



Connect With Us

Join Our Mailing List

Forward to a Friend



Visit Our Church Website

St. Mary Magdalene E-News February 23, 2018

A Note From Father Donald Staib

I express great gratitude to all who helped us reach our parish Bishop's Annual Appeal goal. We have received pledges/gifts of \$199,980 which is 105% of our goal. All gifts now come back to our parish.

38% of the parish has responded - so we still have the opportunity to increase our participation. Pledge forms are still in the baskets in various places in the church.

During Lent our Deacons will lead Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7 pm in the Church.

ABOUT BAPTISMS: We do not have baptisms during Lent, so the next opportunities will be after Easter. I do have baptisms at the Easter Sunday Masses.

CONFESSIONS: There will be Confessions on Saturday February 24 and Saturday March 3 at 10:30am - in the Reconciliation Room on the south side of the church. When you enter the wooden doors from the Narthex, turn right and the confessionals are in the back corner of the church.

During this season of flu and colds - use good judgment about using the Communion cup and giving the handshake of peace.

LENT PENANCE SERVICES:

See box below!

Last weekend we received \$2,918 for the Black and Indian 2nd collection; thank you for giving to the special work in our country.

At the very bottom of the E-News I have a scripture scholar's comments on the Abraham and Isaac story in this weekend's reading from Genesis.

Father Donald Staib
donfs22@aol.com
 St. Mary Magdalene E-News

Lent Penance Services



- March 1st - 7pm - Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, Raleigh
 March 7th - 7pm - St. Bernadette's, Fuquay-Varina
 March 8th - 7pm - St. Mary Magdalene (at S. Andrew in Advent)
 March 14th - 11am - St. Raphael, Raleigh
 March 14th - 7pm - St. Michael, Cary
 March 20th - 11am - St. Bernadette, Fuquay-Varina
 March 21st - 11am - St. Michael, Cary

Reflection

FOR THE DREAMERS

From the National Conference of Catholic Bishops:

We are announcing a National Catholic Call-In Day to Protect Dreamers. This coming weekend, we ask the faithful across the nation to call their Members of Congress next Monday, February 26 to protect Dreamers from deportation, to provide them a path to citizenship, and to avoid any damage to existing protections for families and unaccompanied minors in the process.

Our faith compels us to stand with the vulnerable, including our immigrant brothers and sisters. We have done so continually, but we must show our support and solidarity now in a special way. Now is the time for action.

[Among the Dreamers is one of our Diocese of Raleigh seminarians]

Noteworthy and Big Change Coming



Job Opening - Parish Office Assistant - St. Mary Magdalene is accepting applications for a full time/year-round Parish Office Assistant. Responsibilities include but not limited to-Facilitate communication via phone, email and face to face. Prepare and produce the weekly bulletin (using Microsoft publisher); prepare and distribute weekly Electronic Newsletter. Enter and maintain accurate parish member records using software which includes but not limited to entering parish registrations and weekly contributions. Maintain parish website. Schedule events & maintain parish calendar. Assist Pastor and other parish staff and volunteers.

For a more detailed job description and information on how to apply, click [HERE](#)

Bishop's Annual Appeal

Thank you to all who participated. Let's try to reach the other goal: 100% parish participation.

The forms are still in the church.

And any funds over our goal come back to our parish - we always have a good use for funds not in our regular budget.

Again many, many thanks! Our Bishop, for his first BAA, noted that he considers the 2 most significant items in the BAA are support for Catholic Charities and for support for our seminarians.

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. We are grateful for those who are completing their pledges and for new gifts that are given in the monthly 'white' envelope.

DONATE NOW To OUR NEW CHURCH

(Click on the above link to Donate)

Pictures of the Week

StMM's Youth Ministry Program hosted 'The Vigil Project' last weekend. It was open to the entire parish (young & old) and was very well received!
Thanks to the Youth Ministry for hosting such a great event!





