

A NOTE FROM FATHER RANDY

Called by Name: Jesus Knows Us Personally

It is a blessing to begin my ministry as pastor of Saint Mary Magdalene. I thank God for the opportunity to become part of this faith-filled community. I have already heard of the generosity, dedication, and welcoming spirit that characterize both our parish and our school, and I look forward to meeting you, praying with you, and sharing in the life of our community. I also wish to express my sincere gratitude to **Fr. Mike** for his leadership and devoted service to Saint Mary Magdalene. I pray that the Lord will continue to bless him abundantly as he begins this new chapter of priestly service.

This weekend, we also begin a year-long series of 52 weekly reflections entitled **"From Encounter to Engagement: Like Mary Magdalene, Meeting Christ and Building His Church."** Inspired by the life of our patroness, these reflections will help us deepen our friendship with Christ, strengthen family life, renew our parish, and discover the unique gifts each of us brings to the Body of Christ. Saint Mary Magdalene School shares in this same calling as it partners with families and the parish in forming young people who know Christ, live their faith, and serve others with generous hearts.

This week our nation celebrates Independence Day and the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. As we thank God for the blessings of our country, we also remember that the truest freedom is found in Jesus Christ. He frees us from sin and calls us to live with faith, hope, and charity, using our gifts for the good of others.

Our patroness reminds us that every Christian life begins with a personal encounter with the Lord. On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene recognized the risen Jesus when He simply called her by name: **"Mary."** In that moment, sorrow gave way to joy, and she became the first witness of the Resurrection.

The same Lord speaks to us in this Sunday's Gospel: **"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."** Before asking anything of us, Jesus first invites us into His presence. Every renewal in the Church begins with hearts that know His voice and trust His love.

As we look to the future, we also entrust to the Lord the vision of our new Parish Life Center. More than a building project, it is an investment in the faith of future generations—a place where children, youth, families, and parish ministries will continue to encounter Christ, grow as disciples, and strengthen the bonds that unite us as one parish family.

Please keep me in your prayers as I begin this ministry among you. Know that you and your families are remembered in my daily prayers. May Saint Mary Magdalene teach us to recognize the voice of the risen Lord, respond with generous hearts, and joyfully build His Church, one encounter at a time.

FR

[Giving Portal](#)

Introducing our new pastor, Fr. Randy

Rev. Randy Gonzales, CICM

Rev. Randy Gonzales is a missionary priest of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, commonly known as CICM (Congregatio Immaculati Cordis Mariae). CICM was founded on November 28, 1862, in Belgium by Fr. Théophile Verbist for missionary work in China. Today, CICM missionaries



continue the work of evangelization in Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas, serving the Church through intercultural missionary ministry. As an exclusively missionary congregation, CICM missionaries leave their country of birth to proclaim the Gospel in foreign lands and cultures.

Fr. Randy Gonzales was born on November 21, 1974, in the northern part of the Philippines. He entered the CICM seminary formation program in 1992. He professed his first vows in May 1997 and later made his perpetual vows in 2004. He was ordained to the priesthood on July 29, 2004.

Following his ordination, Fr. Randy received his first pastoral assignment at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, where he served from August 2004 until September 2007.

From 2007 until 2018, Fr. Randy served in a missionary promotion and development ministry for CICM in the United States. He first worked as Assistant Director and later became Director of Promotion at a 501(c)(3) mission organization dedicated to raising awareness of the Church's missionary work and supporting CICM's global missions through education, outreach, and fundraising. In this role, he traveled extensively around the country promoting missionary cooperation, mission education, and support for communities served by CICM missionaries around the world.

Fr. Randy later served as pastor of Transfiguration of Jesus Catholic Church from December 2019 until June 30, 2026.

A Thank You note from Fr. Mike

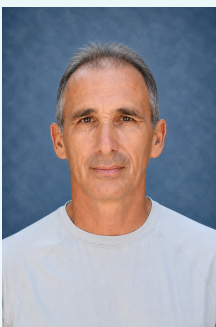
I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the many cards, gifts, prayers, and kind words you have shared with me. Your generosity, thoughtfulness, and encouragement have been a great blessing to me, and they have touched my heart more than words can express.

It has been a great privilege to serve alongside so many great people in our St. Mary Magdalene faith community. I am grateful for each of you and ask that you continue to keep Fr. Randy and I in your prayers as we both follow God's lead. Please know that you will always hold a special place in both our hearts, and we will continue to pray for God's abundant blessings on this parish community.

In His Love,

Fr. Mike

Please welcome our new Facility Manager



Please join us in welcoming Emil Landon, our new Facility Manager, to the St. Mary Magdalene team! We are excited to have Emil join us and look forward to the experience, dedication, and care he will bring to our parish. Here's what he shares about himself:

"As Facility Manager, I bring a strong commitment to creating safe, welcoming environments and ensuring smooth daily operations through leadership, organization, and hands on problem solving.

Outside of work, I am an avid soccer player and coach, and I also enjoy playing golf. Sports have shaped my discipline, teamwork, and passion for bringing people together."

If you see Emil around campus, please take a moment to introduce yourself and say hello. We're grateful to have him as part of our parish family and hope you'll join us in giving him a warm St. Mary Magdalene welcome.

