

A NOTE FROM FATHER MIKE

In the Gospel reading this weekend, Jesus gives us a powerful image: "I am the gate for the sheep." Not just a shepherd, but the gate itself. At first, that might sound strange. A gate is something simple, even ordinary. Yet let us think about what a gate does. It protects and it guides. The gate decides what comes in and what stays out. Jesus is telling us that he is the one who guards our lives, the one who leads us to safety, and the one who opens the way to something greater.

We see that gate opening to something greater for our 120 young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation this week. We see throughout history how ordinary people were transformed when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Think of the apostles before and after Pentecost. Before, they were unsure, afraid, and hiding. After, they were bold, joyful, and unstoppable. What changed? Not their personalities, not their backgrounds, but the presence of God alive within them.

God does not just invite us to believe from a distance. He invites us into a relationship that transforms how we live, how we choose, and how we love. Confirmation is not graduation from church, it is commissioning for a mission. We are being entrusted with gifts like wisdom, understanding, courage, and more. These are tools for real life. When we face pressure to follow the crowd, the Spirit gives us courage. When we are confused about what is right, the Spirit gives us understanding. When someone is hurting, the Spirit moves us to act with compassion.

Remember, the Holy Spirit moves through us, so the world can truly see and feel how deeply God loves them.

In His Love,

Fr. Mike

[Giving Portal](#)

LET YOUR FAITH FLOW

Help Us Bring Clean Water to Uganda



Fr. Francis has been a true blessing to our St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church & School community, sharing his faith, joy, and many gifts with us. Now, we have a special opportunity to give back to him and to his home and parish communities in Uganda.

St. Mary Magdalene is proud to launch the Uganda Water Project, bringing life-changing access to clean water for the people of Uganda. By helping to build a community well or water catchment system, we can provide clean, reliable water to hundreds of people, something many of us take for granted every time we turn on the tap.

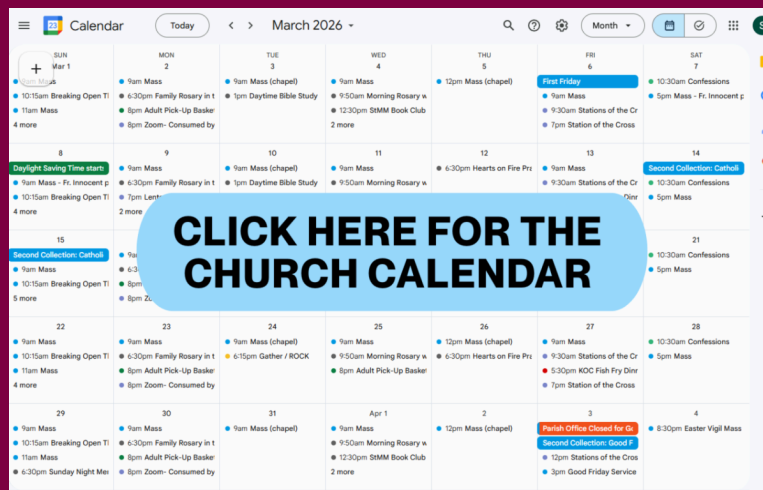
Every drop counts. Together, we can unite our generous StMM community with our brothers and sisters in Uganda in a powerful way. Your support will make a lasting difference. Donate below to help us let faith and love flow across the world.

Father Francis is deeply grateful and humbled by your continued support of his home community.

Uganda Water Donation

More information about the Uganda Water Project, plus videos of Father Francis' friends and family gathering water, can be found on our website [HERE](#).

Our calendar is now available online! Click [here](#) to view our new Google Calendar, where you can click on each event for more details.



FOR BEST VIEWING, OPEN THE CALENDAR ON YOUR LAPTOP OR PC

Mass This Weekend

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

Music for Easter Sunday Mass

Gathering: Alleluia Entrance Antiphon

Responsorial Psalm: 23: The Lord is my Shepherd



Would you like to donate flowers to beautify the altar and church for weekend Masses? If so, please go [here](#) to sign up.

