



St. John Baptiste de LaSalle Catholic Church

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St. Stephen Catholic Church

101 Hawthorne Road
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(336) 835-3007

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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 treasure 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.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024



Maggie Orta & Ethan VanHorn

***Blessings and Congratulations,
Ethan VanHorn!***

**Ethan completed his U.S. Coast Guard
basic training in Cape May, NJ.**

**Ethan, thank you
for your willingness to serve!**



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

**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 a
s 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**

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



Tri-C Christian Crisis Ministries

DEC

Dry beans

***Heal us from our differences
and unite us, O Lord,
with a common purpose,
dedication, and commitment
to achieve liberty and justice...***

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 lista de cosas inevitables está creciendo. Además de las muertes y los impuestos, agreguemos el cambio estacional. Al igual que la muerte y los impuestos, el cambio estacional tiene exigencias específicas. Estemos preparados o no, no podemos detener la llegada de una nueva temporada.

La llegada prematura de una estación nos pilla desprevenidos y nos saca de nuestros patrones y rutinas. Incluso cuando estás preparado, hacer cambios y adaptarte es exigente.

Adviento dice: “Espera. Quédate quieto. Mirar. Preparar. Arrepentirse. Convertir. Presta atención y nutre tu fe, no las modas ni las modas pasajeras”. Como dice Jan Richardson: “...Quédate. Sentarse. Persistir. Alquitrano. Reflexionar. Esperar. Mirad. Preguntarse. Ya habrá tiempo suficiente para correr. Por apresurarse. Por preocuparse. Por empujar. Por ahora, quédate. Esperar. Hay algo en el horizonte”. La cultura dice: “Date prisa. Compra el regalo perfecto para la persona que amas mientras todavía hay tiempo”.

¿Sientes la urgencia ahora? Este es el único Adviento que tenemos este año. Podemos dejar que nos roce o podemos ahondar en él con todo nuestro corazón.

Emmanuel es Dios-Con-Nosotros.

¿Estamos con Dios o nuestra relación es sólo estacional?

En nuestro evangelio, Juan el Bautista reconoce que el Tiempo de Cumplimiento está reemplazando al Tiempo de Profecía. Desde su miserable celda de prisión, se hace eco de las urgentes palabras de Isaías: “Voz del que clama en el desierto: Preparad el camino del Señor, enderezad sus sendas. Todo valle será llenado... todo monte... collado será rebajado...” La urgencia de Juan señala un cambio estacional significativo. Como cualquier cambio estacional, algunos lo recibirán con agrado y otros se resistirán. Ya sea que estuvieran listos o no, no pudieron detener la llegada de la Temporada de Cumplimiento.

A veces estamos aprisionados por el dolor, la ansiedad, el sufrimiento, las adicciones o la depresión, etc. Anhelamos una nueva temporada, un cambio sanador, que Jesús venga a rescatarnos. ¿Qué tiene que pasar para que nuestros caminos torcidos sean enderezados? ¿Cómo podemos llenar nuestros valles espirituales o nivelar las montañas y colinas que obstruyen el camino de nuestro viaje de fe hacia Cristo?

Algunos de los mejores consejos que jamás recibirá se encuentran en el texto de Jan a la derecha. Persistir. Alquitrano. Reflexionar. Esperar. Mirad. Maravíllate ante la presencia de Emmanuel, Dios-Con-Nosotros.

El Adviento está lleno de gracias inevitables e irrepetibles para el cambio, el arrepentimiento y una fe más profunda. La elección es nuestra: deja que el Adviento te pase rozando; o entrega tu vida al Amor Ineludible de Cristo. Listo o no, ¡aquí viene!

Hoy es el 36° Fondo Anual de Jubilación para Religiosos. Brinda apoyo financiero a religiosas y religiosos jubilados, promueve cuidados de calidad para las personas mayores y ayuda a las comunidades religiosas a planificar las necesidades de jubilación a largo plazo.

