

## A Note from Father Francis

### FRIENDSHIP AND RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Just created for a relationship or more than that, I'm just wondering!!! In my mother tongue, friendship is **OBUNYWANI/KUNYWANA**, and it refers to a bond of connectedness, intentionally built on trust and mutual respect between two individuals. We also use **obunywani** referenced as **veins** (blood vessels) purposefully knotted, or for mutual support like the case of the **rib cage**. Whereas **relationship** is an automatic connection resulting from the very creatural nature of man/woman. And thus, man (being with physical body, life, and force) vertically relates with the Creator, and horizontally with others (no choice needed).

Carrying from the above, we see that by nature we are relational beings, and as such, our existence, identity, growth, development, and influence is compulsorily with others. However, the quality of this relationship is determined by the way we treat ourselves and/or others.

Relatedly, my question: Is it satisfactorily enough to be in relationship with God and/or others, or is there need to strive for friendship?

As far as the Bible is concerned, choice is the bedrock on which friendship with God is built: "but to you, Israel, my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham my friend..." (Is 41:8), and requires faith, trust, and obedience. James 2:23: "...Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness, and was called the friend of God," just like in John 15:15, Christ chose and called His disciples friends.

By enduring faith and obedience, I see, we too can be chosen to be God's friends. We can intentionally also choose friends among ourselves who will purposefully walk side by side with us, or who can pave the way for our destiny.

I pray for you to move from casual relationships to meaningful friendship in our journey of faith.

I love you.

God is good.

Fr. Francis

[Giving Portal](#)

### Upcoming Events & Mass Intentions

#### Saturday July 12

10:30am- Confessions

5pm- Mass (Erwin Kejwal †)

#### Sunday July 13

9am- Mass (Carol Angelo †)

10:15am- Breaking Open The Word

### Mass This Weekend

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

#### Music for Sunday Masses

**Gathering:** Canticle of the Sun

**Responsorial Psalm:** 69 Turn to The Lord

**Preparation:** Canvas and Clay

**Communion 1:** The Servant Song

**Communion 2:** Communion

**Communion 3:** Gratitude

11am- Mass (Parishioners of StMM)

#### **Monday July 14**

9am- Mass (Jeannette Keane)

6:30pm- Family Rosary

#### **Tuesday July 15**

9am- Mass (Joseph McCormick †)

#### **Wednesday July 16**

9am- Mass (Elise Walleser †)

10am- Forward in Hope

#### **Thursday July 17**

9am- Mass (Kelsey Tuning)

9:50am- Morning Rosary with CSO

#### **Friday July 18**

9am- Mass (Anna & Geronemo Araujo †)

#### **Saturday July 19**

10:30am- Confessions

5pm- Mass (Joseph & Agnes Bakers †)

#### **Sunday July 20**

9am- Mass (Randy and Connie Awrey)

10:15am- Breaking Open The Word

11am- Mass (Parishioners of StMM)

**Sending Forth:** How Can I Keep from Singing

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This week's altar flowers are **donated by:**

**Angela Hicks**

**In memory of  
William L. Hicks -  
The Hicks Family**

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)

**Save  
the  
Date**

**Tuesday, July 22nd  
7 - 8pm in the Church**

## **Celebrate the feast of St. Mary Magdalene**

Join us on July 22 from 7–8 PM in the church for an unforgettable evening filled with music, dancing, piano performances, and choir singing by parishioners of all ages. There will be several opportunities for audience participation throughout the program. Don't miss this joyful night of praise and community. A reception will follow, hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

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



**Calling All  
Prayer  
Warriors -  
Leadership  
Opportunity!**  
Do you have a  
heart for prayer  
and a desire to

see God move through intercession? Our Prayer Team is seeking new leadership! If you feel called to inspire, organize, and guide others in faithful, Spirit-led prayer, we invite you to prayerfully consider stepping into this meaningful role. For more information, contact Julie at [stmmprayerteam@stmm.net](mailto:stmmprayerteam@stmm.net)



**Msgr. Staib is  
on Divine  
Mercy Radio**

Monsignor Staib has been featured twice recently on Divine

Mercy Radio—once today, where he reflected on the [parable of Jonah](#), a story that holds great importance in the lives of many. He also [appeared in April](#), sharing an overview of his priesthood, ministry, and life in North Carolina.



