



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

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**St. Stephen Catholic Church**

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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 treasure 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.*

**Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**August 25, 2024**





**FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT**  
**PRESENTED BY**  
**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

**JAZZ AND JUSTICE**

**A PROGRAM OF STORY AND SONG  
ABOUT FREEDOM, COMMUNITY  
AND BELONGING**

A CONCERT BY  
CAROLINA SOCIAL MUSIC CLUB

**5:00 PM**

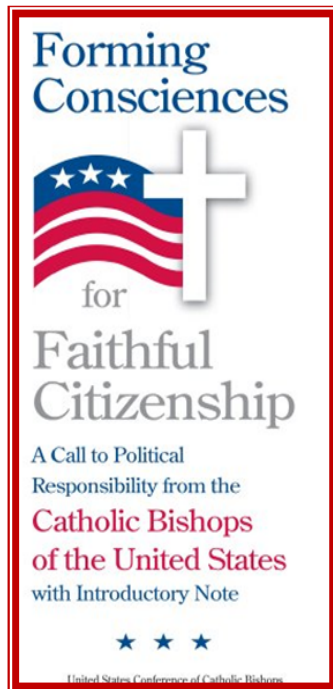
**SUNDAY**

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2024**

**THE REEVES THEATER**

**ELKIN NC**

Free Concert sponsored by the Ministerial Association  
Open seating, first come, first serve. Sign up in the lobby.



## PART TWO

U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops

Participation in political life also requires judgments about concrete circumstances. While the bishops help form the laity in accordance with basic principles, they do not tell the laity to vote for particular candidates. On these often complex matters, it is the laity's responsibility to form their consciences and grow in the virtue of prudence to approach the many and varied issues of the day with the mind of Christ. Conscience is "a judgment of reason" by which one determines whether an action is right or wrong (CCC, no. 1778). It does not allow us to justify doing whatever we want, nor is it a mere "feeling."

Conscience—properly formed according to God's revelation and the teaching of the Church—is a means by which one listens to God and discerns how to act in accordance with the truth. The truth is something we receive, not something we make. We can only judge using the conscience we have, but our judgments do not make things true. It is our responsibility

to learn more of Catholic teaching and tradition, to participate in Church life, to learn from trustworthy sources about the issues facing our communities, and to do our best to make wise judgments about candidates and government actions.

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We must also seek wisdom, as Holy Scripture instructs:

*Wisdom from above is first of all innocent.  
It is also peaceable, lenient, docile,  
rich in sympathy and the kindly deeds  
that are its fruits, impartial and sincere.  
The harvest of justice is sown in peace  
for those who cultivate peace.*

(Jas. 3:17-18).

The teachings of the Church, moreover, offer a vision of hope, where justice and mercy abound, because God is the infinite source of all goodness and love. With this wisdom and hope, we can find a way to bend down as the Good Samaritan did, through the fear and divisions, to touch and heal the wounds.

May God bless you as you consider and pray over these challenging decisions. May God bless our nation with true wisdom, peace, and mutual forgiveness, that we may decide together, through our democratic processes, to uphold the dignity of life and the common good.



## How Will *You* Choose?



*Morning, Church!*

We love options. We love menus and multiple choices in our personal life, our clothing, and foods. We humans are built that way. One of the most iconic and hilarious choice-making moments is found in the deli scene of the 1989 movie, “When Harry Met Sally”. Only-in-America would you hear a server receive such an option-laden request!

Faith is a choice. Discipleship is a choice. God’s Word always offers us choices. Joshua serves up some spiritual choices for the Israelites. They can choose God or idolatry. They can have real eating or real starving. They can either reverence or disrespect one another.

Gathering the tribes, Joshua demands that the Israelites make a choice. Who will they worship and serve? This is a confronting and affirming demand couched in the memories of their God’s faithful, unbreakable Covenant. Joshua draws the imaginary line in the sand. He and his household cross the line and will only serve the Lord God. No question. Joshua is mindful that only in God will they find everlasting life.

*Joshua’s address to the assembly is in the form of a prophetic declaration:  
Thus says the Lord. He places before the people a choice that will shape  
their own self-identity and will determine the path they ~ and their descendants ~  
Will travel for the rest of their lives. Whom will they serve?*

~ Diane Bergant, Theologian and Scripture scholar

St. Paul, who fell from his haughty horse of pride and persecution, reminds his readers that we are to be reverent in all our relationships out of reverence for Christ. Yield to the service of others over serving your own needs. Snub any sense of entitlement that may rear its ugly head in your heart. Put others first or put yourself first. Choose. Choose to be like Christ in your relationships or not. Willingly lay down your life for others or not. Christ gave his life for you. Choose.

Jesus offers the faithless crowd and his disciples a choice: listen to me, follow me, believe in me. This is not a menu. Jesus is asking for an inclusive yes. Believe I Am the Bread of Life. Be nourished by eating and drinking me that you may have eternal life. Even when you find it hard to understand, pray for an ever-deepening faith. “Come and see” each day what it means to follow me, to be in relationship with me and with each other.

Like the crowds surrounding Joshua, Jesus asks the crowds and the disciples to make a decisive choice. Some chose to walk away, comforted by their pre-conceived notions of the Possibilities of Presence. When asked to make a choice, Peter speaks for all the disciples, “...to whom can we go...you alone have the words of eternal life.”




















*Personal reflection: Consider your relationship with St. Stephen.  
Is your only connection to your parish community the Sunday Mass?  
How do you share your time, talent, and treasure?  
Do you participate in parish events, ministries, outreach efforts?  
Today’s a good day to take inventory of choices  
made in the past and choices to be made for the future.*

As a descendant of Israelites and the First Followers of Christ, how will you choose?

In CommUNITY,

♥ *Reflecting on the Word*

*Is my heart, my household serving the Lord?  
Why or why not?*

| AUGUST   |  |
|--|--|
|  25   | 21st Sun OT<br>Faith Formation REGISTRATION FLC, 10:15a<br>Final Day Faith Formation Registration<br>Último día para el registro de formación de fe en línea |
| 27   | Communion Service, 12:15p  |
|  28   | RCIA, 6:30p; Choir, 7p    |
| SEPTEMBER  |  |
| 01   | 22nd Sun OT  |
| 03   | Communion Service, 12:15p  |
|  04   | RCIA, 6:30p; Choir, 7p    |
|  08   | 23rd Sun OT<br>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<br>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, 1p TBA   |
| 21   | Men's Breakfast, Cracker Barrel, 8:30a                                    |
|  22 | 25th Sun OT<br>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<br>Faith Formation ~ Parents & Youth, After Mass, FLC  |

| MASS INTENTIONS |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 18              | +Damien Michael Whisonant                                   |
| 25              | +Phil Altemueller<br>Students & Teachers, Coaches & Mentors |
| 01              | +Linda Cirone   |
| 08              | Fr. Ed Sheridan +Cecelia Jones                              |

### Birthdays & Anniversary



|    |                                   |    |                       |
|----|-----------------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 25 | Hannah Treannie                   | 26 | Pat Kophamer          |
|    | Louisa Rodriguez                  | 30 | Nancy Espino          |
| 01 | Oscar Hernandez                   | 16 | Jet Martinez          |
| 03 | Salomon Mata                      |    | Yareli Nava           |
| 05 | Hianna Hernandez<br>Bryan Wagoner | 18 | Eric Garcia           |
| 06 | Carlos Trejo                      | 19 | Andrea Faw            |
| 09 | Thi Vo                            | 22 | Aracely Hernandez     |
| 10 | Sonia DeJesus                     | 25 | Theresa Martin        |
| 13 | Erika Ramirez                     | 17 | Sergio Hernandez      |
| 15 | Peggy Reikowsky                   | 29 | Minnie Espino         |
| 07 | Hanh & ThiTan Nguyen              | 29 | Julia & Diego Carreon |
|    | 07 Thi Nguyen & Thanh Vo          |    |                       |



| Tric Christian Crisis Ministries |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| SEPT                             | Shampoo |

## Catholicism 101: Serving the Lord

Vatican Council II restored the **ministries of the baptized**.

*All of the baptized are called to participate in the mission and ministries of the Church.*

As Fr. John said in his homily 8/15, *all of us are called to SERVE others and give PRAISE to God.*

Serving in Faith Formation, Liturgical Ministries, Community Outreach,  
or any kind of service is the call and mission of all the baptized.

Serving is never based on one's worthiness. None of us are worthy.

Using unworthiness for a reason not to serve is a negative residue of the Jansenism heresy

The Church condemned this heresy for many reasons, including its pessimistic view  
of our unworthiness of God's care and concern.

Our baptismal call makes us *worthy and responsible*  
to continue his mission and ministry.

**Every one of us is called to service and praise. No exceptions.**

# The Kids' Bulletin

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time  
August 25, 2024

## We Choose to Follow Jesus



Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18

In today's first reading, Joshua told the people that they had to choose between the false gods and the true God. Joshua and the people chose to worship the true God.

