



**St. John Baptiste de LaSalle Catholic Church**

275 C.C. Wright School Road  
North Wilkesboro NC 28659-9103  
(336)838-5562  
Email: [Info@StJohnNC.org](mailto:Info@StJohnNC.org)  
Website: [www.StJohnNC.org](http://www.StJohnNC.org)



**St. Stephen Catholic Church**

101 Hawthorne Road  
Elkin NC 28521-3016  
(336) 835-3007  
Email: [Connect@StStephenNC.org](mailto:Connect@StStephenNC.org)  
Website: [www.StStephenNC.org](http://www.StStephenNC.org)

**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 treasures in life-giving ways.  
To register and get more information: go to our website ~ [www.StStephenNC.org](http://www.StStephenNC.org)

**Sacrament Preparation** (Baptism, 1<sup>st</sup> 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.*

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 22, 2024**



Donate securely online:  
[www.ccdoc.org/helenerelief](http://www.ccdoc.org/helenerelief)  
**Mail option:**  
 Catholic Charities  
 Attn: Central Processing  
 1233 S. Church Street  
 Charlotte NC 282034003  
 MEMO: Helene Relief Effort

Tri-C Christian Crisis Ministries	
DEC	Dry beans



**RECYCLE  
 USED INK CARTRIDGES  
 at CHURCH!!  
 RECYLCE CONTAINER  
 IN THE LOBBY.  
 Thank you!**

**ONE  
 NATION**

God of all nations, Father of the human family, we give you thanks for the freedom we exercise and the many blessings of democracy we enjoy in the USA. We ask for your protection and guidance for all who devote themselves to the common good, working for justice and peace at home and around the world. We lift up all our duly elected leaders and public servants, those who will serve us as president, legislators and judges, those in the military and law enforcement. Heal us from our differences and unite us, O Lord, with a common purpose, dedication, and commitment to achieve liberty and justice in the years ahead for all people, and especially those who are most vulnerable in our midst. U.S.C.C.B.

*Prayer After an Election*

**UNDER  
 GOD**

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*  
**Community Worship Service**  
**Sunday, January 19, 2025 – 3:00 PM**  
**All are invited and welcome!**

First Baptist Church  
 Elkin, North Carolina



**“Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” Amos 5:24**

This worship service is sponsored and led by *CommUNITY Connections*, a group of local clergy who are seeking to dismantle racism one relationship at a time.

**You are cordially invited to a FREE**

**Fellowship Meal and Table Talk**

**Tuesday, February 11, 2025**  
**6:00 PM**

**New Beginnings United Methodist Church**  
 311 West Main Street  
 Jonesville, North Carolina



Sponsored by *New Beginnings UMC* and *CommUNITY Connections*

# **Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration**

**December 12th at 6pm**



**Please Come Join Us!**

**There will be a dance of praise performed by our Youth and a short play about the appearance of Our Lady Of Guadalupe.**

**Food and Refreshments to follow in our Family Life Center.**

## **La Posada “The Inns” December 22nd at 6pm**

**Come join and support our Youth in praying the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. There will be a liturgical dance of praise...and more!!**

**Food and refreshments to follow in our Family Life Center.**

**Can't wait to see YOU there!!**



*¡Buenos días, Iglesia!*

Después de reflexionar un poco más, me parece que hemos invertido la intención del Adviento. Durante las últimas cuatro semanas viendo esta temporada sagrada de una manera, he cambiado de opinión.

Juntos hemos estado orando “¡Ven, Señor Jesús!” con gozosa expectación y esperanza, lo cual sin duda es algo bueno. ¿Qué tal ver el Adviento desde otra perspectiva en esta última semana?

En esta quietud de la oración de la mañana, tuve una Anunciación propia que habló a mi corazón como una invitación a revertir el pensamiento y la práctica espiritual del pasado: Me llamó la atención que la temporada de Adviento es nuestro momento para ir a Jesús.

Incluso si estas últimas cuatro semanas han pasado rápidamente y aún no te has tomado el tiempo para orar y reflexionar... Ve a Jesús... incluso si has demorado en acercarte a alguien que busca tu perdón... Ve a Jesús...incluso si no has tenido la humildad de buscar el perdón de otro...Ve a Jesús...Hoy es otra oportunidad para que lo hagas. Jesús ya ha venido a ti ~ a todos nosotros ~ ahora es nuestro momento de ir a Jesús.

El evangelio de hoy presenta la sagrada virtud de la hospitalidad. La hospitalidad es una gracia única de nuestro espíritu. Cuando otras personas están a nuestro alrededor, se sienten bienvenidas y aceptadas en el espacio del corazón que creamos para ellas. El destacado psicólogo Abraham Maslow lo llama "la consideración positiva e incondicional por los demás". Los Hospitalarios nunca ponen rígidos emocionalmente a los demás. Nunca son quisquillosos, hipersensibles o irritables, ni están aislados de los demás... otra cara de "El amor es paciente, el amor es bondadoso".

La hospitalidad genera vida en los demás. Un espíritu de acogida invita a los demás a ser ellos mismos a nuestro alrededor, a estar en casa con nosotros y a que nosotros estemos verdaderamente con ellos. Tanto María como Isabel experimentaron y compartieron la Divina Hospitalidad.

Dios envió a Gabriel a anunciar los nacimientos de sus hijos, Jesús y Juan. Tanto María como Isabel dieron la bienvenida al mensajero y al mensaje de Dios. Mediante la hospitalidad de sus corazones y cuerpos sirvieron como parteras para el cumplimiento de la promesa de Dios.

A medida que avanzas en las idas y venidas de estos días, aprovecha cada oportunidad para ser la presencia acogedora de Dios. Haz espacio para Jesús y los demás en tu corazón. "...y el Verbo se hizo carne..."

¡Ven, Señor Jesús!

En comUNIDAD,



 *Reflexionando sobre la Palabra*

¿Cómo ve usted la bienvenida y la aceptación?

Crea oportunidades de sanación y esperanza en tu familia esta semana.  
por cierto todos ellos se sienten bienvenidos por ti.



*Una bendición  
el día de navidad*

Quizás no empiece.

Quizás siempre lo sea.

Tal vez sea necesario  
toda una vida  
para abrir los ojos,  
aprender a ver  
lo que tiene para siempre  
brillaba frente a nosotros...  
la línea luminosa  
del mapa  
en la oscuridad  
la llama de vigilia  
en la casa  
del corazón  
el amor  
tan abrasador  
no podemos mantener  
de cantar,  
de llorar  
en testimonio  
y alabanza.

Quizás este día  
será la montaña  
sobre cual  
amanece.

Quizás nosotros  
girará nuestra cara  
hacia ello,  
hacia lo que ha sido  
siempre.

Tal vez  
nuestros ojos  
finalmente se abrirá  
en un reconocimiento  
antiguo,  
deslumbrado  
voluntariamente,  
iluminado por fin.

Quizás este día  
la luz comienza  
en nosotros.

*Morning, Church!*

After some more reflection, seems to me we have Advent's intent reversed. For the last four weeks of seeing this sacred season in one way, I've changed my mind.

Together we've been praying "Come, Lord Jesus!" with joyous expectation and hope, which is a good thing to do, for sure. How about seeing Advent from another perspective in this last week?

In this stillness of morning prayer, I had an Annunciation of my own which spoke to my heart as an invitation to reverse past thinking and spiritual practice: It struck me that the Advent season is our time to *Go to Jesus*.

Even if these past four weeks rushed past you and you've yet to take the time for prayer and quiet reflection...*Go to Jesus*...even if you've delayed reaching out to someone who seeks your forgiveness...*Go to Jesus*...even if you have not had the humility to seek another's forgiveness...*Go to Jesus*...Today is another opportunity for you to do so. Jesus has *already* come to you ~ to all of us ~ now is our time to *Go to Jesus*.



Today's gospel features the sacred virtue of hospitality. Hospitality is a unique graciousness of our spirit. When others are around us they feel welcomed and accepted in the heart space we create for them. The noted psychologist, Abraham Maslow calls it, "the unconditional, positive regard for others." The Hospitable do not ever emotionally stiff arm others. They are never prickly, hypersensitive, or irritable, nor are they walled off from others...another face of "Love is patient, love is kind."

Hospitality births life in others. A welcoming spirit invites others to be themselves around us, to be at home with us and for us to truly be with them. Both Mary and Elizabeth experienced and shared Divine Hospitality.

