

A CHRISTMAS NOTE FROM FATHER MIKE

It is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner. This weekend, we hear the Christmas story recorded in Matthew's Gospel, not Luke's. Luke's gospel is told from Mary's perspective, while Matthew's gospel is told from Joseph's perspective. Both gospels are about the same miraculous birth, but they emphasize different things. Like any mom or dad that were to tell the story of their child's birth, they each would emphasize different things. So what are some of the things that Joseph's account teaches us about the miracle of Christmas?

First, Joseph's account reminds us of the surprise of Christmas. We can often think that Christmas comes in a very orderly and predictable way, yet the first Christmas was anything but orderly, and expected. When Mary was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit, Joseph was completely caught off guard. I suspect that nothing could have shocked him more. I think Joseph may have been counting down the days to his wedding. He may have had the big day circled on his calendar. It completely upended his plans, and ultimately changed his entire life in a wonderful way.

Second, Joseph's account reminds us of the miracle and true gift of Christmas. Even though Joseph was told by the angel to name their son Jesus, yet there is another name given to Jesus that is equally important. It is the name, Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us." Christmas is a gift showing us that God is with us. There is one thing that we can always count on, which is, God chooses to be with us throughout our lives. No matter what unpredictable events take place in our lives, God promises to be there guiding, comforting, and helping us to take the next step in God's plan for us.

Third, Joseph's account reminds us of the mission of Christmas. I think the world can use more people like Joseph, who are kind, considerate, truthful, and filled with integrity. More people who want to join Jesus in his mission to bring joy to all the world. More people who want the world to know that God is here with us. That is one of the missions of Christmas. So, during this Christmas time, let that beloved Christmas carol, "Joy to the World" always spring forth from our hearts.

In His Love,

Fr. Mike

[Giving Portal](#)

A Christmas message from Fr. Mike and Fr. Francis.



A document with all the Christmas Parking logistics may be found [HERE](#).



The Parish Office and the Campaign Office would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Would you like to make a Christmas Pledge to support the building of our new Parish Life Center? Campaign pledge cards may be picked up at the Campaign table in the narthex, or you may make your donation online [HERE](#). Helpful directions for donating online are found [HERE](#). Thank you for your support!

Upcoming Events & Mass Intentions

The Parish Office will be closed from Monday, Dec 22 through Thursday, Jan. 1.

The Parish Office phone system is currently undergoing maintenance and might be offline. Please contact the Parish Office by emailing info@stmm.net.

Saturday Dec 20.

10:30am- Confessions

5pm- Mass (Mary Baker †)

Sunday Dec 21- 4th Sunday of Advent

Mass This Weekend

Click [HERE](#) to Live Stream our 9am Sunday Mass and the 10am Christmas Day Mass. Daily Mass livestreaming will be paused over the holiday and will resume on Monday, January 5.

Music for Weekend Masses Dec. 20-21

Gathering: Entrance Antiphon

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 24: Let The Lord Enter

Preparation: Great Is The Lord

Communion 1: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Communion 2: You Alone

9am- Mass (Parishioners of StMM)
10:15am- Breaking Open The Word
11am- Mass (Nicholas Cynajko †)

Monday Dec 22

9am- Mass (Concepcion Pineros De Benavides)
6:30pm- Family Rosary
8pm- Adult Pick-up Basketball

Tuesday Dec 23

9am- Mass in the Chapel (Anna & Jeronemo Araujo †)

Wednesday Dec 24- CHRISTMAS EVE

No Morning Mass
4:00pm- Mass (Parishioners of StMM)
4:15pm- Mass in Gym (Todd Langenbach †)
7:00pm- Mass (Gerald & Joana Lehman)
12:00am (midnight)- Mass (in honor of the Graziano & Kolodzieski families)

Thursday Dec 25- MERRY CHRISTMAS 🌲

10:00am- Mass (Frank Manzella †)

Friday Dec 26

No Daily Mass

Saturday Dec 27

No Confessions
5pm- Mass (Laurie McVay †)

Sunday Dec 28

9am- Mass (Tracey Lynn Santori-Hrabak †)
10:15am- Breaking Open The Word
11am- Mass (Parishioners of StMM)

Monday Dec 29

9am- Mass (Malcolm Moore †)
6:30pm- Family Rosary
8pm- Adult Pick-up Basketball

Tuesday Dec 30

9am- Mass in the Chapel (Georgiana Melonis †)

Wednesday Dec 31- New Year's Eve

9am- Mass (Sean Reilly †)

Thursday Jan 1- Holy Day New Year's Day

10:00am- Mass (Dean Muklevicz †)

Friday Jan 2- First Friday

9am- Mass (Doris Orozco †)
Adoration to begin after Daily Mass until 7pm.

Saturday Jan 3

10:30am- Confessions
5pm- Mass (Maria Kollbach †)

Sunday Jan 4

9am- Mass (Rita Silagyi †)
10:15am- Breaking Open The Word
11am- Mass (Parishioners of StMM)
6:30pm- Sunday Night Men's Bible Study

CHRISTMAS HELP NEEDED- Ushers are needed for the Christmas Masses, especially the Midnight Mass and 10am Christmas Day Mass. Please go [HERE](#) if you would like to sign up and help. Thank you!!

Communion 3: Even So Come
Sending Forth: Emmanuel

Music for Christmas Masses Dec. 24-25

Prelude: Gaudete

Mary Did You Know?
The First Nowell
The Lion And The Lamb
Carol Of The Bells
Angels We Have Heard on High
Do You Hear What I Hear?
Go Tell It On The Mountain
Silent Night
The Nativity Of Our Lord Jesus
Christ (Proclamation)

Gathering: O Come All Ye Faithful

Responsorial Psalm: 96: Today Is Born Our Savior

Intercessions: Christ Our Light Hear Our Prayer

Preparation: Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Communion 1: Child Of The Poor/What Child Is This?

Communion 2: Away In A Manger

Communion 3: Silent Night

Communion 4: O Little Town Of Bethlehem

Sending Forth: Joy To The World

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CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

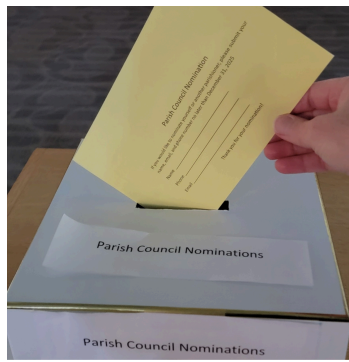
CHRISTMAS EVE
WEDNESDAY DEC. 24

4:00 PM - CHURCH
4:15 PM - GYM
7:00 PM - CHURCH
12:00 AM (Midnight) - CHURCH

CHRISTMAS DAY
THURSDAY, DEC. 25

10:00 AM (Livestream) - CHURCH

Ministry, Group, and Event Highlights



Parish Facility Manager

StMM is seeking a **Parish Facility Manager** to help keep our campus safe, welcoming, and running smoothly. This full-time role will oversee daily building operations, maintenance, repairs, and support for parish events. We're looking for someone who is organized, reliable, and comfortable managing both hands-on tasks and working with staff, volunteers, and contractors.

If you or someone you know has experience in facilities or maintenance and would enjoy serving our parish community in this important role, we invite you to learn more and apply through the Diocese of Raleigh employment page [HERE](#).

Parish Council Nominations

The Pastoral Council (Parish Council) is seeking new members for the 2026 through 2028 term. The Pastoral Council is responsible for reviewing and evaluating key details pertaining to Pastoral activities at St. Mary Magdalene, and In addition, the Council shall provide support for the efforts of the Pastor, the parish staff, the parish ministries, and the parish community. Please visit [HERE](#) for more information on the duties and requirements of serving as a Parish Council Member. Interested parishioners should then complete the nomination form in the narthex or submit their name, address, email, and phone number to our Parish Secretary, Deb Prewitt, prewitt@stmm.net by December 31, 2025.

New Life in Christ Mass – Celebrating Those Baptized in 2025

All parishioners baptized in 2025 and their families are warmly invited to attend a New Life in Christ Mass on Sunday, January 11, 2026, at the 11:00 AM Mass. A reception with light refreshments will follow. More information and registration may be found [HERE](#).

We look forward to celebrating this joyful milestone with you and your loved ones.

Church News, School News, Ministries, Groups, and Events

Please click on the link for more information.

Church News

- [Baptism Information](#)
- [Safe Environment Training for Volunteers](#)
- [OCIA \(Order of Christian Initiation\): For those looking to become fully initiated into the Catholic Faith. Please click here to learn more.](#)
- [First Friday Eucharistic Adoration information may be found here.](#)
- [Adult Faith Refresher & Confirmation Prep with Deacon Rick- Click here for more information.](#)

Ministries, Groups, & Events Continued

- [Prayers & Squares Prayer Quilt Ministry](#)
- [Traveling St. John Vianney Ministry- sign up to pray for our priests.](#)
- [Project Rachel Support Group - for hope and healing after abortion.](#)
- [Courage - A support group for those facing same-sex attraction.](#)
- [EnCourage- A support group for relatives of people who experience same-sex attraction.](#)
- [Walking with Purpose started a 22-week bible study on Sept. 4,](#)

