

A NOTE FROM FATHER MIKE

This last Sunday before Lent offers us more insight into what is expected of us as his disciples. Our Lord reminds us of the road we need to travel. Being a Christian is not only about avoiding “bad things.” It is about the continuous conversion of our hearts. He calls us to repentance, to conversion, to living by a higher standard than what the world tells us.

The readings for this weekend help us to think about our choices. God is good all the time and He gives us the freedom to choose between good and evil. He does not force us, but He wants us to choose life. His commandments are there, like guardrails on the road, to guide us, not to burden us. Our Lord says He did not come to get rid of the commandments. He came to bring them to their fullest meaning. He wants more than just our outward actions. He calls us to go deeper, to be honest, to be pure, to let go of anger, to forgive, to speak with truth...

We are reminded that God has good things planned for those who love Him. These blessings are not always easy to see, yet the Holy Spirit can help us to understand them. God's wisdom is not like the world's, for His wisdom leads to real joy and peace.

In His Love,

Fr. Mike

[Giving Portal](#)



Announcing the 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal

The 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal officially begins this week! As a diocesan family, we are invited to join together in supporting the ministries, programs, and outreach efforts that bring Christ's love into our parishes and communities. Your prayers and participation help strengthen Catholic education, support parish vitality, and extend care to those in need. As we begin this year's Appeal, please take time to reflect on how you can [contribute to this mission](#) of faith and service.

Please see an important message below from Bishop Luis Zarama on the impact of the Bishop's Annual Appeal.



Upcoming Events & Mass Intentions

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

Monday Feb 16

9am- Mass (Mary Agnes D'Souza †)
10:30am- Catholic Senior Org Meeting
6:30pm- Family Rosary
8pm- Adult Pick-up Basketball

Tuesday Feb 17

9am- Mass in the Chapel (Ed Schultz)
1pm- Daytime Bible Study
6:15pm- Gather & ROCK

Wednesday Feb 18- Ash Wednesday

9am- Mass (Helen and Peter Flynn †)
7pm- Mass (Rene Jimenez & Ernesto Jimenez †)
8pm- Adult Pick-up Basketball

Thursday Feb 19-

12pm- Mass (Dr. Courtney Watts)
6:30pm- Revelation Bible Study

Friday Feb 20

9am- Mass (Sylvia Z. Harrington †)
9:45am- Stations of the Cross to follow Mass
7pm- Stations of the Cross

Saturday Feb 21

10:30am- Confessions
5pm- Mass (Lori and Michael Hrehor †)

Sunday Feb 22

9am- Mass (Sean Bates †)
10:15am- Breaking Open The Word
11am- Mass (Parishioners of StMM)
2pm- Brass Band Concert
4:30pm- Apostello
6pm- Youth Mass (Richard Evenson †)
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: Your Grace Is Enough
Responsorial Psalm: 119: Blessed Are They Who Follow

Preparation: Trust in God
Communion 1: Your Words are Spirit and Life
Communion 2: Jesus I Surrender
Communion 3: Dry Bones/Come Alive
Sending Forth: All Creatures of our God and King

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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

Tax Season

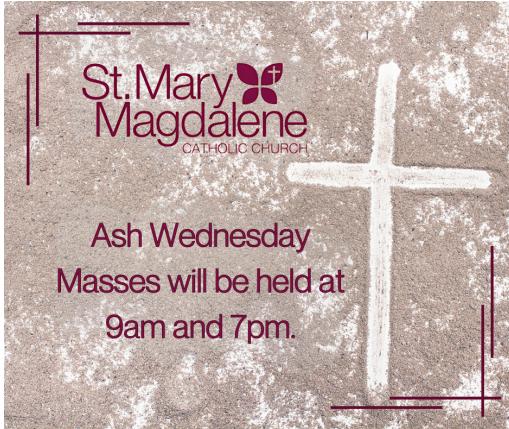
Directions for accessing your 2025 StMM tax statement can be found [HERE](#). We are grateful for your continued support of St. Mary Magdalene

