

St. Mary  
Magdalene  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## St. Mary Magdalene E-News December 1, 2017

### A Note From Father Donald Staib

We begin Advent this weekend. Another new experience in our new church. Because Christmas is on a Monday this year we have only a 3 week, instead of 4 week, experience of Advent.

Confessions: There will be Confessions on Saturday December 9, after Baptisms.

On the tables in the lobby are forms [gold color] to offer your service on our Parish Council. Take one and reflect on yourself as a possible candidate. I am most grateful for these members who are rotating off the Council: Bob Callaway, Steve Veno, Ursula Karazin, Julie Rydzewski. They have served during the last 3 years during a most eventful time in our parish history.

#### **The Advent Penance Services are:**

- December 4, Monday - St Bernadette, Fuquay Varina - 7 pm
- December 6, Wednesday - St Michael, Cary - 11 am
- December 6, Wednesday - Lourdes, Raleigh - 7 pm
- December 13, Wednesday - St Michael, Cary - 7 pm
- December 20, Wednesday - St Bernadette, Fuquay Varina - 11 am
- December 20, Wednesday - Holy Name Cathedral - 7 pm
- December 21, Thursday - St Andrew and St Mary Magdalene at St Andrew - 7 pm

Father Donald Staib  
[donfs22@aol.com](mailto:donfs22@aol.com)  
 St. Mary Magdalene E-News



Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come."  
(Gospel)

Jean-François Millet, Noonday Rest  
detail, 1866

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HOLYDAY

This Friday, December 8, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holyday in our church. It is also the patron feast of the United States. Masses will be at 8:15 am with the school children and at 7 pm in the evening.

## Advent - Christmas Schedule for 2017

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 23 - 5 pm Mass

Sunday, December 24 - 9 am Mass

Sunday, December 24 - 10:45 Mass

### CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 24 - Masses at 3 pm - 5 pm - 9 pm

[Church will open at 2 pm.] - [3 pm Mass is usually uncomfortably crowded; best to choose another.

Monday, December 25 - Mass at 10 am

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Monday, January 1, 2018 - Mass at 10 am

## Now That The New Church Is Completed!

We have the obligation to make large monthly payments for 15 years - and we are challenged to respond to new parish endeavors brought about by our new building.

A week ago the Pastor, Parish Council Chair, and Finance Council Chair were asked to meet with the Diocesan Finance Committee and Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama about our long term loan.

Our 15 year Finance Plan is healthy, but right now we are short a considerable amount of cash -

near \$1 million. We asked the Diocese for a short term bridge loan until pledge money comes in and new gifts are made from our monthly 'White Envelope.'

In your Christmas gift planning please consider a generous gift to the parish for the new church and for our on-going parish programs.

## **DONATE NOW To OUR NEW CHURCH**

(Click on the above link to Donate)

## Reflection

### **BLESSING OF ADVENT WREATH AT HOME**

Read from Bible Isaiah 9: 1-2 and 5-6  
or Isaiah 63: 16-17 & 19) or Isaiah 64: 2-7)

Leader prays: Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Pictures of the Week

Close up view of the Rose Window!



The artichoke in the Rose Window, a Christian symbol - it has a tender heart at its core, which is protected by strong layers of leaves.



StMM's Seniors recently visited Brookridge Assisted Living Center



## The Angel Tree



**The Angel Tree** is in the lobby filled with ornaments for needy children and families from several Wake County non-profit organizations. 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 12 noon on Dec. 17th.**

## Nativity Set Lighting



Please join the KofC as we light the outside Nativity Set immediately following the 5pm Saturday night Mass. Refreshments will be served.

## Eucharistic Minister Training



**EMs of HC in the Sacred Liturgy Training Sessions** - Need a brush up on new procedures? Interested in being involved in the ministry? A training session is set for Sun, Dec. 3rd in the Church from 2-4pm. New to the ministry please arrive at 2pm for complete training. Veterans who would like a brush up newly amended procedures please arrive at 3pm. RSVP to Celeste at [usischon@stmm.net](mailto:usischon@stmm.net).

## 'Tis the Season



Rediscover the joy of the season with Best Advent Ever, a free e-mail program that will help you prepare for Christmas in a way that will allow you to have a memorable Christmas. You'll receive...short inspirational videos / practical tips / real-life stories of hope. SIGN UP AT [DYNAMICCATHOLIC.com/ADVENT](http://DYNAMICCATHOLIC.com/ADVENT)

## St. Nick Shoe Drive



StMM School's Second grade is hosting it's Annual St. Nick Shoe Drive from Dec. 1st to 8th. During this season of giving, we are asking you to please donate new or gently used shoes to those in need. Boxes will be located in the Church/School lobby for you to deposit your shoe donations. Please tie laces of shoes/sneakers together before bringing them to church/school. For shoes/sneakers without laces, kindly place them in a plastic bag. The shoe donations are given to Brown Bag Ministry who distributes them to those in need. These essential items of living will be greatly appreciated, especially with the cold weather. Thank you for supporting this important service project.

## End Of Year Donations



**Stock or Cash End of Year Donations - Tax Deductible in 2017**-Please consider paying off your pledge or making double payments in November or December 2017. Charitable donations made by December 31st can be claimed on your 2017 taxes so long as your check is dated and mailed by December 31, 2017. There is still time to donate stock and it's easy. Use this link [STOCK FORM](#) to download the stock donation form. Your 2017 annual giving statement from St. Mary Magdalene will reflect these payments. Questions, email [sally.cortina@raldioc.org](mailto:sally.cortina@raldioc.org).

## Habitat for Humanity



Habitat for Humanity-StMM has joined a coalition of churches for a Habitat for

Humanity building project in Fuquay-Varina. Volunteers from our parish are needed to help with construction starting in January. For more information contact Frank Agius at [ftagius@gmail.com](mailto:ftagius@gmail.com) or 919-604-2106.

## 'Knight's Corner'



The Knights will be selling limited-edition **StMM Commemorative Christmas Ornaments** before and after all Masses in the Narthex. Purchase yours while supplies last! All proceeds to benefit our new church.



**Become a Knight!** Faith, Family and Fraternity...These words make up the foundation upon which the Knights of Columbus stands. The efforts of our local Council 7186 support the St. Mary Magdalene community as well as communities around the world. Males who are 18 years of age or older and who are practicing Catholics are eligible to join. For information about this sponsored organization, please visit [www.kofc7186.org](http://www.kofc7186.org) or contact Michael Erpenbach at [mike@erpenbach.com](mailto:mike@erpenbach.com).

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