

A NOTE FROM FATHER FRANCIS

MY HOLIDAY – A THEATRE

Hello Pals, greetings from Uganda and thank you to everyone for loving me, supporting me, encouraging me in the ministry and for packing for me when travelling back to the country. God has been incredibly kind to me and through your generosity He is touching the lives of others- what return to Yahweh can I make!!!

My flight both to and from Uganda was so smooth, from Dulles up to Rwanda. Flight Attendants upgraded me to First Class on one flight, and elsewhere to premium economy, hahaha, isn't that so cool! But guess what, from the airport to our home city was by bus and to my Village, a truck was the only option and reaching home, chicken pox had made early arrival! Interestingly, from Jan12th to 26th, internet was closed down, all the banks, and power load shading became our usual guest. I couldn't imagine this after coming to two years in America almost taking internet for granted, power most assured than sunlight, and media connections uninterrupted! Trust me, I saw a country being reduced to an isolated village and quietly sink into oblivion without a world noticing it, I witnessed people's freedoms: - of speech, expression, association and to information being grabbed without force or coercion. Trade and commerce reduced to barter trade, and students' academic engagements reduced into herd's men- cheap interactions. The ability to report ballot stuffing, violence, or the whereabouts of a person was fully incapacitated after all the media screens were dead. Ironically, the population felt abandoned, opposition subjugated and government felt control and as for me, an opportunity to reach out and do pastoral work to my village mates.

Anyhow, with limited movements due to elections, my holiday was fully domestic bound and as such I was able to visit a whole village- 137 households, (every afternoon I would visit a section and invite them home for evening mass). It was an incredible experience!

More sharing up next.

I love you all

God is good.

Fr. Francis



The night I arrived home.



One of the evening Masses with my neighbors at home.



Left to right: myself, my neice, a priest in charge of PMS, and my former associate pastor at his new parish.

[Giving Portal](#)

Please see the video below for an update on our Parish Life Center.



If you haven't already, please prayerfully consider making a pledge or donation enabling us to build a lasting space for our parish family.!

Campaign pledge cards are available at the Welcome Desk in the narthex, or you can make your pledge online [HERE](#). Pledge payments can be set up for automatic online draft or they can be dropped in the offertory with the label "Parish Life Center." Helpful directions for donating online can be found [HERE](#).

Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement, and generous support! We truly are Building Faith Together!

Upcoming Events & Mass Intentions

Friday Feb 6- First Friday

9am- Mass (Sean Bates †)
First Friday Adoration will begin after Daily Mass and continues until 7pm.

Saturday Feb 7

No Confessions

5pm- Mass (Mary Baker †)
6pm- Knights of Columbus & Columbiettes' Italian Dinner and Raffle

Sunday Feb 8

9am- Mass (Parishioners of StMM)
10:15am- Breaking Open The Word
11am- Mass (Kylee Muller)
2:45pm- Chrysalis Meeting
6:30pm- Sunday Night Men's Bible Study

Monday Feb 9

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

Tuesday Feb 10

9am- Mass in the Chapel (Sarah Isabel)
1pm- Daytime Bible Study

Wednesday Feb 11

Mass This Weekend

Click [HERE](#) to Live Stream our **9am Sunday Mass** and our **Mon/Wed/Fri weekday Masses**.

Music for Weekend Masses

Gathering: Christ Be Our Light
Responsorial Psalm: 112: Light Shines Through the Darkness

Preparation: The Lord is My Light
Communion 1: You Alone Are Holy
Communion 2: Morning by Morning
Communion 3: Dry Bones/Come Alive
Sending Forth: Praise

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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

9am- Mass (Albert Scheller †)
9:50am- Morning Rosary with CSO
10am- Forward in Hope
8pm- Adult Pick-up Basketball

Thursday Feb 12

12pm- Mass (Robert Hogan †)
6:30pm- Hearts on Fire Prayer Group
7pm- Care for God's Planet Meeting

Friday Feb 13

9am- Mass (Sherry Flannery)

Saturday Feb 14

10:30am- Confessions
5pm- Mass (Louise Thompson †)

Sunday Feb 15

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

loved one. Click [here](#). For questions, contact floralministry@stmm.net

Tax Season



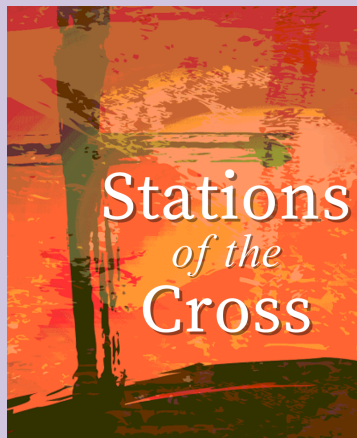
Directions for accessing your 2025 StMM tax statement can be found [HERE](#). We are grateful for your continued support of St. Mary Magdalene

Parish. Your generosity sustains our parish and is vital to keeping St. Mary Magdalene running and fulfilling its mission. Thank you!

