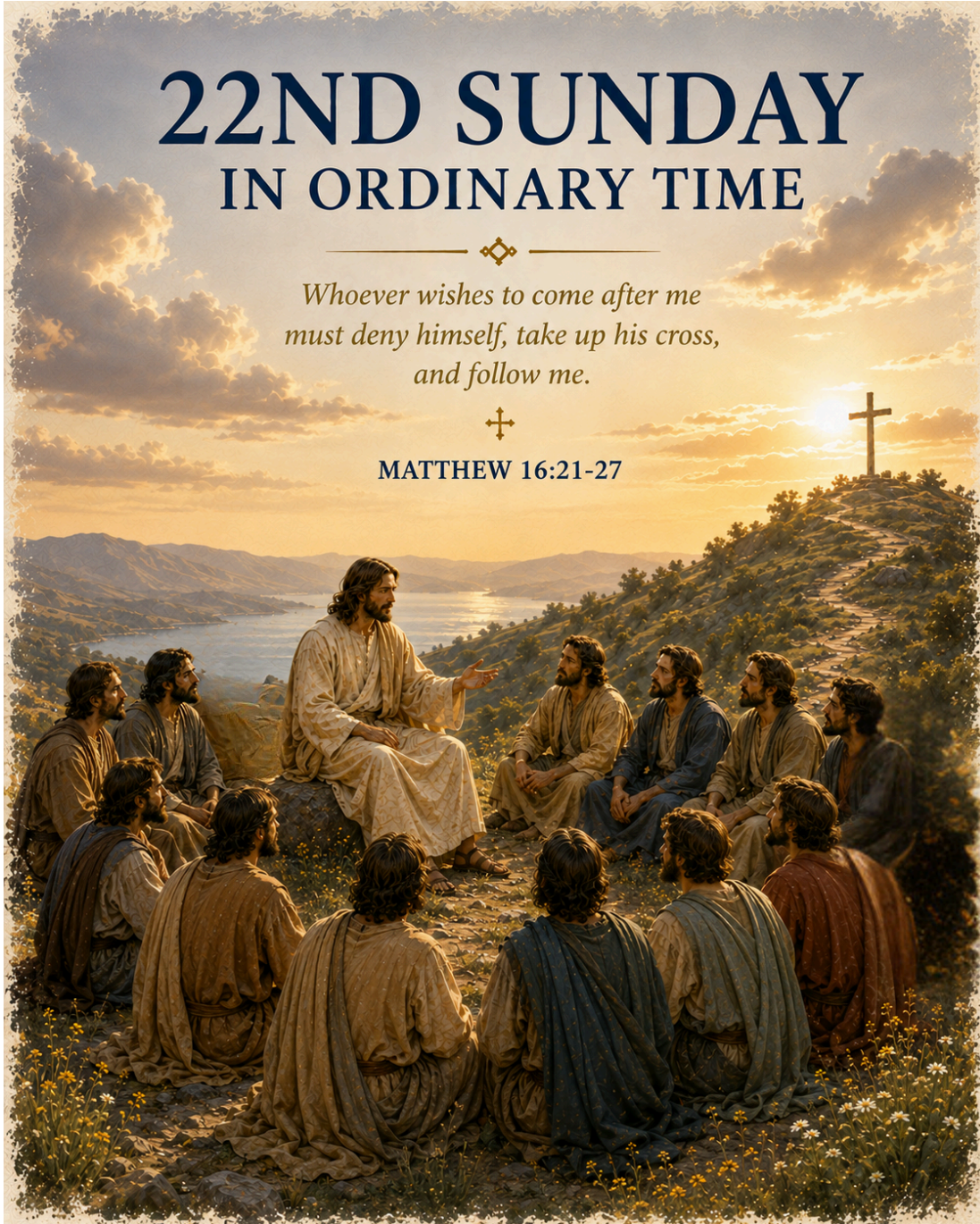


22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Whoever wishes to come after me
must deny himself, take up his cross,
and follow me.



MATTHEW 16:21-27



For Our Reflection

ENCOUNTERING CHRIST IN OTHERS

Once upon a time there lived a very wise and holy rabbi. One day the rabbi gathered a group of students and asked them this question:

“When is there enough light in the world?”

When the rabbi saw that the students were baffled, he answered his own question.

My dear students, “There is enough light in the world when it is so bright that anyone can look in the face of another and see the face of God.”

Jesus makes it very clear that the path to entering the kingdom of God lies in our caring for those in need.

