

St. Mary Magdalene November 29, 2024

Christmas Mass Times



ST. MARY MAGDALENE CATHOLIC CHURCH

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS
Celebrating the Joy of Christ's Birth

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES	CHRISTMAS DAY
4PM & 7PM CHURCH	10AM CHURCH
4:15PM GYM	
12:00AM MIDNIGHT CHURCH	

A Note from Father Francis Xavier

CONQUER OR DIE

His Royal Majesty Cwa II Kabalega (King of Banyoro Kitara-Uganda 1870-1899), built his Army (**Abarusuura**) on his philosophy of CONQUER OR DIE. This made his army though armored with bows and arrows resist the imperialists who had guns and later on hatched into Uganda's Independence in 1962. The **Barusuura**, following the Philosophy of their master, were so determined to go down fighting but never to surrender.

Friends, we have just celebrated Christ the King Sunday and the Church emphatically proclaims *Christus Vincit, Christus Regnant, Christus Imperant*. Christ has on the cross conquered the enemy even death but to reign and command in our life, He needs our mandate. Keep in mind also that Christ's kingdom is paradoxically won on the cross. A cross where strength and victory are shown through weakness and defeat. On the cross, where we see the worst humiliation of human suffering and yet the greatest act of Divine grace. However, friends despite the paradox of the cross, you may notice this common contradictory in life; To some people, Christ is King when life is ok and will cling to Him even when life turns around while to others, when life is ok and or when faced with problems, Jesus is not in line of their thoughts.

From the above, which category do you fall, my friend? If you have ever faced a critical challenge and felt embarrassed either because of a choice you made or a victim of other people's choices, how did you treat Jesus? This tells it all, did you have the humility and courage to see the King crowned on the cross or always eyes fixed on the King only crowned with glory? There must never be situations that should

obscure the kingship of Jesus in life here or hereafter just as no darkness is enough to cover photons.

I pray that Jesus will always enlighten our mind to see Him even in darkest parts of our lives. May Christ Conquer. May Christ Reign and May Christ Command.

God is good

I love you.

Father Francis

Giving Portal

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Upcoming Events

Nov 30 - 10:30am Confessions
Nov 30 - 5pm Mass
Dec 1 - 9am & 11am Mass
Dec 2 - Daily Mass 9am
Dec 2 - Family Rosary 6:30pm Chapel
Dec 3 - Daily Mass 9am
Dec 3 - Gather & the ROCK 6:15pm
Dec 4 - Daily Mass 9am
Dec 5 - Daily Mass 9am
Dec 5 - Morning Rosary Group After Mass
Chapel
Dec 6 - Daily Mass 9am
Dec 6 - 25 Hours of Adoration 9:30am Chapel
Dec 6 - Our Lady Rosary Makers 10am Room 4

Mass This Weekend

Click [HERE](#) to Stream our 9am Mass

Music for Weekend Masses

Gathering: Advent Entrance Antiphon
Responsorial Psalm: 25: To You O Lord I Lift
Up My Soul 407
Preparation: Even So Come
Communion 1: O Come O Come Emmanuel 39
Communion 2: You Alone 656
Communion 3: Restless
Sending Forth: Emmanuel 58

* Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream
the music in this service obtained from ONE

Dec 6 - Christmas Concert & Dinner 6pm Church
Dec 7 - 10:30am Confessions
Dec 7 - 5pm Mass
Dec 8 - 9am & 11am Mass
Dec 8 - Apostello, EDGE, & the Way
Dec 8 - Youth Mass 6pm
Dec 9 - Feast of Immaculate Conception 9am &
7pm Mass
Dec 9 - Advent Penance Service 11am

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Pictures of the Week



The Wedding of Grace and Tyler Pewitt with Father Richard Sutter on November 23



The Wedding of Haley and Ben Ferguson with Deacon Dev on November 24



The Baptism of Clara Macurak on November 23rd



The Baptism of Reagan Young on November 23rd



Thanks to the CSO for switching the hymnals this week.

Altar Flowers



This week's altar flowers are donated by Kathy Hinkston in memory of Theresa Meyer.

Take this opportunity to consider donating flowers to St. Mary Magdalene to beautify the altar and church for weekly Mass to honor our Lord. These flowers will be donated in honor of or in memory of your loved one. Click [here](#).

