



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

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**St. Stephen Catholic Church**

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**Sister Janis McQuade, S.S.J.** 336-835-4542

**Fr. Jose Rebaque** 203-954-7134

**Mr. Cuauhdemoc (Temoc) Herrejon** 828-773-2353

**St. John**

Mary Buran, Karen Huffman Music Ministry  
Sabrina Caudill Parish Accountant  
336-957-1295  
Laura Yanes Bookkeeper, Census  
Ann Stone RCIA

**St. Stephen**

Theresa Martin Music Ministry  
Natalie Lopez Youth Faith Formation  
Peggy Reikowsky Youth Faith Formation  
Phillip Parriah RCIA

**Worship Times**

Saturday Vigil Mass, 4:00p  
Sunday Mass 11:15a; En español, 1:00p  
Daily Mass, Holy Days Consult bulletin  
Sacrament of Reconciliation  
Saturdays, 3:00-4:00p

Sunday Mass 9:00a  
Communion Service Tuesdays, 12:15p  
Holy Days 7:00p  
Sacrament of Reconciliation  
By appointment

**Welcome, New Parishioners**

*We are a Stewardship Community, sharing our time, talent, and treasure, in the most life-giving ways possible. Parishioners are expected to participate in weekly worship, in our community life, and in our service among our dear neighbors.*

**Sacramental Life ~ Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Matrimony**

*For Sacrament preparation, you must be a registered, active member and attend preparation sessions.*

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

*For those who desire to explore the Catholic Faith, spirituality, customs, and practices.*

**Anointing of the Sick**

*For those with chronic illness or who are pre-surgery, contact Father John or Sister Janis*

**Christmas**  
**December 24-25, 2023**

## CHRISTmas as KINship!

### Morning Church!

Greg Boyle, S.J., is a NYTimes best-selling author of Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion and founder of *Homeboy Industries*, the largest gang-intervention, rehabilitation, and re-entry program in the world. He's a creative storyteller and advocate for restorative justice, right relationship and forgiveness.

Fr. Greg's story about the time he and three of his former gang members, a.k.a., "homies", were invited by Laura Bush to attend a national conference supporting youth. Fr. Greg gave a keynote address, and all three had dinner at the White House.

The following is is really a Christmas story: On the flight home, Gabriel, one of the three, tattooed from head to toe, engaged a flight attendant in conversation. His story of redemption and his appreciation of *Homeboys Industries* that gave him a second chance caused the flight attendant to burst into tears. As the homie spoke, the flight attendant caught a *true glimpse* of Gabriel and *saw him* as a person. She looked past the "packaging" of this young man and recognized him *in the shape of God's heart*.

Sometimes people cry when they see that.

Suddenly, *KINship* ~ for two souls feeling their worth...a flight attendant and a gang member...at 34,000 feet...exactly what God had in mind. - Tattoos on the Heart, Boyle.



~ Reflecting and Acting on The Word ~

What does The Divine say to you about the quality of your dual KINship?  
Readings <https://bible.usccb.org/>

*KINship is a game-changer.*

*It is the Pearl of Great Price.*

*It is the treasure buried in the field.*

*Let's sell everything to get it.*

*Yet we think KINship is beyond our reach...*

*Yet, Gospel KINship always exposes the game,*

*jostles the status quo in constant need*

*of conversation, because status quo is only*

*interested in incessant judging,*

*comparisons, measuring,*

*scapegoating, and competition.*

*And we, the Choir, are stuck in complacency.*

- The Power of Radical Kinship, Boyle

Christmas, 2023, is a reminder of our sacred and irrefutable *Kinship* with The Divine and our Neighbors. It's a sacred, unrepeatable opportunity to rekindle, repair, and renew our relationships with God and our Neighbor. May we be open to the transformation we all need, that our *KINship*, our union with God and Neighbor is found in the depths of everything ~especially in our wounds, our failings, our faults, and our losses...The Divine is right here, right now, always present, always loving, lifting us up, and reshaping our hearts in Divine grace.

The above is an adaptation from Deacon Jim Kipper,  
St. Paul Catholic Church, Princeton, NJ.



The Divine's dream for all of us:

***KINship*...that all may be one...**

*...for the vision still has its time,*

*presses on to fulfillment*

*and it will not disappoint,*

*and if it delays, wait for it...*

Merry Christmas!

