



St. John Baptiste de LaSalle Catholic Church

275 C.C. Wright School Road
North Wilkesboro NC 28659-9103

336-838-5562

Email: Info@StJohnNC.Org

Website: www.StJohnNC.Org



St. Stephen Catholic Church

101 Hawthorne Road
Elkin NC 28621-3016

336-835-3007

Email: connect@ststephennc.org

Website: www.ststephennc.org

Fr. John D. Hanic 704-763-2475

Rev. Mr. Harold Markle 336-466-4173

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

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022**



Sisters Maura Clarke, Ita Ford, Dorothy Kazel; and Missionary Jean Donovan

On December 2, 1980, four Churchwomen—Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel, and lay missionary Jean Donovan—became victims of escalating violence toward Church members who sided with the poor in El Salvador.

The slogan, “Haz patria, mata un cura” (“Be a patriot, kill a priest”) became a battle cry for Salvadoran right-wing extremists who believed that anyone who opposed the military regime was a communist, including religious figures. This slogan, however, targeted more than priests. The murder of the four American Churchwomen illustrates the possible fate of those who belonged to the “subversive Church.”

The Salvadoran military saw the Church as subversive because they sided with the poor. Ita Ford told an interviewer, “A local Col. Peña Arbaiza said, *“The Church is indirectly subversive because it is on the side of the weak... The governments find this difficult to handle. It’s very contradictory to their National Security ideology.”*

The Church became known for shaking the foundation that maintained unequal power relations in countries like El Salvador. In 1968, Latin American Bishops establish a policy that the Church would serve oppressed and poor communities. Historically the Catholic Church allied with elites and helped maintain its power over the region.

This gathering served as a catalyst for change in peasant communities throughout Latin America by labeling poverty, injustice, and oppression of marginalized communities in the region as social sins.

The Church has a moral responsibility to recognize, understand, and change the social and political realities of Latin Americans: political corruption, state-sponsored violence, and U.S. intervention. This challenge to the status quo became a threat not only to the Salvadoran government.

Before their murders, these Churchwomen witnessed the violent repression against Salvadoran peasants and workers. Initially they proclaimed the gospel and taught Salvadorans how to become better Catholics. Their ministry in El Salvador, and elsewhere, led them to see their work as “to be in solidarity with the people by supporting, living with, and following the lead of marginalized communities..

Like Arch. Oscar Romero, assassinated by the Salvadoran military for speaking up for marginalized communities, the Churchwomen worked to “address the cause of the poor as well as their needs.”

On December 2, 1980, Clarke and Ford returned to El Salvador from a regional Maryknoll meeting in Nicaragua. Picked up at the airport by Kazel and Donovan, the women faced an incredibly brutal fate. For two days no one knew where they were.

Continued p. 3 Churchwomen

**Watch their documentary,
“Rose in December” free on Kanopy TV.
It’s the story of these Churchwomen’s ministry in El Salvador.**

Churchwomen (Continued from p. 2)

When U.S. Ambassador, Robert White reported their disappearance to the Salvadoran Defense Minister, Gen. José García. He asked if they were wearing habits. In an interview, White recounted that at that moment he knew the women were murdered, because the Salvadoran army would distinguish “good” nuns from “bad” nuns based on their dress code. On December 4, their bodies were found in shallow graves. They had been raped and shot at close range.

News of the four Churchwomen’s murder made its way to the U.S. but even there, the dichotomy of the good/bad nun prevailed. Because Clarke, Donovan, Ford, and Kazel worked with refugees and poor communities in El Salvador, both the Salvadoran and U.S. government saw them as subversive.

President Carter suspended aid to El Salvador because of the murders, yet the Reagan administration publicly called it a mistake. Reagan’s Ambassador to the U.N., Jeanne Kirkpatrick questioned the nun’s motives and believed that the Salvadoran army was not responsible for their murder. “The nuns were not just nuns,” she claimed. “They were political activists on behalf of the *Frente*, the Salvadoran guerrillas.”

In 1984, five Salvadorean national guardsmen were convicted for the Churchwomen’s murders. More than 30 years later, the two-highest-ranking military officials at the time were deported from the U. S. back to El Salvador after linking them to human rights violations. Yet, they have not stood trial in El Salvador for any of their actions during the war, including the events of December 2, 1980.

The recent conviction by Spanish courts of a Salvadorean military officer responsible for the death of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and her daughter, (1989), is a promising sign that legal repercussions might still be coming for those responsible for the 1980 killings.

