

A NOTE FROM DEACON DEV

From Encounter to Engagement: Encountering Christ in Reconciliation

God is a reconciler. He wants us to love him but knows that we cannot truly love him if we're feeling guilty all the time. And he doesn't want us to avoid him because we're feeling uncomfortable. And so, through Christ's sacrifice on the Cross, God has made a way for anyone - literally, *anyone* - to freely come into union with him. It states in 2 Corinthians 5:18 that "God *reconciled* us to himself through Christ, not counting people's sins against them."

But God still wants us to recognize that we are sinners and repent. The word "repent" comes from the Hebrew word *teshuva* which means "to turn back". And so, it is more than just saying we're sorry. It's a commitment to return back to God and to doing his will in our lives. Romans 2:4 states: "Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?" In the sacrament of reconciliation, we are given the opportunity to repent and recover the grace of friendship with God.

We see a great example of this true repentance in St. Mary Magdalene. Jesus freed her from severe spiritual oppression, but from then on, she turned away from her former life and became a dedicated follower of Jesus and was present during the most important moments of his ministry.

But encountering Christ in reconciliation must open the door to reconciliation with others. Christ's sacrifice on the cross not only reconciles humanity to God but also empowers us to reconcile with one another. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2840) explains that God's mercy "cannot penetrate our hearts as long as we have not forgiven those who have trespassed against us."

The church then is the place where we encounter Christ in reconciliation. But it must also be the place where we receive the challenge to extend that same kind of compassion and forgiveness to others. In short, **we are liberated to be reconcilers.** As Christ has forgiven us, we can forgive others. And, as Christ has accepted us, we can accept others.

God bless,

Deacon Dev

[Giving Portal](#)

On the Horizon



Saturday

10:30 AM- Confessions

5:00 PM- Mass

Sunday

9:00 AM- Mass

11:00 AM- Mass

Music for the weekend Masses*

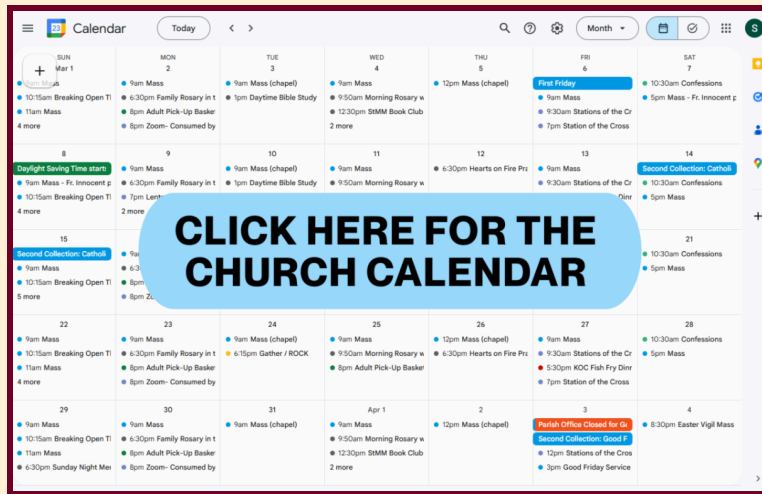
Gathering: In Christ Alone

Responsorial Psalm: 138 In the Sight of
Angels/You are

Preparation: Holy Forever

Communion 1: The Summons

Communion 2: O Come to the Altar



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.

Helpful Information



Registration is underway for all our Faith Formation programs!

Please visit www.stmm.church/religious-ed to determine which program is right for your child, then click on the appropriate Faith Formation program from the website drop-down menu to register.

The mission of St. Mary Magdalene's Religious Education program is to provide students with age-appropriate catechesis guided by biblical faith, the teachings of the Church, and a clear vision of the Gospel. We accomplish this by building upon students' life experiences, fostering family involvement, developing spirituality and involvement in liturgical prayer, encouraging moral development, and challenging students to experience faith in a spirit of joy.



Faith Formation for Children of All Abilities

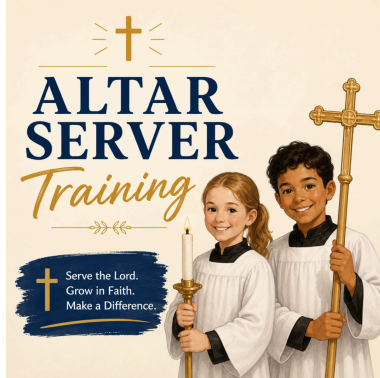
Parents, have you wanted to bring your children to faith formation but have been hesitant? Do you have a child with unique needs that would benefit from a tailored faith formation program? StMM sees you and wants to gauge interest in a program to support children of all abilities. Please contact Suzanne Will at will@stmm.net for more information.

