



St. John Baptiste de LaSalle Catholic Church

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Website: www.StJohnNC.org



St. Stephen Catholic Church

101 Hawthorne Road
Elkin NC 28521-3016
(336) 835-3007
Email: Connect@StStephenNC.org
Website: 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

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.

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024



Donate securely online:
www.ccdoc.org/helenerelief

Mail option:

Catholic Charities
 Attn: Central Processing
 1233 S. Church Street
 Charlotte NC 282034003
 MEMO: Helene Relief Effort

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



Tri-C Christian Crisis Ministries	
DEC	Dry beans



**ONE
 NATION**

Prayer After an Election

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 these United States of America.

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. Catholic Conference
 of Bishops' Conference

**UNDER
 GOD**



**THANK YOU
 for giving
 to those who
 have given a lifetime.**



<i>Christmas Flowers</i>	
<i>Donor</i>	<i>In honor/memory of</i>
Lou Stackhouse	Jeff Stackhouse
Karen Gochanuer	Dr. Bob Gochanuer Michael & Elizabeth Karaffa

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

December 12th at 6pm



Please Come Join Us!

Traditional Puerto Rican dance 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 traditional Puerto Rican liturgical dance...and more!!

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

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



¡Buenos días, Iglesia!

La multitud, los recaudadores de impuestos y los soldados acudieron a Juan en busca de consejo. Querían crear una mayor apertura a Dios en sus vidas. Las respuestas de John son igualmente simples y profundas. Usando tu imaginación, vayamos al Jordán y seamos parte de cada grupo.

La Multitud: en su cultura, tiempo y lugar, "...la gente cree que cuando alguien gana más de algo, automáticamente tiene menos; En nuestra cultura, tener más de lo que necesitamos es una avaricia vergonzosa". (J. Pilch) Entonces, ¿qué debemos hacer nosotros, la multitud? Si quieres cambiar, sal de la multitud y comparte quién eres y qué tienes.

Sé generoso con quién eres y con lo que tienes.

Los recaudadores de impuestos: cada uno de nosotros somos recaudadores de impuestos. Cada uno de nosotros tiene expectativas de nosotros mismos, de los demás y del mundo. La recaudación de impuestos puede aplicarse a nuestras relaciones cuando nuestras expectativas de los demás son poco realistas y excesivas. Necesitamos fomentar relaciones correctas en nuestras vidas, que sean compasivas y justas. Entonces, ¿qué debemos hacer nosotros, los recaudadores de impuestos?

Sea una persona íntegra.

Los soldados: soldados romanos, altamente entrenados para luchar y defender su posición, se acercan humildemente a Juan. Los soldados en esta época tenían todo el poder. John les advierte que no sean matones. Resista cualquier "ocupación" forzada o "toma hostil" de la vida de otra persona. Proteger y defender a los más vulnerables. Siéntete contento con quién eres y con lo que tienes. Entonces, ¿qué debemos hacer nosotros, los soldados? Resiste ejercer el poder como una forma de controlar a los demás. Utilice su posición de autoridad para servir, no para encadenar a otros.

Servir a los demás en lugar de dominarlos.

Ser generoso, mostrar integridad y servir a los demás son virtudes que podemos esforzarnos por practicar en este Adviento. Vivir una vida virtuosa, según Juan, demuestra que "tenemos la intención de reformarnos". Los tres grupos que se reunieron alrededor de Juan fueron llamados a la conversión de una manera específica a su estilo de vida.

Si pretendemos reformarnos, nuestra vida dará testimonio de la intención de nuestro corazón. En nombre de Dios, seremos más intencionales en nuestras elecciones y en nuestras relaciones.

En este domingo de Gaudete pregúntate,
"¿Qué estoy haciendo en nombre de Dios?"

¡Ven, Señor Jesús!

En comUNIDAD,

spanis

☪ Reflexionando sobre la Palabra

¿Qué espacio he creado en mi día para la reflexión tranquila y en oración?

¿Quién o qué impide que la Luz de Cristo, anunciada por Juan, para brillar en todas las grietas escondidas y rotas de mi corazón?



Bendiciendo el Camino

Con cada paso
tu tomas,
esta bendición se eleva
para conocerte.

ha estado esperando
largas edades para ti.

Mira de cerca
y puedes ver
sus capas,

cómo se ha diseñado
por aquellos que caminaron
este camino ante ti,

como ha sido creado
de nada más que
su determinación
y sus sueños,

como ha tomado
su forma
de una antigua esperanza
que los atrajo hacia adelante
y les abrió un camino
cuando de ninguna
manera podría ser visto.

Mira más de cerca
y veras
esta bendición
no está terminado,

que eres parte
del camino
se esta preparando,
que tu eres como
esta bendición significa
ser una voz
dentro del desierto

y una bienvenida
por el camino.

~ Jan Richardson

Morning, Church!

The Crowd, Tax Collectors, and the Soldiers came to John for advice. They wanted to create a greater openness for God in their lives. John's answers are as simple as they are profound. Using your imagination, let's go to the Jordan and become part of each group.