The four Churchwomen are still remembered for their work in Chalatenango and La Libertad, the communities in which they served in El Salvador. Salvadorans have painted murals of them across the country and each year in Chalatenango, a mass is dedicated to the Churchwomen.



The life and work of Maura Clarke, Jean Donovan, Ita Ford, and Dorothy Kazel serve as inspiration for Catholics and non-Catholics alike to denounce U.S. imperialism and challenge oppressive structures at home and abroad.

St. Stephen Community ~ You’re Invited!



Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration
led by our Youth
Mon., Dec. 12, 2022
6:45p



You’re Invited!
Las Posadas
led by our Youth
Sat., Dec. 17, 3:00 - 5:00p
Please bring finger food to share!

Las Posadas, (“The Inns”) is a religious festival chiefly celebrated among Latinos everywhere.

Las Posadas commemorates journey Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge where Mary could give birth to Jesus. When they were unable to find lodging in Bethlehem,

Joseph

and Mary

*All parish Youth are invited to participate
in this celebration and come dressed as angels or shepherds.*



Bạn là hàng xóm thân yêu của tôi!

Bạn được chào đón ở đây!

**Cha Long gặp gỡ nhiều thành viên trong
cộng đồng người Việt vào ngày 8/11.**

Anh ấy sẽ trở lại,

Chủ nhật, ngày 4 tháng 12, 2: 00p

và cử hành thánh lễ bằng tiếng Việt.

**Lên kế hoạch tham dự và mời gia
đình và bạn bè của bạn đến tham dự!**

River of Repentance

Morning Church!

As we continue to explore the Advent scriptures, we come recognize the recurring theme of being ready to welcome Christ's presence and, that everything, include us, must change.

Two people who were unwelcomed were Jesus and his cousin, John the Baptist. Their presence and preaching stirred some hearts to change and while other hearts to recoil in anger or avoidance.

John is oft described by his unusual lifestyle, strange diet and clothing. Those whose hearts were open and ready were drawn to him. Others found him just plain infuriating. He provoked their lukewarm spirits, weighted down by their refusal to accept God's call to repent. They weren't ready for or receptive to Christ's Advent. They resisted The River of Repentance and that everything, including them, must change.

Biblical prophets confronted the jaded ideas folks had about God, their Neighbor, justice and right relationship. Their words and presence drove their audience to face the parts of their lives they would prefer to ignore. Today, John's prophetic call to repent it may lead you to squirm uncomfortably, too. That's a marvelous nudge of grace!

The *mentanoia* (Gk) means to repent, to change. Repentance cannot be seen through the lens of personal versions of the truth. A radical change of heart only happens in the light of God's truth and grace. We keep versions of the truth in place to protect our comforts and biases.

The reign of God has come and *everything must change*, including us, so that we can see and love as God does.

John's prophetic words and ministry prepared the way for Christ, who came to live among us.

Christ, like John, shook up the political and religious leadership of his day and compelled his vast audiences to scrutinize their versions of the truth.

John's *Voice of God in the Wilderness* echoes today in the wilderness of the world, the Church, and hearts. How will you respond?

The reign of God has come and everything must change.

This Advent, how do you desire to change your mind and heart?

Come, Lord Jesus!

Janis



Blessing
Jan Richardson

May your life be a river.
May you flow with the purpose
of the One who created
and called you,
who directs your course
and turns you ever
toward home.

May your way shimmer
with the light of Christ
who goes with you
who bears you up
who calls you by name.

May you move
with the grace of the Spirit
who brooded over
the face of the waters
at the beginning
and who will gather you in
at the end.

Reflecting and Acting on The Word

This Advent, will you gather at
The River of Repentance
and surrender to God's marvelous,
healing grace?

What grace do you desire
as this Year of Grace begins?
Ask for it.

Readings <https://bible.usccb.org/>

D E C E M B E R	
03	Feast of St. Francis Xavier Baptims Prep, St. J, 10a
04	2nd Sun Advent 9a Mass; Faith Formation after Mass 2p Mass (Vietnamese)
05	ZOOM, 4:00-5:30p
06	Feast of St. Nicholas Communion Service, 12:15p
07	RCIA, 6:45p
08	Immaculate Conception, Mass, 7p
11	3rd Sun Advent 9a Mass Faith Formation after Mass  Giving Tree due today
 12	Ladies Guild Christmas Celebration, 1:00p RCIA Zoom, 4:00-5:30p Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration, 6:45p
13	Feast of St. Lucy Communion Service, 12:15p SSJ ZOOM 6:00-7:30p
14	Feast of St. John of the Cross RCIA, 6:45p
 15	Wise Ones Christmas Celebration, 1p
17	Men's Breakfast Cracker Barrel, 8:30a Las Posadas Celebration 3:00-5:00p 
18	4th Sun Advent 9a Mass; Faith Formation after Mass
19	Zoom, 4:00-5:30p
20	Communion Service, 12:15p
21	RCIA, 6:45P
24	Christmas Eve Mass, 4p 
25	Christmas Day Mass, 9a
26	Feast of St. Stephen
27	Feast of St. John, Evangelist Communion Service, 12:15p
28	Feast of Holy Innocents
30	Feast of the Holy Family



