St. Mary Magdalene CATHOLIC CHURCH

October 16, 2026



Building a Legacy of Faith

What kind of legacy do we want to leave for the next generation?

In today's second reading, Saint Paul remembers the Thessalonians for their "**work of faith, labor of love, and endurance in hope**." These words remind us that faith is not simply something we believe. It is something we live, share, and pass on to others.

At St. Mary Magdalene, we have inherited a beautiful legacy built through the faith, sacrifices, and generosity of those who came before us.

Our Catholic school is a legacy that shapes young minds and hearts, preparing children for higher learning and a life rooted in Christian values.

Our gymnasium is a legacy where young people discover their God-given talents and learn discipline, teamwork, and respect.

Our church, built in 2017, is a legacy where we gather as one family in prayer and encounter the living Lord in the Eucharist.

Now, our planned Parish Life Center offers another opportunity to build a legacy for future generations.

But our legacy is not just about buildings and structures. More importantly, it is about the spiritual legacy we leave behind.

We are blessed with numerous parish ministries that nurture faith among the young and old: faith formation programs, prayer groups, Bible studies, and opportunities for service and fellowship. Through these ministries, people encounter Christ, deepen their faith, and learn to care for one another.

The strength of our faith tomorrow begins with how we live and nurture that faith today. Every prayer offered, every lesson shared, every act of service, and every person welcomed contributes to this living legacy.

But a legacy does not continue by itself. It needs people willing to carry it forward.

This is my invitation to every parishioner: **Do not simply inherit the faith. Help build it.** Join a ministry, participate in parish life, share your gifts, support our mission, and invite others to encounter Christ.

Through our mission, **We Pray, We Learn, We Care**, let us become not merely beneficiaries of yesterday's generosity, but faithful builders of tomorrow's Church.

May the legacy we leave be measured not only by what we build, but by the lives we touch, the faith we strengthen, and the people we bring closer to Jesus.

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Giving Portal

This Week

ANNOUNCEMENT



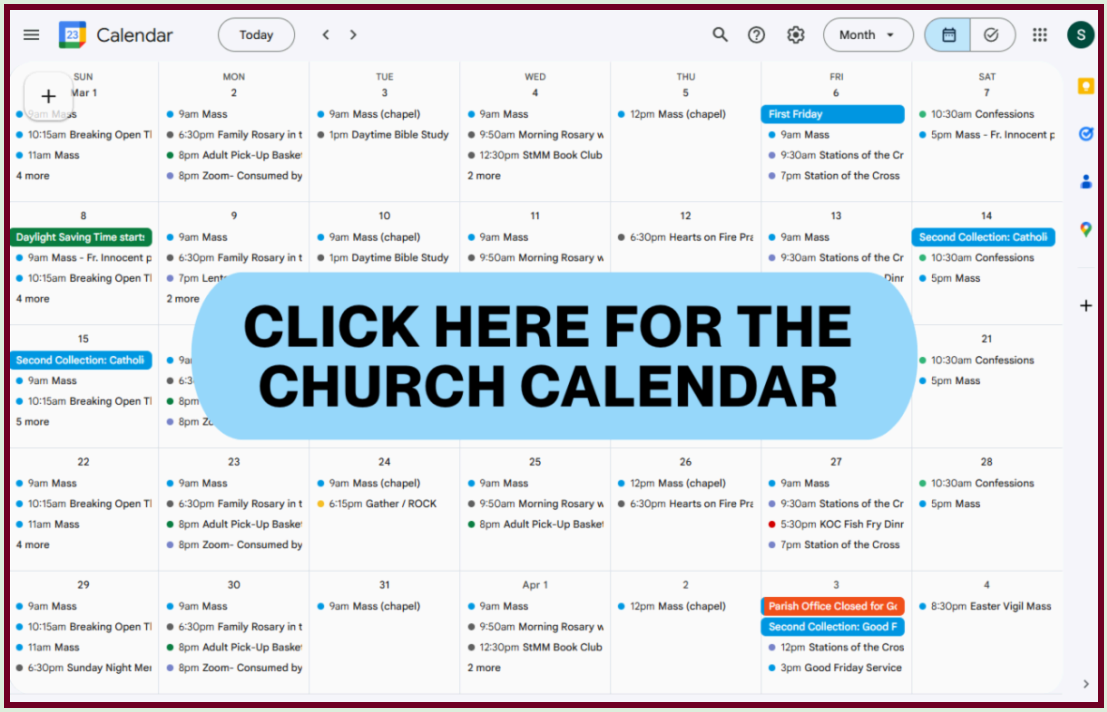
My Parish is here!

Be on the lookout for an email invite to create an account to access My Parish. This will allow you to view your 2026 offerings and update family information (address, phone).

The email will be from Saint Mary Magdalene via Ministry Brands. Please check your spam folder.

Didn't receive an invite by October 19th? Please email myparishinvite@stmm.me to receive one.

Need more information? Click here for an introduction to My Parish.