Caring for others just as we would care for Jesus Himself. And isn't that what the rabbi is trying to tell us in the parable.

We're asked to be the hands and feet of Christ here on earth. But here's where we need to stop and ask ourselves, Is what we're doing bringing enough light into the world? Are we getting close enough to see the face of Christ in them?

Obviously, this covers the poor and needy.

But what about the people we encounter in everyday life? Do we take the time and effort to look at THEM and see the face of Christ?

Because if we did, we might see that while they're not lacking basic necessities, they might be lacking in emotional or spiritual necessities.

They might be suffering from a broken relationship or family illness. They might be questioning the presence of God in their lives or grieving from the loss of a loved one.

These are things that escape the eyes a lot of times. Things that we need to feel from the heart first in order for our eyes to see.

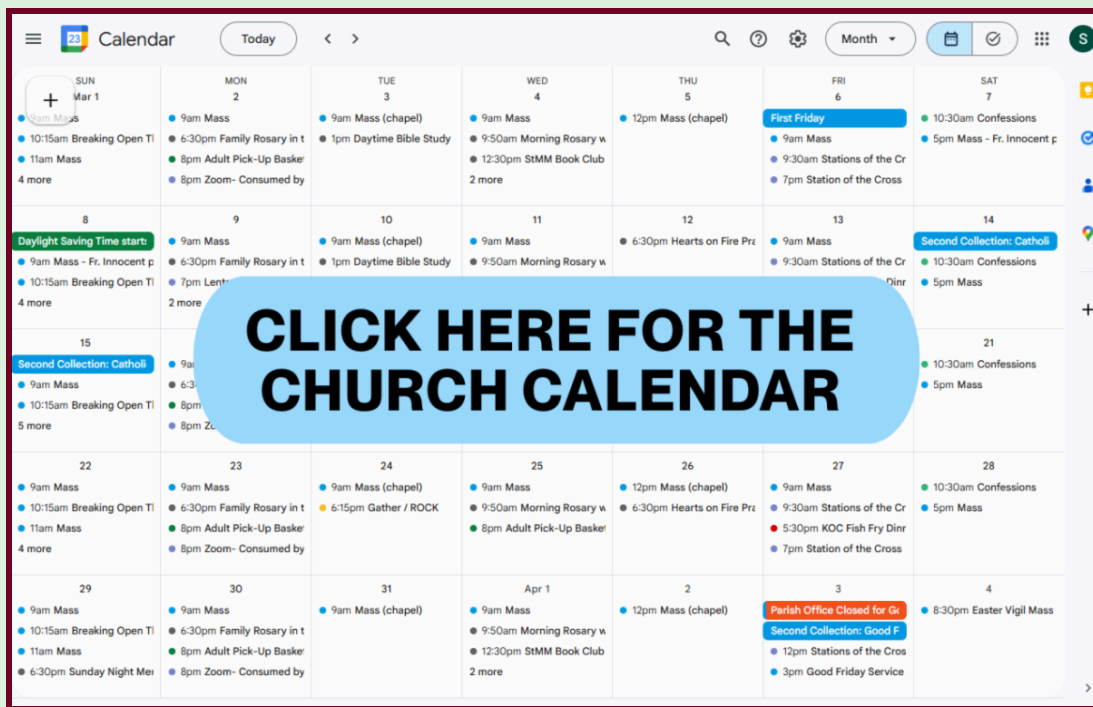
Because becoming the hands and feet of Christ here on earth may not bring enough light into the world. We have to become the heart of Christ as well.

Gestures of empathy like offering a kind word, a smile, a hug or the promise of a prayer can go a long way in accomplishing this.

Deacon Rick

[Giving Portal](#)

[This Week](#)



Saturday

10:30 AM- Confessions

5:00 PM- Mass

Sunday

9:00 AM- Mass

11:00 AM- Mass

Click [HERE](#) to livestream our **9:00 AM Sunday Mass** and our **Mon/Wed/Fri weekday Masses**.

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

Mass This Week

Music for the weekend Masses*

Gathering: Take Up Your Cross (Amazing Grace melody)

Responsorial Psalm: 63: My Soul is Thirsting

Preparation: All That is Hidden

Communion 1: Loving and Forgiving

Communion 2: Praise The Lord Forever

Communion 3: I Know A Name

Sending Forth: This is Amazing Grace



Flowers This Week

This week's altar flowers are donated by the Kaplan Family in honor of Our Blessed Mother

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.

