

A Note from Father Mike

This weekend's gospel reading gives us one of the most memorable of Jesus' parables. It has inspired artists down through the ages. No matter how many times we read the parable of the Prodigal Son, it always retains its power to move us and to astonish us. The story is told entirely in human terms, but what it reveals to us is the compassionate love, the patience, and the mercy of God.

Jesus depicts the father in this parable as a portrayal of God the Father, as well as being a portrayal of his own ministry. Jesus portrays a God who welcomes those who turn back to him when they stray. He reveals a God who seeks out the lost and the straying, just as the Father sought out his lost son by running to him, while the son was still a long way off. The parable suggests that the love of God the Father is never in doubt. What is in doubt is our openness to receive this love, which transcends all human loves.

Despite the love revealed in this parable, some families in our world struggle to show love and forgiveness, when they feel hurt by their children. Many of us have probably heard of the poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning. She was the daughter of a very wealthy family, who lived in the early 1800s. Elizabeth Barrett's poems were very popular. They caught the attention and admiration of the writer Robert Browning. Their correspondence, courtship, and marriage were carried out in secret, for fear of her father's disapproval. Following the wedding, she was disinherited and disowned by her father. Elizabeth, however, wrote to her parents almost every week, telling them that she loved them and longed-for reconciliation. After about 10 years, Elizabeth received a large box in the mail. It contained all the letters she had sent her parents. Not one had been opened. It is sad to think that Elizabeth's own parents never read these "*love letters*". Had they looked at just one, the broken relationship with their daughter might have been healed.

As we reflect on Elizabeth's story and on this parable, it can help remind us of our need for conversion, forgiveness, perseverance, patience, and humility. It can help remind us that God loves us with a radical love. We are called to follow his lead by loving God and loving and forgiving our family and friends as our Lord has taught and modeled for us.

In His Love,

Fr. Mike Coveyou

[Giving Portal](#)

Upcoming Events & Mass Intentions

Friday Mar 28

10am- 25 Hours of Adoration starts
7pm- Stations of the Cross

Saturday Mar 29

10:30am- Confessions
5pm- Mass (Parishioners of StMM)

Sunday Mar 30

9am- Mass (Jack Gabler +)
11am- Mass (Gloria Jones +)

Monday Mar 31

9am- Mass (Margaret Sansone)
6:30pm Family Rosary

Tuesday Apr 1

9am- Mass (Jackson Allen +)

Wednesday Apr 2

9am- Mass (Healing for Collette Thomas)
7pm- Frassati Young Adult Meeting

Thursday Apr 3

9am- Mass (Carol Negri +)
9:50am Morning Rosary with CSO
6:30pm Bible Study

Friday Apr 4

9am- Mass (MaryAnne Pekar +)
Stations of the Cross to follow Mass
First Friday Adoration to follow Stations
5:30pm- Knights of Columbus Fish Fry
7pm- Stations of the Cross

Saturday Apr 5

10:30am- Confessions
5pm- Mass (Parishioners of StMM)
6:15pm- Extraordinary Minister Training

Sunday Apr 6

9am Mass (Betty Martis +)
11am Mass (Rick & Mary Ann DeSerafino)

Mass This Weekend

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

Music for Weekend Masses

Gathering: Entrance Antiphon

Responsorial Psalm: 34 Taste and See

Preparation: Return To The Lord

Communion 1: Pange Lingua

Communion 2: In Christ Alone

Communion 3: In These Days of Lenten Journey

Sending Forth: This Is Amazing Grace

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Lenten Penance Schedule

Tuesday, Apr 1

11am- Our Lady of Lourdes
7pm- St. Catherine of Sienna

Wednesday, Apr 2

7pm- St. Raphael

Friday, Apr 4

10am- St. Michael

Tuesday, Apr 8

7pm- Holy Name of Jesus

Altar Flowers



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

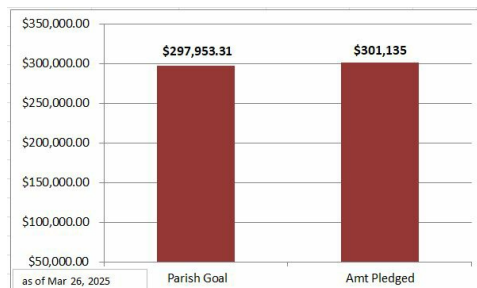
BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Thank you! We've reached our goal!



essential programs. **Thank you for your support!**

We are deeply grateful for your support of the 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal! We raised \$301,135, surpassing our parish goal of \$297,953.31. Your contributions will make a **significant difference** in supporting the Diocese's





St Mary Magdalene's 25th Anniversary Celebration 25 Hours of Adoration in the Chapel March 28th through 29th



Everyone is invited to spend some time with our Lord in Adoration! As part of our 25 Year celebration, we will be holding **25 hours of Adoration** in the Chapel from Friday, March 28th through Saturday, March 29th.

Adoration starts after the Stations of the Cross on Friday morning, March 28th, and continues until 11am on Saturday, March 29th.

Please note: for the safety of our parishioners, the chapel doors will be locked from 10pm Friday night to 6am Saturday morning.

~THANK YOU~

to the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal & Marie Miller!



We are deeply grateful to the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and Marie Miller for offering such an incredible Parish Lenten Mission at StMM. Each evening was unique and spiritually enriching for all who attended. We can't thank the Friars enough for their profound scriptural insights, powerful testimonies, and the intimate experience of Adoration on Wednesday night. All of this was accompanied by the spiritually uplifting music provided by Marie Miller, which truly enriched our time of worship and reflection as a community.