Are you a student, young adult or teacher who would like to pass on the faith to children of all abilities? Do you have a heart to help students with additional needs? St. Mary Magdalene is exploring ways to support families with unique learners to access faith formation. This may be a great volunteer

opportunity for someone within the health, education and related therapy fields or high school students involved in Unified, Special Olympics and Pepi. Please contact Suzanne Will at will@stmm.net if you are interested.

Altar Server Training

Calling All Altar Servers!



All current altar servers are invited to join **Fr. Randy** for an evening of fellowship and training on **Friday, August 28.**

We'll begin with **pizza at 6:30 p.m. in the church patio**, followed by **altar server training at 7:00 p.m. in the church.**

This will be a great opportunity to review the different parts of the Mass, practice serving at the altar, and grow in our understanding of this important ministry.

Current altar servers are encouraged to attend, and any young people interested in becoming altar servers are also welcome.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Friday, August 28

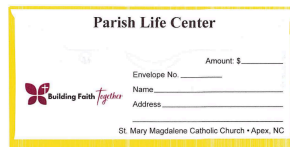
- 6:30 p.m. — Pizza in the church patio
- 7:00 p.m. — Altar server training with Fr. Randy



Fraud & Scam Awareness

Scammers often use familiar names, email addresses, or even the names of priests, parish staff, and parishioners to make their messages appear trustworthy. Please remain vigilant, especially when a message asks for money, gift cards, personal information, or urgent assistance.

To help protect yourself and our parish community from fraudulent messages, please review the information provided in [this link](#) and learn how to recognize and avoid common scams.



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 and at the parish office,

or they 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.



This week's altar flowers are donated to honor the wedding of Parker Hawkins and Ashley Angilello.

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.

StMM Ministry and Group Events

August

Registration is closing soon for the Forward in Hope Wednesday evening session beginning August 26.

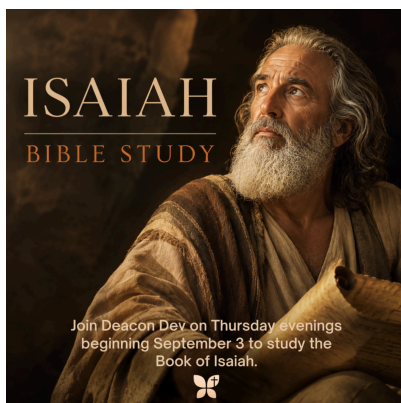
If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, you do not have to walk the journey alone. Forward in Hope is a Christ-centered faith sharing group that provides a caring community through prayer, Scripture, faith sharing, and fellowship.



A Wednesday evening session is now being offered and will begin on August 26.

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

September



Join Deacon Dev and many of your fellow parishioners for a unique study of **Isaiah**, the great prophetic book of the Old Testament. Isaiah's oracles are so fundamental to the Gospel message that the early Church often called it the "fifth Gospel."

This promises to be a richly rewarding study and we hope you will join us! Meetings will be in the StMM Church on Thursday evenings, beginning **September 3, 2026, at 6:30 PM.**

Please register [HERE](#) (register each person separately) or go to our website www.stmm.church/bible-study

Everyone is welcome!

StMM Ministry and Group News



All married couples at the parish are invited to join Chrysalis ministry as they kick off a new year. This marriage enrichment fellowship group provides space for couples to grow in their love for God and their spouse. Chrysalis meets monthly September - May from 2:45 - 4:00 PM in Meeting Room 3. This year's Sunday meeting dates are: 9/27, 10/25, 11/15, 12/13, 1/10, 2/7, 3/14, 4/11, 5/16. Childcare is provided.

They are also seeking volunteers (Level C adults & energetic teenagers) to staff their childcare team during ministry meetings. Volunteering is a great way to support strong marriages in our parish, to gain childcare experience, and to spend time pouring into the next generation of our Catholic Church!

For information about joining or volunteering with this ministry, please visit the Chrysalis website [HERE](#) or contact Brandon & Sarah Bowser at stmmchrysalis@gmail.com



Come sing, pray, and grow in faith with Hearts on Fire!

Join us for an uplifting evening filled with charismatic praise and worship, along with intercession, testimony, Scripture reading, teaching, and time together in community.

Hearts on Fire meets in the chapel from **6:30 to 8:00 PM on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month**, August through June.

All are welcome! We hope to see you there.

Questions? Please contact Deacon Dev at lobo@stmm.net.

StMM Book Club



StMM Book Club

Do you enjoy a good book and lively conversation? The StMM Book Club invites anyone who loves to read to join us for another season of reading, discussion, and fellowship!

