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## St. Mary Magdalene E-News

January 31, 2020

### A Note From Father Donald Staib

A thought about Simeon and Anna in the Gospel today: It is about our Senior Citizens -- How many years have they come to church? How often have they taught our young; volunteered for parish celebrations; prepared food for those grieving after a funeral; counted the collection on Monday mornings and generously donated to building campaigns and charitable events? Anna and Simeon's prophetic spirits are still with us, opening our ears and eyes to God's surprising epiphanies among us. We give thanks to all our older folks in our parish

Report for our Bishop's Annual Appeal - so far we have received \$48,322 from 149 members of the parish [7% of our parish members.] We have reached 25% of our parish goal of \$191,506. Many thanks to all who have been generous. We are on the way to a record response; we await the pledges from all 2119 households in our parish.

Thank you for your generosity last weekend for the 2<sup>nd</sup> collection for Latin America. We received \$3,545.

**Confessions:** there will be Confessions on Saturday February 1, after Baptisms; there will not be Confessions on Saturday February 8 because of a funeral.

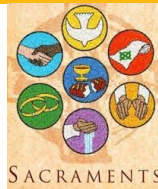
Due to a power surge in Apex, the telephone system at StMM is not working properly. We are able to receive telephone calls at the school front desk, but calls do not transfer and there is no voicemail. After school hours there is no way to make a connection. My home phone is 919 387 3648. Unfortunately, our entire system will need to be replaced; we hope this happened in the next few weeks.

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

**Our 10:45am Mass is Live Streamed!**

Click [HERE](#) to Live Stream our 10:45am Mass

## Sacraments



**BAPTISMS** - See the Guidelines on the Website - then email the Pastor. First time parents must attend a baptism class [a good time is during the 9 months prior to birth.] Baptisms are usually, not always, at 10am on Saturdays or at weekend Masses.

**CONFESSIONS** - Always check the Pastor's Paragraph in the weekly Bulletin or our E-News mailed on Fridays. Confessions are usually, but not every week, at 10:30am on Saturdays in the Church.

**WEDDINGS** - See the Guidelines on the Website - then email the Pastor.

## Reflection

Malachi came speaking a harsh message and he was not well received. Nevertheless, he persisted in announcing God's Word, as did the prophets before him. This rough-sounding message was necessary if the people were to wake up from their indifference to God's ways. In the middle of the night it is not a gentle summer breeze that wakes us from a deep sleep, but thunder and lightning - enter the prophet Malachi, who sees the people in a spiritual daze and tries to awaken them with verbal fireworks and thunder.

Malachi is the last book in the Old Testament. It doesn't seem like a very gracious way to end the often eloquent message to the Jewish people. When I was a teenager and would oversleep, my mother would come into my room, shake my feet and call my name, in a voice louder than usual, to wake me for school. I would wake startled - a rough way to begin the day - but I wasn't late for school! Malachi's voice was a shout and a warning to wake Israel from its spiritual torpor. The bottom line - his harsh language was a grace, reflecting God's persistent attempts to call us back into God's loving embrace.  
- Father Jude Siciliano OP

## 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](http://www.stmm.church/Tax_statement_instructions_2019.pdf)  
For questions, email [prewitt@stmm.net](mailto:prewitt@stmm.net), or 919-657-4800 x7281.

## Elementary Religious Ed



*Parish Religious Education & Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Meet Today.*

Many thanks to all who participated in yesterday's Reconciliation Retreat. Our Second Grade and Intermediate Sacrament children will be receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation this week. Please pray for God's mercy and grace on them.

CPO Toilet Tissue Donations for Grade 3 are scheduled for Sunday, February 9th & Wednesday, February 12th. Please donate whatever your means will allow.

First Reconciliation Dates for Parish Religious Education Students & Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Students are

- Tuesday, February 4th at 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, February 5th at 6:30 pm

First Reconciliation Date for StMM School Students is Wednesday, February 5th from 9:00 - 10:00 am during the regular school day.

**Inclement Weather Policy** - PREP & Catechesis of the Good Shepherd does NOT follow the decisions made by the Wake County school system or StMM Catholic School. Decisions are made by the program coordinator. Once the decision is made to close the elementary programs, (PREP, ROCK & CGS) we notify WRAL with a posting. If you don't see StMM on the band running across the bottom of the screen then it is safe to conclude that we are in session. When available we will also post it on the parish website as well as send an email to all registered program families.