Save the Date



Join the Fun: 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

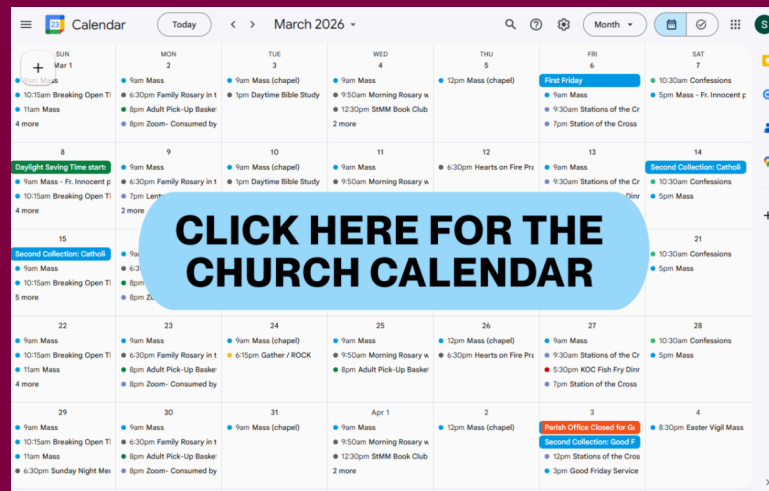
Where: in the church

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.

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



This week's altar flowers are donated by:

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

Music for the weekend Masses

Gathering: 10,000 Reasons

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 145: I Will Praise Your Name Forever

Preparation: Refiner

Communion 1: Taste and See -Angrisano

Communion 2: Come to Me (Joncas)

Communion 3: I Shall Not Want

Sending Forth: America The Beautiful

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Please note: The Parish Office will be closed on July 3rd in observance of the 4th of July holiday.

Daily Mass will be celebrated at 9am, however

First Friday Adoration will not be held and the chapel will be closed.

Kathy Shengulette in memory of Dick and Pat English.

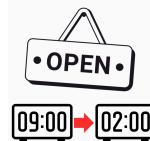
Would you like to donate flowers to beautify the altar and church for weekend Masses? If so, please go [here](#) to sign up.

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](#).



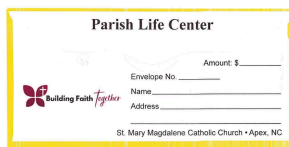
Over the summer, our Parish Office and Chapel hours will be from **9am to 2pm**. Regular Parish Office and Chapel hours will resume on August 3. We wish everyone a safe and

blessed summer!



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!**

StMM Ministry and Group Events

July

CARE FOR GOD'S PLANET TEAM

Do you feel called to serve God through social and environmental action? The Care for God's Planet Team is seeking members to help serve the parish utilizing Laudato Si' principles.

If interested, email StMMCareForGodsPlanet@gmail.com or attend our next meeting on **July 9th at 7pm in church room 1.**



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](#)

StMM Ministry and Group News



****HELP NEEDED****

StMM is looking for parishioner volunteers to join our Usher Ministry, to help at one or more of the weekend Masses. If you can offer a warm smile, greet fellow parishioners, and pass the collection basket, you already have what it takes to serve!

Volunteers aged 12 and older are preferred, but younger children are welcome to serve alongside a parent or guardian. If you are interested in helping, please email Mike Fiedler fiedler.mf@gmail.com and we will be in touch.

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.
- 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 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.
- **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.
- **JobWorks** next meeting will present **Speak Different: Tell Powerful Career Stories That Open Doors** at their next meeting on July 9 at St. Andrew.
- **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.

PICTURES





Thank you to all the volunteers and donors who made last weekend's migrant workers dinner a tremendous success! The workers were deeply grateful for the delicious meal, clothing donations, and the opportunity for fellowship.

Hosted by St. Mary Magdalene's Helping Hands Committee and held at St. Bernadette's Parish, this annual dinner supports legal migrant workers who come to our area each year to help harvest tobacco, wheat, fruits, and other crops. Their work often requires them to be away from their families for eight to eleven months so they can provide for their loved ones.

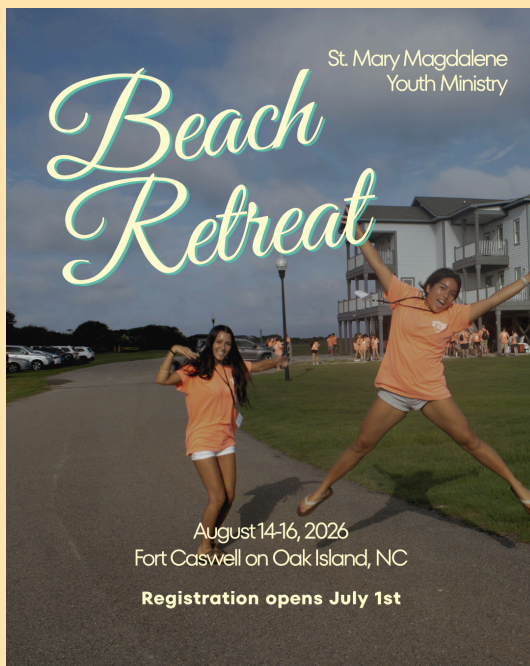
A heartfelt thank you to everyone who volunteered their time, prepared and served the meal, donated clothing and other needed items, or contributed in any way to this meaningful ministry. Your generosity and kindness were a true blessing.

**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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