St. Mary Magdalene
CATHOLIC CHURCH

September 11, 2026



For Our Reflection

DREAMING GOD'S DREAM FOR OUR PARISH

Tracing our roots to 1997, when Monsignor Staib was assigned to found a new parish in southwest Wake County, the allocation of land by developers in West Cary and the absence of water there became bittersweet. However, the land bought by St. Andrew Parish on Apex Barbecue Road for a similar purpose was lying in wait for divine timing, and in 1999, God's dream for this parish fully unfolded.

In line with the above and looking beyond, I hear a prophetic voice in the words of Chris Hanes (Parish Council Chair, in the PLC capital campaign video), who, comparing Apex, "The Peak of Good Living," calls StMM Parish "the peak of Catholic faith." Needless to say, nothing should stand taller in Apex and beyond than your faith and love for your parish life. We are here today to renew our pledges to continue building upon this gracious gift from God to our parents, our generation, and generations to come.

Allow me also, referring to Vatican II documents on the vocation of the laity to the apostolate, to recall the fact that "the Church was founded for the purpose of spreading the Kingdom of Christ throughout the earth for the glory of God the Father, to enable all men and women to share in His saving redemption and that through them the world might enter into a relationship with Christ." The same document recognizes the parish as a communion that "must be rooted in the social life of the people and to some extent conformed to its culture" and hence can participate in matters that impact their lives, such as marriage and family relationships, faith relationships, and so forth. In the same vein, "the parish is also a local Eucharistic community and a visible expression of the wider Church."

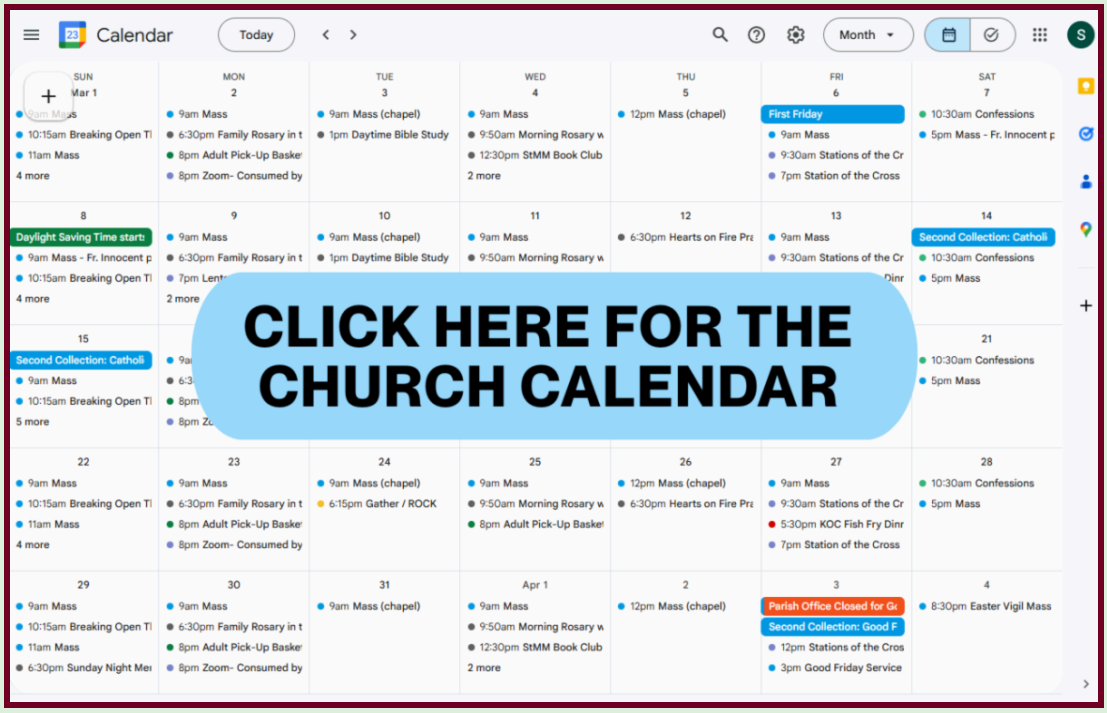
I, therefore, compelled by the testimony of our patroness, St. Mary Magdalene, upon whose testimony the Church is built, and by God's dream expressed through our predecessors, invite you to carry on the PLC campaign with renewed vigor.

God is Good!

Fr. Francis

Giving Portal

This Week



Saturday

Music for the weekend Masses*



No 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.**

*****Please note that there will be no daily Masses next week, September 14-18, due to Fr. Randy and Fr. Francis being away on a retreat.**

Gathering: Lift Up Your Hearts
Responsorial Psalm: 103 The Lord is Kind and Merciful
Preparation: Hold On to Love
Communion 1: You Alone Are Holy
Communion 2: Holy Forever
Communion 3: Revelation Song
Sending Forth: Praise

Flowers This Week

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. Questions? **floralministry@stmm.net**.

