

A NOTE FROM DEACON DEV

All of us have a natural desire to be happy. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that this desire comes from God (1718). Why? So that as we search to satisfy this desire, we will hopefully eventually find God, who alone can satisfy us and give us true happiness.

This weekend, our gospel reading is Matthew's account of the beatitudes. Each of the eight beatitudes begins with the word "blessed." This can be commonly translated as "happy." But this is no ordinary happiness. This is a pure, God-given joy and happiness that comes from knowing that we have obtained the approval of God.

And so, the beatitudes can be considered to be "be - attitudes" – attitudes that we need to have as Christians. Thus, if we live out the beatitudes, we are poor in spirit, compassionate, humble, genuine, pure of heart, a peacemaker, and a person who forgives easily.

Why is this so important to Jesus, so much so, that the Catechism tells us that the beatitudes are at the heart of his teaching (1716)? Because you see, the closer we live out the beatitudes, the more we image God. As God's children, we are called to be holy just as the Lord, our God is holy. The word "holy" comes from the Hebrew word qodesh which means to be set apart. God is holy because he stands alone, apart from every other person, being or entity. And, as his children, we are also called to be different, to be distinct, to be unique ... to be holy.

God knows that the challenge to be holy is not an easy one. In fact, it's against our nature. But this is why he has given us the Holy Spirit and the sacraments. So that our very nature can be changed so that we become more like Jesus. And think of the rewards: we shall be comforted, inherit the earth, be satisfied, be shown mercy, be called the children of God, the kingdom of heaven is ours, and my favorite ... we shall see God.

God bless,

Deacon Dev

Giving Portal



We are getting closer but need everyone's support!

**We have now raised over \$6,700,000 for our Parish Life Center!
Every gift brings us closer to our goal!**

If you haven't already, please prayerfully consider making a pledge or donation so that we are able to build a lasting space for our parish family!.

Campaign pledge cards are available at the Campaign table 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

Saturday Jan 31

10:30am- Confessions
5pm- Mass (Tatyana Taura †)

Sunday Feb 1

9am- Mass (Parishioners of StMM)
10:15am- Breaking Open The Word
11am- Mass (Martin Parrish †)
4:30pm- Apostello
6pm- Youth Mass (Richard Evenson †)
6:30pm- Sunday Night Men's Bible Study

7:15pm- Edge / the Way

Monday Feb 2

9am- Mass (The Willis Family)
6:30pm- Family Rosary
8pm- Adult Pick-up Basketball

Tuesday Feb 3

9am- Mass in the Chapel (Robert Zmuda †)
1pm- Daytime Bible Study
6:15pm- Gather / ROCK

Wednesday Feb 4

9am- Mass (Marty Parrish †)
9:50am- Morning Rosary with CSO
12:30pm- Book Club meeting
7pm- Frassati Young Adult meeting
8pm- Adult Pick-up Basketball

Thursday Feb 5

12pm- Communion Service in the Chapel
6:30pm- Revelation Bible Study

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 †)

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

Mass This Weekend

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

Music for Weekend Masses

Gathering: Praise

Responsorial Psalm: 146: Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit

Preparation: All the Poor and Powerless

Communion 1: The Summons

Communion 2: Great Are You

Communion 3: I Know a Name

Sending Forth: Who You Say I Am

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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?

