St. Mary Magdalene
CATHOLIC CHURCH

October 2, 2026



Investing in the Mission

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks about a vineyard. Everything was prepared so that the vineyard would produce good fruit. Maybe we can look at the vineyard this way: we are the vineyard. **God** wants to cultivate us, nourish us, and help us bear fruit.

Every Sunday, we come to Mass to be filled. Think about what happens here. Greeters welcome us. Ushers help us gather. Altar servers help us pray. Lectors proclaim God's Word. The choir lifts our hearts. Extraordinary Ministers help bring us the Body and Blood of Christ.

Our liturgical ministries have been entrusted with something beautiful: to help cultivate the vineyard—that is, all of us—so that we can bear fruit.

But then comes the question: What now? After we have been welcomed, heard the Word, prayed together, and received Jesus in the Eucharist—what happens next?

We come to Mass to be filled**,** but we are filled so that we can be poured out. We are welcomed so that we can welcome others. We hear the Word so that we can live the Word. We receive mercy so that we can show mercy. We receive Christ so that we can bring Christ to others.

October is the Month of the Rosary. When we pray the Rosary, we contemplate the mission of Jesus with Mary. But contemplation must eventually become action. So here is our commitment this week: choose one fruit to bear. Pray one decade of the Rosary each day for someone—and then do something for that person: make a phone call, offer encouragement, forgive, listen, invite someone to Mass, or simply be present.

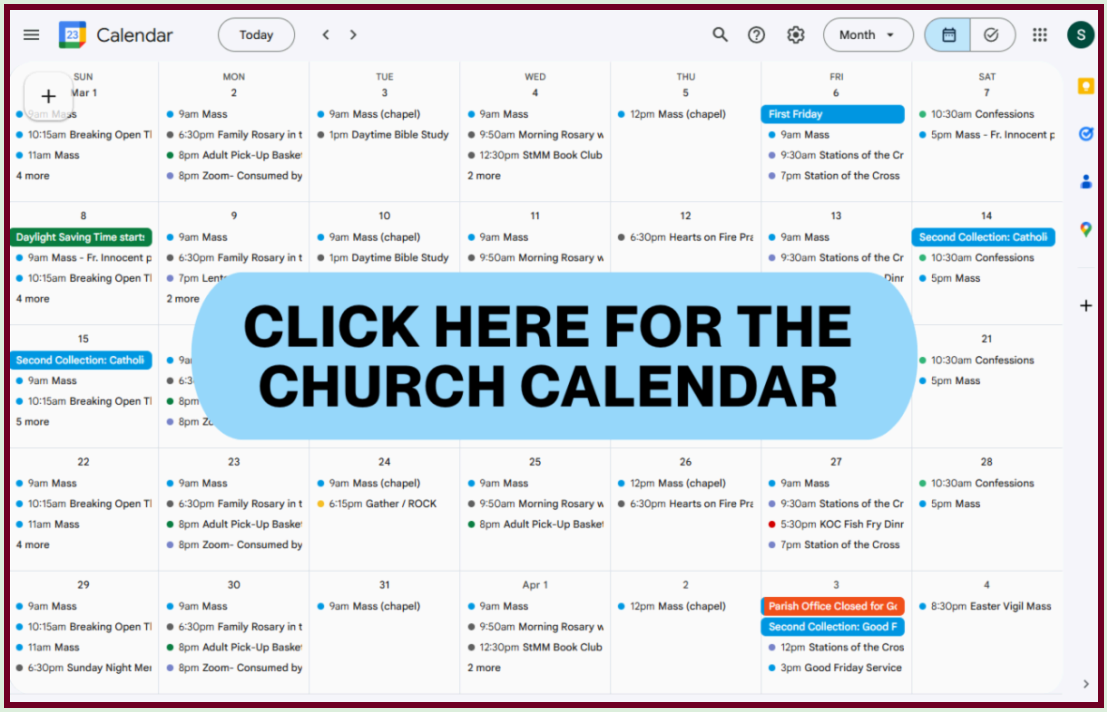
Receive Christ. Contemplate Christ. Share Christ. **That** is how we invest in the mission. That is how the vineyard of St. Mary Magdalene bears fruit.

P.S. Beginning Sunday after the morning masses, I will be traveling to Arlington, Virginia, to attend the annual retreat of my CICM missionary community. Please keep me and my fellow CICM missionaries in your prayers during these days of prayer and renewal. I will also be praying for all of you and for our St. Mary Magdalene family.

FR

Giving Portal

This Week



Weekend Mass Schedule



Saturday
9:00, 9:30, 10:00 AM-Blessing of Animals
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: Your Love Defends Me
Responsorial Psalm: 80 The Vineyard of the Lord
Preparation: Build Your House on a Rock (9:00am) Holy is His Name
Communion 1: Take And Eat
Communion 2: The Lord Will Provide
Communion 3: I Know A Name
Sending Forth: This Is Amazing Grace



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 Sam and Caroline Connor in loving memory of their sister Lisa.



