



St. John Baptiste de LaSalle Catholic Church

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St. Stephen Catholic Church

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Fr. John D. Hanic, V.F.

(704) 763-2475

Rev. Mr. Harold Markle

(336) 466-4173

S. Janis McQuade, S.S.J.

(336) 835-4542

Fr. Jose Rebaque

(203) 954-7134

Mr. Cuauhdemoc (Temoc) Herrejon

(828) 773-2353

St. John

Temoc Herrejon	Faith Formation
Ann Stone	RCIA
Joel Everett	Music

St. Stephen

S. Janis McQuade, S.S.J.	Faith Formation
Phillip Parrish	RCIA
Theresa Martin	Music

Mass Schedule

St. John

Saturday	4:00p
Sunday	11:15a English 1:00p en español
Wednesday	11:00a

St. Stephen

Sunday	9:00a
Communion Service	Tuesday, 12:15p
Holy Days	7:00p

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 - 3:45p

By appointment

Welcome, New Parishioners: We are a Stewardship Community, sharing our time, talent, and treasure in life-giving ways.

To register and get more information: go to our website: www.StStephenNC.org

Sacrament Preparation (Baptism, 1st Communion, Reconciliation (Penance), or Matrimony)
Call S. Janis (336) 835-4542

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Offered for adults who desire to explore the Catholic Faith, spirituality, rites, and practices.

Sacrament of Anointing and Pastoral Care

If you or someone you know is desirous of God's healing and would like to receive the sacred anointing, contact S. Janis.

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 22, 2024

You're Invited!

Blessing of the Animals



WHERE: Farmer's Market
Downtown Elkin

WHEN: Sat., October 5th, 10:30a

Come join us!
Bring your pet-companion
to give thanks and
praise to God!

Out of courtesy for others,
all pets need to be leashed
or in a carrier.

Sponsored by The Ministerial Association and



Yadkin Valley
PET FUNERAL SERVICES



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
15 SEPTIEMBRE ~ 15 OCTUBRE

¡Eres parte
de nuestra familia
y una bendición!

Adult Faith Formation Opportunity

Monday, October 7, 7:00p

St. Stephen Family Life Center

Tim Hodges, Elkin Funeral Services

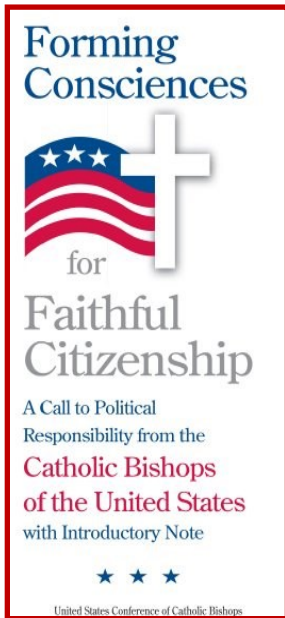
“What You Need to Know About Funeral Planning”

Monday, November 4, 5:00p

St. Stephen Family Life Center

Sister Janis

“Preplanning Your Funeral Service”



September 22, 2024

Why Does the Church Teach About Issues Affecting Public Policy? (Cont'd)

The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith. It is a basic part of the mission we have received from Jesus Christ, who offers a vision of life revealed to us in Sacred Scripture and Tradition. To echo the teaching of the Second Vatican Council: Christ, the Word made flesh, in showing us the Father's love, also shows us what it truly means to be human (see *Gaudium et Spes*, no. 22). Christ's love for us lets us see our human dignity in full clarity and compels us to love our neighbors as he has loved us. Christ, the Teacher, shows us what is true and good, that is, what is in accord with our human nature as free, intelligent beings created in God's image and likeness and endowed by the Creator with dignity and rights as well as duties.

Christ also reveals to us the weaknesses that are part of all human endeavors. In the language of revelation, we are confronted with sin, both personal and structural. "The Church's wisdom," according to Pope Benedict XVI, "has always pointed to the presence of original sin in social conditions and in the structure of society" (*Caritas in Veritate*, no. 34). All "structures of sin," as St. John Paul II calls them, "are rooted in personal sin, and thus always linked to the concrete acts of individuals who introduce these structures, consolidate them and make them difficult to remove" (*Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, no. 36). Thus, our faith helps us understand that the pursuit of a civilization of love must address our own failures and the ways in which these failures distort the

broader ordering of the society in which we live. In the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Ignorance of the fact that man has a wounded nature inclined to evil gives rise to serious errors in the areas of education, politics, social action and morals" (no. 407). As Pope Francis, quoting Pope Benedict XVI, reaffirmed in *Evangelii Gaudium*, "We need to be convinced that charity 'is the principle not only of micro-relationships (with friends, with family members or within small groups) but also of macro-relationships (social, economic and political ones)'" (no. 205).

