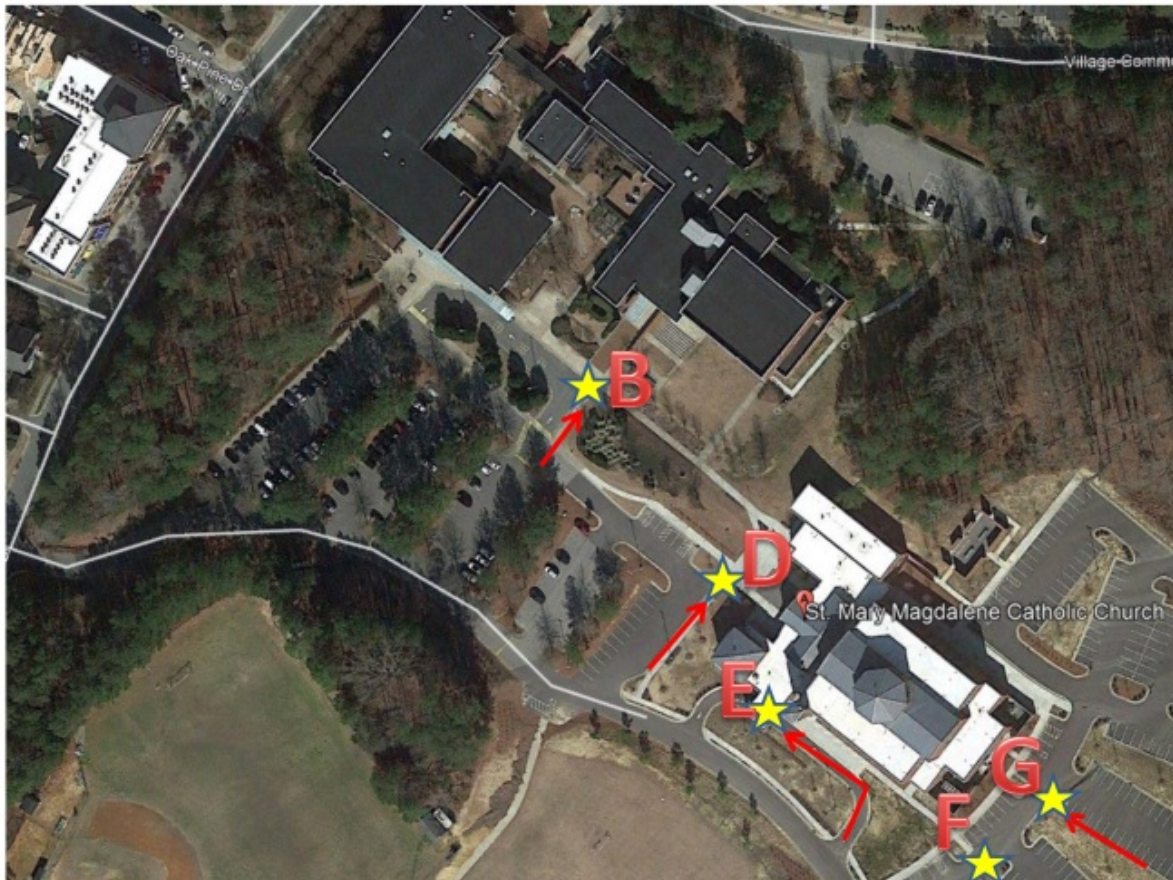
We have never done anything like this before so we please request that you show great patience, respect social distancing guidelines, & remain reverent.

If inclement weather should occur, please check the website at www.stmm.net 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 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.

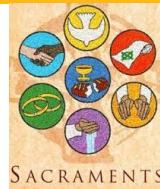
6. After receiving Communion please return to your vehicle and exit the property safely
7. Do not engage in casual conversation before or after receiving, please remain prayerful as you would in church.

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, info@stmm.net. First time parents must attend a baptism class [a good time is during the 9 months prior to birth.] Please contact the Church 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, July 11th at 10:30am

WEDDINGS - See the Guidelines on the Website - then email the Church Office, info@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)

Tax statements are available online. Please follow the directions for printing your statement on our website. http://www.stmm.church/Tax_statement_instructions_2019.pdf
For questions, email prewitt@stmm.net, or 919-657-4800 x7281.