The Crowd: in their culture, time, and place, "...people believe when someone gains more of something, someone automatically has less; in our culture, having more than we need is shameful greed." (J. Pilch) So, what are **we, the crowd**, to do? If you mean to change, step out of the crowd and share who you are and what you have.

Be generous with who you are and what you have.

The tax collectors: each of us are tax collectors. Each of us has expectations of ourselves, others, and the world. Tax collecting can apply to our relationships when our expectations of others are unrealistic and excessive. We need to foster right relationships in our lives, ones that are compassionate and just. So, what are **we, tax collectors**, to do?

Be a person of integrity.

The soldiers: Roman soldiers, highly trained to fight and defend their position, humbly approach John. Soldiers in this time had all the power. John warns them not to be bullies. Resist any forceful "occupation" or "hostile takeover" of another's life. Protect and defend the most vulnerable. Be content with who you are and what you have. So, what are **we, soldiers**, to do? Resist wielding power as a way of controlling others. Use your position of authority for serving, not shackling others.

Serve others instead of dominating them.

Being generous, showing integrity, and serving others are virtues we can strive to practice this Advent. Living a virtuous life, according to John, demonstrates we "mean to reform". All three of these groups who gathered around John were called to conversion in a way specific to their lifestyle.

If we mean to reform, our life will give witness to the intention of our heart. In God's name, we will become more intentional in our choices and in our relationships.

On this Gaudete Sunday, ask yourself,

"What in God's name am I doing?"

Come, Lord Jesus!

In CommUNITY,

Janis

 ***Reflecting on the Word***

What space have I created in my day for quiet and prayerful reflection?

Who or what is preventing the Light of Christ, heralded by John, to shine on all the hidden, broken crevices of my heart?



Blessing the Way

With every step
you take,
this blessing rises up
to meet you.

It has been waiting
long ages for you.

Look close
and you can see
the layers of it,

how it has been fashioned
by those who walked
this road before you,

how it has been created
of nothing but
their determination
and their dreaming,

how it has taken
its form
from an ancient hope
that drew them forward
and made a way for them
when no way could be
seen.


Look closer
and you will see
this blessing
is not finished,

that you are part
of the path
it is preparing,

that you are how
this blessing means
to be a voice
within the wilderness

and a welcome
for the way.

~ Jan Richardson

DECEMBER	
01	1st Sun Advent Faith Formation ~ Parents & Youth, After Mass, FLC Community Chorus First Baptist Ch., 4:00 & 7:00p
03	The Chosen, 10a Communion Service, 12:15p; RCIA I, 6:30p
04	RCIA II, 6:30p; Choir, 7p
08	2nd Sun Advent Faith Formation ~ Parents & Youth, After Mass, FLC
09	Feast: Immaculate Conception Masses @ St. John ~ 11a & 6p Ladies Guild Christmas Party, 12N RCIA II, 6:30p
10	The Chosen, 10a Communion Service, 12:15p; RCIA I, 6:30p
11	RCIA II, 6:30p; Choir, 7p
12	 <i>All Are Welcome!</i> <i>Prayer Service</i> <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> <i>& Fiesta Dinner, 6:00p</i>
15	3rd Sun Advent Faith Formation ~ Parents & Youth, After Mass, FLC
16	Give Blood Elkin Rescue Center, 1:00-6:30p
17	The Chosen, 10a Communion Service, 12:15p; RCIA I, 6:30p
19	Wise Ones Christmas Party, 1p, FLC Host: Aileen
22	4th Sun Advent Faith Formation ~ Parents & Youth, After Mass, FLC <i>All Are Welcome!</i> <i>Las Posadas "The Inns" Prayer Service, Rosary</i> <i>& 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>

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

01 Jason LaCashio	16 Jesus Nava
02 Brylee Ange	17 Juan Rodriguez
Jason McClamrock	18 Gracie Spicer
03 Doris Watson	20 Tom Cirone
04 Jocelyn Espino	21 Sixto DeJesus
John Orta	Hanh Nguyen
06 Holly Stringer	Andy Trinidad
07 Gabriel Cancel	26 Judy Simon
Ngoe Vo	27 Alejandro Carmona
09 Eli Davis	Becky Dursee
12 Rebekah Treannie	Gabriel Loyola
14 Jacquie Darcey	Diana Rodriguez
15 Gabriel Hernandez	28 Bob DeJohn
Melia Orta	29 Lukas McClamrock
05 Eligia & Fredy Carmona	18 Jackie & Bryan Wagoner
07 Yeny & Leonardo Marino	22 Hilda & Joel Lopez
14 Arelis & Lee Hadfield	23 Elia & Luis Martinez
31 Crystal & Francisco Fuentes	

¡MANY THANKS!
¡MUCHAS GRACIAS!

Many thanks to our Faith Formation families for leading us in our parish celebration for Our Lady of Guadalupe and for all who prepared food for our fiesta dinner.

¡Muchas gracias!

Muchas gracias a nuestras familias de Formación de Fe por guiarnos en nuestra celebración Parroquial Por Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y por todos los que comida preparade para nuestra cena de fiesta.



S. Jane Day, SSJ

August 28, 1928 ~ December 8, 2024
78th Year as Sister of St. Joseph

PREPARE the WAY OF the LORD!