Would you like to set up an automatic draft to support St. Mary Magdalene?

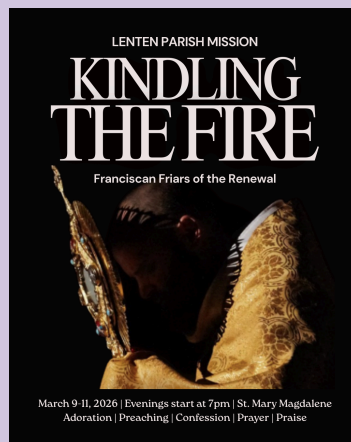
Directions can be found [HERE](#). Thank you for your generosity, which in turn helps St. Mary Magdalene continue serving and supporting you and our entire parish community.

StMM Lenten Activities



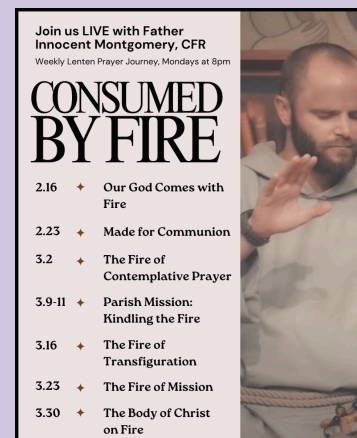
For Catholics worldwide, the Stations of the Cross is a popular Lenten devotion, also called the "Way of the Cross." It is a prayerful meditation on the final hours of Jesus' life.

Beginning February 20, Stations of the Cross will be held in the main Church every Friday during Lent, immediately after the 9am Mass and again at 7pm. Everyone is welcome!



Our St. Mary Magdalene Lenten Parish Mission, *Kindling the Fire*, will be led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal **March 9–11**, beginning at 7pm each evening. Each night will include adoration, preaching, prayer, confession, and praise.

Come join us as we gather as a parish community to grow closer to God and experience His love during this holy season.



Father Innocent Montgomery, CFR, will lead a weekly Lenten online prayer journey for St. Mary Magdalene called *Consumed by Fire*. This interactive series will include reflection, discussion, and a Q&A at the end of each session.

Join us as we grow in faith and prayer together throughout the season of Lent. The link to participate will be posted soon.

Additional Lenten activities from around the Diocese and Online may be found [HERE](#)

StMM Ministry and Group Events

FEBRUARY

Join fellow parishioners for the **Monarch Giveaway Dinner and Raffle on Saturday, February 7, from 6:00–10:00 pm** in the STMM Gym, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes. This exciting new social event and fundraiser features a catered dinner from Mama Mia's of Holly Springs and a reverse raffle with \$5,500 in total prizes.



Raffle and dinner tickets are \$100 per person. Dinner-only guest tickets are \$25, and purchasing two raffle tickets includes dinner for two. Every 10th ticket wins \$100, all non-winning tickets enter a \$500 drawing, and the final five tickets compete for a combined \$4,000 grand prize. A portion of proceeds supports the Parish Life Center Campaign. Come solo, with friends, or your spouse for a fun evening and a chance to win! Sign up [HERE](#) to register!



Souper Bowl Tackle Hunger Challenge – Helping Hands Ministry

The Souper Bowl of Caring is an annual national event with a local impact. This year, we invite our parishioners to help those in need by donating food for local charities, Neighbor Up and Holly Springs Food Cupboard. **Collections will take place after all Masses on February 7 and 8.** Representatives will be at Masses this weekend to answer questions and hand out food lists. Items most needed include crackers, peanut butter, jelly, cooking oil, honey, snacks like granola or raisins, and broth. Monetary donation can also be made using the QR code or [HERE](#). Join us in turning the excitement of the Big Game into an opportunity to share God's love with our neighbors.



Enjoy a free concert by the St. Francis Brass Band on **Sunday, February 22, at 2:00 pm** in the STMM Gym. The band will present a lively and varied program featuring selections such as the Star Wars theme, spirituals, movie themes, big band favorites, and more.

This concert is sponsored by the Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem and benefits the Archdiocese of Kigali, Rwanda, Africa. The Order is seeking to raise \$57,000 to equip the Catholic University of Rwanda's new Kigali campus with a library of teaching materials and technology to support the training and certification of future English teachers.

Light refreshments will be served courtesy of the Knights of Columbus Council 7186, and the Columbiettes will host a bake sale with proceeds donated. Donations are welcome. Please sign up [HERE](#) for planning purposes.



Catholic Parish Outreach's annual Feed-A-Family Food Drive is coming to St. Mary Magdalene! Parish bags with item lists will be handed out at all Masses on **February 21 and 22.**

Please bring your food donations to Mass on February 28 and March 1.

Monetary gifts are welcome too. Just \$55 can feed a family for a week! Please scan the QR code that Fr. Mike is holding or click [HERE](#).

Thank you for joining us in supporting our neighbors in need and sharing God's love with our community.

Save the Date!

