

A NOTE FROM DEACON RICK

As Easter season comes to a close, we find ourselves preparing for a birthday celebration. Because 50 days after Easter marks the feast of Pentecost. The birthday of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

In the second chapter of Acts of the Apostles, we recount the events of that glorious day. Where the Apostles are overwhelmed with a driving wind and tongues of fire came to rest upon them.

The events of that first Pentecost should remind us of our Confirmation. The day on which we received the Holy Spirit. And although we may not have experienced driving wind or tongues of fire, the day was special, nonetheless.

It's the day we received the gifts of the Holy Spirit. All seven of them. Gifts like wisdom, knowledge, understanding and fortitude. Gifts that can come in handy when we put them to good use in our everyday lives.

Wisdom, for instance, is the ability to exercise good judgment. It's grounded in common sense and comes from life experience, thoughtful reflection, and learning life's lessons. Wisdom distinguishes between right and wrong, seeks and upholds truth and justice, and balances personal good with the common good.

Knowledge is the ability to study and learn; to acquire, retain, and master a wide broad body of information; and to put it to good use for constructive purposes.

Understanding is the gift of intelligence and enlightenment. The ability to perceive, comprehend, and interpret information and to have insight and discern meaning.

Fortitude is an unwavering commitment to God or a proper course of action. It shows itself in moral strength, courage, and determination. Through patient endurance, fortitude creates in us a resolute spirit featuring stamina and resiliency.

I remember growing up my mother would always say that God helps those who help themselves. Well, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are God's answer to our prayers. They are the tools of empowerment. Allowing us to figure things out.

A good example of the gifts at work is enabling us to communicate effectively with others. We all face times where we need to have a difficult conversation with someone. It can be a friend, a boss, coworker, child or other family member.

The Holy Spirit is there to help us navigate the words with compassion, empathy and fairness.

It's up to us to lean upon the grace we received at our Confirmation to build a close, abiding relationship with the third person of the Trinity- so these gifts are always available to us. Then our celebration of the feast of Pentecost will always hold a special place in our hearts.

And so, let us pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Lord, send forth your Spirit and we shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

***O God, you have taught the hearts of the faithful-
by the light of the Holy Spirit grant that, in the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice
in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Deacon Rick

LET YOUR FAITH FLOW

Help Us Bring Clean Water to Uganda



The Uganda Water Project is a parish and school initiative dedicated to bringing clean, safe water to communities in and around Fr. Francis' home village and parish in Uganda. Many families there still walk long distances each day to collect water for drinking, cooking, bathing, and other daily needs.

Through the support of our StMM community, we hope to help fund wells and water catchment systems that can provide reliable access to clean water for hundreds of people. Access to safe water can improve health, strengthen sanitation, allow children to spend more time in school, and bring lasting hope and stability to entire communities.

Fr. Francis has been deeply moved by the incredible generosity, prayers, and compassion shown by our parish family for his homeland. Every donation, every prayer, and every act of support helps make a life changing difference for families in need.

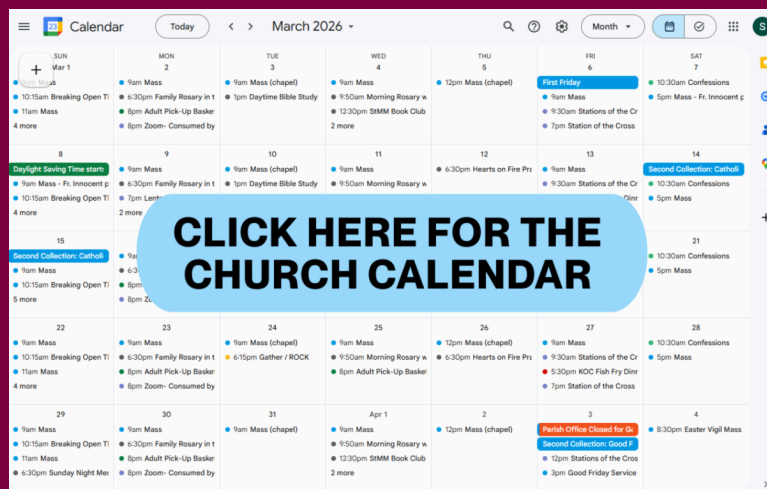
Together, we can be the hands and feet of Christ by helping bring one of life's most essential blessings to those who need it most.