Picture of the Week



Wedding of Hunter Smith and Erin Rice on July 3rd

First Communion Families

First Communion Families

Fr. Chris is excited to begin offering the Eucharist to all our First Communicants. Given the limitations we have due to Covid, we will begin offering First Holy Communion to those second graders and Intermediate Sacrament students who were scheduled to receive their sacrament in May at each

weekday Daily Mass beginning next week, July 13, 2020 through August 31, 2020.

Please know that we have been preparing for this for quite some time. Every effort is being made to provide a comfortable and safe environment for you and your family to attend daily Mass inside the church while upholding the Bishops request that we remain respectful of our most vulnerable within our community.

We began offering Daily Mass one month ago and the Parish Staff has worked tirelessly to implement and tweak the guidelines to ensure everyone's protection. These guidelines are listed below and include wearing of facemasks, hand sanitizing upon arrival and prior to receiving communion, social distance seating in every other pew and limiting the number of parishioners in each pew, special distribution of communion practices to protect both the recipient and the Eucharistic Minister.

Many of you may not be ready to return to church and that's completely understandable and perfectly acceptable. We will respect your decision and assist in making Arrangements for your child at a future date. For those of you who would like to bring your child forward to receive their First Holy Communion, please select a date by clicking on the below Sign-up Genius Link. Daily Mass is offered Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 9:15 am and lasts approximately 20 minutes. There will only be four children per day receiving this sacrament in the church along with the daily communicants (approximately 50 people) throughout the months of July and August. Each child will sit on the end of the pew and their families can use the entire reserved pew for their guests. One pew sits approximately ten people comfortably.

Working together and by God's grace, we can bring the children into full communion in the church by the end of summer.

Please direct all questions to Suzanne Will, Coordinator, Elementary Religious Education, will@stmm.net

Here are those guidelines:

Church doors will open at 9:00 am.

Please do not enter the church early so the staff can prepare for Mass.

Masks are required to enter the church building. Masks will be available in the lobby if needed.

Please be seated in designated sections only in pews labeled with "Reserved" markers.

Please do not remove ropes as roped sections are considered "closed" for seating.

Please don't switch seats once you're in a designated pew.

Parishioners should sit socially distanced; at least six feet apart unless part of same household.

Main galley restrooms will be closed. Please use the 2 restrooms located by the Chapel.

Communion Procedures:

1. Please remain seated until the usher approaches your pew.

2. Communion will begin from the rear of the church.

3. As you leave your pew, hand sanitizer will be offered. If you cannot use hand sanitizer, please inform your usher who will arrange for you to be served at the end of communion distribution.

4. As you approach the Eucharistic Minister, notice the colored dots on the floor of the main aisle leading to the altar. Please advance from one colored dot to the next to remain socially distanced from others. Please do not stand between the dots.

5. Please extend your arms fully in front of you towards the Eucharistic Minister with flattened hands to receive.

6. Once you receive the Eucharist, please step to the red dot on the floor in front of the altar, remove your mask and consume the Eucharist, replace your mask and return to the same pew you sat in prior to communion.



St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School is currently accepting applications for the 2020-21 school year. Please click [here](#) to apply. Personal tours are also available by contacting Lydia Binanay at 919-657-4800 ext.7296.

2020 Ultimate Seminarian Invitational

I hope you will join other high school students from around the diocese in the 2020 Ultimate Seminarian Invitational. Please arrive at the Our Lady of Lourdes fields on July 24 at 3PM. Due to the coronavirus, we will observe the prescriptions for separation and interaction as suggested by the CDC, as well as the NC state mask mandate. Wear athletic shoes and sports clothes, we will provide water. Dinner will be provided by the Knights of Columbus. It is a fun filled afternoon where good friendships are made with our seminarians. Please RSVP by July 22 by emailing: officeofvocations@raldioc.org.



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 twelve weekends, we have served over 6,500 dinners in total 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: [Donate 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 will@stmm.net, Janine at janine.mcgann@gmail.com or Liz at liz.sams@gmail.com.



Collection Bins are located by the covered driveway at the Church

STMM ADULT MINISTRY OPTIONS: The season of Pentecost is a time to open yourself to the Holy Spirit's call to grow closer to God. STMM offers a wide variety of adult faith formation ministries, and some are continuing to meet virtually during this time of quarantine. Prayerfully consider how you can grow deeper in your faith and contact the ministry lead to learn more. [Click on this link to learn more](#)

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