

A Note from Seminarian Juan Fernando

Pilgriming with Faith and Hope: An Encounter with the Living Church

In our lives, we all experience moments when our faith is tested — moments when we reaffirm what we believe, or when we simply feel God's presence in a powerful way. This, I believe, is the best way to summarize the past three weeks I spent with my mother as pilgrims during this Jubilee Year. I don't want to miss the opportunity to share with you, my dear brothers and sisters of STMM, some reflections and important moments from our pilgrimage to Rome in search of that hope Pope Francis invited us to embrace when he opened the Holy Door last December — a hope that His Holiness Pope Leo has now renewed with the same call.

Before reaching Rome, I had the blessing of attending Sunday Mass at Notre Dame in Paris, and just a few days later traveling to Lourdes to entrust the Jubilee of Young People to Our Lady. The presence of the Blessed Virgin accompanied us every step of the way, and I carried each of you in my prayers.

When we arrived in Rome, along with more than a million other young people, I discovered that right in front of my hotel there was a church housing a relic of Saint Mary Magdalene — her foot. In that moment, I felt the Lord speaking to my heart, reminding me that even though I was thousands of miles away from my StMM community, you were always close in prayer — as I was praying for you.

At the Mass for young people, I could not hold back my tears as together, over a million of us proclaimed our faith: One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic — under the guidance of Peter, today Pope Leon XIV. Seeing the Pope, his warm smile, and receiving his blessing was one of the greatest moments I will forever treasure in my heart. While the world may sometimes tell us that the Church is dying or that there are no young people left in it, this experience showed me that the opposite is true: the Church is more alive than ever! It speaks hundreds of languages, proclaims Christ as alive, and above all, speaks the language of Love — because God is Love (Deus Caritas Est). I didn't need to know anyone beforehand to feel them as my brothers and sisters, nor did I need to pass through the Holy Door to know that I was home.

Throughout this journey, I kept you in my prayers, knowing that you are my family, my friends, and most of all, my Church. I return renewed, convinced that the mission lies ahead — that Christ, more than ever, is calling me to believe, to serve Him in my brothers and sisters, and to give myself completely.

I send you the warm and loving greeting of Pope Leo.

Please keep me in your prayers.

Your servant in Christ,
Juan Fernando Rodríguez
Seminarian



This is the relic of St. Mary Magdalene's foot, located in Basilica di San Giovanni Battista dei Fiorentini in Rome, Italy.

Here I am in Saint Peter's Plaza at the Vatican, soaking in this incredible moment!

I lit a candle at Lourdes for all the parishioners of StMM.

Giving Portal

Upcoming Events & Mass Intentions

Friday Aug 15- Feast of the Assumption

*Parish Office Closed

9am- Mass (Graziano & Kolodzieski Family Members)

7pm- Mass (The Sansone Family)

Saturday Aug 16

10:30am- Confessions

5pm- Mass (Sandra Sansone †)

Sunday Aug 17

9am- Mass (Charles Roba †)

10:15am- Breaking Open The Word

11am- Mass (Parishioners of StMM)

Monday Aug 18

9am- Mass (Tom Schultz †)

6:30pm- Family Rosary

8pm- Adult Pick-up Basketball

Tuesday Aug 19

9am- Mass (Anne & Robert Gregorius †)

7pm- Adoration in the Church in honor of StMM's 25th Anniversary

Wednesday Aug 20

9am- Mass (Don & Rebecca Gray †)

10am- Forward in Hope

7pm- Frassati Young Adult Group

8pm- Adult Pick-up Basketball

Thursday Aug 21

9am- Mass (Collette Thomas †)

9:50am- Morning Rosary with CSO

10am- Walking with Purpose

Friday Aug 22

9am- Mass (Ann Curvan †)

Saturday Aug 23

10:30am- Confessions

5pm- Mass (David Paul Enger †)

Sunday Aug 24

9am- Mass (Parishioners of StMM)

10:15am- Breaking Open The Word

11am- Mass (Zackary Muller)

12:30pm- Gabriel Project Meeting

Mass This Weekend

Click [HERE](#) to Live Stream our 9am Sunday Mass.

Beginning in August, we will [livestream](#) 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: In Christ Alone

Responsorial Psalm: 40 Lord Come to My Aid

Preparation: Surrounded

Communion 1: Ubi Caritas - Hurd

Communion 2: Great Are You

Communion 3: 23: I Shall Live in The House of The Lord (W)

Sending Forth: City Of God

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This week's Altar flowers are donated by:

**Mike and Regina Gray
in memory of
Sandra Sansone.**

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

25 Anniversary Celebration

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
LED BY DEACON RICK**

Tuesday, Aug 19th
7 - 8pm

Social & Snacks
to follow



Join us on Tuesday, August 19th at 7pm for Eucharistic Adoration in the church led by Deacon Rick, in honor of our 25th Anniversary!