[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

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN

TUESDAY AT 6:15PM
GATHER K-4th Grade and First Communion

SUNDAY AT 7:15PM
EDGE 7th & 8th Grade

ROCK 5th & 6th Grade

the way 9th & 10th Grade and Confirmation

REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 10TH TO AVOID ANY LATE FEES!!

SUNDAY AT 4:30PM
the way 11th & 12th Grade

For more information, visit our parish website, stmm.church

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.

SERVE AT

LECTORS

ALTAR SERVERS

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

USHERS

YOUTH MASS

Be a part of our Youth Mass!

There are so many wonderful ways for our youth to be part of the Mass!

Young parishioners interested in serving as lectors, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, or ushers are invited to join us for training on September 2 at 5:30 PM in the Church. Come learn more, get involved, and discover a meaningful way to serve at Youth Mass!

Questions? Email st.aubin@stmm.me.



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.

Volunteers Needed



Gather Needs Volunteers!

Gather is looking for volunteers to join its Core Team and help serve our children on Tuesday evenings from 6:15–7:30 PM. Please consider helping as a teacher. All materials are provided, and no experience is necessary—just a willingness to serve!

We are grateful for your support in helping the next generation grow in faith and deepen their relationship with Christ.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Suzanne Will at will@stmm.net

Magdala Stewardship

A form for a Parish Life Center envelope. It includes fields for Envelope No., Name, Address, and Amount. The form is titled "Parish Life Center" and has a logo that says "Building Faith Together". At the bottom, it says "St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church • Apex, NC".

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](#).

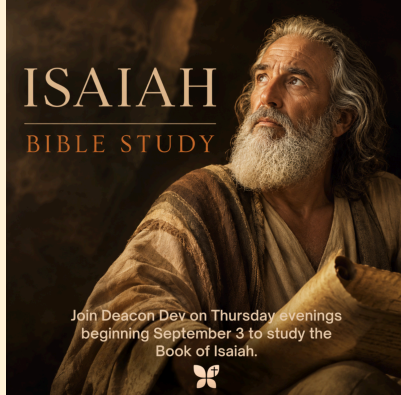
Thank you for your generosity, which in turn helps St. Mary Magdalene continue serving and supporting our entire parish community.

Magdala Ministry and Group Events

SEPTEMBER

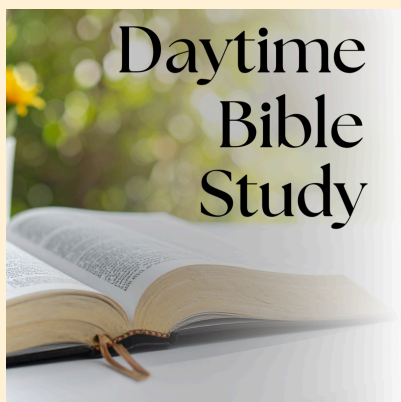
Join Deacon Dev and many of your fellow parishioners for a unique study of **Isaiah**, the great prophetic book of the Old Testament. Isaiah's oracles are so fundamental to the Gospel message that the early Church often called it the "fifth Gospel."

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 Daytime Bible Study

For the 2026-27 Season we will be studying the Catechism of the Catholic Church using materials from Ascension Press.

Foundations of Faith - A Journey Through the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The study consists of reading to be done at home from the Catechism and the workbook. We will meet on Tuesdays to watch a video and discuss the study questions. We will not be reading every line of the Catechism.

The study is 20 weeks long. We will start on **Tuesday, September 29, 2026** and go through April 20, 2027 with a few breaks.

All sessions will be on Tuesdays 1-3 pm in rooms 3, 4 of the St. MM Church building. Please contact Laurie Wendt for more information and details about ordering the materials (cost \$40). lauriewendt@gmail.com.

OCTOBER



Blessing of the Animals

In celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, bring your beloved pets for a special **Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 3**, in the courtyard in front of the church.

Blessings will take place at **9:00 AM, 9:30 AM, and 10:00 AM.**

All pets are welcome! Please be sure animals are safely leashed or secured in a carrier. We look forward to seeing our parish families and their furry, feathered, finned, and four-legged friends!

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic faith? St. Mary Magdalene's Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) **begins Monday, October 19**. OCIA offers participants an opportunity to explore the Catholic faith while being accompanied on a spiritual journey of knowing, loving, and serving God and others. More detailed information can be found [HERE](#).