This week's Altar flowers are donated by Ed & Bonnie Estes in honor of their 55th wedding anniversary.

Last week's Altar flowers were donated by Pamela Jones & Isaiah Harris in loving memory of Bill/Grandpa Jones.

FUNERALS

Please join us in prayer for the deceased and their families.
The following Funeral Mass will be held at St. Mary Magdalene:



JoAnn Wynne

JoAnn's funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, September 12, at 10:00 AM.

Magdala Teen, Youth & Education

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 program registration is still open!

Although the registration deadline has passed, registrations are still being accepted for a short time. *Please note that a late fee now applies.*

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.



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!

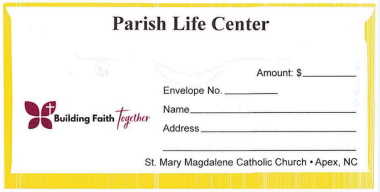
We are grateful for your support in helping the next generation grow in faith and deepen their relationship with Christ.

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

Magdala Stewardship

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



Forward in Hope - Grief Support Group

If you're in need of consolation after losing a loved one, this Christ-centered faith sharing group is for you. We recommend participants join us approximately six months after the loss of a loved one.

Our next daytime session will begin on Wednesday, September 16, at 10:00 AM. There are also openings in the Wednesday evening session at 7:00 PM.

Sessions will consist of prayer, Scripture, faith sharing, and fellowship. For more information, please feel free to email **stmmForwardinhope@stmm.net, or** call **919-657-4800 ext. 7280**.

Pictured: Forward in Hope Season four participants



Join the Knights of Columbus in Serving Saint Mary Magdalene!

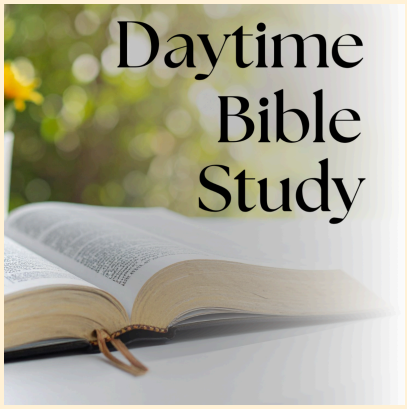
Are you ready to make a real impact in our parish, school, and community? The **Knights of Columbus** invite you to be part of a brotherhood of men dedicated to faith, service, and fellowship. Together, we bring lasting support to Saint Mary Magdalene through meaningful projects and volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

All-Parish Membership Drive September 26 & 27– Come meet our members, ask questions, and discover

how your unique gifts and talents can strengthen our parish family. Whether you have just a little time to give or a lot, there's a place for you with the **Knights of Columbus.**

Let's build faith, friendship, and service—together! Sign up online for Council 7186 **HERE**.

For more information, please contact: Steve Fitzhenry **stevefitzhenry@outlook.com**



StMM Daytime Bible Study

For the 2026-2027 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 from 1:00-3:00 PM in rooms 3 and 4 of the StMM Church building.
Please contact Laurie Wendt for more information and details about ordering the materials (cost $40) at **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!



Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge

Boys and girls ages 9–14 are invited to participate in the Knights of Columbus Council 7186 Annual Soccer Challenge on **Sunday, October 11**, at the StMM soccer field.

Each participant will have 15 shots on goal, with points awarded based on accuracy.

Boys compete at 1:00 PM and girls at 2:00 PM. More information can be found **HERE**, or contact Joe Beiras at **jbeiras@hotmail.com**.



Installation of Fr. Randy Gonzales, CICM, as Pastor of Saint Mary Magdalene

Tuesday, October 13, 2026 | 6:30 PM
Saint Mary Magdalene Catholic Church

The parish community of Saint Mary Magdalene joyfully invites all parishioners, school families, ministry leaders, and friends to the **Installation of Fr. Randy Gonzales, CICM, as the fourth pastor of Saint Mary Magdalene Catholic Church on Tuesday, October 13, at 6:30 PM.**

The Most Reverend Luis Rafael Zarama, D.D., Bishop of Raleigh, will preside at the Mass and formally install Fr. Randy as pastor.

The installation of a pastor is more than a ceremonial welcome. It is an important moment in the life of a parish that expresses the pastoral and canonical relationship among the **bishop, pastor, and people.** In canon law, the pastor is entrusted by the diocesan bishop with the pastoral care of a particular parish. He exercises this ministry in communion with the bishop and shares with the faithful the responsibility of building up the Church through the proclamation of the Word, the celebration of the sacraments, and pastoral care.

OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

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**, or you may contact Deacon Rick Stevens at **stevens@stmm.me**.

OCIA 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. We look forward to welcoming and walking with you on your journey!



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

Coming Soon: Child Care During the 9:00 AM Sunday Mass



Saint Mary Magdalene will soon offer **child care for children ages 0–5 during the 9:00 AM Sunday Mass.** This ministry is intended to help parents participate more fully and prayerfully in the celebration of the Eucharist while their little ones are cared for in a safe and welcoming environment.

Children will be under the care of **trained parishioners who have completed the required Safe Environment requirements and First Aid training.**

Parents must register their child in advance to participate in this ministry. Registration will help us provide appropriate staffing and ensure a safe and caring environment for every child.

More information about the starting date, registration, and volunteer opportunities will be coming soon.



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.

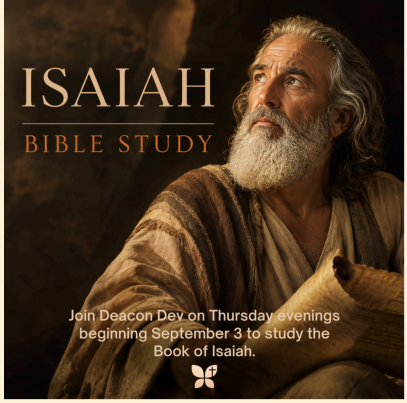
Existing volunteers can log in to their profiles to complete their renewal **HERE**.

Please see **this flyer** for additional information about renewals and certification for new volunteers.

Book of Isaiah Bible Study

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 for one or all of the sessions! Meetings will be in the StMM Church, approximately every other Thursday evening,



beginning **September 3, 2026, at 6:30 PM**. Please see the **church calendar** for the full schedule.

Please register **HERE** (register each person separately) or go to our website **www.stmm.church/bible-study**. **Everyone is welcome!**



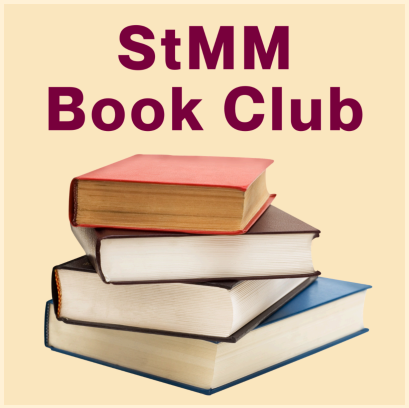
Come sing, pray, and grow in faith with Hearts on Fire!

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, October 7, 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**.



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

- **Are you considering a Catholic education for your child? Campus tour appointments are now being scheduled! Join us to learn more about our school and discover all that we have to offer your family. Applications for the 2026-2027 school year will open in October.**

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**
- **Prayers & Squares Prayer Quilt Ministry**
- **Traveling St. John Vianney Ministry- Sign up to host a beautiful St. John Vianney statue in your home for a month while you pray for our priests.**
- **StMM Book Club meets the first Wednesday of the month at 12:30 to discuss a selected reading. The next meeting will be on October 7. Click here for more information.**
- **The Care For God's Planet team invites you to join them each week with a new reflection on Pope Leo XIV's message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation AND to join them at the next event, "Gather at the Globe," on September 12.**

and beyond. Click here to learn the many ways to volunteer!

- The StMM Prayer Ministry lifts up the needs of our parish community through prayer. To join or submit a prayer request, please go HERE.

Diocesan and Local Events

- 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.
- The Knights of Columbus Council #6650 is having a yard sale Saturday, October 3, at St. Michael's 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 AM. This is a family-friendly event which raises funds and awareness for the Society's work serving people living in poverty.
- CPO is holding its annual H2O for Hunger Challenge September 14-20, which encourages everyone to drink tap water instead of buying drinks and then donate the money saved to feed the hungry in our community.
- 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.
- A Women's Retreat with Sarah Hart and a concert for everyone will be held at St. Andrew's on 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.
- The 2026 Life Chain, a peaceful prayer witness to end abortion, will be on Sunday, October 4, starting at 2:00 PM.

Magdala Pictures



Congratulations to Kaitlyn and Ashton Smith on the convalidation of their marriage and the baptism of their son, Spencer, by Deacon Joe



Congratulations to Levi Kuhns who was baptized by Fr. Randy on Saturday, September 5. May God bless Levi and his family as he begins his life of faith in Christ.

Werner. May God continue to bless their marriage and their family for many years to come.

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