The group reads a variety of fiction, nonfiction, and faith-based books and meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 2:30 PM, August through June, to discuss a selected book.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 2, at 12:30 PM. New members are always welcome!

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Ann Dudzinski at amdudzinski@gmail.com.

CSO

Catholic Senior Organization

Catholic Senior Organization

The Catholic Senior Organization (CSO) invites women and men ages 60+ to join us for fellowship, faith sharing, outings, and fun! CSO meets on the third Monday of each month, September through May.

The next meeting will be Monday, September 21, from 10:30 AM to noon in the Church Narthex.

Interested in joining? For more information and a complete meeting schedule, please contact Jim Schultz at 954-649-0194 or Fran Hughes at gmomfran@gmail.com.



Chrysalis Marriage Ministry seeks teen childcare volunteers

Teen Volunteers Needed for Sunday Chrysalis Childcare

Chrysalis, StMM's marriage enrichment ministry, is seeking energetic teen volunteers to help in the childcare rooms during monthly meetings. This is a great opportunity to earn service hours while making a difference.

Sessions are held one Sunday a month from 2:30 to 4:00 PM in the StMM Meeting Rooms. Volunteers may help with one, two, or all nine sessions.

To volunteer, email Brandon and Sarah Bowser at stmmchrysalis@gmail.com or click [this link](#) to join the childcare team and email list. A sign-up form will be sent each month so you can RSVP. Thank you for supporting Chrysalis!

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](#).
- 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 ***NEW*** 2026 StMM Annual Stewardship Report is available on our website.
- A **special note** from Fr. Randy, John Corcoran, and the Finance

- Breaking Open The Word is a new weekly Gospel discussion group that is held after the 9:00 AM Sunday Mass.

Committee about this year's Annual Stewardship Report can be found [HERE](#).

SCHOOL

- A part-time Aftercare Assistant is needed to supervise school-aged children in the afternoon.

GROUPS & MINISTRIES

- Hearts on Fire, a charismatic prayer group with Deacon Dev, meets in the Chapel at 6:30 PM on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.
- First Friday Eucharistic Adoration is a great way to spend meaningful time with our Lord. Adorers are needed, especially from 5 to 6 PM, so please consider signing up. Email Anita at alanitabecker@aol.com.
- Lily of the Valley Catholic Ministry is hosting a retreat on August 28-29, designed to help women encounter Christ in the midst of their lives.
- Save the date! Mother Teresa Catholic Church is holding a craft fair on Saturday, October 17. Interested artists and vendors can apply now for a table.
- Registration is now open for the next Magnificat Meal on September 12 featuring guest speaker Veronica Clark.
- The Columbiettes at StMM make custom rosaries, chaplets, and rosary bracelets. For more information, email them [HERE](#).
- St. Augustine Homeschool Enrichment holds classes at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Thursdays, starting August 27.
- The Care For God's Planet team will focus on Eco Spirituality and Education during the Season of Creation which starts on September 1 with a World Day of Prayer for Creation. More information can be found [HERE](#).
- 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 be held on Sunday, August 23, at 4:30 PM at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral.
- The Catholic Conference Center is hosting a two-night Labor Day weekend retreat called *Finding God in a New Season of Life*.
- A Women's Retreat with Sarah Hart and a concert for everyone will be held at St. Andrew's September 19 and 20.
- The Triangle Women's Morning Retreat, *Who Do You Say Jesus Is?* will be held on August 22 in the St. Andrew's Care Center.
- The Beatification of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen will occur on September 24 in St. Louis. Tickets and more information can be found [here](#).
- Bishop Zarama will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Good Health on September 12 at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Durham. All are

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invited to attend. More information can be found [HERE](#).

Faith Formation

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

More information about our Faith Formation programs can be found on our website at stmm.church/religious-ed



SERVE AT

LECTORS

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

ALTAR SERVERS

USHERS

YOUTH MASS

Interested in serving at Youth Mass? Join us on **September 2nd, at 5:30pm** in the Church for a training on all positions. Questions? Email st.aubin@stmm.me



GATHER

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Gather meets Tuesdays
from 6:15 - 7:30 pm
Please consider
joining our Core Team
email: will@stmm.net

Pictures





Fr. Francis celebrated his 13th Ordination Anniversary last Monday with parishioners, who gathered for coffee and donuts after Daily Mass in honor of his special day. Fr. Mike also joined Fr. Francis to concelebrate Mass in honor of his Ordination Anniversary.

We are so grateful for Fr. Francis and the gift of his priesthood. May God continue to bless him and his ministry for many years to come. **Happy Ordination Anniversary, Fr. Francis!**



This past weekend, 115 teens traveled by bus to Fort Caswell on Oak Island to kick off the year with an incredible Faith Formation Beach Retreat!

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ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



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

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