

A NOTE FROM DEACON DEV

Advent is a season of hope. This was symbolized by the lighting of the first candle in our Advent Wreath this last weekend. In a world often darkened by despair, Advent reminds us that the light of Christ has already overcome the darkness. And so, whatever are our circumstances, we are a people of hope because we know that our lives and our future are in the hands of a God who loves us.

Derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "arrival" or "coming," Advent is a season of spiritual expectation that focuses on three specific arrivals of Jesus Christ. First, we look back to the greatest event in human history – the Incarnation. We call this the **Past or First Coming of Jesus**. This is what we will celebrate with great joy at Christmas. Second, we look forward with hope to the end of the age when Jesus will come back again. We call this the **Future or Second Coming of Jesus**. Third, we also pay attention to the present. Jesus continually offers to come into our lives each and every day. We call this the **Present Coming of Jesus**.

Advent is also a season of preparation. We go through great efforts to prepare decorations, cookies, family celebrations, and presents. But the most important thing we need to do this season is to **prepare ourselves** so that we are ready to meet Jesus at any time whether it's when his Second Coming happens or when we are called from this life to the next. Many of us will have special guests visiting our homes this season and we will make sure that we are ready for them. But, what if one of those guests turned out to be Jesus? Would he find us ready to meet him?

Meaningful preparation leads to meaningful celebration. If you take the time to truly wait, hope, and prepare, you will find that when Christmas morning finally arrives, you won't just be opening presents - you will be worshipping the King who has come to save.

Advent is also a season of peace. This will be symbolized by the lighting of the second candle in our Advent Wreath this coming weekend. Let us pray that during this season, we will all experience the peace of the Risen Christ.

God bless,

Deacon Dev

[Giving Portal](#)

PARISH LIFE CENTER

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge to support the building of our Parish Life Center! We are so grateful for your generosity.

If you haven't had a chance to make your pledge yet, there is still time. We have just a little over \$1 million to go to reach our goal. Every gift, big or small, brings us closer to making this important project a



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](#).

Upcoming Events & Mass Intentions

Schedule change: There will be no Daily 9am Mass on Monday, Dec. 8 or Thursday, Dec 11. Starting on Dec 18, the Thursday Daily Mass will permanently move to 12pm noon. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday Daily Mass will remain at 9am.

Friday Dec 5- *First Friday*

9am- Mass (Thanksgiving for God's Grace and Mercy)
First Friday Adoration will be in the Chapel following Daily Mass until 7pm.
6pm- Christmas Joy Revealed Musical

Saturday Dec 6

10:30am- Confessions
5pm- Mass (Marjorie Jane Fetsko †)

Sunday Dec 7- *2nd Sunday of Advent*

9am- Mass (Charles Roba †)
10:15am- Breaking Open The Word
11am- Mass (Lee Gaggiano †)
2:45pm- Chrysalis Meeting
6pm- Youth Mass (Parishioners of StMM)
6:30pm- Sunday Night Men's Bible Study
7:15pm- Edge / The Way

Monday Dec 8- *Holy Day-The Immaculate Conception*

Parish Office Closed
No 9am Daily Mass
12pm- Holy Day Mass (Concepcion Pineros De Benavides)
7pm- Holy Day Mass (Harry Lewis †)
8pm- Adult Pick-up Basketball

Tuesday Dec 9

9am- Mass in the Chapel (Al Mittelmaier)
6:15pm- Gather / ROCK

Wednesday Dec 10

9am- Mass (Sarah Isabelle)
9:50- Morning Rosary with CSO
1pm to 3pm- Advent Confessions in the church

Thursday Dec 11

No Daily Mass
10am- Advent with Purpose

Mass This Weekend

Click [HERE](#) to Live Stream our 9am Sunday Mass and our Daily Mass on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

*Please note that the schedule may occasionally change due to unforeseen circumstances, and we appreciate your understanding.