Por favor, da a aquellos cuyo viaje de fe ha abarcado muchas temporadas y cambios espirituales exigentes. Agradezca en oración por los valientes que nos dieron testimonio de cómo aceptar lo inevitable. Sirvieron a todos ~ sin distinción ~ con generosidad, energía y profunda fe. ¡Incluso en su última etapa de vida, preparan el Camino del Señor para todos nosotros!

¡Ven, Señor Jesús!

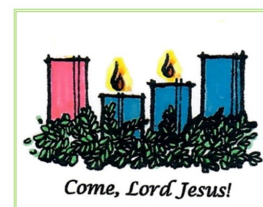
En comunidad,



 Reflexionando sobre la Palabra

Nombra los caminos que necesitan enderezarse, los valles que necesitan llenarse, y las montañas y colinas en tu vida que están obstruyendo tu viaje de fe.

Ore por la gracia de entregarlo todo, terminado e inacabado, a Cristo.



El horizonte Jan Richardson

El tiempo de Adviento Significa hay algo en el horizonte los gustos de los cuales tenemos nunca antes visto. no es posible para evitar que venga, porque así será.

Así es como funciona el Adviento. Que es posible es no verlo, extrañarlo, girar tal como Es pasa rozando a tu lado. Y empiezas a comprender ¿Qué fue lo que te erdiste?

como moises en la hendidura de la roca, mirando los cuartos traseros de Dios desvanecerse en la distancia.

Así que quédate.
Sentarse.
Persistir.
Alquitrano.
Reflexionar.
Esperar.
Mirad.
Preguntarse.

Habrà tiempo suficiente para correr.
Por apresurarse.
Por preocuparse.
Por empujar.

Por ahora, quédate.
Esperar.

Algo está en el horizonte.

Morning, Church!

The list of Unavoidables is growing. In addition to death and taxes, let's add the change of seasons. Like death and taxes, seasonal change has specific demands. Whether or not we're ready, a new season comes and we're unable to stop it.

The premature arrival of a season catches us off-guard and demands instantaneous change. Being prepared can help us meet and deal with the demands of seasonal changes. Whether we like it or not, seasons demand changes.

The counter cultural faith of the believer is constantly challenged. The seasonal advertisements say, "This is the best deal. Only three left." Advent says, "Wait. Watch. Prepare. Repent. Convert. Pay attention to and nurture your faith, not fashion or fads."

In our gospel, we hear John the Baptist echoing Isaiah's words from his prison cell, "A voice of one crying out in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." He's waiting for Jesus to rescue him.

Sometimes we are imprisoned by pain, anxiety, suffering, addictions, or depression, etc. We, too, await a new season, a healing change ~ for Jesus to come to our rescue. Yet, the season we find ourselves in is the very season that can straighten our way to Christ; fill in every spiritual deficit, and level every mountain and hill obstructing our faithjourney.

Advent initiates a New Year of Grace, and new seasons filled with unavoidable and unrepeatable graces for change, repentance, and deeper faith. Every season's demands that bring about change *around* us. Will the spiritual seasons bring about change *within* us? How will our remaining 17 days be spent before Christmas?

Here's the choice: avoid this season and its demands and its grace moments; or yield, surrender, give your life to the Unavoidable Love of Christ. Ready or not, here he comes!



Today is the 36th Annual Retirement Fund for Religious. It gives financial support to retired women and men religious. In addition, the RFR underwrites programs on implementing assessment tools, on-going education, services, and resources that promote quality eldercare and help religious communities plan for long-term retirement needs.

Please give to those who lived into their faithjourneys' spiritual seasons. Their courageous witness showed us how to embrace the Unavoidables. They serve among us ~ without distinction ~ in generosity, energy, and deep faith.

Even in their last season of life, they ready the Way of the Lord for all of us!

Come, Lord Jesus!