Sessions will be held on **Monday evenings from 7:00–8:30 PM** and will include prayer, discussion, Scripture, and opportunities to experience the Catholic faith more fully.

For more information about OCIA, contact Deacon Rick Stevens at stevens@stmm.me



Order of Christian Initiation of Adults



Adult Confirmation Preparation

Are you an adult Catholic who has been baptized and received First Holy Communion but has not yet been confirmed? St. Mary Magdalene's **Adult Confirmation Preparation Series begins Wednesday, October 21.** This six-week series offers an opportunity to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation and deepen your understanding of the Holy Spirit and the gifts received through this sacrament. More detailed information on the series can be found [HERE](#).

Sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30–8:30 PM, followed by a mini-retreat at the

conclusion of the series. Attendance at all sessions is required.

For more information or to register, contact Deacon Rick at 908-910-0309 or stevens@stmm.me.

PARISH LIFE

A Peal for Peace



A Peal for Peace

Beginning in September, our church will join A Peal for Peace, a public witness rooted in faith and our shared hope for peace.

On the first Monday of each month from September through November, our church bells will ring from 6:00–6:15 PM, inviting all people and faith communities to pause wherever they are—to pray, reflect, and hope together for peace.

In a world often marked by conflict and division, may the sound of our bells be a simple but powerful reminder that we are called to be people of peace, prayer, and hope.

Safe Environment Training Renewal Deadline — September 15

Safe Environment Training is required for all volunteers and employees who work with children or youth at parish, preschool, or school events.

The renewal window for existing Level C Safe Environment volunteers closes September 15, 2026. If you are currently certified, please be sure to complete your annual renewal before the deadline. Those who miss the renewal period will have their files suspended and will need to be recertified before they can resume volunteering.

Safe Environment Training



Existing volunteers can log in to their profiles to complete their renewal [HERE](#)

Please see [this flyer](#) for additional information about renewals and certification for new volunteers.



Chrysalis Marriage Enrichment

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.

Please register for the year [on our website](#) by **September 12** so that your curriculum may be ordered.

Chrysalis is 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

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!

StMM Book Club



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.

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 9:00 AM 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 ***NEW*** 2026 StMM Annual Stewardship Report is available on our website.
- A special note from Fr. Randy, John Corcoran, and the Finance 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.
- The Columbiettes at StMM make custom rosaries, chaplets, and rosary bracelets. For more information, email them [HERE](#).
- The Gabriel Project Ministry needs volunteers to accompany women in crisis through their pregnancy and beyond. Click [here](#) to learn the many ways to volunteer!
- Prayers & Squares Prayer Quilt Ministry
- Traveling St. John Vianney Ministry. Sign up to pray for our priests.
- 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](#).
- StMM Book Club meets the first Wednesday of the month at 12:30 to discuss a selected reading. The next meeting will be on September 2. Click [here](#) for more information.
- The Care for God's Planet team invites you to join them reflecting on Pope Leo XIV's message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Diocesan and Local Events

- 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 Knights of Columbus council # 6650 is having a Yard Sale Saturday, October 3, at St. Michaels to benefit the LAMB foundation, which helps children with physical and intellectual disabilities.
- The 2026 Friends of the Poor Walk benefiting the St. Andrew St. Vincent de Paul Society is on Saturday, September 26 at 9:00 a.m. This is a family friendly event which raises funds and awareness for the Society's work serving people living in poverty.
- 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 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 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 invited to attend. More information can be found [HERE](#).

- A St. Peter Claver Mass will be celebrated by Msgr. Wall at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral on September 9 at 1:00 PM.

Magdala Pictures



Congratulations to Ashley and Parker Mudd, who were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on Saturday, August 22, by Fr. Randy. May Christ remain at the center of their marriage and guide them as they begin their life together as husband and wife.



Congratulations to Christina and Frank Pecka, who celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on Saturday, August 22, with Fr. Francis presiding. May God bless their marriage with a lifetime of love, faith, and joy as they begin this new chapter together.



The Columbiettes Rosary Makers lovingly handmade and gifted 200 Mission Rosaries in our school colors to StMM Principal Peggy Lane. What a beautiful way to begin the new school year! The Columbiettes extend their prayers to all StMM students, families, faculty, and staff for a wonderful and blessed school year.

Pictured with Peggy Lane is Mo Fitzgerald, who led this special project for the Columbiettes Rosary Makers.

**FOLLOW StMM
ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



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