Flowers may be donated to mark a special occasion or made in honor or in memory of your loved ones. Questions? Please email floralministry@stmm.net

Preparation: I Know a Name
Communion 1: O God My Soul is Thirsting
(Psalm 63)
Communion 2: Holy Spirit
Communion 3: I'm The Good Shepherd
Sending Forth: Your Love Defends Me

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Road construction and resurfacing work will be taking place in neighborhoods surrounding St. Mary Magdalene in the coming months. This work is part of the Town of Apex's

ongoing street maintenance efforts and may impact traffic patterns in the area. We will share more specific dates and updates as they become available. Information on the road construction may be found [HERE](#).

A yellow envelope with a white label. The label has the text "Parish Life Center" at the top, followed by "Amount: \$ _____", "Envelope No. _____", "Name _____", and "Address _____". At the bottom, it says "St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church - Apex, NC". There is a small logo on the left that says "Building Faith Together".

Are you making a payment to the Parish Life Center?

To help keep everything

organized and ensure your payments are properly credited, please use these designated envelopes when making your PLC contributions for the new building. Using these envelopes helps reduce confusion and allows us to process your gifts more efficiently.

Envelopes are available in the narthex, at the parish office, or can be mailed to you upon request.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

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.

StMM Ministry and Group Events

APRIL



Come get your Columbiettes Cookbook 'Taste and See' sales after all Masses Apr 25-26! The cookbooks are chock full of the Columbiettes' favorite family recipes and a few from our priests and deacons, too! They make perfect Mother's Day, Father's Day, bridal shower, housewarming, hostess gifts! This is the last holiday special close out sale of \$20 per book, while quantities last. They also have combo sets gift wrapped with the incredible tomato slicer knife every kitchen needs!

Once they're gone, they're gone! We take cash, check or charge. Contact Linda Hergenroeder for more details, lhergens@bellsouth.net.



Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you an adult interested in becoming fully initiated into the Catholic faith? Are you a baptized Christian looking to receive the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation? Then you owe it to yourself to get more information on the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). While coming to know Jesus and His invitation to become a disciple, the OCIA process involves the journey of faith and conversion. A person is introduced to the beliefs, life, liturgy, and apostolic work of the Catholic Church. **The next OCIA journey begins on April 27, 2026 for those who wish to be initiated into the Catholic faith.** Please contact Deacon Rick at stevens@stmm.me or 908-910-0309 for more information or to register. **Advance registration is required.**



Forward in Hope is a grief ministry for parishioners who have lost a loved one, with a new session beginning April 29, 2026. The ministry offers a compassionate, faith centered space where those who are grieving can find comfort, connection, and hope in Christ. Through six week sessions, participants are guided by scripture, invited to share their experiences, and supported by others who understand loss. While each grief journey is unique, this ministry helps connect the bereaved with the Church, the community, and the healing presence of the Lord. Rooted in Catholic teaching, Forward in Hope places Jesus at the center of the healing journey and invites participants to entrust their loss and loneliness to Him. Please email stmmForwardinHope@stmm.net or call 919-657-4800 ext 7280

May

LIVING THE GOSPEL
THE CATHOLIC DOCTRINE ON IMMIGRATION

TUESDAY MAY 12TH, 2026 7:00PM-8:30PM IN THE CHAPEL

Presentation by Deacon Joshua Klickman, M.A.

Guest Speaker: Father Francis

Guest Speaker: Consuelo Kwee

Care for God's Planet Team invites you to join them for a meaningful conversation on immigration and Catholic social teaching on **Tuesday, May 12, from 7:00 to 8:30pm**. They are honored to welcome Deacon Joshua Klickman, Coordinator of Human Life and Dignity for the Diocese of Raleigh, who will share how our faith calls us to respond with compassion, dignity, and justice. Father Francis will also present on immigration in Uganda, and Consuelo Kwee, Director of Immigration Services with the Diocese of Raleigh, will speak as well. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn, reflect, and engage in dialogue on an important issue. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments provided. [Please RSVP here.](#)

June

Worship. Study. Pray. Grow.

STEUBENVILLE CONFERENCES

Power and Purpose

JUNE 12-14, 2026

Discover your God given purpose at the Steubenville Conference: Power and Purpose, June 12 to 14, 2026.