Eucharistic Minister Training



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in the Sacred Liturgy Training Session is set for Tuesday, March 20th in Church Room #4 from 10:30am-12pm OR 7-9pm. Please RSVP to Celeste by Sun, March 18th at Usischon@stmm.net if interested in attending. If you are already a trained EM and would like a brush up, please arrive at 11am or 8pm on the training days.

Feed-A-Family Food Drive



Feed-A-Family Food Drive comes to StMM-Did you know that Catholic Parish Outreach food pantry gave a week's worth of groceries to an average of 8,700 people a month in 2017? Next week volunteers will be handing out grocery bags with an attached shopping list or a donation of \$30 feeds a family for one week. Please help CPO serve the less fortunate in our community by taking a bag and returning it on the weekend of March 10/11. We are also in great need of books for preschoolers for our clothing ministry. If you have any questions or would like to help with this project, contact Kelly Rappl at krappl@nc.rr.com or Kathy Barnack at kbarnack@nc.rr.com.

Stations of the Cross



Stations of the Cross will take place in the Church every Friday during Lent at 7pm starting on Friday, Feb. 16th. On Good Friday, March 30th, Stations will take place at 12noon. Please join us!

2017 Contributions Statements



2017 Tax Statements

were emailed to registered parishioners who have a valid email address with the parish. If you receive the E-News you should have received your tax statement. If you did not receive a statement, contact lynch@stmm.net, 919-657-4800 ext. 7281 and one will be sent to you. Be sure to check your junk mail if you receive the E-News.

You can also follow the instructions below to obtain your statement:

[Tax Statement Instructions](#)

KofC Annual Lent Fish Fry



The KofC Fish Fry for this Friday, February 23rd has been **CANCELED** due to technical issues. However, the Knights expect to be ready for the March 9th event.

Book Drive



book harvest

StMM Girl Scout Troop 1383 Book Drive Feb. 26th-March 4th-We need your new & gently used children's books! The books collected will be donated to *Book Harvest*, a Durham-based nonprofit that believes in the power of books to change children's lives. We need books of all ages, especially board books and picture books for the youngest readers, as well as books in Spanish and bilingual books. Clear your cluttered shelves of books your children have outgrown so they can find new a home with a child who needs them. Look for the Book Collection Bins in the school lobby Feb. 26th to March 2nd and in the Church Narthex the weekend of March 3rd & 4th.

Safe Environment Training



Adults who wish to volunteer with youth at StMM are required to fill out a volunteer application and attend Safe Environment Training. Our next sessions are Thurs, March 8th at 6:30pm & Mon April 9th at 6:30pm. The session will last approx. 2 hours and is for adults only as the presentation is not appropriate for children. **Must register to attend.** Email Bertha Smith bsmith@stmm.net to register and for the meeting room.

'Knight's Corner'



Come enjoy breakfast with friends and family, expertly prepared by the Knights. Our next breakfast will be Sunday, March 11th following the 9am & 10:45am Masses in the Activity Building. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under. Meal includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, choice of bacon, ham or sausage, along with coffee, milk and orange juice. All proceeds to benefit the new church.



KofC Annual Lent Fish Fry... - March 9th, and March 23rd in the Dining Hall from 5:30-7:45pm. (Eat in or Take Out). Pre-order online at www.lentfishfry.com. We use top quality cod and shrimp, prepared fried or baked. Fried fish is freshly breaded just prior to cooking which delivers to you a perfect golden brown crispy filet. We serve our meals with your choice of seasoned French Fries, Parsley Potatoes, or Macaroni and Cheese along with Cole Slaw, Corn Bread and Dessert. Come out and enjoy a great meal with friends and family while supporting many worthy community causes championed by the Knights of Columbus.



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 or contact Michael Erpenbach at mike@erpenbach.com.

Parish Athletics



Spring Soccer (Apex-Cary) - Grades: Coed, PreK (3 year olds) to 8th - **Dates:** March to May; **Practice Locations:** choose between Apex & Cary. **Game Locations:** Apex & Cary. **Cost:** PreK \$60; K thru 5th grade - \$65; includes medal, shirt and picnic. **Note:** PreK players have a combined practice/game on Saturdays; Kdg thru 8th grade have one weekday practice and a game on Saturdays.

