St. Mary Magdalene
CATHOLIC CHURCH

September 25, 2026



Creating Space for Future Generations

Remember the old movie, *Field of Dreams*? In that film the lead character played by Kevin Costner builds a baseball field in the middle of a cornfield in Iowa because he persistently hears a voice telling him, “If you build it, they will come.” Our parish started in the school gym and we filled it. Then, we built our beautiful church and people keep on coming!

Our patroness, St. Mary Magdalene, is known as *the Apostle to the Apostles*. She was the first one to discover the risen Lord at the tomb and then follow his instructions to “go to my brothers and tell them” (John 20:17). We all share that same mission - to tell our brothers and sisters the Good News and lead them to conversion as disciples of Christ. In fact, in his 1975 Encyclical, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, Pope Paul VI went so far as to say that, “The Church exists in order to evangelize, that is to say in order to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners with God, and to perpetuate Christ’s sacrifice in the Mass, which is the memorial of his death and glorious Resurrection” (EN 14).

Before our beautiful church was even built, many Catholic families were choosing to join St. Mary Magdalene because of the school and the vibrant youth programs that were starting up there. There was something special going on at St. Mary Magdalene with a joy and an energy that was changing hearts and bringing young people to Christ. It was true then and it is true now. In my years of volunteering in our youth programs, I have seen many young lives changed. Since that time, the offerings at St. Mary Magdalene for people of all ages have grown substantially, and we need space so that we can continue to grow.

I had the pleasure of serving last weekend at our first youth Mass of the year, and it was packed! We have an enormous youth program that serves young people from elementary school straight through to college and beyond. The Parish Life Center is an investment in the future of our parish and the generations to come. The young people of St. Mary Magdalene are the future of the church and as Paul VI reminds us, forming and evangelizing them is the reason we are here!

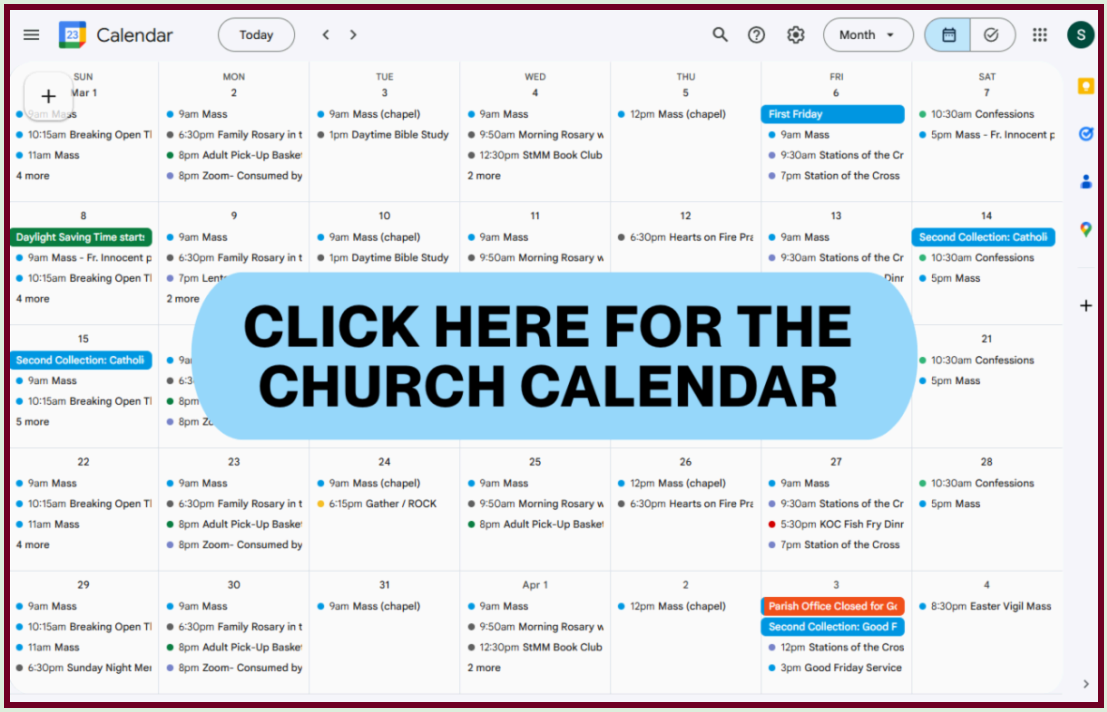
If we build it, they will come!

God bless you,

Deacon Joe Werner

Giving Portal

This Week



Weekend Mass Schedule



Saturday
10:30 AM - Confessions
5:00 PM - Mass
Sunday
9:00 AM - Mass
11:00 AM - Mass
6:00 PM - Youth Mass

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

***Please note: the Parish Office and Chapel will be closed on Friday, Sept 25.**

Music for the weekend Masses*

Gathering: Holy Holy Holy
Responsorial Psalm: 25 Remember Your Mercies
Preparation: I Know a Name
Communion 1: Cry of the Poor
Communion 2: Morning by Morning
Communion 3: Holy Forever
Sending Forth: Your Grace is Enough

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 in celebration of the Akers/Fugleberg wedding.

Paving Notice: The Green at Scotts Mill

Please be aware that Blythe Construction has resumed paving in The Green at Scotts Mill. Work is currently underway and will continue as paving progresses. Please use caution when traveling through the neighborhood.

