



St. John Baptiste de LaSalle Catholic Church

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North Wilkesboro NC 28659-9103
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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

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 23, 2023



IT'S A GREAT TIME!! "SPRING CLEAN"!!
SET ASIDE ITEMS YOU WISH TO DONATE
ST. S YARD SALE ~ JULY 29, 2023

Donations do not include:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Clothing | Books without covers |
| Unframed glass | Large or CRT televisions |
| Opened paint cans | Building supplies |
| Large appliances | Broken items |
| Cribs or baby equipment | Dirty items |

DROP OFF SCHEDULE

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Sat., July 22 | 11:00a ~ 12:30p |
| Mon., July 17 | 9:00 ~ 10:00a |
| Wed., July 19 | 9:00 ~ 10:00a |
| Fri., July 21 | 9:00 ~ 10:00a |
| Sun., July 23 | Dropoff after Mass |

For other arrangements, call
Aileen (336) 466-1484

**U.S.
Mass Shootings**



**WHEN IS ENOUGH,
ENOUGH?**

Tri-C Almsgiving
Thank you so much !!

| | |
|-----|-------|
| JUN | Jelly |
|-----|-------|



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



Morning Church!

Life is bipolar, a complex network of opposite relationships. You fluidly flow back and forth in your bipolar heart. Your bipolar heart is best described in the parable of the weeds' destructive, choking force and their opposite image, the wheat's life-giving, abundant harvest.

In today's gospel, Jesus tells three parables to illustrate humanity's bipolar heart. Jesus knew his audience. The Weeds and the Wheat, The Mustard Seed, and the Leaven/Yeast parables were heard by some folks who were part of the agrarian community.

The Divine Storyteller flawlessly drew spiritual images for the crowd
so they could draw their own conclusions about the Kingdom of God/the Reign of God.

The Weeds and the Wheat are a prime example of a spiritual bipolar heart. Your vices (weeds) are always present with your virtues (wheat). The Wisdom of The Divine Storyteller is evidenced in how accepting he accepts you, just as you are, even with your weedy, bipolar heart.

In accepting you as you are, Jesus expects you to extend this same grace to others, with all their vices and virtues. There is no allowance for sorting, dividing, or judging others into neat little piles of who's acceptable to you and who isn't, who's wrong and who's right, who's worthy or unworthy of your love and presence.

Even with all your weediness, faults, shortcomings, and failures, Christ's love for you is truly unconditional. You are not condemned for your weedy, bipolar heart. Instead, you are offered merciful forgiveness. In turn, Christ expects you to do the same for your Neighbors, and offer them the same compassion, mercy, and forgiveness so you grow together in God's Field.

Whenever Jesus encountered a sinner he offered them mercy, kindness, and compassion, not shunning judgment. It doesn't take much to realize your way of separating the weeds and the wheat is not Christ's Way. All will be done in Divine Time and not in your schedule.

Each of us and all of us together *are* The Weeds and the Wheat. Accept the Divine Wisdom of the Storyteller whose parable perfectly describes your imperfections and God's perfect love.

God's blessings,

spanis

 **HEARTwork ~ Reflecting and Acting on The Word**

*In what ways can you actively protect and nurture the "wheat"
in your own heart and in the world around you?*

What is your most-practiced virtue? What is your most-practiced vice?


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

| J U L Y | |
|-------------|--|
| 23 | 16th Sun OT <i>National Grandparents' Day</i> |
| 25 | Communion Service, 12:15p |
| 29 | PARISH YARD SALE  |
| 30 | 17th Sun OT |
| 31 | Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola |
| A U G U S T | |
| 04 | Parents's Baptism prep St. John, 9:00a |
| 05 | 18th Sun OT |
| 07 | Communion Service, 12:15p |

| 🌿 Mass Intentions | |
|-------------------|--|
| 23 | Grandparents & Wise Ones |
| 30 | +Francis Warren Pope Francis & the Jesuit Community +Elizabeth Karaffa |

Birthdays & Anniversaries

24 Kevin Robinson  29 Julian Espino
26 Lorriaine Benfanti 31 Orlando Trinidad

 27 Jacque & John Darcey
31 Cindy Whitley & Ozzie Martinez

PARISH DIRECTORY
HOUSEHOLD PHOTOS
FINAL DATE **July 23**
to have your household's photo
included in the directory.



Almsgiving ~ Tri-C Christian Ministries

July Jello or Jello pudding

Aug Small bag of flour



Blessings & Congratulations

Mary Blackburn!

NC Health Care Associates'

2023 Clinical Leader Award

Nominated by Paul Hammes

CEO. Hugh Chatham Health



FLOCKNOTE

FLOCKnote

is a means to improve St. S & St. J parish communication.

It will be utilized for sharing essential information.

Your household will receive emails or texts regarding inclement weather closings, changes in scheduled events, invitations to sign up for gatherings, or prayer request announcements for living and deceased parishioners.

Thank you for your willingness to participate in this service which enables all of us to stay informed.

The Kids' Bulletin

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 23rd, 2023

Weeds and the Wheat



Weeds are plants that use the sun and water that other plants need. Have you ever picked weeds out of your garden? Today Jesus tells a story about a man who lets the weeds grow along with the wheat until harvest time, so that the good plants don't get pulled up along with the weeds.