- Divorced Catholics Seeking an Annulment- more information can be found by clicking here.
- Join Father Mike on a Pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes, & Spain from 4/28/26 through 5/8/26.
- Our Sound and Video System Ministry needs help with Masses, Funerals, and Weddings. The hours and commitment level are flexible. Can you help us out?
- Breaking Open The Word is a new weekly Gospel discussion group that is held after the 9am Sunday Mass.
- The 2025 StMM Annual Stewardship Report and the 2025-2026 Quarterly Report are available on our website.
- Parish Council Nominations are being accepted through Dec. 31. Please click here for more information about the nomination process.
- **Ushers needed for Christmas Masses, especially the midnight Mass and 10am Christmas Day Mass. Please go HERE if you would like to sign up and help. Thank you!!**

School News

- Thinking about a Catholic education for your child? StMM school tours are now being scheduled.
- 2026-2027 School Year Applications are now being accepted.

Ministries, Groups, & Events

- Would you like to be an Angel for expectant mothers? Gabriel Project needs Walking Angel volunteers to accompany women facing crisis pregnancies with prayer, practical assistance, and loving friendship.
- To all StMM parishioners who were baptized in 2025- Fr Mike invites you to join a Celebration of New Life Mass on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026. Please click here for more information and registration.
- The Columbiette rosary makers thank you for your support! They

especially designed for women to grow in faith and love for the Lord.

- Are you gluten-free due to a medical condition and need a low-gluten Communion Host? Click here to learn how to receive low-gluten Communion at StMM.
- Hearts on Fire, a charismatic prayer group with Deacon Dev, meets in the Church at 6:30pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.
- StMM Book Club meets the first Wednesday of the month to discuss a selected reading. The next meeting is on Jan. 7. Everyone is welcome. Click here for more information.
- St. Mary Magdalene's marriage enrichment fellowship group, Chrysalis, provides space monthly for couples to grow in their love for God & their spouse. Childcare is provided.
- Catholic Senior Organization (CSO) meets the 3rd Monday of the month. The next meeting is on Monday, Jan 19, at 10:30am
- A Bible study with Deacon Dev on the Book of Revelation began in Sept and meets approximately every other Thursday at 6:30pm. All are welcome to join at any time.
- Parish Athletics Spring Soccer and Baseball registration is now open.
- Lend a Hand to Moms in Need: Support Families Affected by SNAP & WIC Losses by donating to the Western Wake Crisis Ministry or Catholic Parish Outreach.
- Forward in Hope, a grief support group at StMM, will begin a new session in January.
- StMM Community Golf Outing hosted by Parish Athletics- Save the Date- April 20, 2026. Click for more information on how to register.
- Let Your Faith Flow- Help Us Bring Clean Water to Uganda! St. Mary Magdalene is launching the Uganda Water Project to bring life-changing clean water to the people of Kicheche, Uganda.
- Did you miss the Christmas Joy Revealed musical or want to experience the Wonder of Christmas Joy all over again? You

make each rosary with love and care, and they offer rosary repair, too!

- The 2026 Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral on Saturday, Feb. 14.
- Boy Scout Troop #316 is selling luminary kits through Dec. 21. The kits can be ordered [HERE](#).

may click here for a recording of this very special performance.

- Save the Date- The Columbiettes annual bingo night will be on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 7 to 9pm. Registration will begin in January.

Pictures of the Week



Theresa & Marty Parrish celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 22, 2025.



The Catholic Senior Organization had a wonderful time laughing, singing, and celebrating together at their Christmas party on Monday, December 15.



Members of the StMM Choir sang Christmas carols for the residents of Cambridge Village on Saturday, Dec. 13.



Thank you to Father Luke Rawicki LC, Chaplain at Cardinal Gibbons, for joining us at our Youth Mass last Sunday!

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Faith Formation

[Click HERE for the 2025-2026 Faith Formation Calendar](#)



Registration for the High School Mountain Retreat opens on November 1. Please click [HERE](#) for more information and how to register.

Questions about Faith Formation:

GATHER (K-4th grade)- contact Suzanne Will at will@stmm.net or 919-657-4800 x7280

THE ROCK (5th & 6th grade)- contact Sarah St. Aubin at st.aubin@stmm.me or 919-657-4800 x7307

EDGE (7th & 8th grade)- contact Sarah St. Aubin at st.aubin@stmm.me or 919-657-4800 x7307

Apostello and the Way (9th-12th grade)- contact Niki Furnier at nfurnier@stmm.net or 919-657-4800 x7309

Confirmation- contact the coordinator at confirmation@stmm.net

St. Mary Magdalene | 919-657-4800 | 625 Magdala Place | Apex, NC 27502 US

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