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.**

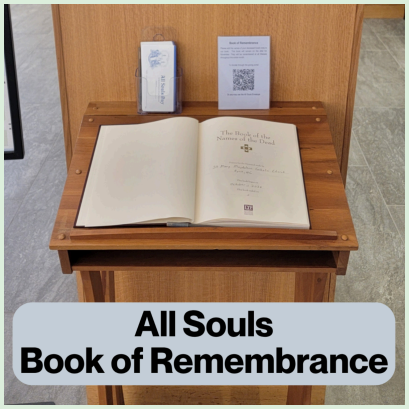
Music for the weekend Masses*

Gathering: House of the Lord/ There is A Longing
Responsorial Psalm: 96 Give The Lord Glory
Preparation: Refiner
Communion 1: Spirit and Grace
Communion 2: Praise the Lord Forever
Sending Forth: Holy Forever



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 Genevieve Donahue to honor the wedding of Genevieve and Jim.



St. Mary Magdalene Book of Remembrance

During October, visit the back of the church before or after any Mass to add the names of your deceased loved ones to our All Souls Book of Remembrance. Throughout November, those who are inscribed in the book will be remembered in prayer at all Masses.

All Souls' Day is Monday, November 2. We will celebrate two Masses that day, at 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

All Souls' Day donations are appreciated and can be made **HERE.**

Magdala Teen, Youth & Education



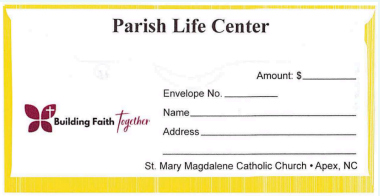
Be a part of our musical and pageant, **Promises Promised!** Children in kindergarten and up can help bring the story of our salvation to life through music, dance, and the Christmas story. Sign your child up to participate! **Sign up here** Questions? Contact **music@stmm.net**.

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



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

OCTOBER

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 18**, 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**.



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.



Olive Wood Arts & Crafts from the Holy Land for sale

Saturday, October 17, and Sunday, October 18, after all weekend Masses.

Bethlehem Olive Wood Group is honored to bring our handcrafted olive wood figures and religious items to St. Mary Magdalene**.** Each piece is made by local Christian Catholic families in the Holy Land.

From the Holy Land of Israel, from the hills of Jerusalem and the countryside of Bethlehem, come olive wood carvings made from the ancient and blessed olive trees so often mentioned in the Holy Bible.

Due to ongoing economic challenges and historical conflict, Christians now represent less than 1% of the population in the Holy Land. Because the region relies heavily on tourism, olive wood craftsmanship has become one of the primary sources of income for these families.

By supporting this mission, you help preserve the Christian Catholic presence in the land of Christ's birth. We hope these sacred crafts will be a blessing to your homes and families. Cash and credit/debit cards are accepted.

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**.

CSO

Catholic Senior Organization



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**.

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40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Pray with Fr. Randy & Fr. Francis

Join our priests in prayer at the Raleigh 40 Days for Life Vigil

The 40 Days for Life ministry consists of simple prayer and fasting to end abortion. Our location is on the **wooded traffic island at the top of Drake Circle, Raleigh,** across from "A Woman's Choice" abortion business. The location is suburban, safe and shaded, and parking is easy. Parking is not allowed on Drake Circle but available around the corner on Harden Rd.

Everyone is welcome to attend!

Fr. Randy will join the vigil on Wednesday, October 21, from 1:00 to 2:00 PM.
Fr. Francis will join the vigil on Monday, October 26, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

For more information visit the 40 Days for Life website **HERE**.



Invitation to All Liturgical Ministry Coordinators

Fr. Randy invites all coordinators of Altar Servers, Lectors, Ushers, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion serving at the 5:00 PM Saturday Vigil Mass and the 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, and 6:00 PM Sunday Masses to a meeting on **October 28, at 7 PM in Church Room 1.**

NOVEMBER



Columbiettes' Annual Advent Sale

Get ready for the sacred and holy season of Advent with one-of-a-kind gifts, Advent calendars, and wreaths.

The Columbiettes will have the following items for sale before and after the weekend Masses on November 14 & 15:

*Advent wreaths in various colors & designs
*Advent candles blessed by Father Randy
*Hand-carved wood & metal wall crosses
*Hand-crafted rosaries, chaplets & rosary bracelets
*Children's Advent calendars with nut-free chocolates
*AND MORE!

PARISH LIFE

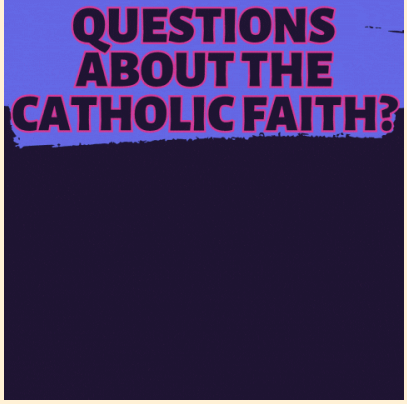


THANK YOU from CPO!