*spanis*

D E C E M B E R	
24	Christmas Eve ~ Mass, 4p
25	Christmas Day ~ Mass, 9a
26	<b>Feast of St. Stephen</b> Communion Service, 12:15p
31	Feast of the Holy Family ~ Mass, 9a
J A N U A R Y	
06	<b>PARISH Epiphany Pot Luck, 5p</b> BRING SIDES for Chicken & a dessert to share
07	Feast of the Epiphany ~ Mass, 9a



☪ Mass Intentions	
9a 24	+Susan Martin r/b Jason McClamrock
24-25	Mass for St. Stephen parishioners' intentions
31	Michelle Garwood (Birthday)
07	Familias de Cortez y Parral

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

26 Judy Simon	27 Diana Rodriguez
27 Joan Boehm	28 Bob DeJohn
Becky Dursee	29 Lukas McClamrock
Gabriel Loyola	

31 Crystal & Francisco Fuentes



**+S. Mary Ann Mulzet, SSJ**

Born	November 25, 1939
Born to Eternal Life	December 19, 2023
in the 66th year of religious life	
<p><i>Some may remember in April, 2014, +S. Mary Ann, along with my other dear friend, +S. Rita Woehlchke, (9/23) came to St. S to share with us a historical overview of the SSJ Associates and to lead us in a meaningful Shabbat/Sabbath prayer.</i></p>	

Christmas Flowers	
Donor	In honor/memory
Peggy Reikowsky	Marge & Dick Dana
Pauline Sener	Stan Ring
Doris Watson	Her parents & Larry
Jane & Rob Worley	Soul who have no one to pray for them
Anonymous donation	

**CARE for CREATION**  
**RECYCLE INK CARTRIDGES**  
**LOBBY CONTAINERS**  
**Thank you!**



## Being Catholic 101: Christmas Traditions

St. Francis of Assisi started the tradition of the Nativity Creche in 1223 in a cave in Greccio, Italy, where he visited to celebrate Christmas Mass. St. Francis planned to celebrate Midnight Mass in the chapel of the Franciscan hermitage. He realized it wouldn't accommodate all the people.

So, he set the altar up in a nearby cave where he created the Nativity scene that would leave an everlasting impact on those who attended.

He prepared a manger, placed a statue of Christ in it, and brought an ox and donkey into the cave. The scenery symbolized the poverty and humility of Christ's birth.

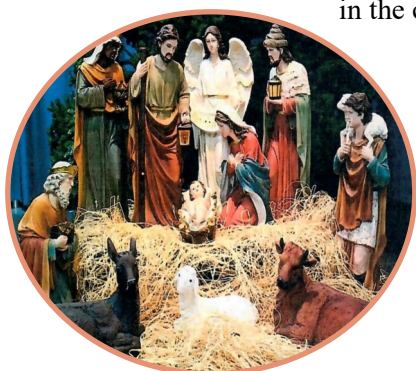
Frustrated by the greed and materialism that consumed Italy at that time, St. Francis wanted to do something that would lead the people back to Christ.

A large group of people gathered to hear St. Francis preach that night. His words were so passionate that the people decided to change their ways. Some even believed the Christ statue came alive in the cradle.

Now the live nativity scene is recreated throughout the world.

Many artworks have been inspired by the Nativity scene, too. St. Francis Nativity scene teaches us about Christ's humanity and humility.

Does this Nativity scene awaken in you a desire to recommit to Christ?







# The Kids' Bulletin

*Christmas Day*

*December 25th, 2023*

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus in the town of Bethlehem, a name that means, "House of Bread" over 2,000 years ago. Jesus, who is God, loved us so much, that he became human, just like us. He became human so he could teach us and show us how to be loving, compassionate, joyful, and how to forgive ourselves and others.



Jesus looked just like other babies who were born in his country of Israel. He would have had his mother's dark skin, hair, and eyes.

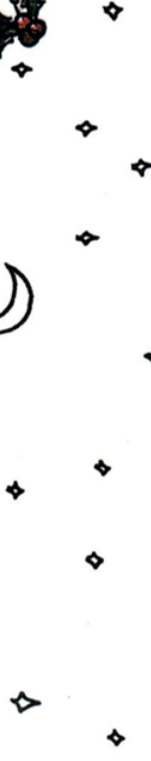
He would grow up in a loving family, with Mary, his mother and Joseph, his foster father. They would teach him how to pray, to be helpful and kind, and to learn the other things the children learned at that time.