Please take a moment to watch as Fr. Innocent from the Friars expresses his gratitude for the NC Mission and shares ways you can support their ministry and keep in touch.

The Friars rely on outside donations to sustain their work. If you would like to show your appreciation and contribute, you can make a donation through StMM by clicking [HERE](#), or directly on the Friars' website by clicking [HERE](#) (please specify that the donation is for the NC Mission).

The Friars are very grateful for your support!

If you'd like to see more pictures from the Lenten Mission, make sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



Church News, School News, Lent & Easter information, Ministries, Groups, and Events

Please click on the link for more information.

Church News

- StMM Tax Statements for 2024
- Baptism Information
- Safe Environment Training for Volunteers
- Commemorative Bricks
- OCIA- Order of Christian Initiation for Adults
- OCIA Prayer Corner
- Study of the Torah with Deacon Dev
- First Friday Eucharistic Adoration
- Adult Faith Refresher & Confirmation Prep with Deacon Rick
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Training 4/5 & 4/7
- Divorced Catholics Seeking an Annulment
- Young Men's Retreat for High School Students 6/21 to 6/24
- Priesthood Discernment Pilgrimage
- StMM 25th Anniversary Events

School News

- StMM School Tours for Prospective Students
- Creative Calm: A Mindful Workshop for Teens 11-14yrs, on 3/18 to 4/22
- Therapeutic Summer Camp for 3rd-5th Grades in June- Register by 5/30
- StMM School Summer Camps Open to Parishioners - 6/9 through 6/27
- Vote for StMM's 4th Grade class on Divine Mercy Radio 4/2 and 4/3

Lent & Easter

- Stations of the Cross will be held twice a day on the Fridays in Lent
- Dynamic Catholic Best Lent Ever
- Ignited by Truth Catholic Conference in Raleigh on 4/4-4/5
- Hallow Pray 40

Ministries, Groups, & Events

- Knights of Columbus Fish Fry on 4/4- PreOrder Now
- Mulholland Columbiettes Easter Egg Hunt on 4/13- Register [HERE](#)
- Parish Athletics Spring Soccer and Baseball
- CSO Catholic Senior Organization for women and men 60+
- Prayers & Squares Prayer Quilt Ministry
- Prayer Team -Sign up to request prayers or to join prayer team
- 40 Days for Life- Sign up for Vigil Hours during Lent
- Women's Retreat for those who have been sexually abused
- Traveling St. John Vianney Ministry- sign up to pray for our priests
- Power & Purpose Conference in Steubenville, OH on 6/20-6/22
- Worldwide Marriage Encounter on 5/2-5/4
- Frassati Young Adult Group Upcoming Events
- 31st Annual Run for Life benefiting Birthchoice on 4/12
- Project Rachel Support Group - for hope and healing after abortion
- Family Honor's Real Love & Real Life: Living the Faith 3/28-3/29
- Creative Calm: A Mindful Workshop for Teens 11-14yrs, on 3/18 to 4/22
- Therapeutic Summer Camp for 3rd-5th Grades in June- Register by 5/30
- Courage - A support group for those facing same-sex attraction
- Encourage- A support group for relatives of people who experience same-sex attraction
- Respect Life Monthly Prayer Guide for March 2025
- Career Network Ministry is presenting a Speed Networking Workshop on 4/10
- Caring for God's Planet - Fish Fry

- Knights of Columbus Fish Fry on 4/4- PreOrder Now
- Mulholland Columbiettes Easter Egg Hunt on 4/13 -Register [HERE](#)
- Pysanky Workshop to Decorate Eggs on 3/30

Compost Success!

- Walking with Purpose bible study for Catholic Women on 4/10
- Girl Scout Troop 1161 invites girls PreK to K, to learn about their troop on 4/6

Pictures of the Week



The Mulholland Columbiettes welcomed 5 new members into their auxiliary on March 17: Denice Medlin, Judith Kinsella, Kathy Garcia, Sharon Martin, and Karen Smith.



Walking with Purpose hosts a bible study for Catholic women.

FOLLOW StMM ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Faith Formation

[Click Here for the 2024-25 Faith Formation Calendar](#)

Next Night of

Tuesday
April 8

6:15 pm
Church

Questions:

For **GATHER**, contact Suzanne Will at will@stmm.net or 919-657-4800 x7280

For the **ROCK** contact Sarah Ritchie at ritchie@stmm.net or 919-657-4800 x7307

StMM Middle and High School Youth Ministry

The ROCK Retreat, "Meant for Greatness" is **rescheduled** for **Sunday, April 27th**, at StMM from

Camp Hidden Lake deposit:
Open to all current 6th- 8th



1:00pm to 5:45pm.



graders for summer 2025! All those interested in summer camp please secure your spot. The link below is \$100

deposit for camp in Georgia. DUE: February 3rd!

[Click here to pay the deposit](#)



Appalachia Service Project (ASP)
St Mary Magdalene Catholic Church serves each summer

with Appalachia Service Project (ASP). Appalachia Service Project is a nonprofit ministry focused on relationship building and home repair, making homes warmer, safer, and drier. **StMM will serve in Appalachia from June 22-28, 2025.**

[Click here to register](#)



Life Teen Camp Covecrest: Want to join us at camp? Contact Niki for more information! Registration and deposits can be completed by clicking the link below.

[Click here to register](#)

Questions:

For **EDGE**, contact Sarah Ritchie at ritchie@stmm.net or 919-657-4800 x7307

For **Apostello and the Way**, contact Niki Furnier at nfurnier@stmm.net or 919-657-4800 x7309

For **Confirmation**, contact the coordinator at confirmation@stmm.net

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