On behalf of the people we serve at Catholic Parish Outreach, we want to thank your parish and school for the generous donations received during the St. Mary Magdalene food drive. The response from your parish was wonderful, with a donation of **3,775 pounds and $2,615 for families in need**!

In the fiscal year of 2026, CPO gave **a week's worth of groceries to over 143,000 people!** Our outreach ministry to those in need would not be possible without the assistance of the members of our community and parishes. We are blessed by your devotion to helping the food insecure in our midst.

Do You Have Questions About the Catholic Faith?



Is there something about the Catholic faith that you've always wondered about? A Church teaching you'd like to better understand? A question about the Mass, Scripture, prayer, the sacraments, or why Catholics believe or do certain things?

We want to hear your questions!

Each week, one of our clergy will answer a submitted question, and the response will be shared right here in the ENews.

Submitted questions are completely anonymous. No name, email address, or other identifying information will be collected when you submit your question. You can submit your questions **HERE.**



We're Ready for Volunteers!

We're excited to begin building our volunteer team for the new Children's Ministry at St. Mary Magdalene! Volunteers will help us create a welcoming and caring space for our youngest parishioners while their families attend Mass.

We're planning to begin in **November 2026**, offering care for children ages **0–5 during the 9:00 AM Sunday Mass.** We're still working out the schedule and room details, and before the ministry begins, we'll share those plans and hold a volunteer orientation so everyone feels prepared and knows what to expect.

A strong volunteer team will help us offer consistent care while keeping the commitment manageable for everyone. If you enjoy working with children and would like to be part of this new ministry, we'd love to have you!

Ready to volunteer? Please fill out the **Volunteer Interest Form** and let us know where your interests lie.

We're excited to build this new ministry together and provide this service for the families of our parish!



Happy Respect Life Month!

At Walking With Moms in Need/ Gabriel Project (WWMiN) we are privileged to accompany mothers and their babies through pregnancy, the first year of a baby's life and beyond. All this is made possible with the help and support of our generous STMM community. Please read the story of Faith, one of the moms we have walked with:

Faith was working as a nurse's aide when she was diagnosed with preeclampsia late in pregnancy. Leaving her job for medical reasons meant she could no longer pay rent. Faith was evicted from her apartment at about the same time her baby son was delivered early. Walking With Moms in Need was able to assist her with furnishings for temporary housing, a FoodTrain for a few weeks, and baby supplies. We then helped Faith and her son find placement in a maternity home in the area. While there, she has received a certification in medical equipment sterilization and is currently seeking permanent employment in that field. She also continues to work part time in a senior care facility.

If you are interested in learning more about what we do or to join us, **please come to our next meeting, November 8, 2026, from 10:15-11:30 in Church Room 1** or email us at **gabrielproject@stmm.me**



Winter basketball registration with Parish Athletics is now open!

Sign up **HERE**.

There are some changes to the winter format: PreK through 4th grade will now only meet on Saturdays for a joint practice followed by a game. 5th & 6th grade teams will have one weeknight practice and games on Friday nights.

Grades: Coed, Pre-K (4-year-olds) through 6th grade.
Dates: December - February.
Location: St. Mary Magdalene in Apex
Cost: PreK-2nd Grade $70

3rd & 4th: $80
5th & 6th Grade $85



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.

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.**
- **Are you curious about Altar Serving at StMM and what Altar Servers do? Click here to learn more about the different roles and responsibilities of an Altar Server.**

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 2027-2028 school year are now open.**

- **StMM School is hiring substitute teachers for the 2026-2027 school year. All grade levels are needed. Click here for more information.**

- **StMM School is seeking a Part-Time Aftercare Assistant Teacher for PK3 through Grade 8 students in the afternoon.**

- **We Saved YOU a Seat! Watch this short video announcing that applications are now open for prospective students at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School!**

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 as they transition from the Season of Creation to Respect Life Month.**

- **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.**

- **A public rosary rally will be held on Saturday, October 17, at noon, beginning at Hunter St. Park in Apex. Please RSVP HERE.**

- **A Night of Light will be presented at St Andrew's by the Msgr. Michael Carey Columbiettes Council 6650 on Friday, October 30, with proceeds benefiting their sponsored charities.**

- **The next Triangle Women's Morning Retreat, Jesus Declares The Greatest Commandment, is on October 24, held at St. Andrew's Care Center.**

- **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.**

- **St. Francis Catholic Church is hosting a three-day Elevated Parish Mission from October 25 - 27. For more information and to register, go HERE.**

- **Cardinal Gibbons is currently accepting applications for its rising 9th-grade class and will be hosting an Open House on Sunday, November 1, for prospective high school students and their families.**

PHOTOS



Blessing of Animals

On Saturday, October 3, we welcomed pets of all kinds for our Blessing of Animals, a Catholic tradition celebrated around the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi in recognition of his love and care for God's creation. Thank you to everyone who brought their pets and joined us!

More photos from the event can be found **HERE**.

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