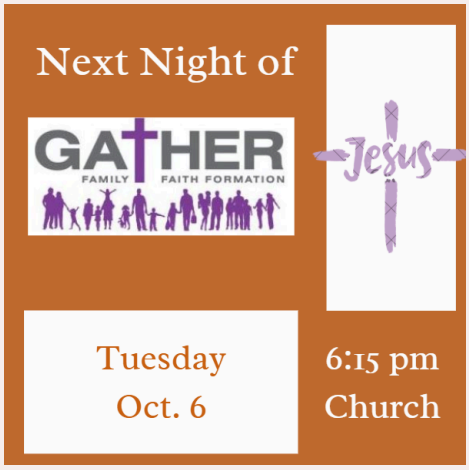
St. Mary Magdalene Book of Remembrance

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.**

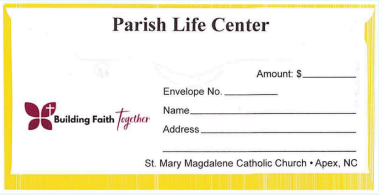
Magdala Teen, Youth & Education



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



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!



Catholic Parish Outreach "Feed a Family" Fall Food Drive

THIS 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.

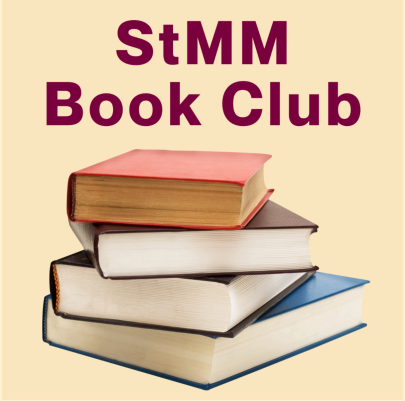
Did you forget to pick up a bag and grocery list last week? A complete list of needed items can be found **HERE.**

Monetary donations are always welcome. 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 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**.

Care for God's Planet Meeting

The Care for God's Planet Team will meet from **7:00-8:00 pm in Church Room 1 this Thursday, October 8.**

Adults and older children are welcome!

Questions? Email **StMMCareForGodsPlanet@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.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Installation Mass! A reception with refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will follow.



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 Art & 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

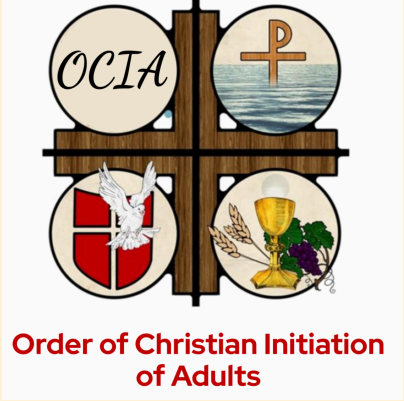
The Catholic Senior Organization (CSO) invites women and men ages 60+ to join us for fellowship, faith sharing, outings, and fun! CSO meets on the third Monday of each month, September through May.

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**.

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



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!

We at Walking With Moms in Need (Gabriel Project) at STMM are grateful to celebrate with you. So far in 2026 we have accompanied 12 mothers on their pregnancy and postpartum journeys and have welcomed 8 babies. These are mamas who have chosen life despite very challenging situations. None of this would have been possible without the continuing love, prayers, and material support from our amazing STMM community.

Each subsequent week this month we will highlight a mother's story to show how your support and our efforts have saved babies and brought joy, so watch for the Respect Life Month title and click the link for stories of hope.

If you are interested in learning more about what we do or would like to join us, please **come to our next meeting on October 11, from 10:15-11:30 AM 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-2th Grade $70

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

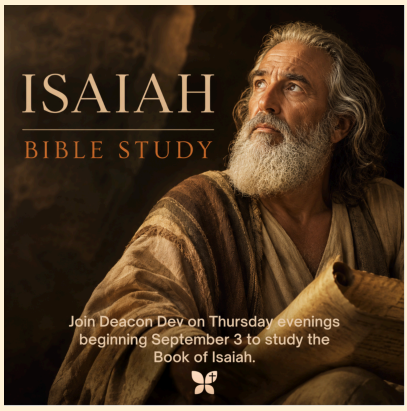
A Peal for Peace

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.



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**
- **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**

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.

- 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 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.

- 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.

- A public rosary rally will be held on Saturday, October 10, at noon, beginning at Hunter St. Park in Apex. Please RSVP HERE.

- 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.**

- **JobWorks Career Ministry presents: NC Workforce Outlook with Labor Commissioner Luke Farley on Thursday, October 8 at St. Michael.**

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