



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

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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 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-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**September 8, 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**

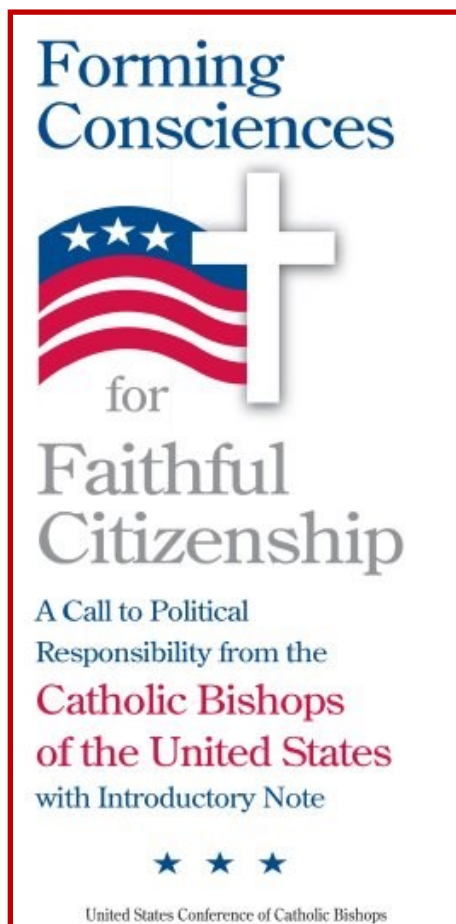
**THE REEVES THEATER**

**ELKIN NC**

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



# 5 September 8, 2024



Pope Francis continues Love compels us “to ‘go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation’ (Mk 16:15) (Evangeli Gaudium, no. 181). Here, the creation’ refers to every aspect of human life; consequently, ‘the mission of proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ has a universal destination. Its mandate of charity encompasses all dimensions of existence, all individuals, all areas of community life, and all peoples. Nothing human can be alien to it. (Evangeli Gaudium, no. 181).

This “mandate” includes our engagement in political life. The political realities of our nation present us with opportunities and challenges. We are a nation founded on “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,” but the right to life itself is not fully protected, especially for unborn children, the terminally ill, and the elderly, the most vulnerable members of the American family. We are called to be peacemakers in a nation at war. We are a country pledged to pursue “liberty and justice for all,” but we are too often divided across lines of race, ethnicity, and economic inequality.

We are a nation of immigrants, struggling to address the challenges of many new immigrants in our midst. We are a society built on the strength of our families, called to defend marriage and offer moral and economic supports for family life. We are a powerful nation in a violent world, confronting terror and trying to build a safer, more just, more peaceful world. We are an affluent society where too many live in poverty and lack health care and other necessities of life. We are part of a global community charged with being good stewards of the earth’s environment, what Pope Francis calls “our common home,” which is being threatened. These challenges are at the heart of public life and at the center of the pursuit of the common good.

They are intertwined and inseparable. As Pope Francis has insisted, “We are faced . . . with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature” (Laudato Si’, no. 139).

For many years, we bishops of the United States have sought to share Catholic teaching on social and political life. We have done so in a series of statements issued every four years focused on “political responsibility” or “faithful citizenship.” In this document we continue that practice, maintaining continuity with what we have said in the past in light of new challenges facing our nation and world. This is not new teaching but affirms what is taught by our bishops’ conference and the whole Church.

As Catholics, we are part of a community with a rich heritage that helps us consider the challenges in public life and contribute to greater justice and peace for all people. Part of that rich heritage on faithful citizenship is the teaching of Vatican Council II’s Declaration on Religious Liberty (Dignitatis Humanae). It says that “society itself may profit by the moral qualities of justice and peace which have their origin in people’s faithfulness to God and to God’s holy will” (no. 6). The work for justice requires that the mind and the heart of Catholics be educated and formed to know and practice the whole faith.

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)

# “EPHPHATHA! BE OPENED!”

*Morning, Church!*

In his book *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*, Fr. James Martin, S.J. shares this story: A few years ago in the Holy Land, with about a hundred other pilgrims, we got caught in a little rain shower in Jerusalem. We were on the Mt. of Olives, which is, as you'll remember, from the Good Friday readings, is just outside the city walls. Some in our group were taking photos of the Old City, which spreads out before you, as you stand on the Mt. of Olives. Fortunately, I sat inside our tour bus, talking to another pilgrim, so I didn't get wet. I remember the rain streaming down the big windows of the tour bus like tears.

Suddenly there I heard a knock on the closed door of the bus. Our Israeli tour guide, Maher, a Catholic man from Galilee, needed the attention of the bus driver, saying, “Ephphatha! Ephphatha!” in response, the bus driver, Tony, immediately opened the door. This is an electric moment for me, I know Maher is a Christian who speaks Aramaic, and Tony know Aramaic, too. I never heard Aramaic used like that, as a living language. Of course I immediately thought of today's gospel passage:

“Ephphatha! Be opened!”