The weeds symbolize those who make unloving, sinful choices. God allows them to be among those who make loving, generous choices.



God wants to give the unloving People more time to change their hearts and become more like Jesus.

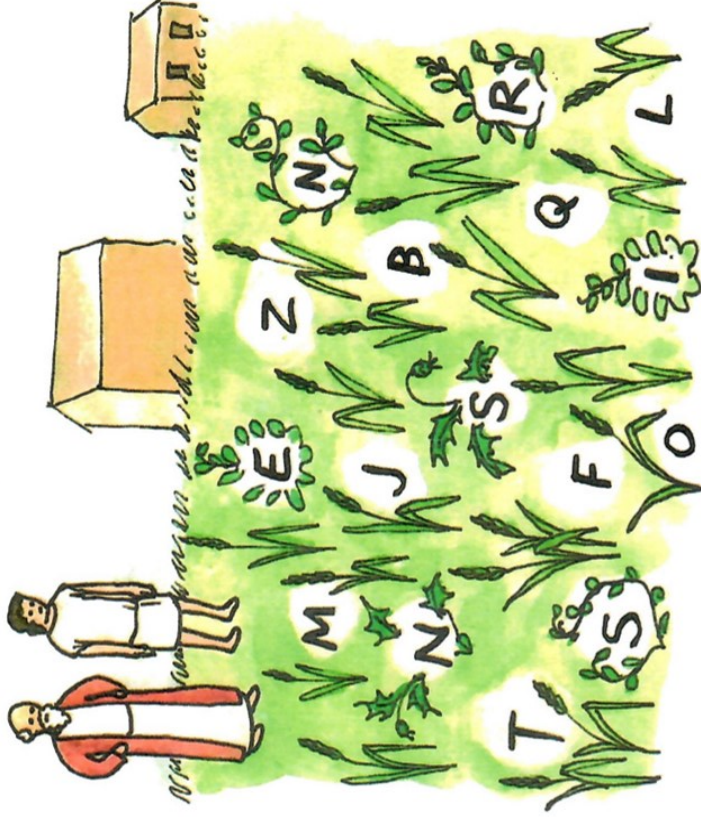
Today, God's Word is about God's mercy. Instead of destroying those who make sinful choices, God gives them more chances to change. Think about how merciful God is to you ~ and all of us!



Be grateful for God's mercy and all the chances God gives you to become more like Jesus. Ask God to help you to be more generous, kind and helpful each day.

Answers for sort-out-the-pictures: top:3,6 middle:5,2 bottom:1,4 OR top:5,6 middle:4,2 bottom:1,3.

Answer to front page: sinners



What did the weeds in today's parable represent?
Find all the letters that are in the weeds and unscramble them to find out.



The weeds are any *plant* that doesn't look like this.



Blessed William Ward

July 26

WILLIAM WEBSTER WAS BORN IN ENGLAND AROUND 1560, A TIME WHEN THE CHURCH WAS SUPPRESSED. HE WAS RAISED PROTESTANT.



We believe that the king is head of the Church.

Wow!

This statue is over 500 years old

AS A YOUNG TEACHER, HE TRAVELLED TO SPAIN WITH A FRIEND AND ENDED UP BECOMING CATHOLIC.



WHEN HE WAS 40, HE WENT TO BELGIUM TO STUDY FOR THE PRIESTHOOD.



Congratulations! You passed the exam.

Acting against the king, hey?



ON HIS WAY BACK TO ENGLAND HE WAS CAUGHT AND SENT TO PRISON IN SCOTLAND.

THREE YEARS LATER HE WAS RELEASED AND BEGAN CARING FOR THE CATHOLICS IN LONDON.



Don't get any more popish ideas now!

HE WORKED THERE SECRETLY FOR THE NEXT 30 YEARS, OCCASIONALLY BEING ARRESTED.



Father William is here to offer the Mass!

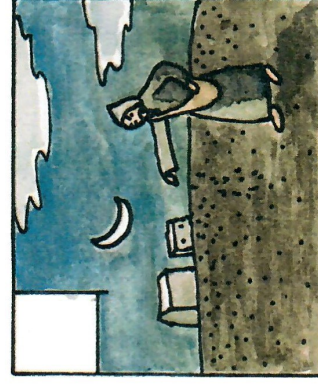
FINALLY HE WAS CAUGHT AND SENTENCED TO BE HANGED, DRAWN AND QUARTERED. AS HE DIED HE SAID, "JESUS, JESUS, JESUS, RECEIVE MY SOUL!"



Lord, give me strength!

Sort Out the Pictures: The Weeds and the Wheat

What happened in today's parable?
Put the numbers 1 to 6 in the boxes to show the order in which the story went.



BLESSED WILLIAM CHOSE TO BECOME A CATHOLIC EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE BEING PERSECUTED. HE IS AN EXAMPLE TO US OF DOING WHAT YOU KNOW IS RIGHT EVEN IF OTHERS, INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT, TELL YOU NOT TO. YOU CAN PRAY TO BLESSED WILLIAM IF YOU NEED COURAGE TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT.