



St. Stephen Catholic Church

101 Hawthorne Road Elkin NC 28621-3016

336.835.3007

Connect@StStephenNC.org

www.StStephenNC.org

Fr. Englebert Ofon

Pastor

336.838.5562

S. Janis McQuade, S.S.J.

Pastoral Associate

336.835.3007

Theresa Martin

Music Ministry

336.816.0214

Worship Schedule

St. Stephen Church, Elkin

Sundays 9:00am

Tuesday 12:15pm

Communion Service

Holy Days 7:00pm

St. John Church, North Wilkesboro

Saturday 4:00pm

Sunday 11:15am

1:00pm en español

Holy Days: Consult St. John Bulletin

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00-3:45pm

or by appointment

Welcome to St. Stephen!

We are a Stewardship Community who share our time, talent,
and treasure in life-giving ways.

We invite ***new parishioners*** to register with us
by using our website registration form:

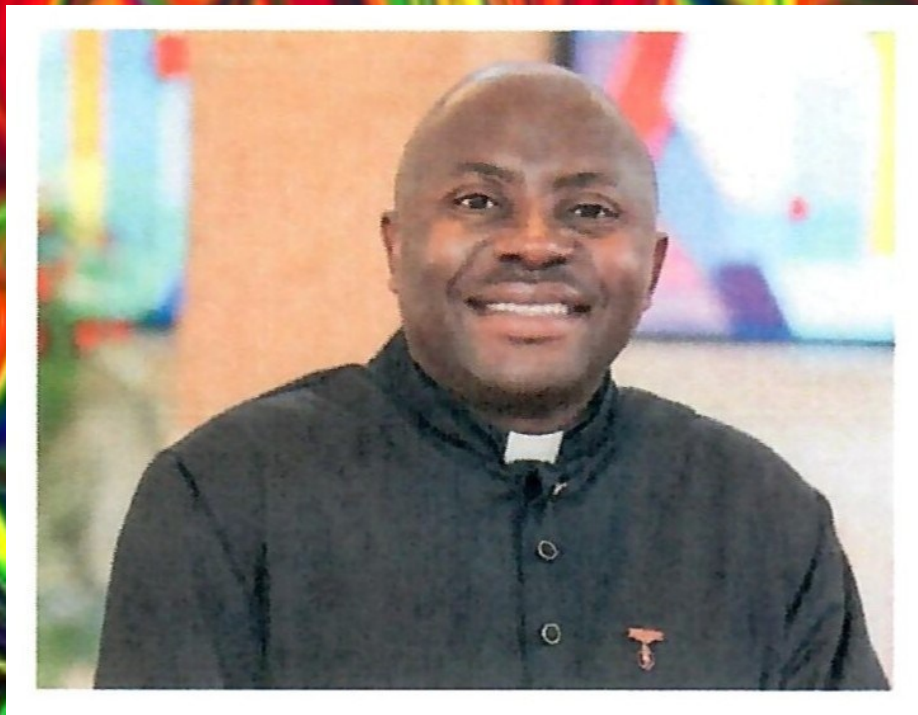
www.StStephenNC.org

Sacrament Preparation and Order of Christian Initiation of Adults O.C.I.A.

If you wish to prepare for any Sacrament, or you are interested in exploring
the Catholic Faith, or renewing your understanding
of the Catholic Faith, contact S. Janis

Sacrament of Anointing

If you, or someone you know is desirous of being anointed, call the office or Fr. Engelbert.



Welcome
to St. Stephen,
Fr. Engelbert Ofon!!

Blessings
on your ministry
among us!!

2026 Graduates Next Steps

Eric Barrientos	Surry Community College	Susana Martinez	NC State University
Victor Bustos	Appalachian State Univ.	Braulio Mata	Surry Community College
Oscar Hernandez	App State Social Work	Diana Rodriguez	UNC ~ Charlotte
Angel Ledesma	Surry Community College	Ania Trejo	Appalachian State Univ.

On May 25, 2026, Pope Leo XIV releases his first encyclical entitled:

Magnifica Humanitas: On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence.

He appeals for the safeguarding of humanity, promotion of truth, dignity of work, social justice, and peace.

Pope Leo XIV opening sentence:

“Humanity, created by God in all its grandeur, is today facing a pivotal choice: either to construct a new Tower of Babel or to build the city in which God and humanity dwell together.”

The encyclical’s contents: Introduction:

Sets the context for the "new things" (res novae) of our era, framing technology through the biblical lenses of the Tower of Babel (self-assertion) and the rebuilding of Jerusalem (communal responsibility).

Chapter One: A Dynamic Approach Faithful to the Gospel

Explores the historical context of Catholic Social Teaching, particularly from the Vatican Council II to the present, urging us to interpret these modern technological advancements through the light of the Gospel.

Chapter Two: Foundations and Principles of the Social Doctrine of the Church

Lays out core Catholic tenets such as the common good, the universal destination of goods, subsidiarity, solidarity, and social justice. It acts as a guide to protecting the human person.

Chapter Three: Technology and Dominance:

The Grandeur of Humanity in Light of the Promises of AI.

Tackles the core theme of the document. It warns against a "technocratic paradigm" and artificial moral agencies that might reduce human beings to cogs, reminding readers of humanity's divine origin and the dangers of transhumanist mentalities.

Chapter Four: Safeguarding Humanity at a Time of Transformation. Truth, Work, Freedom.

Focuses on preserving core human values in the digital age. It discusses "truth as a common good", the protection of personal data, maintaining the dignity of work, and protecting freedom against commercialization.

Chapter Five: The Culture of Power and the Civilization of Love.

Addresses how advanced technologies—including AI in warfare and autonomous weapons ~ affect international stability. It warns of a "violent culture of power" and offers a theological call to chose a civilization of love rooted in peace and Eucharistic spirituality.

Conclusion:

Encourages a shared, community-driven responsibility to ensure that technology serves humanity rather than enslaving it.

Tri-C Almsgiving

Thank you so much !!

JUN

Tooth paste

JUL Peas	SEPT Shampoo	NOV Bar Soap
AUG Flour	OCT Dish Liquid	DEC Dry Beans



PRAY FOR AN END
TO VIOLENCE,
ESPECIALLY GUN VIOLENCE

You are invited to our Open Table

4:30-6:30pm ~ Jul 16

Third Thursdays ~ NO COST

FBC Elkin 110 Gwyn Avenue

(336) 835-1998 / www.elkinfbc.com

June Stewardship

Weekly Budget	Weekly Income
June 7	\$3194.00
June 14	\$2730.00
June 21	\$1412.00
June 28	\$1186.00
Fundraiser (Taco Sale)	\$600.00
Weekly Budget \$3000 x 4	\$12,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$9122.00
Under budget	\$2878.00



St. Stephen DSA	
Assessment	\$10,959.00
Donors	19
Balance	\$3,449.00

WAYS to GIVE

Pledge: Give over time until December 31, 2026

One-time Gift: use DSA envelopes & make a one-time gift.

Online Gift: charlottediocese.org/dsa

Stock Donation: charlottediocese.org/ways-to-give

IRA Contribution: charlottediocese.org/ways-to-give

PRAY the ROSARY DAILY

...for peace and leaders of nations;

... for the end to all bombings,

a peaceful and just end

to these wars, and all wars...

& the violence that plagues

our planet...



**THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING
YOUR INK HERE.**

**IT'S GOOD for the EARTH
and IT'S HELPS THE CHURCH.**



25th and 50th

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

If you were married in 1976 or 2001,
you are invited to the annual Diocesan Wedding
Anniversary Mass

Sunday, October 11, 2026 at
The Cathedral of St. Patrick, Charlotte.

Mass begins at 2:00 p.m. and
will be followed by a reception.

Limit of 2 guests per couple.

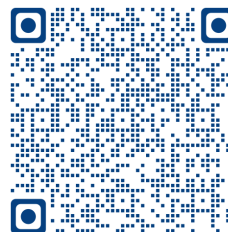
Please scan the QR code to register.

CELEBRACIÓN DEL

25.º Y 50.º ANIVERSARIO DE BODAS

Si contrajeron matrimonio en 1976 o 2001,
están invitados a la Misa Diocesana Anual
de Aniversario de Bodas el
domingo 11 de octubre de 2026,
en la Catedral de San Patricio, Charlotte.

La Misa comenzará a las 2:00 p. m. y
será seguida por una recepción.
Límite de 2 invitados por pareja.



¡Buenos días, Iglesia!