For questions, please contact floralministry@stmm.net

Mass Intentions


November 27 – Rick Raymer +
November – 10am – John Quinn (for healing)
November 30 – 5pm – Parishioners of StMM
December 1 – 9am – David F. Kirk +
December 1 – 11am – James Holt +
December 2 – Diego Nunez +
December 3 –
December 4 –
December 5 – Gloria Bannister +
December 6 – Bill Sayre +
December 7 – 5pm – Steven Peterson +
December 8 – 9am – Parishioners of StMM
December 8 – 11am – Marcos Benavides
December 8 – 6pm – Elizabeth Flanagan +
December 9 – 9am – Debbie Reilly +
December 9 – 7pm –
December 10 – Thomas Edward Loughlin +

Christmas Flowers

**CHRISTMAS
POINSETTIAS**

Donations are being accepted to the Floral Ministry to decorate the Church with flowers this Advent season.

Donate in memory of or in honor of a loved one
November 15th- December 16th



IF YOU WISH TO HONOR A LOVED ONE,
PLEASE WRITE THEIR NAME IN THE "OPTIONAL" MEMO SECTION.
THESE NAMES WILL RUN IN THE NARTHEX 12/20-12/21.

[Click here to donate for the Christmas Flowers](#)

Sacraments



BAPTISMS - See the Guidelines on the Website - then email sansone@stmm.net. First time parents must attend a baptism class. Please contact the Parish Office to schedule.

CONFESSIONS - Confessions are usually, but not every week, at 10:30am on Saturdays in the Church. See "Upcoming Events" section for schedule.

WEDDINGS - See the Guidelines on the Website - then email weddings@stmm.net

Christmas Concert and Dinner

You're Invited
Friday, December 6th
to the
StMM
Christmas Concert

Join us for a celebration of Christmas and community featuring musicians from our StMM parish and school.

6:00pm Concert in the Church followed by dinner provided by the Knights of Columbus.

RSVP TO JOIN US FOR DINNER.
DONATIONS WELCOME!



All are welcome to join us for dinner provided by the Knights of Columbus following the StMM Christmas Concert on December 6th by RSVPing [HERE](#)

St. Nick Shoe and Sock Drive

SECOND GRADE ST. NICK SHOE AND SOCK DRIVE: DEC. 2 - 6

During this season of giving, StMM's second grade students are asking you to help families in need by donating new or gently used shoes/sneakers, new socks, and men's new work boots. Donations will be accepted from Dec. 2-6 in boxes located in the school lobby. Please tie shoelaces together or put them in a plastic bag. Brown Bag Ministry distributes all of our donations. Thank you for supporting this important second grade service project!

Dynamic Catholic Corner

Best Christmas Ever or Worst Christmas Ever? THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

It's harder than you might think to have a great Christmas...and it's much easier to ruin Christmas for you and everyone around you. This year, join Matthew Kelly for a fun, engaging and insightful **BEST ADVENT EVER** program that will help you avoid the things that can ruin your Christmas and focus on the things that lead to an amazing Christmas. Sign up today for free at BestAdventEver.com

BE BOLD. BE CATHOLIC.

Next 25th Anniversary Event 25 hours of Adoration

Our next 25th Anniversary event will be holding **25 hours of Adoration** Fri, Dec 6 9:30am to Sat, Dec 7 at 10:30am together with First Friday Adoration. We are looking for people to fill the hours that are not normally filled by First Friday adorers. If you are interested [please sign up!](#)

Columbiette Advent Bake Sale and Gift Bazaar

COLUMBIETTES 3rd ADVENT BAKE SALE & GIFT BAZAAR - DEC 14/15 at all Masses!

Eliminate holiday hassles and check off your list right here at StMM. Give yourself the gift of more time to enjoy the beauty of our Advent season!

