

## A NOTE FROM DEACON DEV

**This weekend we celebrate the baptism of the Lord.** It seems fitting to celebrate this just after the new year begins because both of these things are about beginnings. Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan was the beginning of his public ministry and for many of us, the new year represents a new beginning. This is why making new year resolutions is so popular. We sense that there is a gap between who we are and who we know we should be. The new year then becomes an opportunity to make some much needed changes in our lives. However, as sincere as we are, it soon becomes obvious that on our own we cannot fill this gap.

**Baptism reminds us that we don't need to.** We have died to ourselves, and our new life – the life we currently live – is in Christ. Paul says in Romans 6:4,8: "We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life ... If then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him." Ultimately, Christ is the one who transforms us into who God created us to be. 2 Corinthians 3:18 states: "we are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord." And so, every day in Jesus is a new life, a new year, a new day.

**And so, where should our focus be?** On getting to know Jesus more. Each year, I use this time to do an important reflection. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that we have been created to know, love, and serve God. And so, each year I ask myself, "Do I know, love, and serve God more than I did a year ago?" If my answer is "Yes", then I've grown spiritually over the last year. But if my answer is "No" or "I don't know" then I haven't grown spiritually.

And so, as we begin this new year, let us reflect then on what we can do differently this year **to know, love, and serve Jesus more.** So often we can be so fixated on what we consider to be sacred that we discount everything else. The Pharisees had such strong opinions about how the Messiah should act that they completely failed to recognize Jesus even in the midst of them. Let us be more open this year to the possibility that Jesus may want us to discover him in newer, deeper, and unexpected ways even if it means moving out of our comfort zones.

God bless you,

Deacon Dev

[Giving Portal](#)

**WE HAVE RAISED  
\$6,652,000**

### PARISH LIFE CENTER CAMPAIGN UPDATE

**Thanks to the generosity of our parish family, we are grateful to share that we have now raised an incredible \$6,652,000 toward our Parish Life Center!!**

Already, 24% of our registered parishioners have participated, showing strong leadership and helping move this important project forward for our parish community.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to make a gift or pledge, we invite you to prayerfully consider joining this effort. Every contribution, large or small, truly makes a difference and helps create a space that will serve our parish for generations to come.



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 continued prayers, encouragement, and generous support!

## Upcoming Events & Mass Intentions

The Parish Office phone system is currently undergoing maintenance and might be offline. If you're call does not go through, please contact the Parish Office by emailing [info@stmm.net](mailto:info@stmm.net).

### Saturday Jan 10

10:30am- Confessions

5pm- Mass (Mary Baker †)

### Sunday Jan 11

9am- Mass (Irene & Stephen Rotich)

10:15am- Breaking Open The Word

11am- Mass (All who were baptized at StMM in 2025)

2:45pm- Chrysalis Meeting

4:30pm- Apostello

6pm- Youth Mass (Parishioners of StMM)

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

7:15pm- Edge/ the Way

### Monday Jan 12

9am- Mass (Homero Escoria †)

6:30pm- Family Rosary

8pm- Adult Pick-up Basketball

### Tuesday Jan 13

9am- Mass in the Chapel (Angelo Ditaranto †)

6:15pm- Gather/ ROCK

### Wednesday Jan 14

9am- Communion Service

9:50am- Morning Rosary with CSO

### Thursday Jan 15

12pm- Communion Service in the Chapel

### Friday Jan 16

9am- Mass (Ranen Awrey)

### Saturday Jan 17

10:30am- Confessions

5pm- Mass (Bridgette McMullen †)

### Sunday Jan 18

9am- Mass (Debi Scherschel †)

10:15am- Breaking Open The Word

11am- Mass (Parishioners of StMM)

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

## Mass This Weekend

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

### Music for Weekend Masses

**Gathering:** Entrance Antiphon

**Responsorial Psalm:** 29: The Lord will Bless

**Preparation:** Reckless Love

**Communion 1:** Open My Eyes

**Communion 2:** O Come to The Altar

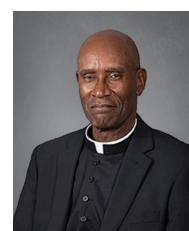
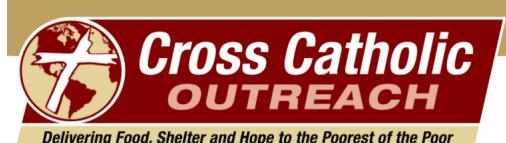
**Communion 3:** Rest On Us