God sent Gabriel to announce the births of their sons, Jesus and John. Both Mary and Elizabeth welcomed God's messenger and message. Through the hospitality of their hearts and bodies they served as midwives to the fulfillment of God's promise.

As you move through the comings and goings of these days, take every opportunity to be God's welcoming presence. Make room for Jesus and others in your heart. "...and the Word became flesh..."

*Come, Lord Jesus!*  
In CommUNITY,

 *Reflecting on the Word*

Who looks to you for welcome and acceptance?

Create opportunities for healing and hope in your family this week  
by the way all of them feel welcomed by you.



*A Blessing  
on Christmas Day*  
~Jan Richardson

Perhaps it does not begin.

Perhaps it is always.

Perhaps it takes  
a lifetime  
to open our eyes,  
to learn to see  
what has forever  
shimmered in front of us —  
the luminous line  
of the map  
in the dark  
the vigil flame  
in the house  
of the heart  
the love  
so searing  
we cannot keep  
from singing,  
from crying out  
in testimony  
and praise.

Perhaps this day  
will be the mountain  
over which  
the dawn breaks.  
Perhaps we  
will turn our face  
toward it,  
toward what has been  
always.

Perhaps  
our eyes  
will finally open  
in ancient recognition,  
willingly dazzled,  
illuminated at last.

Perhaps this day  
the light begins  
in us.

DECEMBER	
22	<b>4th Sun Advent</b> Faith Formation ~ Parents & Youth, After Mass, FLC <i>All Are Welcome!</i> <i>Las Posadas "The Inns" Prayer Service, Rosary</i> <i>&amp; Fiesta Dinner, 6p</i>
24	<i>Christmas Eve Mass, 4p</i>
25	<i>Christmas Day Mass, 9a</i>
26	<i>Feast: St. Stephen</i>
29	<i>Feast: Holy Family, Mass, 9a</i>
JANUARY	
01	<i>Feast: Mary, Mother of God</i> St. John Mass 11:00a & 6:30p
05	<i>Feast: The Epiphany</i>
07	Communion Service, 12:15p
08	Choir, 7p
12	2nd Sun OT Family Faith Formation, After Mass
14	The Chosen, 10a Communion Service, 12:15p
15	RCIA II, 6:30p; Choir, 7p
16	Wise Ones, 1p TBA
18	Men's Breakfast, Cracker Barrel, 8:30a
19	3rd Sun OT Family Faith Formation, After Mass <i>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> <i>Community Worship Service</i> <i>First Baptist Church, Elkin 3:00p</i>
20	<i>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> Give Blood, Elkin Rescue Cntr., 1:30-6:00p
21	The Chosen, 10a; Communion Service, 12:15p
26	4th Sun OT

MASS INTENTIONS	
08	+Ellyn M. Garwood; Tim Garwood (Birthdays)
15	Sister Pat Black, S.S.J.
22	+Susan Martin; Marie & Doug Jones
24	St. Stephen Parishioners +Helen Purcell; +Tessie Horneck
25	St. Stephen Parishioners
29	+Ann Goodson Faust

**Birthdays & Anniversary**

- |                                |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 26 Judy Simon                  | 27 Gabriel Loyola       |
| 27 Alejandro Carmona           | Diana Rodriguez         |
| Becky Dursee                   | 28 Bob DeJohn           |
| Gabriel Loyola                 | 29 Lukas McClamrock     |
| 22 Hilda & Joel Lopez          | 23 Elia & Luis Martinez |
| 31 Crystal & Francisco Fuentes |                         |



**IF**, by some **extraordinary** change from past winters, and we have icy /snowy conditions, you will be notified of St. Stephen closings on:  
**WXII Channel 11 or 1203**  
**FOX Channel 10 or 1206**



<b>Christmas Flowers</b>	
<i>Donor</i>	<i>In honor/memory of</i>
Anonymous	N/A
Janis McQuade	McQuade, Garwood, O'Neill, Bentley and Tuffner Families
Theresa Martin	Joe & Rose El-Khoury

**¡MANY THANKS! ¡MUCHAS GRACIAS!**

...to all who helped set up our indoor Nativity scenes, decorated or cleaned church, and to all our ministers who continue to serve among us...our Faith Formation Families for witnessing your love for Our Lady of Guadalupe and the tradition of Las Posadas....