- unique, handcrafted rosaries and bracelets for men, women, children
- hand-painted artisan ornaments
- home-baked cakes, cookies, breads, pies, pastries, candies, gluten-free selections
- all items are nut-free
- Christmas Gift Basket for raffle
- Accepting cash, check and credit cards

All proceeds go to charitable local causes and our parish and school. For more information, contact

fr.hcmullhollandcolumbiettes@gmail.com

Advent Penance Services

- Dec 3 St. Francis of Assisi 11am
- Dec 3 St. Bernadette 7pm
- Dec 5 St. Michael 7pm
- Dec 6 St. Luke 7pm
- Dec 9 St. Mary Magdalene 11am
- Dec 10 Our Lady of Lourdes 11am
- Dec 10 St. Andrew 7pm
- Dec 11 St. Bernadette 11am
- Dec 13 Our Lady of La Vang 7pm
- Dec 17 St. Michael 11am
- Dec 17 Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral 7pm
- Dec 18 St. Raphael 7pm

Help at Christmas Eve Mass



We are seeking two couples from our parish community who are willing to represent the Holy Family at the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass.

The goal is to have you dressed in costume and process in with the Priest at the beginning of Mass carrying the statue of the newborn Jesus to place into the manger/creche scene. If you are interested, please contact Jim Galkowski for more details at galkowski@stmm.net.

Angel Tree



Please stop by the table this weekend to pick up ornaments. Choose from many options and organizations:

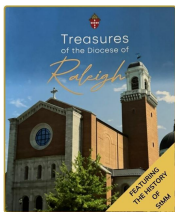
- Children of St. Julia's Parish
- Western Wake Crisis Ministry
- Holly Springs Food Cupboard
- Gabriel Project
- Catholic Parish Outreach
- Women That Care

Prayers & Squares Ministry



The Prayer Quilt Ministry is founded on the idea that there is power in prayer to comfort in times of need. The ministry makes quilts for anyone who is in need of this prayer and comfort. The quilt is blessed and prayed over by the parishioners. If you would like to request a prayer quilt for someone please contact Lorraine Morris at lcmorris0707@gmail.com

Treasures of the Diocese of Raleigh



A beautifully illustrated book celebrating the 100th anniversary of our diocese and includes each parish and school. Makes a great gift for family and friends. Books are \$35.

Books are available for pick up in the Parish Office.

[Click here to purchase your copy now.](#) or

Don't want to pay online. Bring a check made out to "StMM" or cash.

Centennial Raffle



Celebrate 100 Years and Win the Ultimate Deanery Experience!

JOIN THE CENTENNIAL RAFFLE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN EXCLUSIVE TRIPS FROM ACROSS OUR DIOCESE AND EXPERIENCE THE BEST EACH DEANERY HAS TO OFFER. EACH PRIZE PACKAGE INCLUDES **TOP-NOTCH ACCOMMODATIONS, DINING, AND UNFORGETTABLE ACTIVITIES.**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIESRALEIGH.ORG/CENTENNIAL-SUNDAY-RAFFLE
FOR ALL 8 PRIZE DETAILS AND TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS!

TICKET SALES WILL GO LIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2024.
\$10/TICKET OR 3 FOR \$20.
PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR ANY UPDATES!
WINNERS WILL BE DRAWN ON DECEMBER 12, 2024



Catholic Senior Org (CSO)

The CSO (Catholic Senior Organization) for

Respect Life Committee

As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. If you're passionate about supporting life at all stages and want to make a difference, we invite you to get involved with the Respect Life Ministry. Please fill out the Google Form below to express your interest and join us in this important mission.

[Join Today!](#)

Hallow App

Deepen your Advent experience with the Hallow app

You're invited! Join our parish community this Advent season for Hallow's Pray25: *For God So Loved The World*. We'll journey through the powerful memoir *A Severe Mercy* by Sheldon Vanauken and be joined by some incredible guides, including Jonathan Roumie!



To sign up: First, join St. Mary Magdalene's page on the app. To do so, visit the Community tab, search for our parish (zip code 27502), and join! Then, on Sunday, Dec. 1, be sure to join the Pray25 challenge on our parish page to take part.

Never used Hallow before?

Visit hallow.com/parish and watch the brief tutorial.

We look forward to praying with you!

Parish Athletics Spring Sports

women and men (60+) meets every third Monday of the month, September through May. Our next meeting, which will be our annual Christmas Party, will take place Monday, December 16, 2024, 10:30 AM until 12:30 PM, in the Church. For more information, please contact Jim Schultz, 954-649-0194 or Fran Hughes, gmomfran@gmail.com

Safe Environment

Returning Volunteers

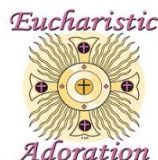
All returning volunteers should have completed the annual *Safe Environment Training module by September 15*. The Diocese has started to "suspend" or "archive" those who are not compliant. If you missed the deadline and would like to volunteer, please contact Bertha Smith (bsmith@stmm.net).