S. Mary Elizabeth Guyer , S.S.J.
Born:
September 5, 1942
Born to Eternal Life:
November 29, 2022
 in the **62nd** year of her religious life.

🌿 Mass Intentions	
12/04	Heidi La Marca r/b Dianne Crawford
12/08	+Sister Pat Black, SSJ
12/11	+Ellyn M. Garwood Tim Garwood
12/18	Cheri Lawrence r/b Dianne Crawford

Parish Celebrations

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 04 Jocelyn Espino
John Orta | 18 Gracie Spicer |
| 05 Shayla Ange | 19 Karen Hosking |
| 06 Holly Stringer | 20 Tom Cirone |
| 07 Gabriel Cancel | 21 Sixto DeJesus
Andy Trinidad |
| 09 Eli Davis | 26 Judy Simon |
| 12 Rebekah Treannie | 27 Gabriel Loyola
Diana Rodriguez |
| 14 Jackie Darcey | 28 Bob DeJohn |
| 15 Melia Orta | 29 Lukas McClamrock |
| 15 Gabriel Hernandez | |
| 17 Juan Rodriguez | |
| | 18 Jackie & Bryan Wagoner |
| | 22 Hilda & Joel Lopez |
| | 23 Elia & Luis Martinez |

 **Thank you ...**

...to all who are participating in our **Giving Tree**...
 Judy & Frank Simon, Samantha, Brylee, and
 Shayla Ange who serve as sacristans...
 ...Debbie & Phillip for the new front door décor...
 ...our tech team Lukas McClamrock and John Orta...
 God bless you, everyone!



2022 Giving Tree

If you are new to St. Stephen,
the Giving Tree is our annual Christmas outreach to families in our area.
To participate, please take a tag from our Christmas Tree.

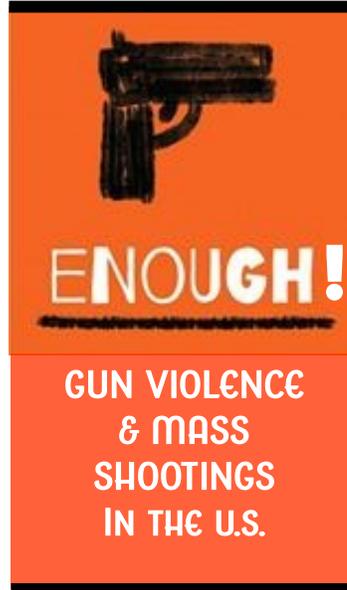
Purchase the item, wrap it, place the tag
on the outside of the gift and bring it to church by
Dec. 11.

The same is true for gift cards: purchase the gift card,
Place it in the envelope provided.
Attach the tag on the outside of the envelope.
Return the gift card by December 11.

Thank you for your loving generosity!



**Our Lady,
Queen of Peace,
pray for us!**



TRI-COUNTY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

SMALL SIZE IS BEST AS WELL AS PURCHASING NON-BRAND NAMES.



**St. Stephen
Monthly Donation**

**NOVEMBER
Bar Soap**

**DECEMBER
Dry Beans**

December Feasts and Saints Days

3	Feast of St. Francis Xavier
4	Feast of St. Barbara
6	Feast of St. Nicholas
7	Feast of St. Ambrose
8	Feast of Mary's Immaculate Conception
9	Feast of St. Juan Diego
10	Feast of Our Lady of Loretto
11	Feast of Our Lady, Queen of Angels
12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
13	Feast of St. Lucy
14	Feast of St. John of the Cross
21	Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle
25	Feast of Christmas
26	Feast of St. Stephen, 1st martyr
27	Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
28	Feast of the Holy Innocents
30	Feast of The Holy Family

What do you know about these December Feast Days and Saints?

Ask your parents to help you to find out more about each one, then pick your favorite Saint.

Why do you like this Feast or Saint?