¡Muchas gracias!

...a todos los que ayudaron a instalar nuestros pesebres interiores, decoraron y limpiaron la iglesia, y a todos nuestros ministros que continúan sirviendo entre nosotros...nuestras Familias de Formación de Fe por ser testigos de su amor por Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y la tradición de Las Posadas...

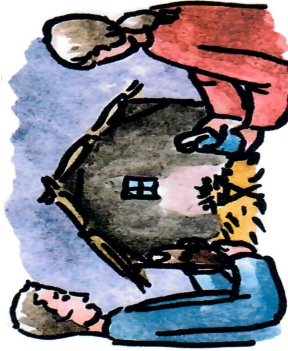
## Come, Lord Jesus!



The Christmas tree is an “evergreen” and it symbolizes everlasting life and hope, the precious gifts from Jesus to all believe.

Do you know the story of the Nativity scene? St. Francis of Assisi, is said to have created the first Nativity scene. Francis heard of a village where everyone stopped going to Mass and praying. He went to the village on Christmas Eve and invited everyone in the town to come to Mass.

When all of them were gathered in barn that night, surrounded by the animals, Francis told them the story of the very first Christmas. He reminded them of how much Jesus loves them. He invited them to return to Mass, be more prayerful, and help each another. After listening to Francis preach, their hearts were changed. That very night, they all decided to give their hearts to Jesus again and to live their faith with new purpose.



Do you have a Nativity scene at your house? If you don't you can make one. Sketch a barn outline and draw Joseph, Mary, standing beside Jesus in the manger. Add some animals, like a cow or a sheep. Then add some shepherds, too. One January 5, you can add the Magi, the Three Kings, too.

Blessed are you among women!  
 1. true 2. false, 3. false, 4. true,  
 5. true, 6. false, 7. true

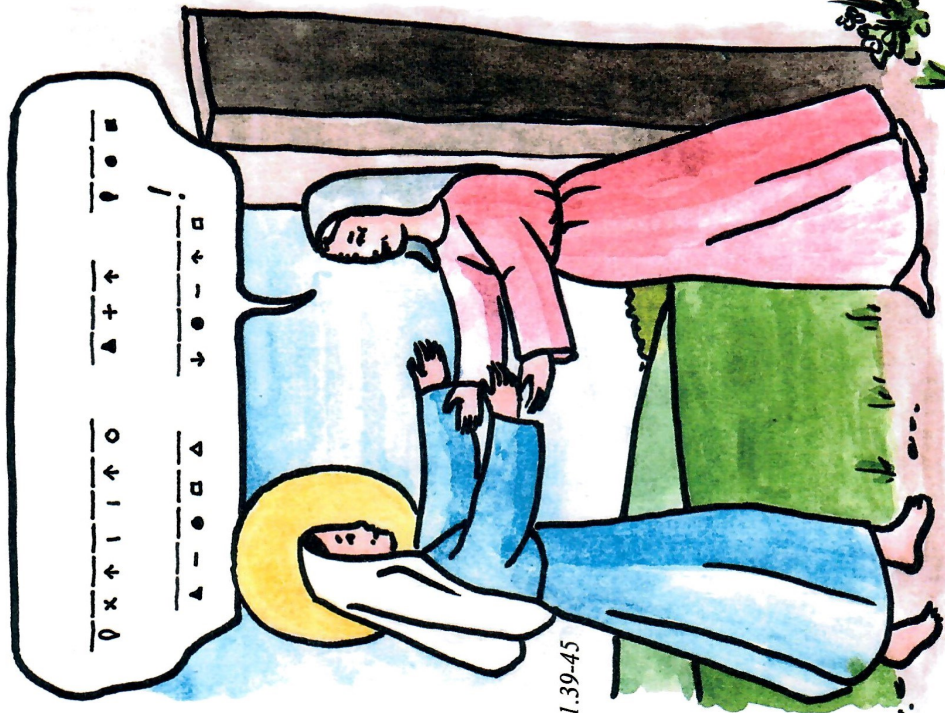
Puzzle answers:



# The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024



Luke 1.39-45

Elizabeth knew that Mary was the mother of the Messiah. What did she say to Mary when she came to visit her?