In CommUNITY,



Horizon ~ Jan Richardson
The season of Advent means
there is something
on the horizon
the likes of which
we have
never seen before.

It is not possible
to keep it from coming,
because it will.
That's just how Advent works.

What is possible
is to not see it, to miss it,
to turn just as it
brushes past you.
And you begin to grasp
what it was you missed,
like Moses
in the cleft of the rock,
watching God's hindquarters
fade in the distance.


So stay. Sit.
Linger.
Tarry.
Ponder.
Wait.
Behold.
Wonder.

There will be
time enough
for running.
For rushing.
For worrying.
For pushing.
For now, stay.
Wait.
Something
is on the horizon.

Reflecting on the Word

*Name the paths that need straightening, the valleys that need filling,
and the mountains and hills in your life that are obstructing your faithjourney.*

Pray for the grace to surrender all of it, finished and unfinished, to Christ.

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>



Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos
Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Today, Dec 8th

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 | |

Christmas Flowers

Donor	In honor/memory of
Becky Dursee	Charles Dursee
Judy & Frank Simon	Tina McCaughtry & Carol Smith

**¡MANY THANKS!
CẢM ƠN NHIỀU!**

Many thanks to **Hanh & Toan Nguyen** for the 15 hours ~ in the freezing cold ~ they put into creating our wondrous outdoor Nativity scene.

CMƠN NHI U!

Cảm ơn **Hạnh & Toàn Nguyễn** nhiều trong 15 giờ ~ trong cái lạnh cóng ~ họ đã tạo ra khung cảnh Giáng sinh ngoài trời tuyệt vời của chúng tôi.

We Wait in Joyful Hope

Advent is a time of JOY and HOPE as we look forward to celebrating Christ's birth. Today's gospel tells the story of Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist. John tried to prepare the way for people to welcome Jesus. He invited everyone to open their hearts in more loving ways, instead of unloving ways. John preached:

"Make straight the way of the Lord!"

Our Advent Wreath symbolizes the coming of **Jesus, The Light of the World**. It has three blue candles and one pink candle. The first candle represents HOPE; the second, PEACE; the third, JOY, and the fourth, LOVE. One candle is lit each week and the wreath's light gets brighter and brighter as Christmas nears.

PREPARE
THE WAY
OF THE
LORD!



During these holy Advent days, pray to Jesus. Ask him to ready your heart to see and welcome him *every* day.

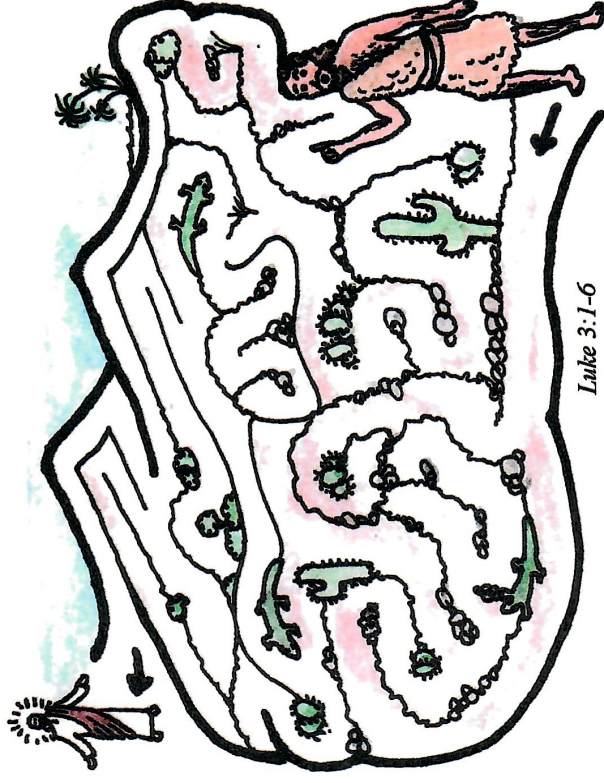
Prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight his path to your heart by helping others, especially your family.