What faith teaches about the dignity of the human person, about the sacredness of every human life, and about humanity's strengths and weaknesses helps us see more clearly the same truths that also come to us through the gift of human reason. At the center of these truths is respect for the dignity of every person. This is the core of Catholic moral and social teaching. Because we are people of both faith and reason, it is appropriate and necessary for us to bring this essential truth about human life and dignity to the public square. We are called to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13:34). We are also called to promote the well-being of all, to share our blessings with those most in need, to defend marriage, and to protect the lives and dignity of all, especially the weak, the vulnerable, the voiceless. In his first encyclical letter, *Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict XVI explained that "charity must animate the entire lives of the lay faithful and therefore also their political activity, lived as 'social charity'" (no. 29).

Some question whether it is appropriate for the Church to play a role in political life. However, the obligation to teach the moral truths that should shape our lives, including our public lives, is central to the mission given to the Church by Jesus Christ. Moreover, the United States Constitution protects the right of individual believers and religious bodies to participate and speak out without government interference, favoritism, or discrimination. Civil law should fully recognize and protect the right of the Church and other institutions in civil society to participate in cultural, political, and economic life without being forced to abandon or ignore their central moral convictions. Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions and concerns into public life. Indeed, our Church's teaching is in accord with the foundational values that have shaped our nation's history: "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

The Catholic community brings important assets to the political dialogue about our nation's future. We bring a consistent moral framework—drawn from basic human reason that is illuminated by Scripture and the teaching of the Church—for assessing issues, political platforms, and campaigns. We also bring broad experience in serving those in need—educating the young, serving families in crisis, caring for the sick, sheltering the homeless, helping women who face difficult pregnancies, feeding the hungry, welcoming immigrants and refugees, reaching out in global solidarity, and pursuing peace. We celebrate, with all our neighbors, the historically robust commitment to religious freedom in this country that has allowed the Church the freedom to serve the common good.

We must consider not only candidates' positions on these issues,
but their character and integrity as well.

(Excerpt from *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops)

Living Word...Living the Word

Morning, Church!

Without hesitation, I'd say, living one's faith is much more challenging if we practice the Beatitudes and the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy than it is in just adhering to the "shalt nots" of the Commandments. It just is.

In these latter Sundays of September we're *confronted* by the Letter of James, who, with his brother, John, are given the nickname "Sons of Thunder" by Jesus. They are aptly named!

Take a closer look at excerpts from James' epistle:

Sept 1: "Humbly welcome the Word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls. Be doers of the Word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves."

Sept 8: "...show no partiality...have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil designs?"

Sept 15: "What good is it...to say I have faith but do not have works?"

Sept 22: "Where do the wars...conflicts among you come from?"

Sept 29: (We'll break this open next week)
"Behold, the wages you withheld from your workers who harvested your fields..."

In each piece of James' epistle, he makes contrasts between what he calls the "wise" and the "wicked". In today's text, the wise enjoy every good gift and bear fruit for God. Their lives are generative, begetting virtues of peace, purity, gentleness, humility, mercy, goodness, faithfulness, and sincerity. While the wicked perpetuate darkness by their own narcissistic and evil tendencies.

For believers who strive to live gospel values and the virtuous life, James stretches us even further. He reminds us today that justice begets justice ~ God's justice. "*Find out what belongs to whom and give it back*" kind of justice. When we sow in peace and cultivate peace, we reap peace for ourselves and our dear neighbors.

"You reap what you sow."

The wicked reap what they sow, too! Their lives are in constant upheaval because of "wars" and conflicts they create and perpetuate. Their divided hearts and unintegrated desires skew their deepest passions and lead them to say and do what contradicts the gospel. Unholy longings/desires can only lead to a fruitless life, one with no loving legacy.

The "wicked" in all of us needs constant healing and redirection (conversion). Our passions need to take a graced U-turn. We need humility and a *fresh desire* to desire *what God desires for us*: wholeness and healing.