Music for Sunday Masses

Gathering: Entrance Antiphon
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 72: Justice Shall Flourish
Preparation: Even So Come
Communion 1: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Communion 2: O Come To The Altar
Communion 3: Great Are You Lord
Sending Forth: Emmanuel

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This week's altar flowers are donated by:

The Kelly family in memory of Robert Tesar - loving husband, father and grandfather.

Take this opportunity to consider donating flowers to St. Mary Magdalene to beautify the altar and church for weekly Mass to honor our Lord. These flowers will be donated in honor of or in memory of your loved one. Click [here](#). For questions, contact floralministry@stmm.net

6:30pm- Hearts on Fire Prayer Meeting

Friday Dec 12

9am- Mass (Laly Escorcia †)

Saturday Dec 13

10:30am- Confessions

5pm- Mass (The Sansone Family)

2nd Collection for Religious Retirement

Sunday Dec 14- 3rd Sunday of Advent

2nd Collection at all Masses for Religious Retirement

9am- Mass (Parishioners of StMM)

10:15am- Breaking Open The Word

11am- Mass (Herb Bischof †)

4:30pm- Apostello

6pm- Youth Mass (Kathleen McCann †)

6:30pm- Sunday Night Men's Bible Study

7:15pm- Edge / The Way

Come celebrate the season and join us for our Gather Musical

Christmas Joy Revealed

Friday, December 5, 2025
5:30 pm doors open
6:00 pm show time



Sign up for the dinner to follow, graciously provided by the Knights of Columbus.

A free family fun night!

Please sign up for the dinner [HERE](#).

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Friday, December 5	7:00pm-9:00pm	Our Lady of La Vang, Raleigh
Tuesday, December 9	11:00am- 12:00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes, Raleigh
Tuesday, December 9	7:00pm-8:30pm	St. Bernadette, Fuquay Varina
Wednesday, December 10	7:00pm-8:30pm	St. Catherine of Siena, Wake Forest
Thursday, December 11	10:00am- 12:00pm	St. Catherine of Siena, Wake Forest
Thursday, December 11	6:30pm-8:00pm	St. Luke, Raleigh
Tuesday, December 16	10:30am- 12:00pm	St. Bernadette's Fuquay Varina
Tuesday, December 16	7:00pm-9:00pm	Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, Raleigh
Wednesday, December 17	7:00pm- 8:30pm	St. Raphael, Raleigh
Thursday, December 18	10:00am- 11:30am	St. Michael, Cary


The full Advent Penance Service schedule may also be found [HERE](#).

StMM will also offer Advent Confessions in the church on **Wednesday, December 10, from 1:00 to 3:00pm**, in addition to our regular Saturday morning Confessions each week at 10:30am.

*Please note that the Advent Confessions date is December 10, not December 11 as previously posted.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Donations are being accepted until Dec. 15 to decorate the church with poinsettias for Christmas.



If you wish to honor a loved one, please write their name in the Optional Memo section with "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of". Their name will be displayed on the narthex TVs at Christmastime.

Christmas Poinsettias

Donations to the Floral Ministry are being accepted now through Dec. 15 to help decorate the church with poinsettias for Christmas. You may make your online donation [HERE](#).

If you wish to honor a loved one with your donation, please write their name in the optional memo section with 'In Memory Of' or 'In Honor Of.' Their name will be displayed on the narthex TVs at Christmastime.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

WEDNESDAY DEC. 24

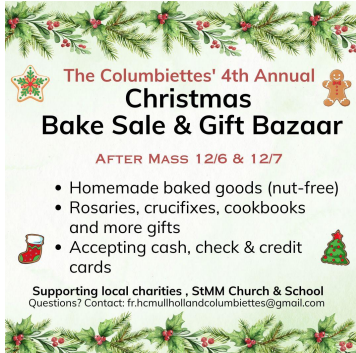
4:00 PM - CHURCH
4:15 PM - GYM
7:00 PM - CHURCH
12:00 AM (Midnight) - CHURCH

