



St. John Baptiste de LaSalle Catholic Church

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St. Stephen Catholic Church

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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.

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 3, 2024

Prayer Before An Election

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city, our state, and our country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.

We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as sisters and brothers, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, neglect, deceit and poverty.

We ask for ears to hear the cries of the least, the lost, and the lonely, women and men oppressed because of race, creed, religion, age, or gender.

We ask for Christ’s mind and heart to be open to hearing the voice of those leaders who will lead us to living the gospel fully.

We pray for discernment to choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep your ways of truth as they follow Christ’s Way of justice, compassion, and peace.

We ask this in the Name of Jesus, who is our Savior, now and forever.

Amen.+

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...

U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops’ Conference

☞ Consider not only candidates’ positions on these issues, their character and integrity as well.



Por favor mantengan en oración a la madre de Hilda López Sánchez, +**Nemoria Huesca Velásquez**, nacido a vida eterna en México 1 de octubre de 2024

Please hold in prayer Hilda Lopez Sanchez’s mother, +**Nemoria Huesca Velasquez**, born to eternal life in Mexico October 1, 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 IN THE LOBBY.
Thank you!



Tri-C Christian Crisis Ministries	
OCT	Dish soap
NOV	Bar soap
DEC	Dry beans

**Adult
Faith Formation
Opportunity**

**Tues., Nov. 11, 5:00p
St. Stephen
Family Life Center**

**Pre-planning
Your Funeral Service**

Sister Janis

¡Buenos días, Iglesia!

Probablemente la escritura más popular utilizada en la ceremonia nupcial sea 1 Cor. 13:1-13. “El amor es paciente, el amor es bondadoso...” y lo más probable es que tú puedas recitar el resto. El amor, proclama Jesús, es el mandamiento más grande con un doble mandato: amar a Dios de todo corazón, en mente y espíritu Y amar a tu prójimo como a ti mismo. Aquí radica el problema. El amor se ve bien, muy bien sobre el papel en Corintios, hasta que realmente intentas vivirlo.

Con todas las idiosincrasias, límites y quebrantamientos de nuestra naturaleza humana, amar a Dios, a nosotros mismos y a los demás es mucho más difícil y, a menudo, decepcionante. Verás, siempre tendremos vecinos. Siempre. Nuestros vecinos pueden ser miembros de la familia, la gente de al lado, los dependientes de la tienda, la persona que nos corta el paso en el camino, un refugiado, una persona de color o alguien que habla de manera muy diferente a nosotros. Más cerca de casa, nuestro vecino puede ser un adolescente que no limpia su habitación o alguien que no se esfuerza en contribuir a la familia.

En general, nuestros vecinos están tan confundidos, desorganizados, volubles o tan desordenados como nosotros y, en la mayoría de los casos, nos ponen a prueba. Nuestros vecinos son nuestro reflejo en el espejo. Si algo de nuestro prójimo nos molesta es porque nos reconocemos en él.

¡Nuestros vecinos no se parecen al elenco de una simplista película navideña de Hallmark! A veces amar a Dios y al prójimo puede parecer imposible. Por más "sentirse bien" que sean, las películas de Hallmark son visual y emocionalmente pura fantasía. Amar a nuestro prójimo y ser amado por nuestro prójimo es profundamente imperfecto y casi siempre poco confiable.

¿Cuántas veces nuestras lenguas han estado lejos de ser angelicales, nuestros corazones impacientes, crueles, celosos, pomposos, inflados, groseros, egoístas, irascibles, cavilando sobre las injurias o regocijándose cuando nuestro prójimo se equivoca? Amar puede ser muy complejo. Amar a Dios y a nuestro prójimo exige toda nuestra atención e intención, reconociendo que sólo el favor de la gracia de Dios puede inspirarnos a amar.

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¿Por qué es tan difícil amar a Dios y al prójimo? Quizás sea porque no lo hacemos de todo corazón. Amamos transaccionalmente, siempre esperando que nuestro prójimo nos afirme, nos pague o recompense por nuestro “amor”.

Por otro lado, “ama a tu prójimo como a ti mismo” tiene sus propios desafíos. ¿Cómo podemos amar al prójimo si nos amamos a nosotros mismos pobre y condicionalmente, o creemos que no merecemos amor? Necesitamos dejar de lado nuestras costumbres infantiles.

“Cuando era niño, hablaba como niño, pensaba como niño,
razonar de niño; Cuando crecí, dejé de lado las cosas infantiles”.

Cumplir el Gran Mandamiento de amar a Dios y al prójimo de todo corazón es un tema central a medida que la temporada electoral llega a su fin. Podemos amar a los demás porque Cristo está con nosotros, porque Cristo nos amó primero a nosotros, por muy desordenados y limitados que somos y seguiremos siendo. Nuestro amor imperfecto es una invitación abierta a Dios para que intervenga en nuestras relaciones y trabaje en nosotros mientras trabajamos en nosotros mismos. Este Gran Mandato, este antiguo Shemá del Deuteronomio, es un mandato que todos necesitamos para liberarnos de nuestros arrepentimientos y de nuestro egocentrismo basado en el miedo.

Este Mandamiento tiene las manos y el corazón de Cristo por todas partes. Todos sabemos lo que sucede cuando Cristo nos toca y cumple sus promesas. Somos transformados en Amor, transformados en gracia. Fuimos creados en Amor y estamos llamados a amar a Dios y al prójimo de todo corazón, indiscriminada y generosamente. Ese es el Comando. Nada más, nada menos.

En COMUNIDAD,

È Reflexionando sobre la Palabra

El Gran Mandamiento: Amar a Dios de todo corazón Y a tu prójimo como a ti mismo.
Tómate el tiempo para reflexionar sobre tus expresiones de amor imperfectas y sinceras.

Nombra la invitación de Dios para ti hoy. ¿Qué harás para responder a la invitación de Dios?
Si te pidieran que hicieras una lista, ¿Quién sería tu vecino y quién no estaría en tu lista?

Morning, Church!

Probably the most popular scripture used in the wedding ceremony is 1 Cor. 13:1-13. *“Love is patient, love is kind...”* and you, most likely could recite the rest of it. Love, Jesus proclaims, is the greatest commandment with a two-fold mandate: Love God wholeheartedly, in mind and spirit AND love your neighbor as you love yourself. Herein lies the snag. Love looks good, really good on paper in Corinthians, until you actually try to live it.

With all the idiosyncrasies, limits, and brokenness of our human nature, loving God, ourselves and others is much more difficult and often disappointing. You see, we’ll always have neighbors. Always. Our neighbors can be family members, the folks next door, the store clerks, the person who cuts us off on the road, refugee, person of color or who speaks quite differently than we do. Closer to home, our neighbor can be teenagers who won’t clean their rooms or someone who won’t put in any effort to contribute to the family.

All in all our neighbors are as confused, disorganized, fickle, or as untidy as we are, and, most often sit on our last nerve. Our neighbors are our mirror image. If something in our neighbor irks us, it’s because we recognize ourselves in them.

Our neighbors do not resemble the cast on a simplistic Hallmark Christmas movie! At times, loving God and neighbor can seem impossible. As “feel good” as they are, Hallmark flicks are visually and emotionally pure fantasy. Loving our neighbor and being loved by our neighbor is deeply imperfect as it is almost always unreliable.

How many times our tongues have been far from angelic, our hearts *impatient, unkind, jealous, pompous, inflated, rude, self-seeking, quick-tempered, brooding over injuries, or rejoicing when our neighbor messes up?* Loving can be very complex. Loving God and our neighbor demands our full attention and intention, recognizing that only the favor of God’s grace can inspire us to love.

Why is loving God and neighbor so hard? Perhaps it’s because we fail to do so wholeheartedly. We love transactionally, always expecting our neighbor to affirm, repay, or reward us for our “love”.

On the other hand, “love your neighbor as you love yourself” has its own challenges. How can we love neighbor if we love ourselves poorly and conditionally, or believe we are undeserving of love? We need to put aside our childish ways.

“When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I grew up, I put aside childish things.”

Fulfilling the Great Commandment to love God and neighbor wholeheartedly is front and center as the election season comes to a close. We can love others because Christ is with us, because Christ loved us first, as messy and as limited as we are and will continue to be. Our imperfect loving is an open invitation to God to intervene in our relationships, and work in us as we work on ourselves. This Great Command, this ancient Shema from Deuteronomy, is a command we all need to free us from our regrets and our fear-based self-centeredness.

This Command has hands and heart of Christ all over it. We all know what happens when Christ touches us and keeps his promises. We are transformed in Love, transformed in grace. We were created in Love and we are called to love God and our neighbor wholeheartedly, indiscriminately, and generously. That is the Command. Nothing more, nothing less.