The Knights of Columbus will once again host their popular Lenten Fish Fries on February 27, March 13, and March 27. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for these fun evenings of fellowship and



great food. Ordering information and additional details will be coming soon

We would also like to thank our Fish Fry sponsors this year: Gold Sponsor Kathy Lynch, Realtor at Keller Williams; and Silver Sponsors John Tudor from State Farm Insurance and Triangle Painting and Siding. Their generous support helps make these events possible.

Meetings, Events, & Information

Please click on the link for more details.

CHURCH

- [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-](#) A new series will begin on Feb. 4. Click here for more information.
- [Join Father Mike on a Pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes, & Spain](#) from 4/28/26 through 5/8/26.
- [Divorced Catholics Seeking an Annulment-](#) more information can be found by clicking here.
- [2025 StMM Tax Statements](#) are now available online.
- [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.
- [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.
- [The 2025 StMM Annual Stewardship Report and the 2025-2026 Quarterly Report](#) are available on our website.
- [Our spring Commemorative Brick Order](#) is now open! Engraved bricks line the walkway to our Activities Building and are a great way to honor a person or event. Orders can be made [HERE](#) and are due by Mar. 31.

SCHOOL

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

GROUPS & MINISTRIES

- [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.
- [Prayers & Squares Prayer Quilt Ministry](#)

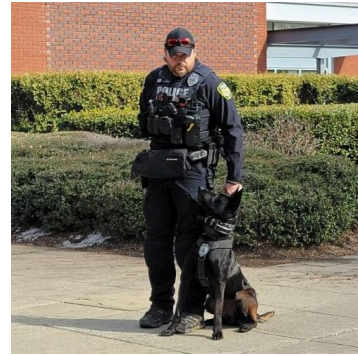
- **Hearts on Fire**, a charismatic prayer group with Deacon Dev, meets in the Church at 6:30pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.
- **StMM Book Club** meets the first Wednesday of the month to discuss a selected reading. The next meeting is on Feb 4. Everyone is welcome. [Click here](#) for 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.
- **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.
- **Forward in Hope**, a grief support group at StMM, will begin a new session in January.
- **The 2026 Wedding Anniversary Mass** will be held at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral on Saturday, Feb. 14.
- **Family Honor** is presenting **Understanding the Human Person** at the Diocese of Raleigh Catholic Center on Feb. 13 & 14. Please go [HERE](#) for more information and to register.
- **Family Honor** is presenting two programs at StMM in Feb. & March to help parents teach God's gift of sexuality to their children. The programs are for 5th -8th grades. Please go [HERE](#) for more information and to register.
- **Magnificat**, an international group for Catholic women, is having a Magnificat Meal at St. Andrew on Saturday, Feb. 21. Please register [HERE](#).
- **2026 Appalachia Service Project (ASP)** applications are now being accepted for high school students and adults. Please go [HERE](#) to apply and for more information.
- **A Eucharistic Miracles exhibit** will be at St. Therese in Wilson, NC from Feb. 28 through Mar. 5.
- **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.
- **Catholic Senior Organization (CSO)** meets the 3rd Monday of the month. The next meeting is on Monday, February 16, at 10:30am
- **A Bible study on the Book of Revelation** with Deacon Dev has two meetings left, Thursday, Feb. 5 and Thursday, Feb. 19. Please [click here](#) to register. All are welcome to join!
- **Parish Athletics Spring Soccer and Baseball** registration is now open.
- **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.
- **Frassati** is the Young Adult group at StMM offering faith, fellowship, and community. Email Nicole at frassati@stmm.net for more information.
- **Birthchoice** is recruiting volunteers for a new Pregnancy Resource Center which will support parents carrying to term a child with a prenatal diagnosis.
- **Catholic Parish Outreach** needs warehouse volunteers to help with unloading trucks and running the forklift. For more information, please go [HERE](#).
- **Starting in Feb.**, join NC Catholics Caring for our Common Home (N4CH) in a weekly study of Pope Leo's First Apostolic Exhortation. Sign up [HERE](#).

- **Save the Date!** The Columbiettes' annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on Sunday, March 29 after the 11am Mass. Nut-free candy donations are being accepted Feb. 8-22. Please go [HERE](#) for more information.
- **The Care for God's Planet team** will be meeting on Feb 12 at 7pm. All are welcome to join! Click [HERE](#) for more details.
- **JobWorks Career Network** will discuss **Working the Long Game: Career Management Through Change and Uncertainty** at their next meeting on Feb. 12 at St. Michael.
- **The 28th Annual Rally & March For Life** is on Mar. 7 in Raleigh. More information can be found [HERE](#).

Photos



Congratulations to Elizabeth and Joseph Hite on the convalidation of their marriage on Friday, January 30.



The Apex Police Department visited the StMM second grade to share an inside look at their K-9 unit and the important work their dogs are trained to do. Shown on the left is Jordi, who serves in the Directed Patrol Unit with his handler, Officer Baker. On the right is Pepper, a highly trained explosives detection dog, with her handler, Officer Moore.

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ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



Faith Formation

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



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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