

A NOTE FROM FATHER RANDY

Week 2: Seeking Christ with an Open Heart

One of the greatest blessings of faith is discovering that God is always seeking us before we begin seeking Him. Yet for that encounter to bear fruit, our hearts must remain open and receptive to His presence.

This truth is beautifully reflected in the Gospel for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, where Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower. The seed is generously scattered everywhere, but the harvest depends on the condition of the soil. Some seed falls on the path, some on rocky ground, some among thorns, and some on rich soil that bears abundant fruit. The generosity of the Sower is never in question. The real question is: **What kind of soil am I?**

Saint Mary Magdalene became a faithful disciple because she approached Jesus with an open heart. Like all of us, she experienced struggles and disappointments, yet she remained close to the Lord. Her openness allowed God's grace to transform her life, making her the first witness of the Resurrection.

That same invitation is offered to us today. Amid busy schedules, endless responsibilities, and the distractions of daily life, our hearts can easily become crowded with worries and competing priorities. God's Word continues to be sown generously, but are we making room for it to take root?

As a parish family, we are also preparing the soil for future generations. Our vision for a new Parish Life Center is more than a construction project; it is an investment in discipleship. It will provide space for faith formation, youth ministry, fellowship, outreach, and opportunities where lives can be transformed by Christ.

I invite every parishioner to become actively involved in the life of our parish and school. Through worship, service, learning, and community, our faith grows stronger, friendships deepen, and Christ is encountered.

As we continue our journey from **Encounter to Engagement**, may the Holy Spirit make our hearts rich soil, ready to receive God's Word, grow in faith, and help others encounter the living Christ.

FR

[Giving Portal](#)

Cookies & Donuts with Fr. Randy



Please join us this weekend for cookies or donuts after Mass to visit with our new Pastor, Fr. Randy Gonzales.

Whether you've already had a chance to meet Fr. Randy or are introducing yourself for the first time, we hope you'll take a few moments to stop by, enjoy some fellowship, and help Fr. Randy get to know the wonderful parish family of St. Mary Magdalene.

Save the Date



St. Mary Magdalene Feast Day Concert!

Get ready for an evening of music, laughter, and community spirit at our Annual St. Mary Magdalene Feast Day Concert! Come enjoy free performances by our talented parish musicians and singers, plus a special guest appearance by the dancers from Starpath Dance Academy, directed by Lindsey Kaplowitz. The best part? We aren't just performing for you- **we're performing with you!** Get ready to belt out a few crowd favorites, share some laughs, and enjoy a light-hearted celebration.

Event Details

When: July 22 at 6pm

Where: in the church

Bonus: Stick around after the one-hour show for a reception hosted by the Knights of Columbus!

It's going to be a blast—bring your singing voice and come share in the fun and fellowship!

Do you know a child or teen who would like to share their musical talent at our celebration? We'd love to hear from them! Please contact our Choir Director, Andrew Witchger, at music@stmm.net.

What's new with the PARISH LIFE CENTER?



ANTICIPATED TIMELINE*



*Subject to change

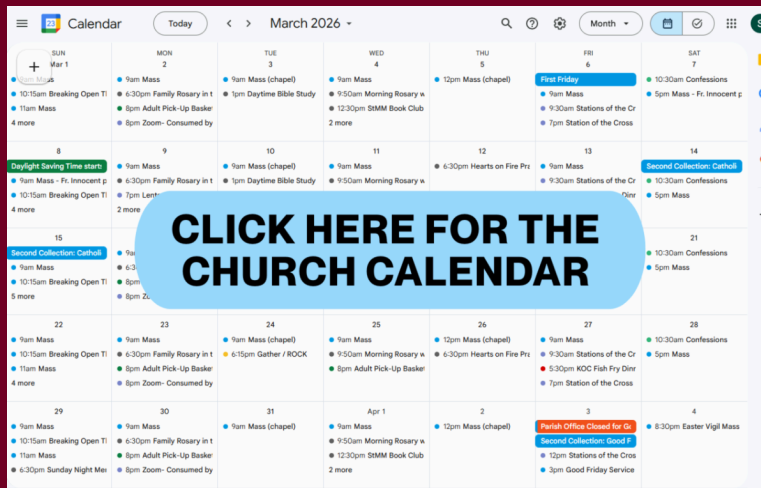
Exciting milestones are on the horizon for our Parish Life Center!

This anticipated timeline outlines the next steps ahead, from construction loan approval and permitting to groundbreaking, building construction, and the dedication of our new facility.

We are deeply grateful for everyone who has supported this important project. If you have not yet had the opportunity to participate, we invite you to prayerfully consider **making a gift** as we move closer to making this vision a reality.

Want to learn more about the Parish Life Center? Visit [our webpage](#) to explore the latest campaign updates, watch presentations from our previous receptions, discover the vision for the new building, and learn how you can support this important project.

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 the weekend Masses

Gathering: How Can I Keep from Singing

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 65: You Tend and Water

Preparation: Canvas and Clay

Communion 1: The Servant Song

Communion 2: Communion

Communion 3: Gratitude

Sending Forth: Praise You Anywhere

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blessed summer!

Over the summer, our Parish Office and Chapel hours will be from **9am to 2pm**. Regular Parish Office and Chapel hours will resume on August 3. We wish everyone a safe and



This week's altar flowers are donated by:

Doreen and Bob Gleason in memory of Stella DiStefano.

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.

Parish Life Center

Envelope No. _____ Amount: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church • Apex, NC

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!**

StMM Ministry and Group Events

July



If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, you do not have to walk the journey alone. Forward in Hope is a Christ-centered faith sharing group that provides a caring community through prayer, Scripture, faith sharing, and fellowship.