In CommUNITY,


*Reflecting on the Word*























The Great Command: Love God wholeheartedly AND your neighbor as yourself.

Take time to reflect on your wholehearted and imperfect expressions of love.

Name God’s invitation for you today. What will you do to respond to God’s invitation?

If you were asked to make a list,

who would be your neighbor and who wouldn’t make your list?

OCTOBER	
 27	30th Sun OT Faith Formation ~ Parents & Youth, After Mass, FLC
 29	SSJ CGG, 10a Communion Service, 12:15p
 30	RCIA, 6:30p; Choir, 7p 
NOVEMBER	
01	All Saints Day Mass, 7p
 03	31st Sun OT Faith Formation ~ Parents & Youth, After Mass, FLC
 05	Communion Service, 12:15p; RCIA I, 6:30p
 06	RCIA II, 6:30p; Choir, 7p 
10	32nd Sun OT Faith Formation ~ Parents & Youth, After Mass, FLC
11	Adult Faith Formation <i>Pre-planning Your Mass of Christian Burial, 5p ~ FLC</i>
 12	The Chosen, 10a Communion Service, 12:15p; RCIA I, 6:30p
13	Choir, 7p 
14	Alaska Fish Dinner, 6:00-8:00p, FLC
15	Remembering the El Salvador Martyrs
16	Men's Breakfast, Cracker Barrel, 8:30a 
 17	33rd Sun OT Faith Formation ~ Parents & Youth, After Mass, FLC
 18	Give Blood Elkin Rescue Squad, 1:30-6:00p Ladies Guild, 5p 
 19	The Chosen, 10a Communion Service, 12:15p; RCIA I, 6:30p
 20	RCIA II, 6:30p; Choir, 7p 
21	Wise Ones, TBA 
22	Alaska Fish & Rice Dinner, 6p ~ FLC
24	Feast of Christ, King of the Universe Faith Formation ~ Parents & Youth, After Mass, FLC 
 26	The Chosen, 10a Communion Service, 12:15p; RCIA II, 6:30p
27	RCIA II, 6:30p; Choir, 7p 
28	<i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i> 


Adult Faith Formation & Faithsharing:
The Chosen
 Tuesdays, Nov 12, 19 & 26
 10:00a ~ 11:30a
 Contact S. Janis for more information

NOV MASS INTENTIONS	
03	+Michael W. Golden; deceased family members, parishioners, and Sisters of St. Joseph
10	Marianne McQuade All Veterans, living and deceased

Birthdays & Anniversary











- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 02 Jackie Wagoner | 05 Shayla Ange |
| 03 Eric Barrientos
Barbara Rhinehart | 09 Debbie Parrish |
| 04 Bill Bresse
Arelis Hadfield | 10 Richard Bernabe |
| | 14 Veronica Trinidad |
| | 18 Athena Spicer |
| 04 Roseamelia & Matthew Kelly | |
| 07 Rosa & Gerardo Parral | |



COMMUNION
COMUNIÓN
PARTICIPATION
PARTICIPACIÓN
MISSION
MISIÓN

Our Church Synod came to a close this Tuesday. Now the grace of this extraordinary gathering continues in the ways, we as Church, promote and encourage personal and **communal conversion, transparency and accountability.**

-  How is God calling you to transparency and conversion? Where are your "growing edges"?
 -  How is God calling the Church and St. S to conversion and transparency?
 -  Do you participate the life of the Church and parish life at St. Stephen?
 -  Do you have a sense of your accountability
- Nuestro Sínodo de la Iglesia llegó a su fin este martes. Ahora la gracia de esta reunión extraordinaria continúa en los caminos, nosotros como Iglesia, promovemos y fomentamos la conversión personal y comunitaria, transparencia y rendición de cuentas.
-  ¿Cómo te llama Dios a la transparencia y a la conversión? ¿Dónde están sus "ventajas de crecimiento"?
 -  ¿Cómo llama Dios a la Iglesia y a San Stephen a la conversión y la transparencia?
 -  ¿Participas en la vida de la Iglesia? y la vida parroquial en St. Stephen?
 -  ¿Tiene usted un sentido de responsabilidad? ¿Para la misión de Cristo "que todos sean uno"?