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



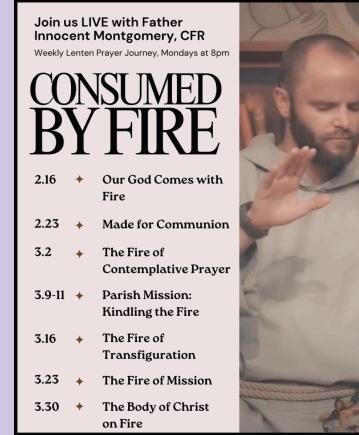
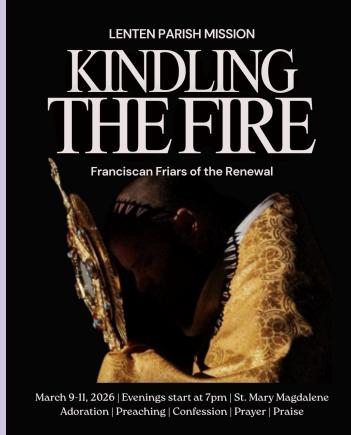
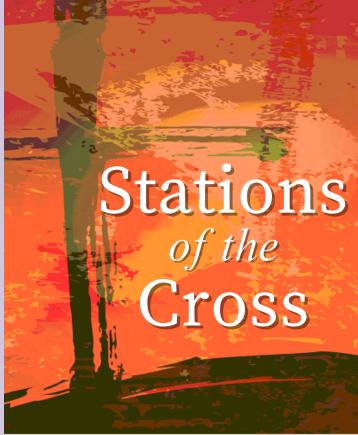
your generosity, which in turn helps St. Mary Magdalene continue serving and supporting **you** and our entire parish community.



Cardinal Gibbons High School is leading the development of a **new Catholic high school** in the Raleigh, North Carolina area, set to open in the fall of 2028.

As plans move forward, a committee is seeking input from parish and school communities to help inform the identity, development, and naming of the school. If you'd like to participate in the survey, please go [HERE](#). Deadline for completion is Feb. 27.

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](#). Also included are subscriptions to Dynamic Catholic and Hallow's Lent Pray40.

StMM Ministry and Group Events

FEBRUARY

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.



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, **featuring new menu selections including fried shrimp and, for the kids, buttered noodles.**

The Knights would like to thank this year's Fish Fry sponsors: 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.

Pre-orders are now being taken for Friday, Feb. 27. Please go [HERE](#) to place your order.



It's back! The Parish Athletics 20 percent off Dick's Sporting Goods coupon is valid February 27 through March 2 at all local Dick's Sporting Goods stores. The 20 percent discount applies to your entire purchase. Stock up now on all your sporting needs for the spring season.

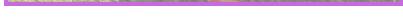
The Columbiettes' Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on **Sunday, March 29, following the 11:00 am Mass.**

Donations of nut-free, individually wrapped candy, as well as small toys and stickers to fill the Easter eggs are helpful and greatly appreciated.

Columbiettes' Annual

Easter Egg Hunt

Nut-free candy, small toys, and sticker donations are greatly appreciated.



You may drop your donations in collection bins labeled "Easter Egg Hunt" located in the StMM narthex on weekends from February 8 through February 22.

Thank you for helping make this joyful parish tradition a success!

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.](#)
- [Divorced Catholics Seeking an Annulment- more information can be found by clicking here.](#)
- [Please prayerfully consider making a pledge or donation to our Parish Life Center campaign, enabling us to build a lasting space for our parish family. Campaign and donation information can be found **HERE**.](#)
- 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.](#)
- [2025 StMM Tax Statements are now available online.](#)

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.
- 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 March 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 is a grief support group at StMM. Please [click here](#) for more information.
- 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
- 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.
- 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 one meeting left on 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

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.
- 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.

Leo's First Apostolic Exhortation. Sign up [HERE](#).

- The 28th Annual Rally & March For Life is on Mar. 7 in Raleigh. More information can be found [HERE](#).
- The Knights of Columbus are holding a Free Throw challenge for boys and girls on on March 13. Click [HERE](#) for registration and more information.

Photos



OH WHAT FUN!!

The Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes hosted a Dinner/Social and Raffle on February 7th. Many parishioners and their guests attended and had a fun-filled evening. Everyone enjoyed a catered Italian meal (Thank you Mama Mia's in Holly Springs), and over \$4,000 in cash prizes were awarded. Proceeds will be donated to the Parish Life Center project. Special thanks to

Chris Lowell who donated his prize money of \$300 to the Parish Life Center project. If you missed it this year, plans are already underway to make it an annual event. Be sure to join next year!



Our Children's Choir filled the church with their joyful voices at the February 8, 9am Mass. They were led by Music Director Andrew Witchger and Francis Lobo. What a beautiful gift their voices are to our parish community.

If your child would like to be part of the Children's Choir, they are warmly invited to join. Please contact Andrew Witchger at awitchger@stmm.net for more information.



Congratulations to Callum Phelan, who was baptized on Saturday, February 7.



The StMM Parish Council held a new member introduction meeting on Monday, February 9. Welcome to the Parish Council! We are grateful for your service to StMM.

Pictured left to right:

Back row: Fr. Francis, Paula Hils, Kyle Hoffman, Kelsie Fabrizi, Chris Hanes, Brian Tanaka, Fr. Mike
Front row: Susan Nadeau, Amanda Bambrick, Pat Nelli, Angelika Swantek, Chris Lowell, Joan Turner, John Mihalyo

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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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