First Communion Parent Meetings are set for Monday, March 9th 10:30 am or 7:00 pm and Tuesday, March 10th 10:30 or 7:00 pm in Church Room 3. Parents are to attend only one meeting. At this meeting you will sign up for the Mass you want for First Communion. Masses are not assigned. You choose. The dates are 5/9, 5/10, 5/16 & 5/17 at all six parish liturgies. The student banner kit to complete at home and return the day of the First Communion Retreat on Saturday, May 2nd will be distributed. If you attended in 2018 or 2019 with an older child, you are not required to attend. Please be sure to contact Suzanne with your liturgy choice and to pick up your materials.



**The Rock will not be held this weekend due to the High School Retreat.**

### Collection for returning military:

In July of 2019, over 600 soldiers assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division (3rd Brigade, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion) deployed to Afghanistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom. Approximately 385 of the 600 soldiers were living in barracks at Fort Bragg. In December 2019 the barracks were deemed unlivable and all belongings were moved to storage. These soldiers are returning from Afghanistan in March 2020, to new barracks, but will not have access to their stored belongings for many days. They will be tired, in need of basic toiletries and the ability to wash the limited pieces of clothing that they have on them. Area Scouts are collecting and putting together 385 hygiene kits to be delivered to Fort Bragg and placed on the bed of each returning soldier. We'll be collecting these items at STMM on 2/16/20 before PREP, CGS, The EDGE, Apostello, Youth Mass & The Way. If you'd like to

help, please donate any of the following items:

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Body Wash
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Small Bottle of Water
- 2 Laundry Pods



## STMM Sister Parish in Haiti & House Building Project

This year, we are inviting every child who is registered in our programs to donate to this worthy cause. Each time we meet, the Haiti House box will be in the lobby for your child to donate coins or dollar bills between now and April 1st. The goal is to take this opportunity to teach the corporal works of mercy and "shelter the homeless." The cost to provide a safe new home for a family in Haiti is \$3,750. Partnering with HMI, every dollar donated will be matched. Please give according to your means.

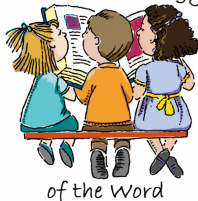
If you'd like to help us with this effort, please go to this link to donate online via the STMM payment online system: <https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=102397&f>

Use the drop down button "Select a fund" and select "House in Haiti" so we can make sure it goes to the right account.

For every \$3,750.00 we fund raise, Haiti Mission Inc. will match it and a house gets built for a family in Jeremie, Haiti.

If you do not want to donate online, please mail in a check to the parish office with "House in Haiti" in the Memo Line to: StMM, 625 Magdala Place, Apex, NC 27502

Children's Liturgy



of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word has begun and is held during the Sunday morning liturgies at 9:00 & 10:45 am. It mirrors the worship experience of the parish community in an engaging and interactive environment. Eligible participants are children 3 - 6 years old. This program is a co-op; dependent upon parishioner involvement. Volunteers must be Safe Environment Certified. If you'd like to assist with this ministry, please contact the Program Coordinator, Jennifer Jury at [stmmclow@gmail.com](mailto:stmmclow@gmail.com).



**Refresh** - An Adult Program held during PREP. Apex is a great place to live, but the number one city for you is where you can build your village. Get to know those around you at Mass. Meet other StMM families. Have a cup of coffee. We're meant to live in community, to connect with others. If it takes a village, let's build one! Join us on Sundays at Noon in the Media Center in the StMM School Building while your child is in PREP. Questions? Contact Nicole, [nicolesebik@yahoo.com](mailto:nicolesebik@yahoo.com) or Joe, [jsebik@icloud.com](mailto:jsebik@icloud.com).

### Youth Ministry

*All Youth Ministry Programs are off this weekend  
due to the high school retreat*

**GUYS ONLY HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!** We are so excited to



announce the GUYS ONLY HS Retreat 3/6/20-3/8/20. This retreat is open to all guys in grades 9th-12th and will be held at the same location as last year complete with paintball and so much more! Our retreat host will be Matt Regitz who lives in Houston, TX and loves ministering to dudes! The registration form can be found at this link: <http://www.stmm.church/religious-ed/highschool.cfm> and can be turned in at The Way at the sign in table or to Liz Sams attn in the parish office. To secure a spot a teen must turn in a completed registration form along with a 50% deposit. This retreat does not meet the Confirmation guidelines & spots are limited to the # of beds. Transportation is not included in the retreat cost. The retreat is held at a location about 1 hour and 45 minutes away from STMM in Eastern NC. Info is on the retreat form.