New Volunteers

To become approved to volunteer, please go to the [StMM Safe Environment web page](#). See the *New Church and School Volunteers* paragraph for information and required paperwork. See the [Diocese of Raleigh Safe Environment Training calendar](#) for upcoming training dates. There are other meetings on the calendar, so look for "Safe Environment Training". To register, select the one you'd like to attend. Please contact Bertha Smith (bsmith@stmm.net) with any questions.

Eucharistic Adoration Times

First Friday Adoration will be in the chapel on Friday, **from 9:30am December 6th to December 7th 10:30am**. All are encouraged to pay a visit to the chapel throughout the day and spend some time in prayer. Can you help by committing to 1 hour a month to spend with our Lord?



Please contact Anita Becker at ALANITABECKER@AOL.COM or 919-280-8931 if interested.

Pope Francis encourages us to spend time in Eucharistic

Apex-Cary Spring Soccer 2025

Grades: Coed, Pre-K (3-year-olds) thru 8th grade.

Dates: March 22nd - May 17th.

Practice Locations: Apex or Cary, you pick.

Game Locations: Apex & Cary.

Cost: Pre-K - \$65; K - 1st grade - \$70; 2nd - 8th grade - \$80

[REGISTER FOR SOCCER HERE](#)

Apex Spring Baseball 2025

Grades: Coed. Pre-K (4-year-olds) thru 2nd grade.

Dates: March 29th - May 24th.

Practice/Game Location: Apex

Cost: Pre-K - \$65; K thru 2nd grade - \$70

[REGISTER FOR BASEBALL HERE](#)

Forward In Hope - Grief Support Group to Begin



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.

Sessions will consist of prayer, scripture, faith sharing, and fellowship. For more information about our fall sessions, please feel free to email stmmForwardinhope@stmm.net, call 919-657-4800 ext. 7280.

Prayer Team



For companionship in your trials and joys of life, our team of prayer warriors are here to walk with you. It is a sincere privilege to help lift our parish family through

intercessory prayer. As we pray for one another's needs, it helps us all to hear how loved ones are continuing on their journeys.

Please feel encouraged to share updates of your prayer intentions via email to StMMPayerTeam@stmm.net.

Request Prayers

All are welcome to join our team in lifting the prayers of our parish family, in whatever ways



Adoration and allow our encounter with Jesus to transform us. If you are willing to spend an hour communing with our Lord

before the Blessed Sacrament, please join Deacon Dev and your fellow parishioners in a spirit of Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, and Supplication followed by Benediction. Handouts will be available to help you participate in prayer and song.

Next Holy Hour: Tuesday, November 19, from 6:30pm - 7:25pm

RCIA Prayer Corner

Please pray for Kaitlyn, Ashton, Michael, Mark, Michael, Yazmin, Jessica, and Earl who have started their RCIA journey.

Please pray for the Montana, Christina, and Victoria who are starting their RCIA journey in two week.

Please pray for all of those who are considering starting the RCIA journey.

you like to pray best. Parish intentions are shared weekly, drop us a note if you would like to learn more about this ministry. * [Share Prayer Updates via email.](#) *

Join the Prayer Team

RCIA



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Are you an adult interested in becoming Catholic? Are you wanting to participate fully in the sacraments instituted by Christ? Are you a baptized Christian and desiring to

receive the Eucharist and Confirmation? The next module of the RCIA process at StMM is starting in November 11, 2024. Now is a great time to start. Will you join us? Please contact Deacon Rick Stevens at stevens@stmm.net and let's have a conversation. We can help you start the process. Be assured by Christ's very own words: *"Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened to you"*.