Light refreshments to follow.



Left to right: Joe Sebik, Bishop Luis Raphael Zarama, Joe Werner, Jorge Rosende

Introducing... Our StMM Diaconate Acolytes!

You might have noticed some new faces becoming more active in our parish lately, and we are excited to introduce them to you. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about their lives, what inspired them to join the Diaconate program, and the ways they hope to serve in the future.

Are you being called to serve? Would you like to learn more about discerning a vocation to the Permanent Diaconate? If so, click [HERE](#) for more information.

Ministry, Group, and Event Highlights



WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE AT MASS?

LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING STARTS IN
SEPTEMBER FOR:

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
ALTAR SERVERS
AND LECTORS**

PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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.

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.

- **First Friday Eucharistic Adoration** information may be found [here](#).
- **Adult Faith Refresher & Confirmation Prep with Deacon Rick**- Next series starting in Oct.
- **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.
- **Interested in becoming a Deacon in the Diocese of Raleigh?** Two information sessions will be held on Sat 9/13 at the Catholic Center. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.
- **Holy Hour & Social Hour** on Aug 19th in honor of our 25th Anniversary! Join us for Adoration at 7pm, led by Deacon Rick, followed by refreshments.
- **There will be a Healing Mass** at StMM on Sept 5th at 7pm. Mass, Adoration, and Healing Prayer will be celebrated with Fr. Mike, Fr. Francis, and priests and deacons around the diocese.
- **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** will have an Open House on Sept 4th. Come learn about WWP, our great community of women, and our upcoming 22 week bible study.
- **Parish Athletics Fall Soccer and Baseball Registration is Now Open.**
- **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 Columbiettes** have a few more "Taste and See" cookbooks and Gift Sets left for purchase. All proceeds benefit StMM parish, school, and local charities.
- **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.
- **Calling all Prayer Warriors**- StMM's Prayer Team needs an organizer. Will you help us out?
- **The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** on Oct 24-26 at Emerald Isle will help you to rediscover the best friend you had when you were first married. Sign up today!
- **Frassati Young Adult Group** will volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House on 8/17 and have a game night on 8/20. [Click here](#) for more information and to sign up.

School News

- **StMM School Tours for Prospective Students**
- **Jeff Bell, Cardinal Gibbons Head of School**, will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting on 10/13 to discuss the new Catholic High School projected to open in Fall 2028

Ministries, Groups, & Events

- **The Feast of the Assumption** is a perfect time to reflect on Mary's motherhood and the mission of Gabriel Project/ Walking with Moms in Need to support pregnant

- **Walking with Purpose** will have an Open House on Sept 4th. Come learn about WWP, our great community of women, and our upcoming 22 week bible study.

mothers. [Click here for how to get involved and help!](#)

Picture of the Week






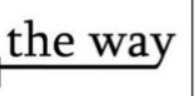

Walking with Purpose set up a beautiful table last weekend in the narthex, inviting parishioners to learn more about their wonderful organization.

**FOLLOW StMM
ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



Faith Formation

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

				
Grades K – 4 & Parents	Grades 5 & 6	Middle School – Grades 7 & 8	High School – Grades 9 & 10 Pre-Confirmation	High School – Grades 11 & 12 Post Confirmation
Parent Enrichment	Parent Enrichment	Sunday Evenings	Sunday Evenings	Sunday Evenings
Tuesdays	Tuesdays	7:15 – 8:30 pm	7:15 – 8:30 pm	Time & location determined by small group
6:15 – 7:30 pm	6:15 – 7:30 pm	<u>StMM</u> Gym	<u>StMM</u> Church	
<u>StMM</u> Church & School	<u>StMM</u> Gym	Youth Mass 6:00pm on Sundays when the Middle School and High School Faith Formation Programs Meet (Refer to the Faith Formation Calendar)		

GATHER

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Gather meets Tuesdays
from 6:15 - 7:30 pm
Please consider
joining our Core Team
email: will@stmm.net



[Please click HERE for more information](#)

GATHER
the way
EDGE
ROCK
APOSTELLO

**Registration is open
Register Now**

Late Fees apply after 8/30/25

www.stmm.church/religious-ed

Questions K-4: will@stmm.net
Grades 5-8: ritchie@stmm.net
Grades 9-12: furnier@stmm.net

[Please click HERE to register for Religious Education](#)

ST. MARY MAGDALENE
YOUTH MINISTRY

High School Beach Retreat



AUGUST 15-17, 2025
FORT CASWELL
OAK ISLAND, NC
REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 1ST
\$250

[Please click HERE to register or for more information](#)

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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