The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent
December 4th, 2022



*Prepare the way
of the Lord,
make straight his paths.*

→ 8 Δ + □ □

x n v - + i 8 c o n

Δ + - - → - → 8

→ 0 □ c u v + 9 + -

n < 7 r + 9 8

*What did Saint
John the Baptist
say about the one
who was coming
after him?
Use the code to
find out!*

n x 7 8 r → + □ < 0 v 9 u - ~ Δ c i
A B D E F H I L N O P R S T U W Y Z

SAINT AMBROSE

DECEMBER 7

AMBROSE WAS BORN AROUND THE YEAR 340 TO A VERY IMPORTANT ROMAN FAMILY. HE RECEIVED A GOOD EDUCATION.



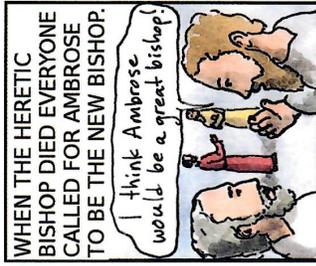
Ambrose, this man is going to be your tutor.



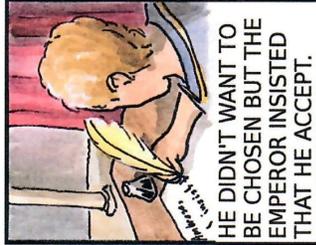
Sir, this man refuses to pay...

HE BECAME A LAWYER AND WAS LIKED BY BOTH THE CHRISTIANS AND THE HERETICS.

WHEN THE HERETIC BISHOP DIED EVERYONE CALLED FOR AMBROSE TO BE THE NEW BISHOP.



I think Ambrose would be a great bishop!



HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE CHOSEN BUT THE EMPEROR INSISTED THAT HE ACCEPT.

AMBROSE LOVED THE POOR AND GAVE HIS TREASURES TO FREE CAPTIVES.



Will you take this gold for his freedom?

WHEN THE EMPEROR KILLED MANY HERETICS AMBROSE WOULD NOT LET HIM INTO THE CHURCH UNTIL HE REPENTED.



You will not enter until you repent!

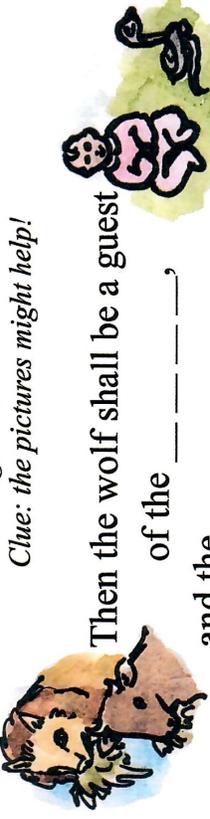
ONCE THE HERETICS WERE TRYING TO SEIZE THE CHURCH BUT AMBROSE WOULDN'T GIVE IT UP. FINALLY THE SOLDIERS WENT INSIDE TO PRAY!



SAINT AMBROSE WAS ALSO THE TEACHER OF SAINT AUGUSTINE. HE WAS VERY GOOD AT KEEPING PEOPLE AT PEACE WITH EACH OTHER. HE STOPPED ARMIES FROM ATTACKING, AND KEPT THE CHRISTIANS AND HERETICS FROM FIGHTING AS WELL. WHAT CAN YOU DO TO KEEP PEACE IN YOUR FAMILY AND SCHOOL?

Peace Among the Animals

In today's first reading, the prophet describes peace between animals and people in God's kingdom. Can you figure out which animals (or people) go with which?



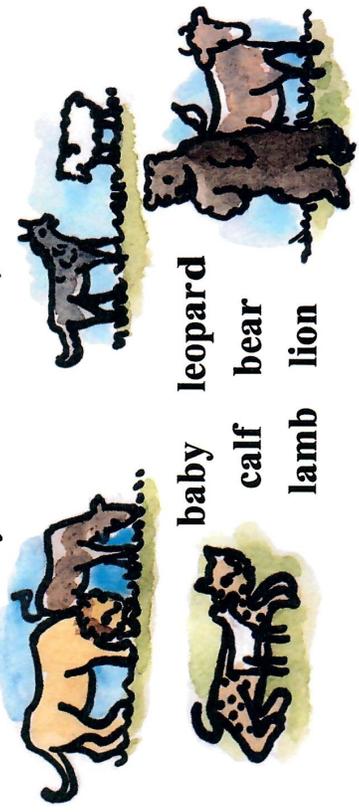
Clue: the pictures might help!

Then the wolf shall be a guest of the _____, and the _____ shall lie down with the kid;

the _____ and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them.

The cow and the _____ shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest;

the _____ shall eat hay like the ox. The _____ shall play by the cobra's den,



baby leopard calf bear lamb lion