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

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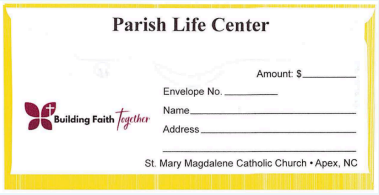


Faith Formation for Children of All Abilities

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 those in 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.

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.



Advertise in Our New Parish Bulletin

Something new is coming to St. Mary Magdalene! Beginning the first weekend of Advent, we will have a printed parish bulletin available after all weekend Masses, offering another way to stay connected with parish life.

Advertising opportunities are now available! Local businesses and professionals are invited to advertise in the bulletin, connect with our parish community, and support this new parish resource.

Interested in advertising in our new bulletin? Email **tuning@stmm.net** for more information.

Magdala Ministry and Group Events

SEPTEMBER



Join the Knights of Columbus in Serving St. 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 St. 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**

Meet the Mulholland Columbiettes after all Masses Sep 26-27!

Are you interested in becoming a Columbiette?

- **If you are a Catholic woman 18 years of age or older, looking for a way to support your parish, give back to our community and grow in faith…**
- **If you would like to make new friends among Catholic women that you can pray, serve and have FUN with…**

Then the Columbiettes may be for you! We are a band of sisters, a national network of women dedicated to doing good works in the service of God and our neighbors. We joyfully participate in spiritual, charitable and social activities. We welcome women at all ages and stages of life, no matter how busy their schedules. We meet you where you are now, and offer you love, purpose and fellowship.

Visit us at our welcome table after all StMM Masses the weekend of Sep 26-27. Our next joining ceremony is mid-October at StMM. For more information, contact us at **fr.hcmulhollandcolumbiettes@gmail.com** or visit our website **HERE**.



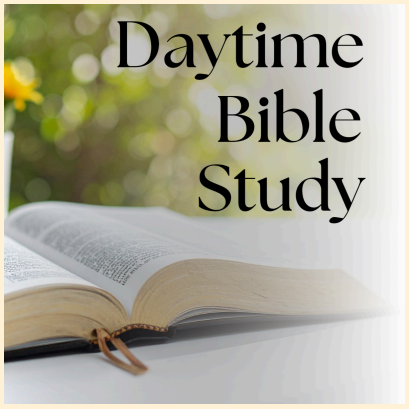
Catholic Parish Outreach "Feed a Family" Fall Food Drive

THIS WEEKEND: PICK UP A BAG
Bags with item lists will be distributed after all Masses **September 26 & 27**. Pick up a bag and fill it with the requested food items.

NEXT WEEKEND: RETURN YOUR DONATION
Bring your filled bag to the CPO truck in front of the church **October 3 & 4**, before or after all Masses.

A donation of **$55 feeds a family of four for one week**. Your generosity allows CPO to continue feeding neighbors not only in Wake County, but in Johnston and Franklin counties as well.

Did you know? Catholic Parish Outreach (CPO), a program of Catholic Charities, is the largest food pantry in the Diocese of Raleigh. Thank you for your continued generous support!



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



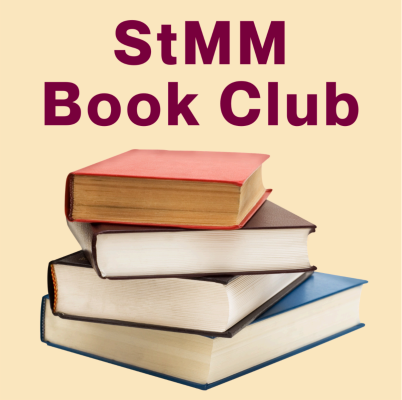
Blessing of the Animals

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!



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**.



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.



Every person has the power to help save a life. Donating blood takes just a little of your time, but it can make a life-changing difference for patients in need.

The Big Red Bus is coming to St. Mary Magdalene on **Saturday, October 17, from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM.**

Donate today: **Schedule Your Blood Donation**

The blood drive is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

Questions? Contact Jack Hergenroeder at **jhergenroeder@bellsouth.net** or (919) 971-1911.

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, October 19, 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**.

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.



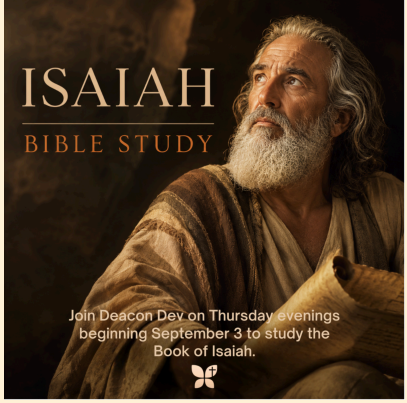
A Peal for Peace

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.

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 any 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**.

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

- 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 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.
- The Columbiettes at StMM make custom rosaries, chaplets, and rosary bracelets. For more information, email them HERE.
- 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.
- 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 & 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.
- 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 2026 Life Chain, a peaceful prayer witness to end abortion, will be on Sunday, October 4, starting at 2:00 PM.
- St. Francis Catholic Church is hosting a three-day Elevated Parish Mission from October 25 to 27. For more information and to register, go HERE.
- The Triangle Women's Morning Retreat, Jesus, Help Me Be Obedient to You, will be on Saturday, September 26, in St. Andrew's Care Center.

Magdala Photos



Congratulations to Nate and Lu Hartley on the convalidation of their marriage on September 19 with Fr. Randy, and on the baptisms of their children, James, Sofia, and Theo! May God continue to bless their marriage and their family for many years to come.



Fr. Randy enjoyed visiting with members of the Catholic Senior Organization and speaking at their September 21 meeting.

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