



**St. John Baptiste de LaSalle Catholic Church**

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Website: [www.StJohnNC.org](http://www.StJohnNC.org)



**St. Stephen Catholic Church**

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Elkin NC 28521-3016  
(336) 835-3007  
Email: [Connect@StStephenNC.org](mailto:Connect@StStephenNC.org)  
Website: [www.StStephenNC.org](http://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](http://www.StStephenNC.org)

**Sacrament Preparation** (Baptism, 1<sup>st</sup> 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.*

**Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**September 1, 2024**





**FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT**  
PRESENTED BY  
**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

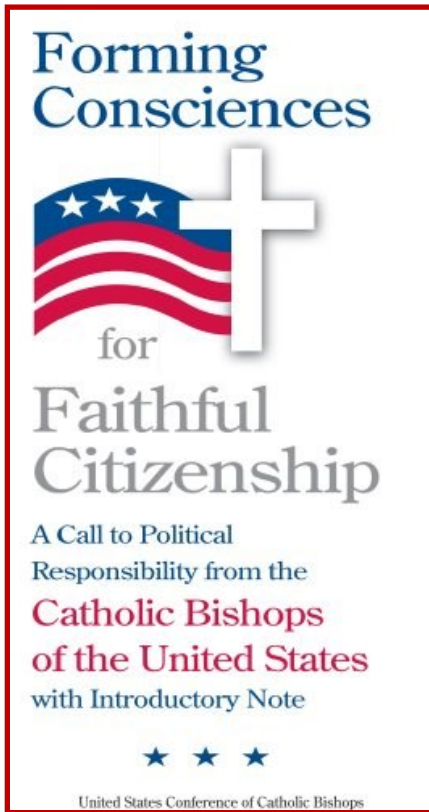
**JAZZ AND JUSTICE**  
A PROGRAM OF STORY AND SONG  
ABOUT FREEDOM, COMMUNITY  
AND BELONGING

A CONCERT BY  
CAROLINA SOCIAL MUSIC CLUB

**5:00 PM**  
SUNDAY  
**SEPTEMBER 15, 2024**  
**THE REEVES THEATER**  
**ELKIN NC**

Free Concert sponsored by the Ministerial Association  
Open seating, first come, first serve. Sign up in the lobby.





# 3

Our redemption has a social dimension because “God, in Christ, redeems not only the individual person, but also . . . social relations.” To believe that the Holy Spirit is at work in everyone means realizing that he seeks to penetrate every human situation and all social bonds. . . . Accepting the first proclamation, which invites us to receive God’s love and to love him in return with the very love which is his gift, brings forth in our lives and actions a primary and fundamental response: to desire, seek and protect the good of others. (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 178)

As a nation, we share many blessings and strengths, including a tradition of religious freedom and political participation. However, as a people, we face serious challenges that are both political and moral. This has always been so, and as Catholics we are called to participate in public life in a manner consistent with the mission of our Lord, a mission that he has called us to share. As Pope Francis teaches,

*An authentic faith, always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth some how better than we found it. We love this magnificent planet on which God has put us, and we love the human family which dwells here, with all its tragedies and struggles, its hopes and aspirations, its strengths and weaknesses. The earth is our common home and all of us are brothers and sisters. If indeed “the just ordering of society and of the state is a central responsibility of politics,” the Church, “cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice.”* (Evangelii Gaudium, no. 183)

In this fight for justice, God gives us a special gift, hope, which Pope Benedict describes in *Caritas in Veritate* as “bursting into our lives as something not due to us, something that transcends every law of justice”. Thus we take up the task of serving the common good with joy and hope, confident that God, who “so loved the world that he gave his only Son,” walks with us and strengthens us on the way (Jn 3:16). God is love, and he desires that we help to build a “civilization of love”—one in which all human beings have the freedom and opportunity to experience the love of God and live out that love by making a free gift of themselves to one another. Pope Francis encourages us in *Evangelii Gaudium* to meditate on the inseparable bond between our acceptance of the message of salvation and genuine fraternal love . . .

*God’s word teaches that our brothers and sisters are the prolongation of the incarnation for each of us: “As you did it to one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it to me”*  
(Mt 25:40).

*The way we treat others has a transcendent dimension:  
“The measure you give will be the measure you get”* (Mt 7:2).

*It corresponds to the mercy which God has shown us:  
“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged;  
do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven;  
give, and it will be given to you . . . For the measure you give will be the measure you  
get back”* (Lk 6:36-38).

What these passages make clear is the absolute priority of “going forth from our selves toward our brothers and sisters” as one of the two great commandments which ground every moral norm and as the clearest sign for discerning spiritual growth in response to God’s completely free gift. (no. 179)

*We must consider not only candidates’ positions on these issues,  
but their character and integrity as well.*  
U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops



*Morning, Church!*

All of us can own the gap between our truth and our deceit, especially when someone calls us out with, “Are you for real?” This confronting question engages our immediate defensiveness. It evokes a bunch of retorts as this haymaker lands on our fragile ego and strips away our duplicities.

“Are you for real?” is the spiritual line in the sand that Jesus utilized throughout his preaching and his example. Jesus says before we judge our dear neighbors near and far, we must look inward and confront our own hypocrisies. This gospel makes us mindful of what is truly real in our hearts and what isn’t. God’s Word helps us see ourselves as God sees us.

*Hypocrite* (Gk.) meaning *actor, stage performer*. It’s a compound noun that literally translates as “an interpreter from underneath.” This bizarre compound makes more sense when you know that the actors in ancient Greek theater wore large masks to mark which character they were playing, and so they interpreted the story from underneath their masks. Hypocrite means to “play a role”.

The Pharisees seem to give mere lip service to their relationship with God/Love while holding fast to their relationship with The Law. Without owning their own transgressions and duplicities, hypocrites judge others they deem to be unreal in their relationship with God/Love and The Law. What prevents their ownership? Plain and simple: *pride and ego*. What fosters their ownership: *humility*.

When God’s Word unmasks our hypocrisy, it draws a spiritual line across our hearts and demands a real change, a real conversion of heart in us.

How can we overcome the fear attached to unmasking our hypocrisy and our judgmental blindness?

How do we avoid the temptation of *looking good vs. being good*?

The epistle offers us this grace:

Humbly welcome The Word that has taken root in you, with its power to save you. Be doers of the Word and not hearers only. Don’t delude yourselves.

Humility is the virtue that kicks pride’s hypocrisy to the curb and honors our blest realness in God. Humility means we neither “add or subtract” from The Word. (Deut) No tweaking is necessary. Just live The Word wholeheartedly.

Next time you wash your hands or do dishes, remember Christ’s invitation to humility and integrity. Let’s close duplicity’s gap. Let’s be *for real*.

In CommUNITY,

Humility invites us to stay low to the ground so that we can find the treasures there.

Not so low that we become a doormat, subject to whatever treatment others may mete out to us.

Instead, humility helps us to remain grounded in the best sense of the word: centered in the *humus* (from the Earth) from which we have been created, the gloriously ordinary Earth from which God made each one of us.

Humility enables us to recognize our dependence on the One who fashioned us as well as our kinship with those who share this Earth, this *humus*.

















In practicing humility, we leave room for the surprising and graced ways that God works ~ beyond expectation, beyond privilege, beyond status ~ at the table and in every place beyond it.

~ Jan Richardson  
The Painted Prayerbook



*Reflecting on the Word*

*Reflect on those areas in your life that are still masked, still duplicitous, Pray for the grace of humility every day.*

SEPTEMBER	
01	22nd Sun OT
03	Communion Service, 12:15p
 04	RCIA, 6:30p; Choir, 7p 
 8	23rd Sun OT <b>Faith Formation ~ Parents &amp; Youth, After Mass, FLC</b>
 09	Ladies Guild
10	Communion Service, 12:15p
 11	RCIA, 6:30p; Choir, 7p 
 15	24th Sun OT <b>Faith Formation ~ Parents &amp; Youth, After Mass, FLC</b>
16	Give Blood, 1st Baptist Ch, Elkin 1:00-6:00p 
17	Communion Service, 12:15p
 18	RCIA, 6:30p; Choir, 7p 
19	Wise Ones, 1p TBA 
21	Men's Breakfast, Cracker Barrel, 8:30a 
 22	25th Sun OT <b>Faith Formation ~ Parents &amp; Youth, After Mass, FLC</b>
24	Communion Service, 12:15p
 25	RCIA, 6:30p; Choir, 7p 
28	YV Pumpkin Festival, 9a-4p
 29	26th Sun OT <b>Faith Formation ~ Parents &amp; Youth, After Mass, FLC</b>

SEPT MASS INTENTIONS	
01	+Linda Cirone
08	Fr. Ed Sheridan, Cecelia Jones, Kathleen Hyer
15	Pat Black, SSJ
22	St. Stephen Parishioners
29	Faith Formation Families

### Birthdays & Anniversary



- |                                      |                          |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 01 Oscar Hernandez                   | 16 Jet Martinez          |
|                                      | Yareli Nava              |
| 03 Salomon Mata                      | 18 Eric Garcia           |
| 05 Rianna Hernandez<br>Bryan Wagoner | 19 Andrea Faw            |
| 06 Carlos Trejo                      | 22 Aracely Hernandez     |
| 09 Thi Vo                            | 25 Theresa Martin        |
| 10 Sonia DeJesus                     | 17 Sergio Hernandez      |
| 13 Erika Ramirez                     | 29 Minnie Espino         |
| 15 Peggy Reikowsky                   |                          |
| 07 Hanh & ThiTan Nguyen              | 29 Julia & Diego Carreon |
|                                      | 07 Thi Nguyen & Thanh Vo |



### Tri-C Christian Crisis Ministries

SEPT

Shampoo

*Jesus warns that it is not external observance or lack of it that determines one's relationship with God, but a heart that is ever being transformed by divine love, which then becomes visible in concrete acts.*

Sister Barbara E. Reid, .O.P  
Abiding Word Sunday Reflections for Year B.

## Catholicism 101: Serving the Lord

Vatican Council II restored Church ministries to all of the baptized.

**All baptized persons are called to participate in the mission and ministries of the Church.**

As Fr. John said in his homily 8/15, **all of us are called to SERVE others and give PRAISE to God.**

Serving in Faith Formation, Liturgical Ministries, Community Outreach, or any kind of service is the mission call of the baptized.

Serving is never, ever based on one's worthiness.

**None of us are worthy. Regardless, Christ calls us!**

Using unworthiness for an excuse not to serve is a negative residue of the Jansenism heresy.

The Church condemned this heresy for many reasons, including its pessimistic view of our unworthiness of God's care and concern.

Our baptismal call makes us **worthy and responsible** to continue his mission and ministry.

**Every one of us is called to service and praise.**

**No exceptions.**

**No excuses.**



...to Gayle Altemueller for donating altar flowers last Sunday in honor and memory of her beloved aunt...to Andy Crawford, who created our new online Parish & Faith Formation registration forms, as well as redesigning the bulletin page on our website...for all who do so much behind the scenes every day...thank you, too, for your cards, texts, and emails last week; your thoughtfulness means a lot! God bless you all!

**RECYCLE USED INK CARTRIDGES!!  
AT CHURCH . RECYLCE CONTAINERS  
ARE IN THE LOBBY.  
Thank you!**



## BEING LIKE JESUS

As you grow, you will continue to learn right from wrong. You are learning how to make loving choices instead of selfish ones.


As you grow, you'll sense when there are things in the world that are not right, honest, true, or real, too. Being like Jesus means you think before you act, choose what is most loving, then act on your loving choice.

Your faith in Jesus and Jesus' faith in you means your thoughts, words, and actions show that you believe in him.

Praying each day, helping others, sharing your gifts and talents, forgiving, coming to church each Sunday to hear God's Word and receive Holy Communion at Mass are some of the best ways you strengthen your faith and be like just Jesus.



## BE LIKE JESUS:

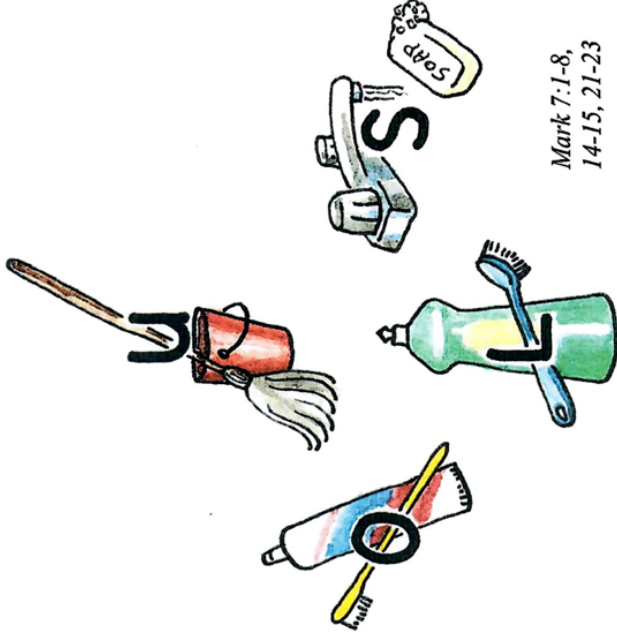
 **LOVING, PRAYERFUL, FOR-  
GIVING, HELPFUL, KIND, AND  
PATIENT.**

Answers to True or False:  
1. false 2. true 3. true 4. true  
5. false 6. true 7. true

# The Kids' Bulletin

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 25, 2024



Mark 7:1-8,  
14-15, 21-23

*Jesus taught us that our words and our actions show what we believe. If we have faith in Jesus, we will say and do what Jesus said and did. He prayed, served, forgave, and healed others. We are the image and likeness of God in our bodies and what?*

Match the letters by the pictures for the answer.

Your \_\_\_\_\_ !



# Saint Teresa of Calcutta

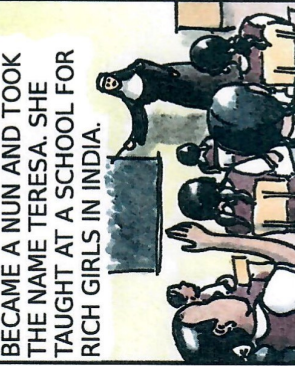
## September 5

AGNES GONXHA BOJAXHIU WAS BORN IN YUGOSLAVIA IN 1910. HER FATHER DIED WHEN SHE WAS 8. AT AGE 12 SHE KNEW GOD WANTED HER TO BE A MISSIONARY.



Lord, you want me to work for you, don't you?

WHEN SHE WAS 18 AGNES BECAME A NUN AND TOOK THE NAME TERESA. SHE TAUGHT AT A SCHOOL FOR RICH GIRLS IN INDIA.



ON A TRAIN WHEN SHE WAS 36, SR. TERESA FELT GOD CALL HER TO SERVE THE VERY POOR.



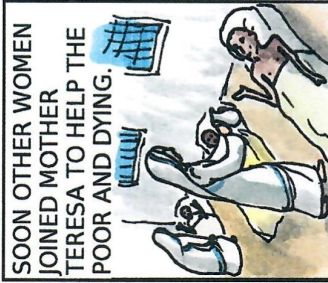
I want you to serve Me in the poorest of the poor.

Today we will start learning how to read.



SHE GOT PERMISSION TO TAKE A NEW HABIT AND START A SCHOOL FOR POOR CHILDREN.

SOON OTHER WOMEN JOINED MOTHER TERESA TO HELP THE POOR AND DYING.



MOTHER TERESA KNEW THAT THEY COULD NOT CONTINUE WITHOUT TAKING TIME EVERY DAY TO TALK WITH JESUS.



Governments should also work to protect the poor and the unborn.

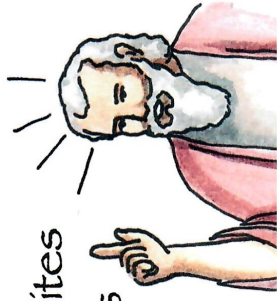


IN 1979 MOTHER TERESA WON THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE, BUT SHE STAYED HUMBLE AND USED EVERY CHANCE TO TELL THE RICH AND POWERFUL PEOPLE TO PROTECT THE POOR AND WEAK.

SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA DIED ON SEPTEMBER 5TH, 1997. WE CAN LEARN FROM HER TO DEFEND AND HELP THOSE WHO CAN'T HELP THEMSELVES, ESPECIALLY THE POOR AND UNBORN CHILDREN. WE ALSO LEARN FROM HER EXAMPLE THAT WE NEED TO SPEND TIME IN PRAYER WITH JESUS EVERY DAY.

# Moses Tells the Israelites to Follow God's Laws

## True or False



How much do you know about God's commandments for the Israelites? See if you know which of these are true and which are false.

1. Moses only taught some of the people of Israel that they had to obey the Commandments that God gave them. True or False? \_\_\_\_\_
2. The people had to obey God's laws if they wanted to live in the land that God promised them. True or False? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Moses said that they were not allowed to add to God's law, nor take away from it. True or False? \_\_\_\_\_
4. If the people obeyed God's Commandments then all the other nations would see that they were wise and faithful. True or False? \_\_\_\_\_
5. The laws that God gave the people of Israel were unfair. True or False? \_\_\_\_\_
6. God gave the people laws because God cared for them and wanted them to grow in faith and love. True or False? \_\_\_\_\_
7. We are to obey God's Commandments and live in love because they teach us how to live. True or False? \_\_\_\_\_