This powerful weekend invites you to reignite your faith through dynamic speakers, meaningful worship, and authentic community. Encounter the healing power of the Holy Spirit, be inspired, and grow deeper in your relationship with Christ alongside fellow Catholics.

Join for a transformative experience of worship, study, prayer, and growth. You can register for the conference [HERE](#). Make sure to use code **26EMcCleskey** to sit with the StMM group and for other perks!

StMM Ministry News

Sign up to host one of our beautiful St. John Vianney statues in your home for a month. This is a simple but meaningful way to bring prayer into your home in a special and intentional way.

During his visit, take time each day to pray for our priests, seminarians, and religious using the prayers and resources provided. This devotion offers a powerful opportunity to support vocations and those who serve the Church, while also growing in faith through regular prayer.

Traveling St. John Vianney Ministry



Spend time in the peaceful presence of the Lord through Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a quiet opportunity to pray and reflect before the exposed Eucharist. ***Our parish is in great need of committed adorers to ensure that our Lord is never left alone during this sacred time.*** Committing to just one hour each month on First Fridays is a simple yet powerful way to grow in faith while answering this important need. Adoration begins at 9:30am following daily Mass and continues until 7:00pm in the Church, on the first Friday of every month. Please consider offering one hour to the Lord. To commit or learn more, contact Anita at alanitabecker@aol.com or call 919-280-8931.

Meetings, Events, & Information

Please click on the link for more details.



We are making improvements to our website!

As we work behind the scenes, you may notice a few minor technical glitches or broken links. Thank you for your patience while we complete these updates.

CHURCH

- Deacon Rick offers an Adult Faith Refresher & Confirmation Prep series Please click here for more information.
- 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](#).
- 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.

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 for 1st, 4th, and 6th grades.

GROUPS & MINISTRIES

- Hearts on Fire, a charismatic prayer group with Deacon Dev, meets in the Chapel 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 May 6. 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.](#)
- A Call to Prayer rosary on Zoom is held every Tuesday at noon for human dignity and immigration.
- Project Rachel retreat will be held June 12 to 14, 2026. This retreat offers a healing opportunity for individuals in need of post abortion support.
- The Knights of Columbus invite you to be part of a brotherhood of men dedicated to faith, service, and fellowship. Contact Steve at stevefitzhenry@outlook.com for more information.
- 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, and EnCourage- A support group for relatives of people who experience same-sex attraction have local chapters which meet regularly.
- Catholic Senior Organization (CSO) meets the 3rd Monday of the month. The next meeting is on Monday, May 18, at 10:30am.
- 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.
- Join the Triangle Women's Retreat on April 25 from 9:30am to 11:30am at St. Andrew's Care Center in Apex. Grow in faith through prayer and reflection. [Click here to email for information and to RSVP.](#)
- The Worldwide Marriage Encounter helps couples to communicate better in their relationship. Retreats are held throughout NC, including an upcoming weekend on May 1-3 in Raleigh.

PICTURES



Father Chris celebrated the baptism of Josephine Stein on Saturday, April 18th.



The Knights of Columbus warmly welcomed four new brothers into the STMM Council during a solemn Exemplification Ceremony in our chapel: Michael Leaser, Conrad D'Cruz, Michael Rodriguez, and Charles Jalovec. We also thank Matt Wheeler for serving as Grand Presenter and helping make the ceremony meaningful as the men begin their journey of charity, unity, faith, service, and fraternity. Interested in joining? Sign email Steve at stevefitzhenry@outlook.com.

Last week was full of excitement at StMM School, from the 3rd grade class trip to the zoo to the fun and festivities of FlutterFest. If you would like to see Father Francis try some of the carnival games at FlutterFest, be sure to check out our Facebook and Instagram channels, where videos from the event were shared. Please enjoy the pictures below from both events.

Father Francis at the zoo with the 3rd grade class.



Below, Father Francis is at FlutterFest showcasing his Uganda Water Project table, along with photos of fellow parishioners and the Knights of Columbus.



**FOLLOW StMM
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 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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