Spring T-Ball and Machine Pitch Baseball - Grades: Coed, PreK (4 year olds) thru 4th **Dates:** April to June; **Practice Locations:** choose between Apex & Cary; **Game Locations:** Apex only; **Cost:** \$65; includes medal, shirt, and picnic; **Note:** PreK players have a combined practice/game on Saturdays; Kindergartners thru 8th grade have one weekday practice and a game on Saturdays

Lacrosse (Softcrosse) - Grades: Coed; K thru 5th **Dates:** March thru May; **Practice/Game locations:** Apex only; **Cost:** \$65; includes medal, shirt, and picnic; **Note:** All meetings will be on Sunday afternoons and will combine a practice with a game or scrimmage. We will need volunteer coaches for all age groups! **Required Equipment:** Stick, mouth guard, cleats or sneakers

[REGISTER](#) here for any of the Parish Athletics spring sports!

The Story of Abraham and Isaac

Many regard today's second reading as Yahweh's cruelest biblical trick. How can any god command a father kill his son, then only tell him he was "kidding" just before he strikes the fatal blow? There must be more here than meets the eye. Why is such a narrative even in Scripture?

It's important to know this passage comes from the "Elohistic" source: an oral tradition written down in the Northern half of the Holy Land in the middle of the 8th century BCE. The authors of this particular source seem to have been prophets, disturbed by constant pagan pressures inflicted on their readers.

Many of these non-Jewish people actually sacrificed their children to the fertility gods and goddesses they worshiped, often taunting their Israelite neighbors that such atrocious practices proved they were more dedicated to their deities than the Israelites were dedicated to Yahweh. This is where the Elohistic author seems to step in.

This prophetic writer creates a story with which all his readers agree: if Yahweh were to actually demand they sacrifice their children, they would do so, no matter the cost. But the writer reinforces their belief in Yahweh as a God of life by reminding them they're to "redeem" any child they'd sacrifice with an animal. Today's narrative is the "official explanation" of that practice. In Abraham's case, Isaac is redeemed with a ram. (Remember, Joseph and Mary redeemed Jesus with some pigeons.)

In narrating this story, the Elohistic author is more interested in Abraham's dedication to Yahweh than in the psychological harm such a scenario can inflict on the participants. Though most of us today go beyond the writer's focus and zero in on other aspects of the narrative, as good "exegetes" we have to see the event through his eyes, not ours.

Abraham, as the first Jew, sets the example for all other Jews. He's depicted as someone totally loyal to Yahweh. The constant intent to do whatever Yahweh wants is what sets him and his descendants apart from all others. Certainly makes them "holy," deeply different from those around them.

Each of us is somehow changed by the relationships we form. Every time this happens we become a different person. Nowhere is this more the case than in our relationships with Yahweh and the risen Jesus. Abraham becomes the initial member of Yahweh's Chosen People; and all other Christs become the new creation their mentor has become.

It's important to keep the latter in mind when we hear today's transfiguration pericope. Not only is Jesus transfigured, Mark presumes everyone who imitates Jesus' dying and rising is also transfigured. It's possible the evangelist actually began his transfiguration narrative by first reflecting on what happened to him once he dedicated himself to following Jesus of Nazareth. If he's been transfigured in the imitation process, then Jesus also must have been transfigured when he began the process. The link can't be broken. What happens to Jesus happens to us, and vice versa.

Paul realizes our commitment to the risen Jesus is the most important aspect of our lives. He reminds the church in Rome that their unique relationship guarantees they'll experience a "fearless" life. "If God is for us," he writes, "who can be against us? . . . Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us." No one can do better.

The Elohist writer, along with his fellow sacred authors, is convinced Yahweh is a God of life. But he's also convinced the only way to get the most out of life is to give ourselves over to Yahweh. It's by sacrificing ourselves to his/her will that we'll actually reach the depth of that life, no matter the cost.

FATHER ROGER VERMALEN KARBAN

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

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by lynch@stmm.net in collaboration with

Constant Contact 

Try it free today