Faith Formation

Click Here for the 2024-25 Faith Formation Calendar

ST. MARY MAGDALENE YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAMS

THE CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Please select a gift from our Sign Up Genius to benefit the Western Wake Guardian ad Litem foster children,



GATHER & ROCK

DROP OFF GIFTS ON 12/10/24 IN THE YOUTH ROOM LOCATED IN THE ACTIVITIES BLDG

Next Night of




Tuesday
Dec. 3

6:15 pm
Church

[Click Here to View Sign-Up Genius](#)

Questions:

For **GATHER**, contact Suzanne Will at will@stmm.net or 919-657-4800 x7280

For the **ROCK** contact Sarah Ritchie at ritchie@stmm.net or 919-657-4800 x7307

StMM Middle and High School Youth Ministry



Guidelines

1. Sign up for an item in the sign up genius
2. Please wrap any small items in larger boxes to keep from getting lost
3. Wrap all gifts and label with the gift label code
4. Include gift receipts
5. Check-in all presents in the Youth Room



Drop Off

- **The Way & EDGE:**
Sunday Dec. 8th at 5:30pm and 7pm
- **Gather & The Rock:**
Tuesday Dec. 10th from 5:45-6:15PM

[Click Here for Sign Up Genius](#)



BE A YOUTH MASS VOLUNTEER!

- Before Mass**
- Altar Prep

- During Mass:**
- Altar Servers
 - Ushers
 - Lectors
 - Eucharistic Ministers

Mountain Retreat is now full! Please email Niki Furnier at nfurnier@stmm.net to be added to the waitlist.

[Click here for the interest form for Youth Mass volunteers](#)

Questions:

For **EDGE**, contact Sarah Ritchie at ritchie@stmm.net or 919-657-4800 x7307

For **Apostello and the Way**, contact Niki Furnier at nfurnier@stmm.net or 919-657-4800 x7309

For **Confirmation**, contact the coordinator at StMM.confirmation@kristoffs.com

School News

Interested in joining St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School for the 25-26 school year? Tours are now open! Click [HERE](#) to visit us on campus to learn how we pray, learn, and care in our preschool, elementary, and middle school classrooms! Contact Lisa Portland, portland@stmm.net, with any questions!

The graphic features the school's logo on the left, which includes a stylized purple flower with a white cross in the center. To the right, the text 'TOURS OPEN' is written in large, white, outlined letters, with '25-26 School Year' below it. A central photograph shows four young boys in school uniforms (grey shirts and maroon shorts) standing outdoors. A purple box on the left contains the text 'Serving PreK3 through Eighth Grade'. At the bottom, a white circle contains the school's logo, and the text 'We pray. We learn. We care.' is written below it.

CPO Honor Cards



**Give gifts that reflect the true meaning of Christmas!
Catholic Parish Outreach Christmas Honor Cards**

\$55 feeds a family for a week and CPO served enough food to feed more than 100,000 people last year "a week+" of nutritious food.

Honor the special people on your holiday gift list by donating to Catholic Parish Outreach Food Pantry and we will send a beautiful Christmas honor card designed by a CPO Volunteer Cole Barnack to everyone on your gift list. [Click here to find out how to order cards](#) or call Catholic Parish Outreach at 919-873-0245 x2300.

Catholic Parish Outreach, 2013 Raleigh Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27604
For more information go to www.cporaleigh.org or call 919-873-0245

Cards received by December 20th guaranteed to be mailed out by December 23rd, 2024.

As our numbers continue to rise and more families need assistance, it is especially important to

Career Network Ministry



CNM Careering Success Summit: Navigating Today's Market w/ Faith & Purpose

Event by Career Network Ministry

Details: Join us for our largest, most impactful career event of the year, designed to guide you on your career journey with faith, purpose, and actionable insights. Organized by the Career Network Ministry and deeply inspired by the practical and spiritual guidance found in "Careering: A Spiritual and Practical Guide on How to Find and Maintain Work in Today's Economy" by Dana Gower and Paul Dean, the Careering Success Summit features inspiring and informative keynotes, presentations, panel discussions, and more.

Sponsored by talent acquisition and advisory firm, Kelaca, and career management and outplacement services firm, CareerPro, and held in the new Parish Center at the Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral in Raleigh, you'll gain invaluable tools, insights, and a strong, supportive network to confidently navigate today's job market

Thu, Dec 12, 2024, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
2403 Crusader Dr, Raleigh, NC (Parish Center)

Seating is Limited to 50.

Register on LinkedIn: <https://tinyurl.com/z6tk4fp4>

StMM E-News | 625 Magdala Place | Apex, NC 27502 US

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