**Collection for returning military:** In July of 2019, over 600 soldiers assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division (3rd Brigade, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion) deployed to Afghanistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom. Approximately 385 of the 600 soldiers were living in barracks at Fort Bragg. In December 2019 the barracks were deemed unlivable and all belongings were moved to storage. These soldiers are returning from Afghanistan in March 2020, to new barracks, but will not have access to their stored belongings for many days. They will be tired, in need of basic toiletries and the ability to wash the limited pieces of clothing that they have on them. Area Scouts are collecting and putting together 385 hygiene kits to be delivered to Fort Bragg and placed on the bed of each returning soldier. We'll be collecting these items at STMM on 2/16/20 before & after all the masses. If you'd like to help, please donate any of the following items: Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Body Wash, Shampoo, Deodorant, Small Bottle of Water, 2 Laundry Pods

**HAITI MISSION TRIP 2020:** We are taking the beginning steps to organize an Adult Only(18 and over) Mission Trip to Haiti. There will be an information session to help answer questions from folks who have already gone to Haiti before with HMI, here are the details:  
StMM is in the beginning stages of organizing an Adult Mission Trip to Haiti through HMI.(18 years & older only) The trip would be 11/9/20 to 11/16/20 at a cost of \$1700/person (donation to Haiti Mission, Inc.). A \$1000 deposit would be due July 1, 2020, with the balance due October 1. An information session is going to be held on 2/20/20 in Room #3 of the church at 7pm. All inquiries should be directed to David Kurtz at [david.kurtz4@gmail.com](mailto:david.kurtz4@gmail.com).

**Haiti House Building:** We have begun our fund raising for another house to be built in Haiti! If you'd like to see a picture of the house that St. Mary Magdalene built through the generous donations of our parish community, please go to this link to see the house and learn about the family who now calls it their home:

<https://www.haitimissioninc.com/hmi-houses-147-current>

(our home is #151)

If you'd like to help us with this effort, please go to this link to donate online via the STMM payment online system:

<https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=102397&f>

Use the drop down button "Select a fund" and select "House in Haiti" so we can make sure it goes to the right account. For every \$3,750.00 we fund raise, Haiti Mission Inc will match it and a house gets built for a family in Jeremie, Haiti!!! If you do not want to donate online, please mail in a check to the parish office with "House in Haiti" in the Memo Line to StMM, 625 Magdala Place, Apex, NC 27502

**If you have a teen who:**

- Has attended a Catholic HS for 1 year & will attend a Catholic HS next year
- currently in 10th/11th/12th grade
- does not participate in The Way youth group at STMM
- would like to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in May 2020 at STMM

They must have attended Catholic HS for their previous school year to enroll & your family must be a STMM registered parishioner There will be 5 sessions held during the 2nd semester of this school year on Sundays:

3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, AND 4/5  
(Registration will close on 3/1/20 with no exceptions)

Online registration has now closed and you can find the paper form at this link:

<http://www.stmm.church/religious-ed/highschool.cfm>

## RCIA



**RCIA** - The next session is Monday, Feb 3rd at 7:30 pm in Church Room 4. The discussion topic is: How to Do: Reconciliation. Question please contact Kathy or Scott Strednak at [RCIA@stmm.me](mailto:RCIA@stmm.me).

## StMM School News

**Apex Chamber of Commerce Teacher & Teacher Assistant of the Year** Congratulations to St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School Teacher of the Year, Beth Wiegmann and Teacher Assistant of the Year, Abbie McKee! Mrs. Wiegmann is one of our very talented kindergarten teachers. She has been with StMM for 20 years! Mrs. McKee has been with StMM for over 10 years as a dedicated teacher assistant. She currently assists in the 4th grade classes. This award is sponsored and awarded annually by the Apex Chamber of Commerce.

**Tuition Assistance** Did you know tuition assistance is available to families who desire a Catholic education for their son or daughter? Need-based tuition assistance is available to K-8 families who are active, registered parishioners at Saint Mary Magdalene. All requests for tuition assistance must be submitted through FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment. Parents can apply at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>.