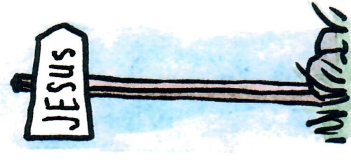
The people who heard John the Baptist preach were filled with hope for the coming of the Savior. John told the people the best way prepare for Jesus' coming is to say loving words, do loving things and think loving thoughts. John challenged the people to change all their unloving choices to loving choices.

People from all over came to see and hear him. At first, they thought John might be the Savior. As they listened to him, they discovered that God asked John to served as God's messenger who would show them the way to Jesus.

How can you be like John the Baptist and show others the way to Jesus?

Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight his path to your heart by helping others, especially your family.

Come, Lord Jesus!



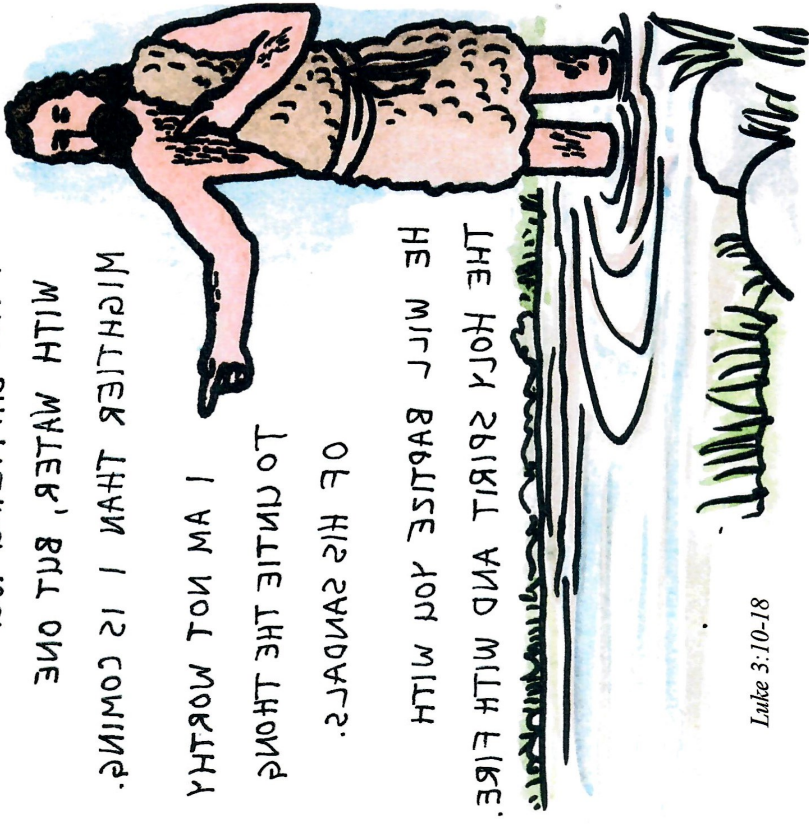
The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15th, 2024

NOY ANSITQAB MA I
ENO TUB ,RETAW HTIW
.ANIMOC SI I NAHT REITHAIM

YHTROW TON MA I
DNED THE LEONU OT
.2.ADVAS ZIH SANDARTS.

HE WIRT BABLISE JON WITH
THE HOKY SPIRIT AND WITH FIRE



Luke 3:10-18

God sent Saint John the Baptist to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus. What did he say when some of the people thought that he might be the saviour? Look in the mirror to find out!

Answers to Crossword Puzzle:
Across: 1.peace 3.shall 5.thanksgiving 9.near 11.all
13.sisters 15.Christ Down: 1.petition 2.again 4.have
6.kindness 7.guard 8.God 10.your 12.Lord 14.it 15.to

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.

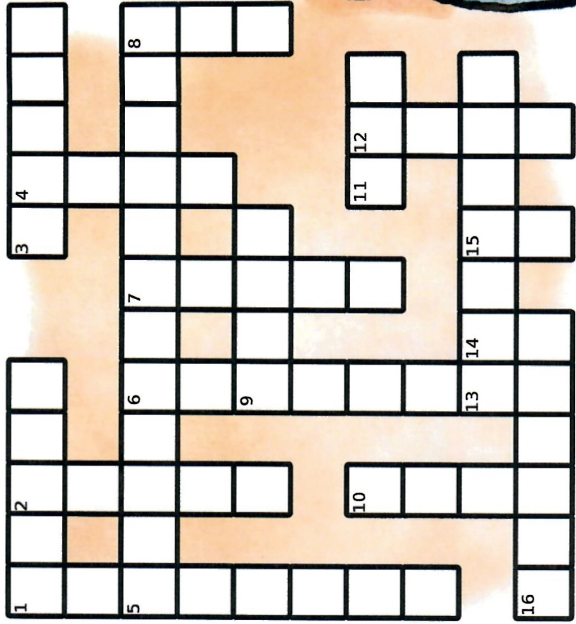
SAINT PETER WAS COMMISSIONED TO WRITE A BOOK EXPLAINING THE FAITH FOR THE PEOPLE. HE DIED AT AGE 76.

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