**Sending Forth:** Joy To The World

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



Msgr. Jean Pierre will be visiting our parish next weekend, January 17 & 18, to speak at all the Masses on behalf of Cross Catholic Outreach. The organization was founded to forge a stronger and more supportive link between parishes in America and the priests and nuns

## Please Welcome Our New Director of Campus Safety and Security



St. Mary Magdalene is pleased to welcome **Mr. Chris Walk** as our new Director of Campus Safety and Security. A parishioner and school parent, Chris brings a wealth of experience in law enforcement and safety leadership, along with a genuine heart for serving our parish community. We are grateful for his commitment to keeping our campus safe and excited for the positive presence he will bring to this role. Please join us in welcoming Chris as he begins this important position at St. Mary Magdalene.

## **Ministry, Group, and Event Highlights**



Parish Athletics provides sports the old fashioned way, friends playing with friends, building a community one sport at a time.

Registration is now open for Spring Soccer (pre-K through 8th grade) and Baseball (pre-K through 4th grade).

For more information about Parish Athletics, please go [HERE](#).

To register for Spring Soccer or Baseball, please go [HERE](#).



The Columbiettes 3rd Annual **Bingo Night** will be on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 7 to 9pm in the StMM School Cafeteria. Doors will open at 6:15 pm and play will begin at 7pm.

Bingo Night is fun for all ages and there will be many chances to win prizes. There will also be a raffle for themed Gift Baskets!

Reservations are limited to 150 players. Please go [HERE](#) to register and for more information.



**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 enjoyable evenings of fellowship and great food.

Ordering information and additional details will be coming soon. Bring the whole family, invite friends, and enjoy a wonderful opportunity to gather with the StMM community during the Lenten season. We look forward to seeing you there!

## **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-](#) A new series will begin on Feb. 4. [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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

## 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 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.
- 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 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.
- [Forward in Hope](#), a grief support group at StMM, will begin a new

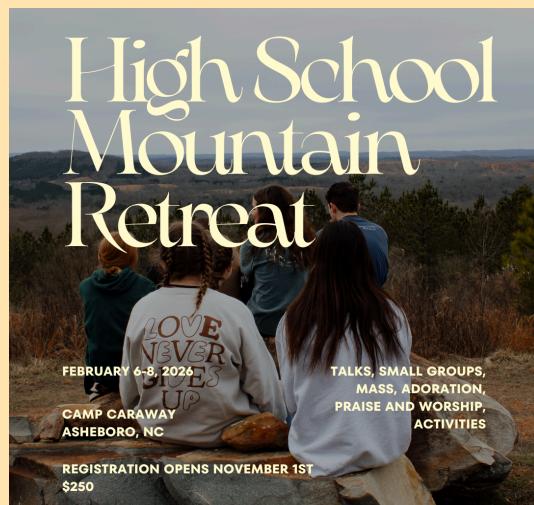
- The 2026 Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral on Saturday, Feb. 14.
  - Family Honor is presenting Understanding the Human Person at the Diocese of Raleigh Catholic Center on Feb. 13 & 14. Please go [HERE](#) for more information and to register.
  - Family Honor is presenting Leading & Loving: Practical Principles for Catholic Parents in the StMM Media Center on Jan. 23 & 24. Please go [HERE](#) to register.
  - St. Bernadette Catholic Parish is hosting National Speaker Danny Bader for an Interactive Lunch and Learn on Saturday, Jan. 24 from 11am to 1:30pm. Please go [HERE](#) to register.
  - A prison family support group is starting at Church of the Good Shepherd and is open to families and friends of incarcerated loved ones.
- 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.
  - Frassati is the Young Adult group at StMM that meets regularly throughout the year for faith, fellowship, and community. Please email Nicole at [frassati@stmm.net](mailto:frassati@stmm.net) for more information.
  - The Columbiettes annual Bingo night will be on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 7 to 9pm. Please sign up [HERE](#) to register. Thank you!
  - There are many Pro-Life events and prayer opportunities coming up in January! Please click [here](#) for more information.

**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.

## Questions about Faith Formation:

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

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

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

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

**Confirmation-** contact the coordinator at [confirmation@stmm.net](mailto:confirmation@stmm.net)

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

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