**Gardening  
Ministry**

Helpers needed for our outdoor gardening ministry on campus! If you

can spare an hour or two and you enjoy gardening, pruning, and weeding, we need you!! For more information please call Angelika at (516) 510-1722.

# Church News, School News, Ministries, Groups, and Events

Please click on the link for more information.

## Church News

### Parish Office- Summer Hours

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Mon - Fri  
or by appointment.

- [Baptism Information](#)
- [Safe Environment Training for Volunteers](#)
- [OCIA \(Order of Christian Initiation\)](#)  
For those looking to become fully initiated into the Catholic Faith. New cohort started on 7/7.
- [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.
- [Young Men's Retreat for High School Students 7/21 to 7/24](#)
- [Join Father Mike on a Pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes, & Spain from 4/28/26 through 5/8/26.](#)
- [Sound and Video System Help is Urgently Needed at StMM.](#)
- [Breaking Open The Word](#) is a new weekly Gospel discussion group starting on 7/13 after the 9am Mass.

## School News

- [StMM School Tours for Prospective Students](#)
- [StMM School is hiring for the 25-26 school year.](#)

## Ministries, Groups, & Events

- [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.

## Ministries, Groups, & Events

- [Habitat for Humanity-](#) Join other StMM parishioners on Sat, 8/9, to help build homes for those in need.
- [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 Podcast Series](#) will be held during the summer at StMM & a Book Study in Sept.
- [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.
- [Lily of the Valley Catholic Ministry](#) is hosting a women's retreat at Our Lady of Lourdes on 9/5-9/6 for women who have experienced pregnancy loss or infertility.
- [The Gabriel Project](#) at StMM has joined with other parishes to assist mothers in need, so no mother is ever alone. An orientation session is at Our Lady of Lourdes on 7/13.
- [Calling all Prayer Warriors-](#) Leadership Opportunity with StMM Prayer Team.
- [Dr Paul A. Byrne](#), a neonatologist and pediatrician, will speak at Our Lady of Lourdes on July 30 on Creation, Conception, and the

- Gabriel Project Ministry is holding two baby showers at StMM to collect needed donations, one on Mon, July 14 and one on Sat, July 19. Refreshments provided.

Continuum of Life.

## Pictures of the Week



Thank you to all the volunteers who made the Migrant Meal Dinner at St. Bernadette a huge success on July 29th. We couldn't have done it without you!



## Congratulations to Sr. Karith Michael of Sorrowful Mother!

One year ago, Angelica Dizon from our parish entered the Carmelite Monastery in Little Rock, Arkansas. On June 15, 2025, she celebrated her Clothing Day—a beautiful and sacred moment when a Carmelite receives the habit and a new religious name. She is now officially a Carmelite Nun.

Sr. Karith shared the meaning behind her name:

Karith is derived from Cherith, the brook in the Book of Kings where God provided for Elijah during a drought. It's a powerful symbol of God's provision and our dependence on Him.

Michael honors St. Michael, the patron saint of her family, and was also the name that Sr. Bernadette, the oldest nun in the convent (who passed away on January 3), wanted her to have.

"Of Sorrowful Mother" reflects her deep devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows, who she says "understands what love is."

Sr. Karith (Angelica) asks us to pray for her—let's keep her close in our hearts and prayers as she continues her journey. ☐

Watch Sr. Karith's Clothing Day ceremony on YouTube [HERE](#)




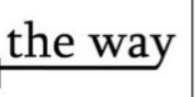

For vocational inquiries please visit their [website](#) or email: [vocations@littlerockcarmel.org](mailto:vocations@littlerockcarmel.org)

**FOLLOW StMM  
ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



**Faith Formation**



				
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	StMM Gym	StMM Church	
StMM Church & School	StMM 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](mailto:will@stmm.net)



[Please click HERE for more  
information](#)

**Registration opens July 1st**

**Late Fees apply after 8/30/25**

[www.stmm.church/religious-ed](http://www.stmm.church/religious-ed)

Questions K-4: [will@stmm.net](mailto:will@stmm.net)  
Grades 5-8: [ritchie@stmm.net](mailto:ritchie@stmm.net)  
Grades 9-12: [furnier@stmm.net](mailto:furnier@stmm.net)

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

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](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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