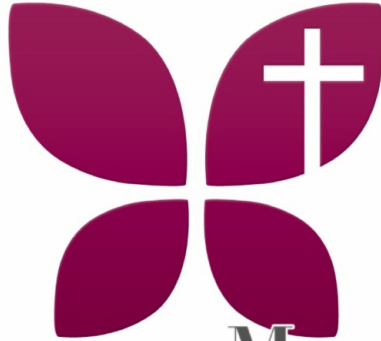
**The Opportunity Scholarship Program** provides tuition assistance of up to \$4,200 per year for awarded students who enroll in a participating non-public school. The program is income-based. The new student application opened January 31, 2020. The Priority Window closes March 1, 2020. Parents interested in learning about the Opportunity Scholarship and how this program can assist you with tuition at Saint Mary Magdalene Catholic School can reach out to us at the school before March 1 for more information. We will also be holding multiple information sessions during the month of February. Watch this section of the bulletin for those dates.

# Saint Mary Magdalene Catholic School

Applications for the 2020-2021 school year are  
available now for new students!

Need more info?

Call Lydia Binanay at 919-335-8311 for a tour of  
our campus.



Become a Monarch!  
Apply now!

## New Film Series Metanoia

Fr. Dave Pivonka's new film series *Metanoia* is here! Join us Saturday mornings starting on February 8 to watch Father Dave's newly-released video series *Metanoia*. Filmed in the Holy Land, this ten-segment, free study promises to open your heart to Jesus in a more profound way. If you enjoyed *The Wild Goose* series, you will love this. The title comes from a Greek word that means "change in one's way of life resulting from spiritual conversion." We hope you will come experience *Metanoia* with us from 8-9:30am every Saturday until the weekend after Easter, Feb 8<sup>th</sup> in Media Center and Youth Room. No need to RSVP - just come if - and when - you can!

Questions, email Laura Werner at [steubenvillemissionNC@gmail.com](mailto:steubenvillemissionNC@gmail.com)

or Mike McGann at [mcgannmi1970@gmail.com](mailto:mcgannmi1970@gmail.com).

## Power and Purpose Conference



## BUS TRIP TO STEUBENVILLE CONFERENCE

JUNE 5-7, 2020

Need a recharge in your spiritual life? Wondering about God's purpose for you? Feeling empty, anxious, and needing more peace, joy and love in your life? Reserve your spot at the **Power and Purpose Conference** today! Over 1500 adults come to Franciscan University's beautiful campus in Steubenville, OH each summer to experience the power of the Holy Spirit. They leave with a renewed sense of God's presence in their lives. This conference will draw you deeper into relationship with the Holy Spirit and empower you to live in true freedom and joy.

### Registration 2020 Pricing

Early Bird Rate (register by February 28, 2020) \$146

Standard Rate: \$176

Clergy/Religious/Young Adult (Age 18-30) Rate \$97



Please contact Laura Werner at 919-889-9904 or [steubenvillemissionNC@gmail.com](mailto:steubenvillemissionNC@gmail.com) for more information, travel details, and registration.

## Music and Sound Ministries



**Music and Sound System Ministries looking for new members!** At every Mass every week we strive to provide beautiful music for your enjoyment and to enhance our Mass Celebrations. To accomplish this, we need volunteers to support each Mass. We are looking for new adult members to join us, whether you play an instrument, sing or can help with the sound balancing each week during Mass.

For the adult music ministry that handles our three regular Masses each week, we practice together one hour a week year round on Monday evenings. It is a fun and rewarding group to belong to! Music and training are provided. Members for this group must be 18+ or Confirmed. We are looking for singers, pianists and other instrumentalists. Please contact our Music Director, Kristin Wagner, at [stmm.music@gmail.com](mailto:stmm.music@gmail.com) if you are interested to learn more or would like to tryout a practice session to see what we are all about.

The sound system ministry is an extremely important volunteer team that runs the sound, livestream camera, video displays, lighting and even the church bells! We have a serious need for new volunteers in this area. All training and backup support is provided and commitment requirements can be from once a month to once a week, depending on your availability. If you have an ear for sound balance or enjoy working with digital sound systems and are willing to learn, please contact our sound system ministry at [stmm.soundministry@gmail.com](mailto:stmm.soundministry@gmail.com) to learn more about this very important role in our church. Training times and schedule commitments are flexible.