Una de mis viñetas favoritas de Ziggy lo muestra de pie en la cima de una montaña, mirando hacia el cielo nocturno y diciendo: «Por si no te has dado cuenta, los mansos de la tierra están recibiendo una paliza».

Los mansos de la tierra siguen recibiendo palizas, pero también siguen recibiendo gracia. Admitámoslo: a los ojos de Dios, los mansos y humildes de corazón nos llevan una gran ventaja.

La virtud de la mansedumbre no es para pusilánimes ni cobardes. La mansedumbre nace de un corazón valiente y bien disciplinado, no de uno que reacciona impulsivamente. El corazón bien disciplinado tarda en airarse y no busca imponerse sobre los demás. Al igual que el amor puro, la mansedumbre extrae su fuerza de la fuente divina de las virtudes: la paciencia, la humildad y la firme negativa a llevar la cuenta de las ofensas.

Acercarse a Jesús tal como uno es requiere una gran dosis de mansedumbre. Acercarse a Jesús con total transparencia —con todos nuestros defectos y debilidades a la vista— es el primer paso para liberar el corazón de su carga. Es una entrega santa de uno mismo. Es asumir nuestra gracia, nuestros dones, pecados, sueños y adicciones compulsivas.

Con los brazos siempre extendidos, Jesús abraza todo lo que eres ahora
y todo en lo que puedes llegar a convertirte en una vida virtuosa.

La mansedumbre es un acto de fe que no elimina el yugo pesado. La mansedumbre nos ayuda a comprender que no podemos cargar nuestra cruz solos. La mansedumbre es un acto de esperanza que abre nuestro camino de fe hacia un umbral sagrado ante Dios. La mansedumbre es un acto de amor que profundiza nuestra confianza en Cristo, quien comparte tu «yugo», tu cruz.

En este 14.º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario, damos una cálida bienvenida a nuestro nuevo administrador, el P. Engelbert (o P. Berto). Que compartamos este camino de fe con mansedumbre y fe, para que así suframos menos golpes duros en la vida.

En el Uno, somos uno, en ComUNIDAD,

Janis

En la práctica católica, celebramos Misas por nuestros seres queridos difuntos, por personas que celebran una ocasión especial o por nuestras propias intenciones particulares.

Si desea programar una Misa por cualquiera de estos motivos, utilice los sobres para intenciones de Misa que encontrará en el vestíbulo.

Escriba en el frente el nombre o el motivo de la Misa, así como su propio nombre.

Incluya en el sobre el estipendio de diez dólares para la Misa y entrégueselo a Sor Janis para que se pueda programar la celebración.

Mass Intentions



MEEKNESS

Morning, Church!

One of my favorite Ziggy cartoons shows Ziggy standing on a mountaintop looking up at the night sky saying, "In case you haven't noticed, the meek of the Earth are getting creamed."

The meek of the Earth are still getting creamed and they are still getting graced. Let's face it. In the eyes of God, the meek and humble of heart have a huge edge on us.

The virtue of Meekness is not for the faint-hearted or cowardly. Meekness rises from a stouthearted, well-disciplined heart, not a reactionary one. The well-disciplined heart is slow to anger; it doesn't generate ways of one-upmanship. Like pure love, Meekness draws its strength from the Divine Reservoir of virtues: patience, humility, and a stubborn refusal to keep score.

To come to Jesus, just as you are, requires a boatload of Meekness. To come to Jesus in complete transparency, warts and all, is the first step of unburdening your heart. It's the holy surrender of self. It's a claiming of our grace, gifts, sins, dreams, and compulsive addictions.

With ever-outstretched arms, Jesus embraces you all that you are now,
and all you can become in the virtuous life.

Meekness is an act of faith that doesn't remove the burdensome yoke. Meekness helps us to realize we cannot carry our cross alone. Meekness is an act of hope that opens our faith journey to a holy threshold to God. Meekness is an act of love by deepening our trust in Christ who share your "yoke" your cross.

On this 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time we extend a warm welcome to our new administrator, Fr. Engelbert/Fr. Berto. May we share this faith journey in meekness and faith, so less of us will be getting creamed.

In the One, we are one...in CommUNITY,

Janis

"It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead."

That quote comes from **2 Maccabees 12:46**.

It references Judas Maccabeus offering sacrifices for fallen soldiers, establishing a profound spiritual practice of praying for the dead.










For many, it remains a comforting act of love that crosses the boundary between life and death. