



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

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 Bookeeper, 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 10, 2023**



Morning Church!

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ the Son of God...Cycle B breaks open the gospel of the Marcan community of believers. It's the most succinct of the four. Mark wants our full attention immediately. No infancy narratives, shepherds, angels, or Magi. This gospel version has a sense of urgency and relentless pace. We go right to the river to hear a wild and fierce prophet-cousin proclaim a baptism of repentance and the imminent visitation of the Savior.

*The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ the Son of God...John the Baptizer's holy, fiery speech demands repentance and recommitment, echoing every previous prophet. His particular call is *more urgent and immediate*. The Promised One is here now. It's as unbelievable as it is down right real! Every day is Advent. Depending on the depth of our spiritual consciousness, we may or may not notice Christ who comes and comforts each of us daily. The mysterious might of Divinity becomes a gentle embrace. "I am here, with you, for you, in you, as you." ~ my sister, Celeste*

Hopefully, you have encountered Divine Presence in women and men religious who ministered among you.

The blessed influence of the five religious communities at my H.S., especially the Sisters of St. Joseph, affirmed the call I first heard at age six.

The SSJs were not ranting river prophets. They were more like the comforting, healing Presence spoken of by Isaiah. The SSJs were my favorite H.S. teachers. Holy Moley, S. Marie Ellen taught American History with such insight and enthusiasm, I thought she actually *knew* President Teddy Roosevelt! The SSJs gave the loudest cheers at my basketball games. They served as the grace of peace when students suffered a tragedy or the loss of a loved one. Their joy, generosity, empathy, and excellence as educators attracted 19 in my senior class to enter the SSJs after graduation with me. Consider this: 10% (100/1000) of my senior class entered religious life after graduation!

This weekend is the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. It's our chance to give to those who gave a lifetime of gospel service among the People of God. If you know a religious Sister, Brother, or priest who revealed Christ to you, let them know via a call or a card. Remind them of the ways you see Christ in them. If they have died, pray for them. Your act of loving gratitude continues

...the good news of Jesus Christ the Son of God...

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Janis

D E C E M B E R	
10	2nd Sun Advent Retirement Fund for Religious
11	Ladies Guild Christmas Gathering, 12N
12	<p>Martes 12 de diciembre Noche de oración silenciosa y recogimiento</p> <p>Tuesday, December 12, 4:00-8p Evening of Quiet Prayer and Recollection</p> 
13	RCIA, 6p; Choir, 7p
14	Wise Ones Christmas Gathering, FLC, 1P
17	3rd Sun Advent
19	Communion Service, 12:15p
20	RCIA, 6p; Choir, 7p
24	4th Sun Advent ~ Mass, 9a
24	Christmas Eve ~ Mass, 4p 
25	Christmas Day ~ Mass, 9a
26	Feast of St. Stephen , our parish patron
31	Feast of the Holy Family ~ Mass, 9a
J A N U A R Y	
06	<p>PARISH Epiphany Pot Luck, 5p BRING SIDES for Chicken & a dessert to share</p>
07	Feast of the Epiphany ~ Mass, 9a



*Our God is the God who comes...
who never disappoints us...
In this post pandemic time we run the risk
of falling into pessimism, closure and apathy...
Confidently waiting for the Lord
allows us to find comfort and courage
in the dark moments of our lives...
God is with us...
Advent is a continuous call to hope.*

☪ Mass Intentions	
10	+Ellyn Garwood; Tim Garwood
17	+Tessie Horneck; John L. & Johnathan Hanic
9a 24	+Susan Martin r/b Jason McClamrock
24-25	Mass for St. Stephen parishioners' intentions
31	Michelle Garwood (Birthday)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 12 Rebeckah Treannie | 21 Sixto DeJesus |
| 14 Jackie Darcey | Hanh Nguyen |
| 15 Melia Orta | Andy Trinidad |
| Gabriel Hernandez | 26 Judy Simon |
| 16 Jesus Nava | 27 Joan Boehm |
| 17 Juan Rodriguez | Gabriel Loyola |
| 18 Gracie Spicer | Diana Rodriguez |
| 20 Tom Cirone | 28 Bob DeJohn |
| | 29 Lukas McClamrock |

- 14 Arelis & Lee Hadfield
18 Jackie & Bryan Wagoner
22 Hilda & Joel Lopez
23 Elia & Luis Martinez
31 Crystal & Francisco Fuentes



Christmas Flowers



Here is your opportunity to remember a loved one
or honor a friend and decorate our sanctuary

for the Christmas Season.

An envelope for your Christmas Flowers are located in the
pew pockets PRINT your info on the envelope's cover,
and enclose your monetary gift.

Print the names of those you wish remember/honor
on the back. Place the envelope in the collection.



...**Thank you** to our RCIA Candidates & their families: Jacob Wagoner, Andre Faw, Stephen Faust, Charlie Faw & Victor Bustos and his sons, Victor and Osvaldo, who put up the Nativity scenes in the church...
...to all our Liturgical Ministers, esp. our Proclaimers & Greeters...our women who clean our church; those who prepare our Altar lines, and our Tellers; our Faith Formation Team: Samantha Ange, John Darcey, Natalie Lopez, Lupe Reyes, all parent-assistants & Beth Orta who helps everywhere...**You are our year-round gift!**



**...or
GIFT
CARDS:
Sheetz or
Walmart**



2023

Giving Tree & ECSchool ~ K-12

This year ECS is trying something different for our area Giving Tree.

128 youth will be gifted by the churches. St. Stephen has been asked to donate **gloves/mittens, goggan sets and colored pencils & sketch books.**

If you wish to participate in the year's Giving Tree, please purchase the item(s) **Admission**, with the age and gender of the Youth who will receive your gift.

Bring your gift(s) to church: **December 10**

Thank you very much!

Sister of St. Joseph

The Sisters of St. Joseph Refugee Housing Project:

Location:

*St. Helena Convent
6127 North Fifth Street
Philadelphia, PA 19120-1422*

If you are willing to help your refugee sisters and brothers, both old and young, who are in need, we have several opportunities for you:



We need volunteers

- ~ to help directly with the refugees
- ~ to help at the Center to provide donations of items that are needed for the residences of the refugees
- ~ gift cards
- ~ monetary donations

Thank you very much!

Sister Eileen McNally, S.S.J.
emcnally@ssjphila.org
(267) 285-6769





If you wish to send Fr. Joe Mulligan
a card, following his emergency
heart surgery:

Fr. Joe Mulligan
7009 Cinnamon Circle
Mint Hill NC 28227-4377

Celebrating the Season

*Ladies Guild
Christmas Gathering*

Monday, December 11, 12Noon

Family Life Center

Please bring:

- 1) a new bed pillow for The Ark,
- 2) a gift (\$10-\$15 value), wrapped for exchange
- 3) a **side dish** to go with a pasta dinner.

BYOB optional

*Wise Ones
Christmas Gathering*

Thursday, December 14, 1:00p

Main Course: chicken pie or barbeque

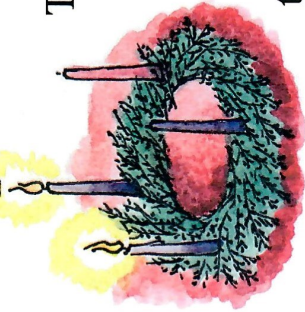
Family Life Center

Please bring:

- 1) a gift (\$10-\$15 value), wrapped for exchange
- 3) a **side dish** to go with either chicken pie or BBQ
or a **dessert** BYOB optional

R.S.V.P. Aileen (336) 466-1484

Prepare the Way of the Lord!



The readings in today's Mass remind us that we are preparing for the coming of Jesus. The first reading says, "A voice cries out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord!'" Saint Paul, in the second reading, tells us to conduct ourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for the day of the Lord.

In the Gospel reading we hear about Saint John the Baptist preparing the people for the coming of Christ.



What can we do to prepare for the coming of Jesus, which we remember especially at Christmas?

As you journey in this Advent days, remember your morning and night prayers. Tell Jesus how grateful you are for all those who love and support you have in your life. Ask Jesus to help you **prepare your heart** each day to love, to make loving choices, and to help others with generosity and joy. This Advent, repeat this prayer over and over again in your heart,

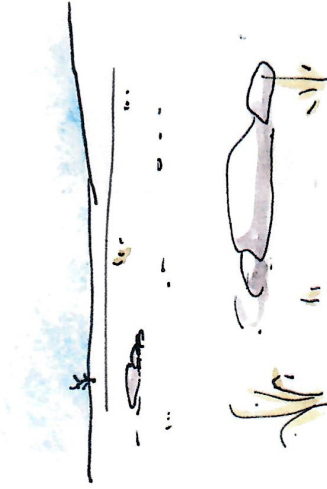
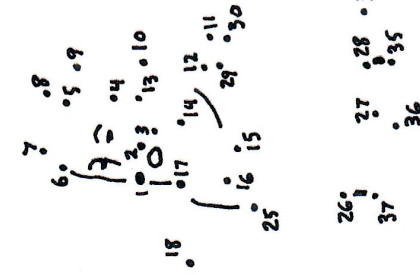
"Come, Lord Jesus, Come. Fill my heart with love."

Answers to Word Find: The Messiah is coming!
Answers to front page: Saint John the Baptist

The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent
December 10th, 2023

I am the voice of
one crying out in
the desert,
"Prepare the
way of the Lord,
make straight
his paths!"



What did God send before Jesus to prepare the people for His coming?
Connect the dots to find out!

Blessed Anthony Grassi

December 13

ANTHONY GRASSI WAS BORN IN ITALY IN 1592. HE BECAME A PRIEST AT THE ORATORY OF SAINT PHILIP NERI, WHOM HE GREATLY ADMIRE.



HE WAS A HOLY PRIEST AND TOLD PEOPLE HOW IMPORTANT THE MASS IS.

The Mass is the greatest prayer.

HE HEARD CONFESSIONS FOR MANY HOURS AND HELPED MANY PEOPLE RETURN TO GOD.



I absolve you of your sins.

Lord, help me to serve my brothers!



FR. ANTHONY WAS ELECTED SUPERIOR OF HIS COMMUNITY.

HE WENT ON SEVERAL PILGRIMAGES TO THE HOUSE OF OUR LADY OF LORETO.



ONCE HE WAS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING THERE, BUT ALTHOUGH HIS CLOTHES WERE BURNT, HE WAS FINE!



SAINT ANTHONY DIED IN 1671, SURROUNDED BY BROTHER PRIESTS AND THE ARCHBISHOP.



BLESSED ANTHONY HAD A GREAT DEVOTION TO OUR LADY AND OFTEN VISITED HER SHRINE AT LORETO. DOES YOUR CHURCH HAVE A STATUE OF OUR LADY THAT YOU CAN PAY A LITTLE VISIT TO? PRAY OFTEN TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER- SHE WILL ALWAYS HELP US GROW CLOSER TO HER SON JESUS.

ISAIAH 40 WORD-FIND



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

Find the words in CAPITALS in today's first reading in the puzzle. Then use the letters that are left over to fill in the blanks at the end!

Get you up to a HIGH MOUNTAIN, O ZION, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with STRENGTH, O JERUSALEM, herald of good TIDINGS, lift it up, fear NOT; SAY to the cities of JUDAH, "BEHOLD your God!" Behold, the LORD GOD comes with MIGHT, and his arm RULES for him; behold, his REWARD is with him, and his RECOMPENSE BEFORE him. He will FEED his FLOCK like a SHEPHERD, he will GATHER the LAMBS in his ARMS, he will CARRY them in his BOSOM, and GENTLY LEAD those that are with YOUNG.

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!