## Safe Environment Training

**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 session is Thurs, 2/13 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](mailto:bsmith@stmm.net)) to register and to get meeting location.

## Souper Bowl of Caring



The Nationwide SOUPER BOWL OF CARING "tackle hunger" event will take place at St. Mary Magdalene Church at all Masses on Super Bowl weekend, February 1st and 2nd. More than \$90 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. The time around Super Bowl weekend has been transformed into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving. **Please be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. We are collecting CANS OF SOUP and DOLLAR DONATIONS before and after all masses on Super Bowl weekend.** Proceeds will benefit Catholic Parish Outreach (CPO) food pantry and Western Wake Crisis Ministry (WWCM) food pantry.

## First Friday Adoration

*Eucharistic*



*Adoration*

**New Date First Friday Adoration** will be on Friday, February 7th. All are encouraged to pay a visit to the chapel throughout the day and spend some time in prayer. However, it is essential that there are people that are scheduled to be there each hour between 8:30AM and 7:00PM. Can you help by committing to 1 hour a month to spend with our Lord? Please contact Anita Becker at [ALANITABECKER@AOL.COM](mailto:ALANITABECKER@AOL.COM) or 919-280-8931 if interested.

**Children's Adoration** is held the first Friday of each month 230-3pm. All children are welcome. No one is too young to come visit Jesus! The dates for the remainder of the school year are: Feb 7, March 6, April 3, and May 1. Contact Megan Brinkley if you have any questions [m.brinkley@hotmail.com](mailto:m.brinkley@hotmail.com)

## Commemorative Bricks

BUY A BRICK  
FOR SOMEONE  
SPECIAL

**COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS** - Commemorative bricks line the walkway to our Activities Building. St. Mary Magdalene Church will be placing a Spring brick order, the deadline is **March 27th**. The cost is \$100. Order forms are located in the parish office or <http://www.stmm.church/giving/>  
Commemorate a First Communion, a Graduation or remember a loved one with an engraved brick.

## Respect Life News

Every Life is Worth Living

Heavenly Father, thank you for the precious gift of life.  
Help us to cherish and protect this gift,  
even in the midst of fear, pain, and suffering.  
Give us love for all people, especially the most vulnerable,  
and help us bear witness to the truth that every life is worth living.  
Grant us the humility to accept help when we are in need,  
and teach us to be merciful to all.  
Through our words and actions, may others encounter the  
outstretched hands of Your mercy.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Every Life is Worth Living, © 2015, USCCB, Washington, DC.

Check out this website for more valuable and inspiring information: USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities [prolife@usccb.org](mailto:prolife@usccb.org)

Our upcoming Rosary for Life is **Sunday, February 2nd**. Start the day, whether you come before Mass or stay after, in a beautiful way. Prayer sheets are provided and families with children are welcome.

## Scout Sunday

**Scout Sunday-February 23rd** The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring an event to recognize and celebrate our parish's Scouts (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and their leaders) at the 9 AM Mass on Sunday, February 23rd. At the conclusion of the Mass, the Knights will provide refreshments for the Scouts and their families in the cafeteria. There will be a special handout at the Mass listing the Scouts participating in the event. To be included in the handout, please provide the following information to [stmm.scoutsunday@gmail.com](mailto:stmm.scoutsunday@gmail.com) by February 18th: name, unit type, unit number, rank or position and any religious award/emblem received in the past year. Scouts are asked to attend the event in uniform. If confirmation of receipt of your information is not received within 48 hours, please contact Ben Ryan at 919-924-4888.

## Knights Corner



*Calling all Catholic Men to the Knights of Columbus  
"A Catholic Fraternal Service Organization"  
4 Principles: Charity / Unity / Fraternity / Patriotism*

Our local St. Mary Magdalene council 7186 remains one of the most vibrant and engaged organizations within our community. Did you know your local Knights of Columbus support: weekly rosary on Thursday night in the Chapel for the entire family, Friday morning Men's Bible Study, Catholic Parish Outreach (CPO), Respect Life, Brookridge Assisted Living Resident Visits, Financial support for our Church and School. Consider joining our local council by contacting Dan Cantrel, Grand Knight.

Online membership program at: <http://kofc.org/un/joinus/en/index.html>

KofC 7186 council calendar of events: <https://kofc7186.org/calendar>

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