Jesus, born into a poor family, would grow up to take care of the poor, the needy, and all the people who came to him for healing or forgiveness.

Spend time each day in prayer, thanking Jesus for the great gift of his birth, his love, and his life. Pray that you can be just like Jesus each day.

*Merry Christmas!*

Answer to front page: there are seven shepherds hiding in the picture.  
Answer to inside page: the numbers are in this order: 4, 7, 5, 1, 2, 3, 6.



During the night of the first Christmas, the shepherds were out in the fields watching their sheep before the angels came to tell them that the Saviour was born.

Can you find all the shepherds in this picture?  
How many are there?



You can colour in the picture too!



# SAINT JOSEPH'S CHRISTMAS



## Who did What?

ST. JOSEPH WAS A HOLY MAN WHO BELIEVED IN GOD AND FOLLOWED HIS LAWS. HE WAS ENGAGED TO MARY WHEN HE FOUND OUT SHE WAS PREGNANT.

I guess I should break up with her quietly...

Don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife!

BUT AN ANGEL CAME TO HIM AND TOLD HIM TO NOT BE AFRAID- THE BABY WAS THE SON OF GOD.

AT THAT TIME THE EMPEROR ORDERED EVERYONE TO REGISTER IN THEIR HOMETOWN.

I want a record of all the people in my lands.

SO JOSEPH TOOK MARY AND TRAVELLED TO BETHLEHEM.

BUT WHEN THEY GOT THERE THE INNS WERE FULL.

Sorry, we're full!

FINALLY THEY FOUND A STABLE WITH ANIMALS WHERE THEY COULD STAY.

There's room in here anyway.

THAT NIGHT THE BABY WAS BORN. ST. JOSEPH NAMED HIM JESUS, AS THE ANGEL HAD TOLD HIM TO. SHEPHERDS CAME TO WORSHIP THE NEW BABY.

GOD CHOSE SAINT JOSEPH, A GOOD AND HUMBLE MAN, TO BE THE PROTECTOR OF HIS SON JESUS AND JESUS' MOTHER, MARY. IT WASN'T AN EASY JOB- THEY HAD TO TRAVEL FAR ON FOOT AND STAY IN A STABLE WITH ANIMALS, BUT SAINT JOSEPH WAS HAPPY TO SUFFER FOR LOVE OF GOD. ARE YOU?

Write the number of the person beside what they did in the Christmas Story.

1. Saint Joseph  
 \_\_\_ Announced the joyful news of the Saviour's birth

2. Our Lady  
 \_\_\_ Commanded that everyone register in their hometown

3. The Shepherds  
 \_\_\_ Did not have room for the man and his wife

4. The Angels  
 \_\_\_ Took his wife to Bethlehem

5. The Innkeeper  
 \_\_\_ Pondered all these things in her heart

6. Baby Jesus  
 \_\_\_ Went to find the newborn Saviour

7. The Emperor  
 \_\_\_ Came to save the people from their sins



We pray  
for our sisters and brothers  
in Maui, Morocco,  
Middle East, (Oct. 7, 2023)  
and Libya... and the 32 places  
where war is being raged now.



*Our Lady of Protection*  
Ukrainian Madonna

**FEBRUARY 24, 2022**  
**22 months**

Ukrainian Catholics dedicate their country  
to *Our Lady of Protection*,  
interceding to Mary to wrap their country  
with her mantle of loving protection.

With the fast pace of communications these days, it's easy to become  
overwhelmed and wearied by the barrage of news.  
As Catholic Christians, you realized you are intimately tethered  
to every Dear Neighbor locally and globally.  
When you're feeling overwhelmed and weary, think of and pray for your  
Ukrainian sisters and brothers who are overwhelmed and wearied by the barrage  
~ not of news ~  
but by daily bombings, death, family separation, and the other forms  
of collateral damage of war since February 24, 2022.

**Our Lady of Protection, pray for us!**

Do you know the number  
of U.S. Mass  
shootings and  
gun-related deaths  
so far in 2023?



**WHEN IS  
ENOUGH,  
ENOUGH?**



**Tri-C Almsgiving**

Thank you so much !!

DEC

Dry beans

CARE for CREATION  
RECYCLE INK CARTRIDGES  
LOBBY CONTAINERS

Thank you!