A new session begins Wednesday, **July 15 at 10am**. There will also be an evening class option.

For more information, call the parish office at 919-657-4800 ext. 7280 or email stmmForwardInHope@stmm.net



Parish Athletics Shop Weekend - 20% OFF Throughout the Store! - Friday, July 24 through Monday, July 27 - Coupon valid at ALL Raleigh area DICK'S & DICK'S House of Sport Store Locations

Save the date! Our partner DICK'S Sporting Goods is offering all our members an exclusive discount of 20% off throughout the store! Be sure to grab all the things you will need for the upcoming season as well as all the other items that you have had your eyes on for the summer! To access exclusive savings, click the coupon linked below. The coupon is valid in-store on the dates above and must be shown at the register during checkout.

[CLICK HERE FOR YOUR IN-STORE COUPON](#)

August



The Faith Formation High School Beach Retreat registration is now open!

Faith Formation High school students are invited to join us for an unforgettable weekend at the beautiful Fort Caswell Coastal Retreat & Conference Center in Oak Island, NC!

The retreat will be held August 14 to 16, 2026. The cost is \$275, which includes chartered bus transportation from St. Mary Magdalene.

Register for the Oak Island Beach Retreat **[HERE](#)**

StMM Ministry and Group News

Looking for a beautiful way to support our priests and religious? Host the traveling St. John Vianney statue in your home for a month! We provide the statue and all the prayer resources—you just provide the hearts and prayers for vocations.

With 3 statues now circulating, we have open slots ready to be filled. Let's cover our shepherds in prayer! Please sign up for a month **[HERE](#)**.



Apex-Cary Fall Soccer 2026- Register [HERE](#)

Grades: Coed, Pre-K (3-year-olds) thru 8th grade. **Dates:** August to October. **Cost:** Pre-K - \$65; K - 1st grade - \$70; 2nd - 8th grade - \$85 **Note:** Pre-k players have a combined practice/game on Saturdays. Kindergarteners thru 8th graders have one weekday practice per week and weekend games.

Apex Fall Baseball 2026- Register [HERE](#)

Grades: Coed. Pre-K (4-year-olds) thru 4th grade. **Dates:** September to October. **Cost:** Pre-K/K- \$65; 1st thru 4th grade - \$70 **Note:** PreK thru Kindergarten plays T-Ball; 1st - 4th grade play machine pitch. Pre-k and Kindergarten players have a combined practice/game on Saturdays. 1st – 4th grade have one weekday practice per week and games on Saturdays. 3rd/4th grade may be combined to one big team

that will practice and scrimmage together.

Meetings, Events, & Information

Please click on the link for more details.

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. Please note that there will be no meetings July 5 or 12 due to summer break.
- 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 Nine Month Report are available on our website.

SCHOOL

- StMM School is looking for substitute teachers for grades 6-8 for the 2026-2027 school year.
- StMM School is looking for a Grade 7 English Language Arts teacher for the 2026-2027 school year.
- StMM School is hiring a part-time Teacher Assistant for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program.

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. Please note that there will be no meetings in July.
- 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.
- The St. Andrew chapter of St. Vincent DePaul is accepting vehicle, boat, and RV donations, whether they are running or not.
- First Friday Eucharistic Adoration is a great way to spend meaningful time with our Lord. Adorers are needed, so please consider signing up for one hour once a month. Email Anita at alanitabecker@aol.com.
- Lily of the Valley Catholic Ministry is hosting a retreat designed to help women encounter Christ in the midst of their lives.
- Save the Date! Mother Teresa Catholic Church is having a craft fair on Saturday, Oct 17. Interested artists and vendors can apply now for a table.
- 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.
- 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.
- The Annual Diocesan African Heritage Mass and Celebration will be held on Sunday, August 23, at 4:30pm at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral.
- Join Divine Mercy Radio every Monday and Thursday after the 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet on Catholic 540AM for Divine Mercy Kids, a program designed to help children learn about virtues and saints.
- Catholic Homeschool Used Book & Curricula Sale plus Vendor Event will be on Saturday, July 18, from 1 to 4pm at St. Joseph Catholic Church

PICTURES



Congratulations to Francisco Marcelo Melogno, who was baptized on Saturday, June 27, by Fr. Mike.



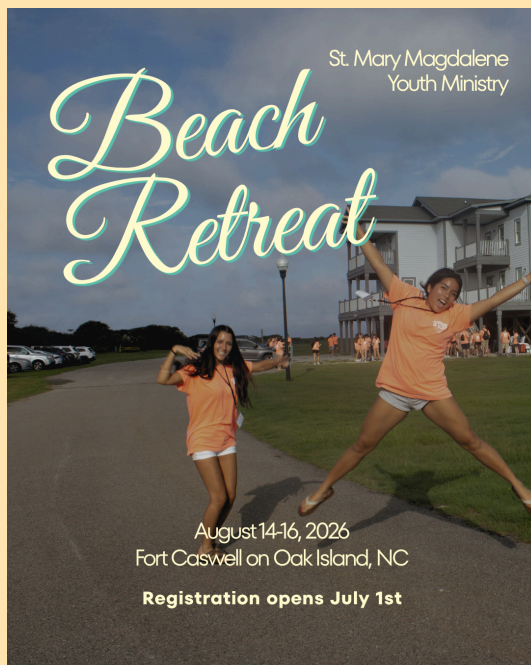
Congratulations to Matilda Caeli Seitz, who was baptized on Saturday, July 4, by Deacon Dev.

**FOLLOW StMM
ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



Faith Formation

*Our *NEW* 2026-2027 Faith Formation Calendar is available [HERE](#).*



Register for the Oak Island Beach Retreat [HERE](#)



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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