CHRISTMAS DAY

THURSDAY, DEC. 25

10:00 AM (Livestream) - CHURCH

Ministry, Group, and Event Highlights



The Columbiettes' 4th Annual Christmas Bake Sale & Gift Bazaar

AFTER MASS 12/6 & 12/7

- Homemade baked goods (nut-free)
- Rosaries, crucifixes, cookbooks and more gifts
- Accepting cash, check & credit cards

Supporting local charities, StMM Church & School
Questions? Contact: fr:hcmulhollandcolumbiettes@gmail.com

Mulholland Columbiettes Bake Sale & Gift Bazaar

The Mulholland Columbiettes' 4th Annual Bake Sale and Gift Bazaar will take place after all Masses at StMM on **December 6 & 7!**

Come enjoy homemade baked goods and delicacies, and find unique gifts like handcrafted rosaries, ornaments, jewelry, and more. Proceeds benefit the StMM Capital Campaign and local causes.

Cash, check, and credit card accepted.



Second Grade St. Nick SHOE AND SOCK DRIVE
December 5th-12th

We pray. We learn. We care.

Second Grade St. Nick Shoe & Sock Drive: Dec. 5-12

During this season of giving, StMM's second grade students are asking you to help families in need by donating new or gently used shoes/sneakers in any size, new socks, and men's new steel-toed work boots.

Donations will be accepted from Dec. 5-12 and may be placed in the collection box located in the church portico. Please tie shoelaces together or put them in a plastic bag. Brown Bag Ministry distributes all of our donations.
Thank you for supporting this important second grade service project!



ANGEL TREE 2025
DEC 6-7
For the Hispanic Family Center
DEC 13-14
HollySpring Food Cupboard
Western Wake Crisis Ministry
Catholic Parish Outreach
Women That Care
Gabriel Project
Collection will be after Masses in the Narthex.
St. Mary Magdalene

Angel Tree's Toy Drive & Charitable Collections

This year, the Angel Tree ministry will support the Toy Drive for the children of the Hispanic Family Center, for children ages 1-12.

Beginning the weekend of November 22-23, members of Helping Hands ministry will be in the narthex distributing tags for the Toy Drive. All toy donations will be collected on December 6-7. (No puzzles or board games, please)

Donations for Holly Springs Food Cupboard, Women That Care, Western Wake Crisis Ministry, Catholic Parish Outreach, and Gabriel Project, will also be accepted until

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.](#)
- [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.](#)
- [Sponsors needed for OCIA \(Order of Christian Initiation of Adults\) to help accompany candidates on their faith journey; no experience or theology expertise is required.](#)
- [Christmas Poinsettias -Donations are being accepted now until Dec.15 to help decorate our church with poinsettias at Christmastime.](#)
- [Parish Council Nominations are being accepted through Dec. 31. Please click here for more information about the nomination](#)

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, 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, Dec. 15, 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](#)

process.

are welcome to join at any time.

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.
- StMM 2nd Grade St. Nick Shoe and Sock Drive, December 5-12. [Click here for more information.](#)

Ministries, Groups, & Events

- Frassati Young Adult Group will meet on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 3-6pm to make dinner at the Ronald McDonald House. [Click here to sign up.](#)
- Advent With Purpose- Walking with Purpose is hosting Laura Phelps, a nationally known Catholic Speaker, author, and content leader, on Thursday, Dec. 11 from 10am to 12:30pm. Buy your tickets to join us for an inspiring morning!
- 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.
- A heartfelt Thank You to everyone who helped make the Bruch for the Homeless a huge success. Please [click here for more details about the event.](#)

- 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.](#)
- The Hallow Prayer App is offering StMM free access to their Pray25 Challenge during Advent. [Click here to learn how to join.](#)
- 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.
- JobWorks Career Ministry is presenting Career Crossroads: Exploring Your Options with Confidence on Dec 11 at HNOJ.
- The Columbiettes 4th Annual Advent Bake Sale & Gift Bazaar will be after all Masses on the weekend of Dec 5-6.
- Sponsors needed for OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) to help accompany candidates on their faith journey; no experience or theology expertise is required.

**FOLLOW StMM
ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



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.

Please RSVP [HERE](#) for dinner provided by the Knights of Columbus after the performance.

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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