Wholeness and healing are our *Spiritual Exacta*. They become visible in our lives when we live and do the gospel through the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, nothing more, nothing less.

In CommUNITY,



🍷 *Reflecting on the Word*

"Where do the wars and conflicts among you come from?" - James

Choose a Spiritual and Corporal Work of Mercy. Make it real in your life over the next two weeks.

Palabra Viva...Viviendo La Palabra

¡Buenos días, Iglesia!

Sin dudarlo, diría que vivir la fe es mucho más desafiante si practicamos las Bienaventuranzas y las Obras de Misericordia Espirituales y Corporales que simplemente adherirse a las “prohibiciones” de los Mandamientos. Simplemente lo es.

En estos últimos domingos de septiembre nos enfrentamos a la Carta de Santiago, que, con su hermano, Juan, reciben de Jesús el sobrenombre de “Hijos del Trueno”. ¡Tienen un nombre acertado!

Eche un vistazo más de cerca a extractos de la epístola de Santiago:

- 1 de sept: “Acoged humildemente la Palabra que ha sido plantada en vosotros y que puede salvar vuestras almas. Sed hacedores de la Palabra y no sólo oidores, engañándoos a vosotros mismos”.
- 8 de sept: “...no hagáis acepción de personas... ¿no habéis hecho distinciones entre vosotros? ¿Y convertiros en jueces con malos designios?”
- 15 de sept: “¿De qué sirve... decir que tengo fe pero no tengo obras?”
- 22 de sept: “¿De dónde vienen las guerras... los conflictos entre vosotros?”
- 29 de sept: (Abriremos esto la próxima semana)
“He aquí el salario que retuvisteis de los trabajadores que cosechaban vuestras tierras...”

En cada fragmento de la epístola de Santiago, hace contrastes entre lo que llama los “sabios” y los “malvados”. En el texto de hoy, los sabios disfrutan de todo buen don y dan fruto para Dios. Sus vidas son generativas y engendran virtudes de paz, pureza, gentileza, humildad, misericordia, bondad, fidelidad y sinceridad. Mientras que los malvados perpetúan la oscuridad por sus propias tendencias narcisistas y malvadas.

Para creyentes que se esfuerzan por vivir los valores del evangelio y la vida virtuosa. James nos lleva aún más lejos. Nos recuerda hoy que la justicia engendra justicia ~ la justicia de Dios. Una especie de justicia tipo “descubrir qué pertenece a quién y devolverlo”. Cuando sembramos en paz y cultivamos la paz, cosechamos paz para nosotros y nuestros queridos vecinos.

“Se cosecha lo que se siembra”.

¡Los malvados también cosechan lo que siembran! Sus vidas están en constante agitación debido a las “guerras” y los conflictos que crean y perpetúan. Sus corazones divididos y sus deseos no integrados distorsionan sus pasiones más profundas y los llevan a decir y hacer lo que contradice el evangelio. Los anhelos/deseos impíos sólo pueden conducir a una vida infructuosa, sin un legado amoroso.

Los “malvados” que todos llevamos dentro necesitan sanación y redirección (conversión) constantes. Nuestras pasiones necesitan para dar un elegante giro en U. Necesitamos humildad y un nuevo deseo de desear lo que Dios desea para nosotros: plenitud y curación.

La plenitud y la curación son nuestra Exacta Espiritual. Se vuelven visibles en nuestras vidas cuando vivimos y hacer el evangelio a través de las Obras de Misericordia Espirituales y Corporales, nada más y nada menos.


















En ComUNIDAD,



📖 Reflexionando sobre la Palabra

“¿De dónde vienen las guerras y los conflictos entre vosotros?” - Jaime

Elige una Obra de Misericordia Espiritual y Corporal. Hazlo realidad en tu vida durante las próximas dos semanas.