After all my years of studying theology and scripture, I wondered why the gospels have a few foreign words sprinkled throughout the English-language version of the gospel. Why leave this word untranslated like the rest of Jesus' words? The reason is this: in the middle of Mark's *Greek* narrative about the healing of the deaf and mute man, you come upon an Aramaic word: “Ephphatha!” (*Be released!*)

Jesus spoke Aramaic other miracles: the raising of Jarius' daughter, “*Talitha koum*” which means, “Little Lamb, arise.” From the cross Jesus said, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachtani*”, which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” In the marvelous, post-resurrection story, when Mary Magdalen recognizes Jesus on Easter Sunday, she proclaims, “*Rabboni*”, meaning “Rabbi”.



Jesus understood our human condition. He saw people who were ill, frustrated, and angry. He saw life and death, good and evil, sin and even corruption. Like Jesus, we are asked not to shrink before evil, falter in doing the right thing, and never doubt that God has the power to heal, cast out evil, and utterly change things. Even with something that seems incurable at this man's illness, we do not despair.

We and our Church need to be opened to the various ways we are deaf and dumb, in not speaking up about the injustices within us and within the Church. Jesus desires that we “be opened” so we can be healed of our sins and failings. We need to bring ourselves and the Church before Jesus so we can be opened and healed. We need to let it all out, so our deafness and dumbness can be confronted, changed and healed. Jesus is banging on the door of the Church and on our hearts, shouting out,














“*Ephphatha! Be released! Be opened!*”

In CommUNITY,

*spanis*

## 📖 *Reflecting on the Word*

Jesus singles out “evil thoughts” as a warning of impending bad choices. On what track do your ungenerous or erroneous thoughts generally run? What in you needs to “*be released*”?

SEPTEMBER	
01	22nd Sun OT
03	Communion Service, 12:15p
✝ 04	RCIA, 6:30p; Choir, 7p 
 8	23rd Sun OT <b>Faith Formation ~ Parents &amp; Youth, After Mass, FLC</b>
 09	Ladies Guild
10	Communion Service, 12:15p
✝ 11	RCIA, 6:30p; Choir, 7p 
 15	24th Sun OT <b>Faith Formation ~ Parents &amp; Youth, After Mass, FLC</b>
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 <b>Faith Formation ~ Parents &amp; Youth, After Mass, FLC</b>
24	Communion Service, 12:15p
✝ 25	RCIA, 6:30p; Choir, 7p 
28	YV Pumpkin Festival, 9a-4p 
 29	26th Sun OT <b>Faith Formation ~ Parents &amp; Youth, After Mass, FLC</b>



RECYCLE USED INK CARTRIDGES!!  
AT CHURCH.  
RECYCLE IN THE LOBBY. Thank you!

*Pope Francis ~ Walking the Word*

It is the mission of the Church and of Christians to speak of God and bear witness to God to the men and women of our time. By virtue of Baptism we are all called to be a living presence in society, inspiring it with the Gospel and with the lifeblood of the Holy Spirit. I urge believers to commit themselves with humility and with courage, and make their own contribution to building the civilization of love, where justice and solidarity reign.

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



...to Youth Greeters & Ushers: Victor & Osvaldo; our Proclaimers: David, Diana; our Cantor, Morgan, (my apologies for omitting your name last Sunday); our Prayer Leader: Braulio; our Gift Bearers and post-Mass Sacristans: Brylee & Shayla...God's blessings!



**S. Alma Bernadette Hurley, SSJ**  
June 4, 1934 ~ September 1, 2024  
72<sup>nd</sup> Year as Sister of St. Joseph



# Jesus Gives the Gift of Hearing



Being able to hear is a wonderful gift from God. Imagine what it would be like if you couldn't hear anything! In today's Gospel reading, the people begged Jesus to heal a deaf man. What do you think it was like for that man when suddenly he could hear everything that was going on around him?

God has given us the gift of hearing to be able to talk with and listen to other people, and to appreciate the sounds of creation. We use this gift to hear God's Word at Mass and when we are being taught.



Think of all the things that we can do because we can hear: we can listen to and play music, we can sing and talk with people, we can hear birds and wind in the trees, and we can also be warned of things like barking dogs, or cars coming. Did you ever thank God for the gift of hearing? Thank God today!