Come, Lord Jesus!



The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent
December 8th, 2024



Luke 3:1-6

In Advent we hear about Saint John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, who prepared the way for Jesus' coming. He preached to the people, telling them to repent, and baptized them.

When Jesus came Saint John told the people to follow Jesus because He was the Messiah.

Can you find your way from Saint John to Jesus?

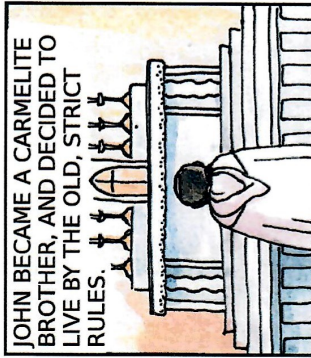
Answer to Immaculate Conception Word-Find: HAIL MARY

Saint John of the Cross

December 14



JOHN WAS BORN TO A POOR FAMILY IN SPAIN IN 1542. HIS FATHER DIED WHEN HE WAS VERY YOUNG. FOR SEVERAL YEARS HE WORKED IN A HOSPITAL.



JOHN BECAME A CARMELITE BROTHER, AND DECIDED TO LIVE BY THE OLD, STRICT RULES.



HE MET ST. TERESA OF AVILA, WHO WAS A CARMELITE NUN.

Here's what you can do...



We'd like to join you.
ST. JOHN STARTED A GROUP OF MONKS WHO WOULD LIVE BY THE OLD RULE.

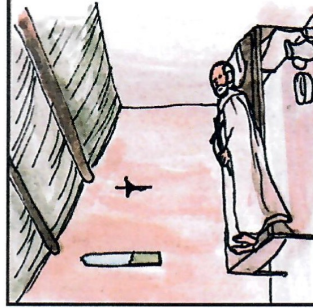


BUT SOME OF THE CARMELITES DISAGREED WITH HIM AND PUT HIM IN PRISON!



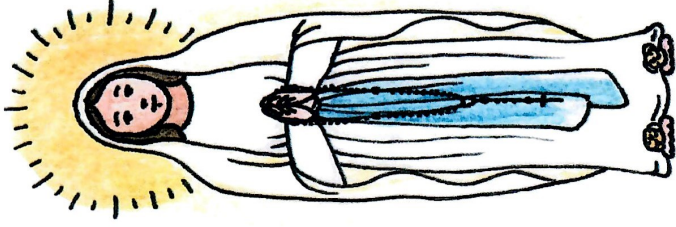
HE ESCAPED 9 MONTHS LATER, BUT WHILE IN PRISON JOHN WROTE BEAUTIFUL POETRY ABOUT GOD.

Hm. God's love is like a fountain...



BY THIS TIME, JOHN WAS QUITE SICKLY. HE WAS TREATED BADLY AT FIRST, BUT BY THE TIME HE DIED EVEN HIS ENEMIES REALIZED HIS HOLINESS.

TODAY SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS IS BEST KNOWN FOR HIS WRITINGS. HE TAUGHT THAT WE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO BE PERFECTLY HAPPY HERE ON EARTH BECAUSE WE ARE MADE FOR GOD IN HEAVEN. NEXT TIME YOU FEEL UNHAPPY, REMEMBER THAT PERFECT HAPPINESS IS WAITING FOR YOU IN HEAVEN!



Immaculate Conception Word-Find

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

See if you can find the words that are written in CAPITALS.

The leftover letters spell the name of a special prayer we can say to Mary on her feast day.

This year, December 9th is the feast day of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. That is a name for MARY that means that GOD made her WITHOUT SIN because he had CHOSEN her to be the MOTHER of HIS SON. Her SOUL was FREE from ORIGINAL sin even before she was BORN. All her life she KEPT her HEART PURE and without the STAIN of sin. Mary NEVER OFFENDED God, and with his GRACE, she spent her whole life LOVING JESUS.