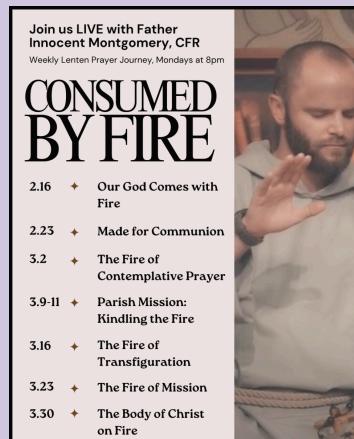
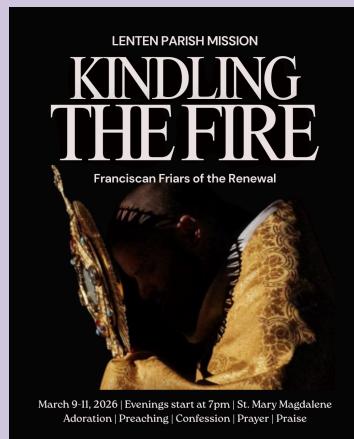
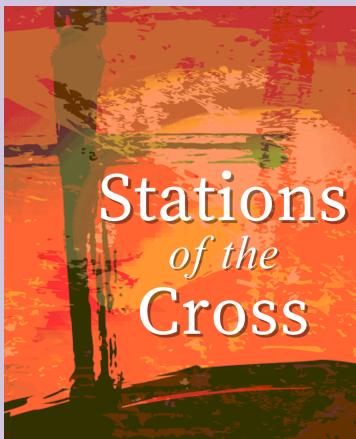
Directions can be found [HERE](#). Thank you for your generosity, which in turn helps St. Mary Magdalene continue serving and supporting you and our entire parish community.



Weather Watch!

For the latest updates on St. Mary Magdalene's weather-related closings and reopening, please visit our website at www.stmm.church.

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.

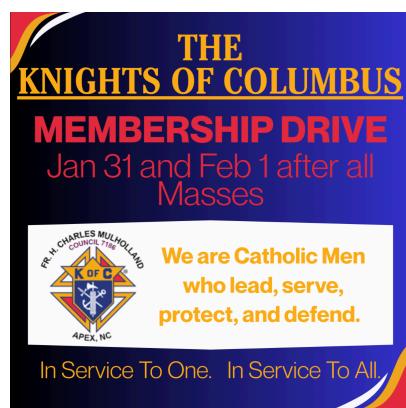
Come join us as we gather as a parish community to grow closer to God and experience His love during this holy season.

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.

StMM Ministry and Group Events

JANUARY



Join The Knights of Columbus in Serving Saint Mary Magdalene!

Are you ready to make a real impact in our parish, school, and community? The Knights of Columbus invite you to be part of a brotherhood of men dedicated to faith, service, and fellowship. Together, we bring lasting support to StMM through meaningful projects and volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

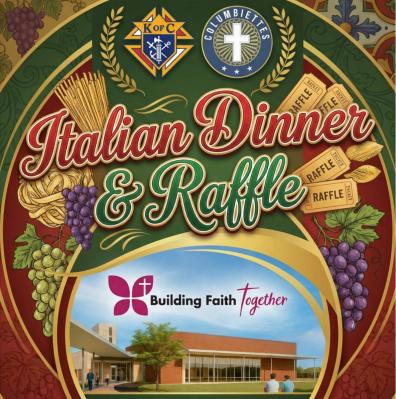
An all-Parish Membership Drive will be on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 after every Mass. Come meet our members, ask questions, and discover how your unique gifts and talents can strengthen our parish family. Whether you have just a little time to give or a lot, there's a place for you with the **Knights of Columbus**.

Let's build faith, friendship, and service—together! For more information, please contact: Steve Fitzhenry at stevefitzhenry@outlook.com

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!



sale with proceeds donated. Donations

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 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.

Meetings, Events, & Information

Please click on the link for more details.

CHURCH

- [Baptism Information](#)

- [Our Sound and Video System Ministry needs help with Masses,](#)

- [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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- 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 three programs at StMM in Jan. & Feb. to help parents teach God's gift of sexuality to their children. There are programs for all ages. 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.
- 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.

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](#).
- 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.

Photos



Girl Scout Troop 791, the fourth grade troop at StMM Catholic School, thanks you for your generous donations to Operation Cookie Drop, a community service project that brings a sweet taste of home to deployed military men and women.

Thanks to your support at the January 17 and 18 Masses, they raised \$164 —enough to send 27 boxes of cookies to our troops!



Three Groups Unite to Care for Creation

Thank you to the Senior Group who have continued to collect their used pill bottles over the winter months. The Care for God's Planet Team and Frassati Young Adult Group were able to up-cycle over 100 bottles at their event last week. These bottles will go to Matthew 25 Ministries in Ohio to be reused with other organizations instead of going to the landfill!

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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 Fournier at nfournier@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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