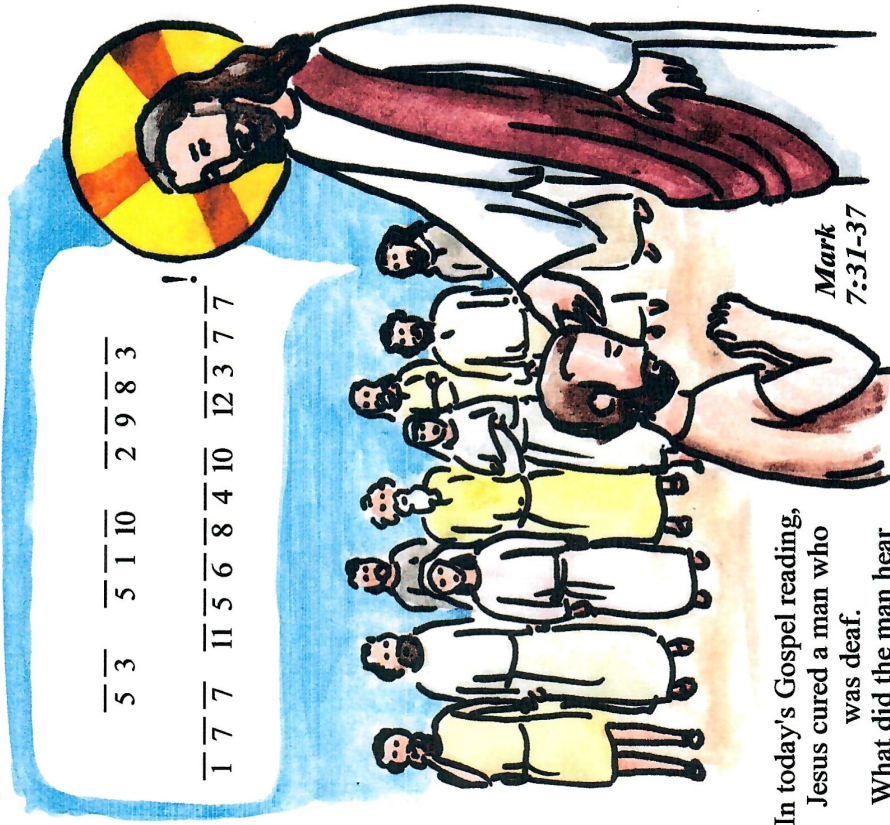


Happy Birthday Mary!

Answer to front page: He has done all things well!  
Answer to Our Lady's Birthday Word-fund:

# The Kids' Bulletin

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 8, 2024



In today's Gospel reading, Jesus cured a man who was deaf.

Mark  
7:31-37

What did the man hear people saying when he could hear again?

Use the number code below to find the answer!

A D E G H I L N O S T W  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



# Saint Peter Claver

## September 9

PETER CLAVER WAS BORN IN SPAIN IN 1580. WHILE HE WAS STUDYING TO BECOME A PRIEST HE FELT A STRONG DESIRE TO BECOME A MISSIONARY IN SOUTH AMERICA.

*I'm sure they will need many priests in the 'New World'...*



PETER WAS ORDAINED IN CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA, WHERE HE SAW HOW THE ARRIVING SLAVES WERE BEING TREATED.

*This is horrible!*



FOR FORTY YEARS HE HELPED THE TERRIFIED AND SICK SLAVES WITH FOOD AND MEDICINE.



So Jesus died on a cross to save us... HE TAUGHT THEM THE FAITH THROUGH INTERPRETERS,



AND HE BAPTIZED OVER 300,000 PEOPLE!

*I baptize you...*



FATHER PETER TOLD THE MASTERS TO TREAT THE SLAVES BETTER, AND DEFENDED THEIR RIGHTS AS CHRISTIANS.

*They are Christian people. Give them their Sunday rest.*



FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS OF HIS LIFE, SAINT PETER WAS SO SICK HE COULD NOT LEAVE HIS ROOM. EVERYONE FORGOT ABOUT HIM UNTIL HE DIED.

*Thank you!*



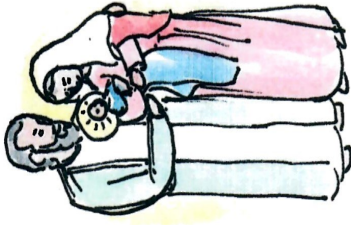
WHEN HE DIED, EVERYONE REALIZED HOW MANY PEOPLE SAINT PETER HAD HELPED AND BROUGHT TO THE FAITH. WE, TOO, SHOULD BE EAGER TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE BADLY TREATED OR IN NEED. EVEN IF NOBODY NOTICES WHAT WE ARE DOING. WHO CAN YOU THINK OF THAT COULD USE YOUR HELP?

# Our Lady's Birthday

C H J E W S I N M P  
H A P P M O T H E R  
O W Y J A N N O S E  
S A B O R N B L S P  
E I T A Y R F Y I A  
N T T C H O U D A A R  
W I T T H O U T Y H E  
M N B I R T H D A Y  
A G R M Y J E S U S  
P U R E C H R I S T

See if you can find all the words in CAPITALS in the puzzle.

Use the left over letters to fill in the blanks at the end.



On September 8th, we celebrate Mary's BIRTHDAY. She is CHOSEN by God to be the MOTHER of JESUS ~ even before he was BORN!

To PREPARE Mary to receive Jesus as God's SON, God made her pure, without sin, from the first moment of her life.

JOACHIM (JOE-AH-KIM) and ANN were HOLY JEWS. They were waiting for the Savior of the world, the MESSIAH, to come.

God chose them to be the FATHER and mother of MARY, who would become the mother of Jesus CHRIST.



\_\_\_\_\_!  
\_\_\_\_\_!