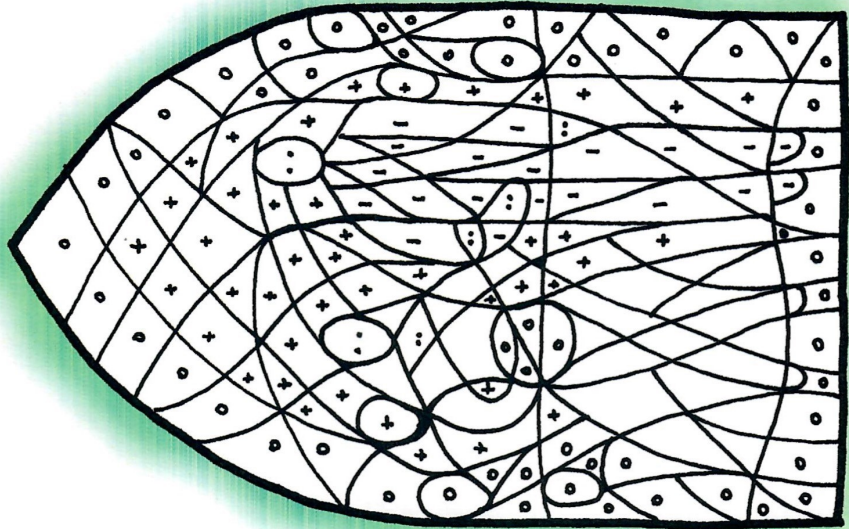


In the Gospel today we hear that many people stopped following Jesus because they couldn't understand what He was teaching. But the Apostles chose to stay with Jesus. Like Saint Peter said, they knew that He was the Holy One of God.

Do you ever have a hard time understanding what Jesus tells us? We need to be like the Apostles and choose to follow Jesus even when it's hard, especially when other people don't follow Him.



HOLY ONE OF GOD  
Answers to Word Puzzle:  
twelve, you, Simon,  
answered, him, go, you,  
words, eternal, life,  
believed, come.



Saint Paul tells us how much Jesus loves the Church. What does he say that Jesus and the Church are like? Use the colour code to colour the picture and find out!

- o Red
- ! Black
- + Blue
- .. Skin colour



# Saints Monica and Augustine

## August 27 and 28

ST. MONICA WAS BORN IN 332 IN NORTHERN AFRICA. SHE WAS RAISED IN A CHRISTIAN FAMILY BUT MARRIED A PAGAN. HE CONVERTED BEFORE HE DIED.

HER SON AUGUSTINE, HOWEVER, WAS AWAY LIVING A LIFE OF SIN AND DISSIPATION.

AUGUSTINE WAS VERY SMART BUT STUBBORN. MONICA PRAYED AND WEPT FOR HIM.

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME.

FINALLY AUGUSTINE CAME TO BELIEVE IN THE TRUE FAITH.

HE LEARNED FROM THE GREAT BISHOP, SAINT AMBROSE.

SAINT MONICA DIED AT AGE 55 WITH HER SON AUGUSTINE AT HER BEDSIDE.

HERE WE SPEAK EVIL OF NO ONE.

AGUSTINE BECAME A PRIEST AND BISHOP. HE WAS GENEROUS AND DEFENDED THE CHURCH'S TEACHINGS. HE WAS ALSO A GREAT PREACHER.

SAINT MONICA IS THE PATRONESS OF MARRIED WOMEN AND MOTHERS BECAUSE OF HOW SHE HELPED HER HUSBAND AND SON COME TO GOD. SAINT AUGUSTINE WROTE SUCH IMPORTANT WORKS THAT THEY ARE STILL STUDIED TODAY. WE CAN LEARN FROM THESE SAINTS HOW MUCH PRAYER CAN REALLY DO!

# The Apostles Stay with Jesus

## Word Puzzle

John 6:60-69

Unscramble the letters to fill in the blanks.  
Use the letters in circles to fill in the blanks at the end.



Jesus said to the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> [EVLTW],  
"Do \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> [UOY] also wish  
to go away?"  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>11</sup> [NMIOS] Peter

\_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> [MIH], "Lord, to whom shall we  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> [OG]? \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> [OUY] have the  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> [DRWOS] of  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> [TEENRLA]

\_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> [FLIE]; and we have  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> [VEEBILDE] and  
have \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> [MCOE] to know that you  
are the



\_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup>  
"\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>12</sup>