

A NOTE FROM FATHER RANDY

Week 3: The Power of Personal Encounter

Every lasting renewal in the Church begins with a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. Before there are ministries, committees, programs, or buildings, there is a heart that has met the Lord and has been transformed by His love. Throughout history, the Church has grown because ordinary people encountered Christ and responded with extraordinary faith.

In the Gospel for the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus tells the parables of the wheat and the weeds, the mustard seed, and the yeast. Each reminds us that God often works quietly and patiently. His Kingdom may begin in small and hidden ways, but through His grace it grows and bears abundant fruit.

Where does that growth begin? It begins at the altar. Every Sunday we gather around the table of God's Word and the Eucharist. Here Christ speaks to us, nourishes us with His Body and Blood, and unites us as one family of faith. But the encounter does not end when Mass is over. The altar should lead us to our tables at home, where faith is lived through prayer, forgiveness, kindness, and love within our families.

Saint Mary Magdalene understood this well. Her encounter with the risen Lord changed everything. She became the first witness of the Resurrection because she could not keep the joy of meeting Christ to herself. Her encounter became her mission.

The same is true for our parish. The future of Saint Mary Magdalene will not be shaped only by buildings but by transformed hearts. Our vision for a new Parish Life Center is important because it will provide places where faith can be formed, friendships strengthened, and disciples made. Like the mustard seed, what begins small today can become a great blessing for future generations.

As we continue our journey from **Encounter to Engagement**, may each of us renew our personal relationship with Jesus, allowing Him to transform our lives and, through us, build His Church one disciple at a time.

FR

[Giving Portal](#)

On the Horizon



Saturday
10:30am- Confessions
5:00pm- Mass
Sunday
9:00am- Mass
11:00am- Mass

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

Music for the weekend Masses*

Gathering: Rain Down

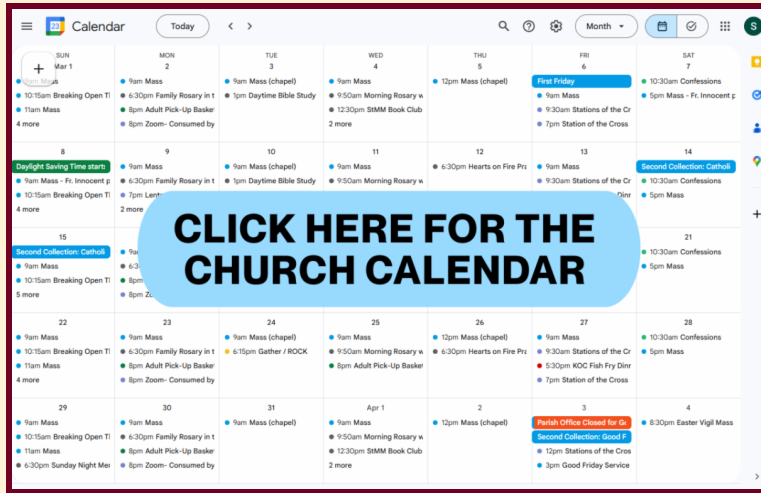
Responsorial Psalm: 86: Lord, You are Forgiving

Preparation: Unless a Grain of Wheat

Communion 1: Miracle of Grace

Communion 2: The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Communion 3: Trust in God



See the latest happenings and events at St. Mary Magdalene on our online Google Calendar, where you can click on any event to find more detailed information.

St. Mary Magdalene Concert



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

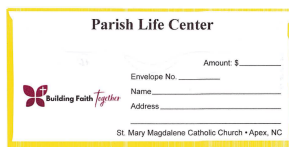
Exciting milestones are on the horizon for our Parish Life Center!

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.

Helpful Information



Are you making a payment toward 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!**



Would you like to set up an automatic bank 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.



Help bring beauty to our altar and church by [donating flowers](#) for weekend Masses. Flowers may be given in celebration of a special occasion or in honor or memory of a loved one. When flowers are donated, the donor's name and occasion are included in the weekly eNews.

Please [click here](#) to sign up. For questions, email floralministry@stmm.net.



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 blessed summer!

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](#).



StMM Ministry and Group Events

July



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



St. Mary Magdalene Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Ministry offers a meaningful way to care for others and strengthen our parish through prayer. Ministry members faithfully lift up the needs of individuals, families, and the wider community, offering spiritual support through compassionate and intentional prayer.

Those who feel called to support others through prayer are invited to join the ministry, and anyone in need of prayer is encouraged to submit a request.

For more information, to join the ministry, or to submit a prayer request, please email **stmmprayerteam@stmm.me**.

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

Grades: Coed, Pre-K (3-year-olds) through 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) through 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 into one 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.
- 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.

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 de Paul is accepting vehicle, boat, and RV donations, whether they are running or not.
- 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 and history.
- The Annual Diocesan African Heritage Mass and Celebration will

- 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.
- The Triangle Women's Morning Retreat, "Jesus Teaches the Value of the Kingdom of Heaven," will be held on July 25 at St. Andrew's Care Center.
- 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.
- Natural Family Planning (NFP) Awareness Week is July 19-25. Please [click here](#) for information and resources from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

PICTURES



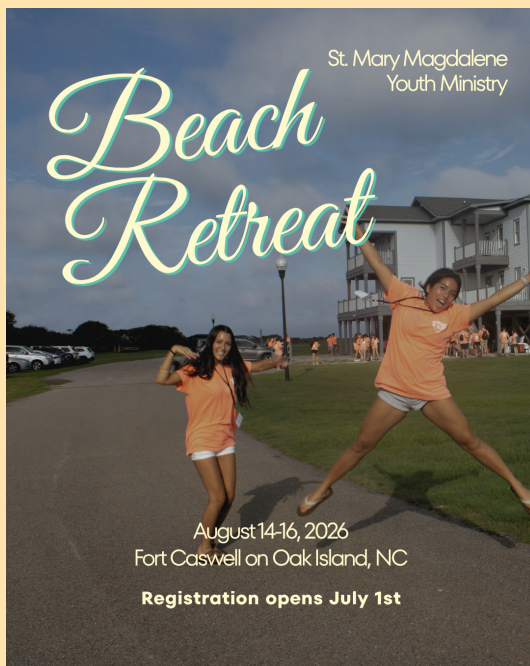
After all Masses on July 11 and 12, the Mulholland Columbiettes, pictured here, and the Knights of Columbus hosted donuts and coffee, giving parishioners an opportunity to gather, visit with Father Randy, and welcome him to StMM.

**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

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St. Mary Magdalene | 919-657-4800 | 625 Magdala Place | Apex, NC 27502 US

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