SEPTEMBER	
01	22nd Sun OT
03	Communion Service, 12:15p
 04	RCIA, 6:30p; Choir, 7p 
 8	23rd Sun OT Faith Formation ~ Parents & Youth, After Mass, FLC
 09	Ladies Guild
10	Communion Service, 12:15p
 11	RCIA, 6:30p; Choir, 7p 
 15	24th Sun OT JAZZ & JUSTICE Concert, 5p Reeves Faith Formation ~ Parents & Youth, After Mass, FLC
16	Give Blood, 1st Baptist Ch, Elkin 1:00-6:00p 
17	Communion Service, 12:15p
 18	RCIA, 6:30p; Choir, 7p 
19	Wise Ones Little Italy Restaurant Dobson Host: Ramona & Jim, 1p 
21	Men's Breakfast, Cracker Barrel, 8:30a 
 22	25th Sun OT Faith Formation ~ Parents & Youth, After Mass, FLC
24	Communion Service, 12:15p
 25	RCIA, 6:30p; Choir, 7p 
28	YV Pumpkin Festival, 9a-4p 
 29	26th Sun OT Faith Formation ~ Parents & Youth, After Mass, FLC

SEPT MASS INTENTIONS	
01	+Linda Cirone
08	Fr. Ed Sheridan +Cecelia Jones +Kathleen Hyer
15	Linda & Frank Hart +Pat Black, SSJ
22	St. S Parishioners +Cmdr. Henry Lane Hubbard
29	Faith Formation Families

Birthdays & Anniversary



- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 01 Oscar Hernandez | 16 Jet Martinez |
| 03 Salomon Mata | Yareli Nava |
| 05 Rianna Hernandez | 18 Eric Garcia |
| Bryan Wagoner | 19 Andrea Faw |
| 06 Carlos Trejo | 22 Aracely Hernandez |
| 09 Thi Vo | 25 Theresa Martin |
| 10 Sonia DeJesus | 17 Sergio Hernandez |
| 13 Erika Ramirez | 29 Minnie Espino |
| 15 Peggy Reikowsky | |
| 07 Hanh & Toan Nguyen | 29 Julia & Diego Carreon |
| 07 Thi Nguyen & Thanh Vo | |



Tri-C Christian Crisis Ministries

SEPT

Shampoo

¡MUCHAS GRACIAS!

...to Lee Hadfield and nephew, Sando, who replaced the church interior lights...I was blind, but now I see...
God bless you abundantly!

...a todas las familias que asistieron a la Formación de Fe Familiar y que han asumido el compromiso de acompañar a sus hijos a nuestras reuniones dominicales...¡qué importante es seguir alimentando la fe de tu familia!
¡Dios te bendiga abundantemente!



S. Joan Mickey, SSJ

April 18, 1947 ~ September 11, 2024
59th Year as Sister of St. Joseph

H.S. friend and SSJ friend for 64 years.
*Eternal rest grant Joan, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace. Amen+*

S. Theresa Egan, SSJ

March 17, 1928 ~ September 18, 2024
78th Year as Sister of St. Joseph

*Eternal rest grant Theresa, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace. Amen+*

Who is the Greatest?



In the Gospel reading today the disciples were arguing with each other about who was the greatest. Jesus knew what they were talking about, so He told them that whoever wanted to be great must serve others.

Can you think of anyone who serves you? What about your parents? Priests, teachers and doctors also serve us. How can you serve others?



What would you like to do when you grow up? How will you be able to serve people then?



Answers to Cross-Word: ACROSS: 4. sacrifice, 5. God, 7. hear, 9. offer, 10. life, 11. not, 12. words, 14. save, 15. to. DOWN: 1. prayer, 2. night, 3. me, 5. goodness, 6. defend, 8. risen, 10. Lord, 13. set.