Uganda Water Donation

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

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.



Mass This Weekend

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

Music for the weekend Masses

Gathering: Alleluia Entrance Antiphon

Responsorial Psalm: 104: Lord Send Out Your Spirit/Sequence

Preparation: Refiner

Communion 1: Spirit and Grace

Communion 2: Holy Spirit

Communion 3: Rest on Us

Sending Forth: This is Amazing Grace

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Starting Monday, June 8, our Parish Office summer hours will be 9am to 2pm. Regular office hours will resume on August 3. We wish everyone a safe and blessed summer!



This week's altar flowers are donated to honor **the wedding of Payton Marshall and Sean O'Hara**.

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



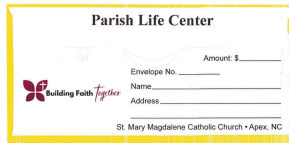
Road construction and resurfacing work will be taking place in neighborhoods surrounding St. Mary Magdalene in the coming months. This work is part of the Town of Apex's

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](#).



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.



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!**



For those who are sensitive to incense, please note that incense will be used at the 9am and 11am Sunday Masses for the following solemnities:

- May 24 - Pentecost
- June 7 - Corpus Christi

The Saturday Vigil Masses will be incense-free.

StMM Ministry and Group Events

June

SAVE THE DATE!

Knights of Columbus Pulled Pork BBQ Dinner
SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026

The Knights of Columbus
is hosting a BBQ dinner
on Saturday, June 6.



The Knights of Columbus Council 7186 is proud to host a Barbeque Dinner fundraiser at St. Mary Magdalene on **Saturday, June 6, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM.** All proceeds will go to supporting individuals in our community with intellectual disabilities (LAMB FOUNDATION OF NC).

Great Food, Great Beer, and a Great Cause!

Pre-order your food [HERE](#) or at
<https://kofc7186bbq.square.site>



Are the Columbiettes for You? Are you a Catholic woman 18 years or older, seeking ways to serve your community, grow in faith, and also to make new friends with other Catholic women like yourself? We are a network of auxiliaries spanning the US, who do good works for those in need AND strengthen bonds in our parish communities. Among our many activities, we host the annual Family, Bingo Night, Easter Egg Hunt, and popular Advent Gift /Bake Sales. We also host spiritual and social events - there is truly something for every woman at every stage of life.

We have one joining ceremony left this spring **on June 7.** This is the last opportunity until fall. If you'd like to learn more, contact us at fr.hcmulhollandcolumbiettes@gmail.com, or check out our website [HERE](#). If you are ready to join, please register [HERE](#) for the **June 7 ceremony at 1:30 pm.**



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 in Steubenville. Email powerandpurposeraleigh@gmail.com if you would like to carpool up in a passenger van with other parishioners.

StMM Ministry News



St. Mary Magdalene Church

Announcement: Prayer Ministry Renewal & Invitation

We are pleased to announce the renewal of the Prayer Ministry at St. Mary Magdalene, a sacred opportunity for our parish community to come together in faith, compassion, and intercession.

Whether you are newly called or feel led to re-engage, we warmly invite you to be part of this meaningful ministry. The Prayer Ministry serves as a spiritual support for our parish, lifting up the needs of individuals, families, and the wider community through intentional and faith-filled prayer.

Robert Gleason will be our new prayer ministry lead, and the program will begin the week of May 17. If you're

interested in joining the ministry, or if you have a prayer request, please email stmmprayerteam@stmm.me.



There are still a few of the Columbiettes' "Taste and See" Cookbooks available! 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, or hostess gifts! They are being sold at the closeout price of \$20 per book, while quantities last. There are also gift-wrapped combo sets with the incredible tomato slicer knife available!

Once the cookbooks are gone, they're gone! Cash, check or charge accepted. Contact Linda Hergenroeder for more details, lhergens@bellsouth.net.

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 ***NEW*** 2025-2026 Nine Month 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

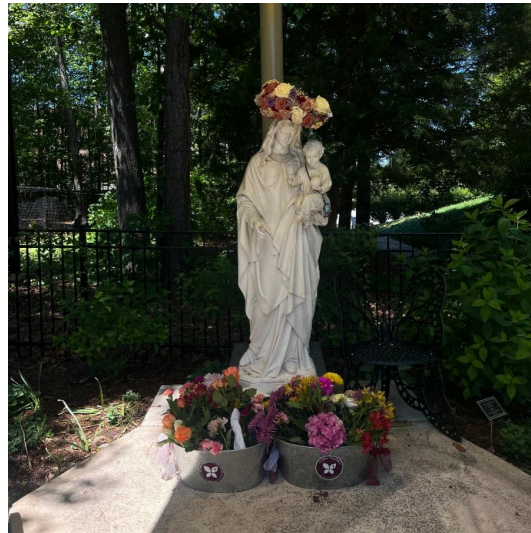
- Hearts on Fire, a charismatic prayer group with Deacon Dev, meets in the Chapel at 6:30pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.
- StMM Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month to discuss a selected reading. The next meeting is on June 3.
- Prayers & Squares Prayer Quilt Ministry
- Traveling St. John Vianney Ministry. Sign up to pray for our priests.
- Project Rachel Support Group: hope and healing after an abortion.

Everyone is welcome. Click [here](#) for more information.

- 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.
- A 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.
- Magnificat, an international Catholic women's ministry, is holding their Magnificat Meal on Saturday, May 30, at St. Ann.
- Everyone is invited to attend the Feast Day Mass of St. Josemaría Escrivá on Friday, June 26, 6pm, at St. Michael's with Bishop Luis.
- Walking with Moms in Need (Gabriel Project) is seeking volunteers to help connect mothers with local resources, including transportation, and to offer a steady, caring presence.
- Girl Scout troop 1161 is hosting a Parents' Night Out on June 5 (5:30-8:30) with pizza, games and crafts! Children in grades K-5 are invited to participate.
- Join Bishop Luis Zarama on a Catholic pilgrimage to Hungary and Poland, October 4–14, 2027 and journey together through lands rich in faith, history, and witness.
- 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.
- JobWorks was recently highlighted in an article at St. Francis. Learn more about this Career Ministry and how it supports and encourages those seeking employment.
- The Triangle Women's Morning Retreat, "Jesus and Our Father," will be held May 16 at St. Andrew. Join women from across the Triangle for a morning of faith, reflection, and fellowship.
- Join Fr. Dan Oschwald, Pastor of Mother Teresa Catholic Church, on a pilgrimage to Prague and Poland, October 8-19, 2026. There are only a few spots left, so register soon!
- Belmont Abbey's Summer Schola for High School Students offers their summer program Great Books, Great Adventure the week of July 5-11.
- The Care for God's Planet Team invites you to pray this USCCB Care for God's Creation Prayer during Laudato Si week, May 17-24.
- St. Francis is hosting a Community Wellness Fair on Saturday, May 30, featuring more than 40 local vendors, along with community resources and health screenings.

PICTURES

StMM students participated in a beautiful May Crowning on May 7, honoring our Blessed Mother with flowers and prayers, reminding us of Mary's love, humility, and faithful witness to Christ. Thank you to all of the students, faculty, and staff who helped make this special celebration so meaningful and reverent.





**FOLLOW StMM
ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



Faith Formation

Our 2026-2027 Faith Formation Calendar will be available soon!

Questions about Faith Formation:

GATHER (K to 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 to 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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