Use the code to find out!

A B D E G L M N O R S U W Y  
 ▲ ♡ ○ ↑ ▲ x - □ + i ■ ↓ ♠

# Saint Peter Canisius

## December 21

PETER CANISIUS WAS BORN IN HOLLAND IN 1521. HE STUDIED IN COLOGNE, GERMANY, AND RECEIVED HIS MASTER'S DEGREE WHEN HE WAS 19.

WHEN HE WENT TO A RETREAT LED BY BLESSED PETER FABER, HE DECIDED TO BECOME A JESUIT PRIEST.

*I want to be one of these priests!*

*Ooo*

FR. PETER WAS A GREAT PREACHER, AND BROUGHT THE UNIVERSITIES BACK FROM PROTESTANTISM.

*The Church's authority is from Christ.*

*Who made the world?*

HE ALSO WORKED WITH THE POOR AND SICK, AND TAUGHT CHILDREN.

HE WAS SENT TO THE COUNCIL OF TRENT, A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE POPE AND BISHOPS.

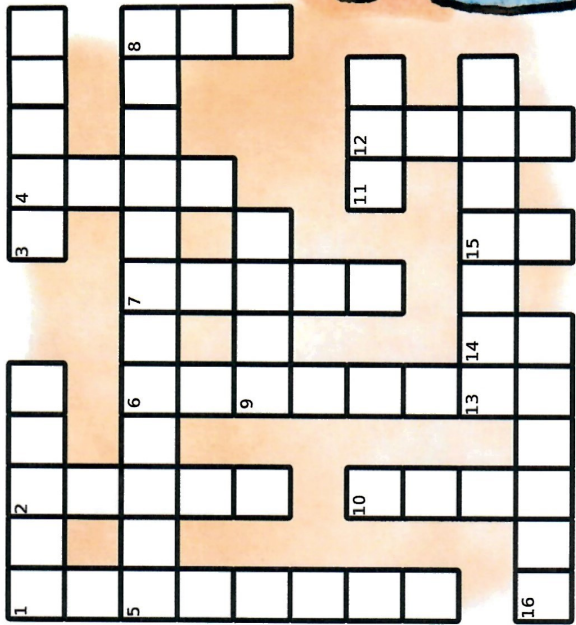
AFTERWARD HE HAD TO SMUGGLE THE DOCUMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL INTO PROTESTANT GERMANY.

SAINT PETER WAS COMMISSIONED TO WRITE A BOOK EXPLAINING THE FAITH FOR THE PEOPLE. HE DIED AT AGE 76.

SAINT PETER CANISIUS KNEW IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE TO UNDERSTAND THE CHURCH'S TEACHINGS. AFTER HE WROTE THE CATECHISM, HE WROTE ANOTHER- FOR CHILDREN. NO MATTER HOW OLD YOU ARE, YOU SHOULD TRY TO LEARN ALL YOU CAN ABOUT GOD. HOW CAN YOU DO THAT?

thekidsbulletin@gmail.com

# Philippians 4 Cross-Word



Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom and fit them into the puzzle.  
a=across  
d=down



Brothers and \_\_\_\_\_ (13a): Rejoice in the \_\_\_\_\_ (12d) always. I \_\_\_\_\_ (3a) say \_\_\_\_\_ (14d) \_\_\_\_\_ (2d): rejoice! Your \_\_\_\_\_ (6d) should be known \_\_\_\_\_ (15d) all. The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ (9a). \_\_\_\_\_ (4d) no anxiety at \_\_\_\_\_ (11a), but in everything, \_\_\_\_\_ by prayer and \_\_\_\_\_ (1d), with \_\_\_\_\_ (5a), make \_\_\_\_\_ (10d) requests known to \_\_\_\_\_ (8d). Then the \_\_\_\_\_ (1a) of God that surpasses all understanding will \_\_\_\_\_ (7d) your hearts and minds in \_\_\_\_\_ (16a) Jesus.

GOD SHALL TO LORD YOUR  
CHRIST ALL KINDNESS SISTERS  
THANKSGIVING PEACE IT PETITION  
NEAR AGAIN GUARD HAVE