ALASKA FISH & RICE DINNER
Thurs., Nov. 22 6:00p ~ FLC
SIGN UP ~ LIMITED SEATING
 Bring sides to share: sm. portions coleslaw, salad, dessert; sweet & unsweet tea

NEW DATE



THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

In today's Gospel reading, one of the scribes asked Jesus what was the most important commandment of God. Jesus told him that the most important rule was to love God with everything- our heart, our soul, our mind and all our strength. The next most important rule is to love others as much as we love ourselves.



We were created to love God. We will never be really happy unless we do. But if we keep God first in our lives then everything else will happen the way God wants it to. If we love God first, then we can love others the way God asks.

HEY! I CAN HELP YOU

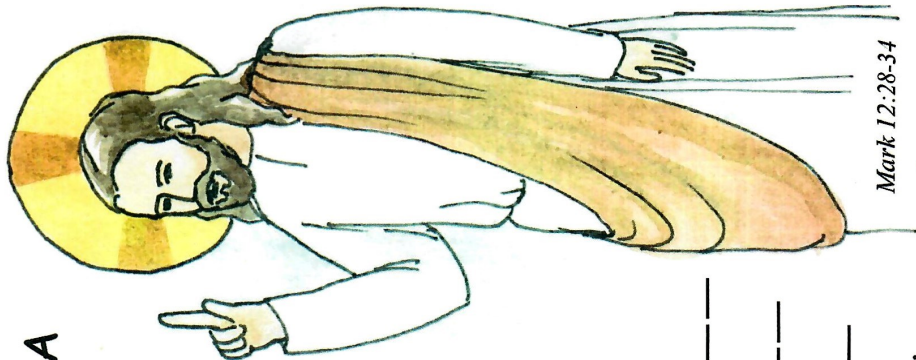


What can you do to keep God first in your life? How about saying a prayer as soon as you wake up in the morning, and last thing before you go to bed at night?

Answer to front page puzzle: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart. Answer to Greatest Commandment Puzzle: GOD, OTHERS

The Kids' Bulletin

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 3rd, 2024



Mark 12:28-34

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

Y

In today's Gospel reading, one of the scribes asks Jesus what the greatest commandment is. What does Jesus say? Use every second letter to fill in the blanks to find out!

Saint Charles Borromeo

November 4

CHARLES WAS THE SON OF AN ITALIAN COUNT IN THE 1500'S. THE FAMILY WAS FAMOUS AND RICH, BUT ALSO GENEROUS AND PIOUS.



Never sit down to eat without giving alms first.

WHEN HIS UNCLE BECAME POPE HE MADE CHARLES A CARDINAL AND PUT HIM IN CHARGE OF THE PAPAL STATES.



I think I can trust you for this job.

CHARLES BECAME A PRIEST AND AN ARCH-BISHOP.



HE WOULD TAKE THE TIME TO TEACH PEOPLE, AND HE ALSO STARTED MANY SCHOOLS.



Our Father..

STILL HE WAS KIND AND GENEROUS TO EVERYONE.



CHARLES WAS NOT A VERY GOOD SPEAKER, BUT HE SPOKE SO WISELY THAT EVERYONE LISTENED TO HIM.



Do not spend your time in useless chatter.

WHEN THE PLAGUE BROKE OUT IN HIS CITY, CHARLES CARED FOR THE SICK. FINALLY HE ALSO BECAME ILL, BUT HE CONTINUED TO SERVE HIS PEOPLE UNTIL HE DIED.



He needs to rest.

ST. CHARLES WAS AN EXAMPLE TO PEOPLE OF HIS TIME OF HOW EVEN RICH AND IMPORTANT PEOPLE CAN LOVE GOD AND BECOME SAINTS. HE KNEW THAT THE TRUTH AND BEAUTY OF GOD SHOULD COME TO PEOPLE THROUGH THE CHURCH. HOW CAN YOU SHARE THE TRUTH AND BEAUTY OF GOD WITH OTHERS?

The Greatest Commandment Puzzle

Use the words from the list to fill in the blanks and use the letters in boxes to fill in the blanks at the end.

One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "The first is this:

Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God LORD
 is [2] alone! You shall [4] HEART
 the Lord your God with all your YOUR
 [6] SECOND
 [5] all your soul, LOVE
 with all your [3], and with all YOURSELF
 your [1]. The WITH
 [9] is this: You shall love STRENGTH
 [8] neighbor as [7] MIND

What is the order of importance of those we must love?

1. _____
 1 2 3

2. _____
 4 5 6 7 8 9