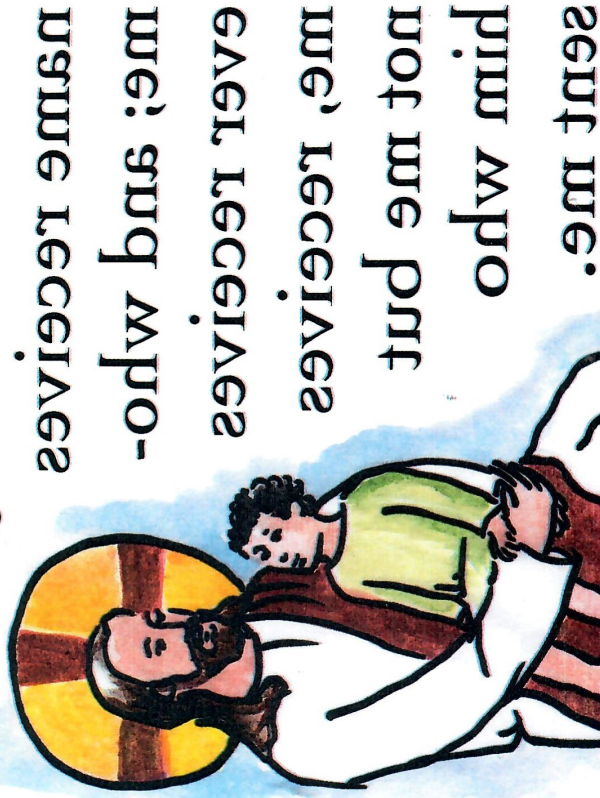
The Kids' Bulletin

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 22nd, 2024

What did Jesus say to the apostles after He told them that anyone who wanted to be great must be the servant?

Look at this page in the mirror to find out!

Whoever receives one
such child in my



Mark 9:30-37

name receives
me; and who-
ever receives
me, receives
not me but
him who
sent me.

SAINTS COSMAS AND DAMIAN

SEPTEMBER 26

COSMAS AND DAMIAN WERE TWIN BROTHERS IN THE 200'S AD. THEIR FATHER DIED WHEN THEY WERE YOUNG. THEY WERE RAISED BY THEIR MOTHER WHO WAS A CHRISTIAN.

Time for Mass, boys!

BOTH BROTHERS WERE VERY GOOD STUDENTS. THEY BECAME GREAT DOCTORS.

THEY HEALED PEOPLE'S BODIES

God will give you strength!

COSMAS AND DAMIAN WOULD NOT TAKE ANY PAY FOR THEIR WORK.

AND CARED FOR THEIR SOULS TOO.

WHEN A PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS BEGAN THE BROTHERS WERE ARRESTED AND TORTURED.

BUT THEY WOULD NOT GIVE UP THE FAITH. THEY WERE THROWN IN THE WATER, BURNED AND CRUCIFIED, BUT DID NOT DIE UNTIL THEY WERE BEHEADED.

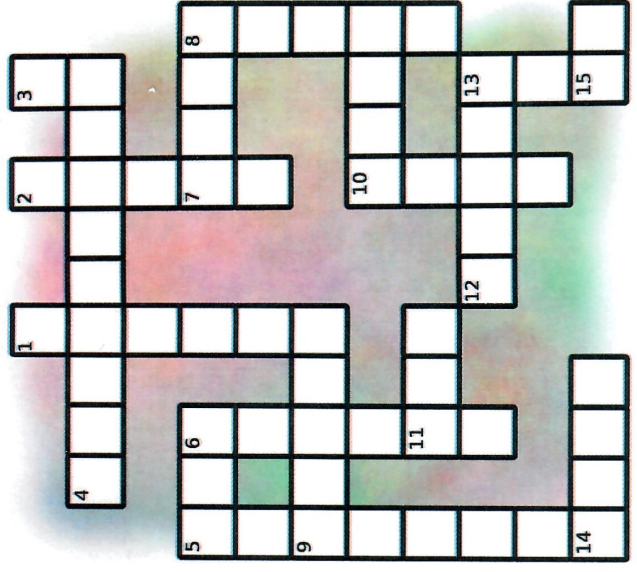
Still not dead yet?!

SAINTS COSMAS AND DAMIAN IMITATED JESUS IN HIS CARE FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING PEOPLE. THEY ARE PATRON SAINTS OF DOCTORS AND SURGEONS. WE CAN LEARN FROM THEM TO CARE FOR OTHERS LIKE JESUS DID. WE SHOULD ALSO IMITATE THEIR PERSEVERANCE IN THE FAITH IN SPITE OF PERSECUTION.

Psalm

54

Cross-Word



Unscramble the words in today's Psalm to fit them into the puzzle.

a=Across d=Down

O God, by your name (ESAV 14a) me,
and by your (THGMI 2d) (FENDEED 6d) my cause.

O God, (ERHA 7a) my (YREPRA 1d);
hearken (OT 15a) the (DROWS 12a) of my mouth.

For the haughty have (NERIS 8d) up against (EM 3d),
the ruthless seek my (FLEI 10a);
they (TES 13d) (NTO 11a) God before their eyes.

Behold, (DGO 5a) is my helper;
the (DOLR 10d) sustains my life.

Freely will I (EFFOR 9a) you (FICESACIR 4a);
I will praise your name, O Lord,
for its (NSSEGDOO 5d).

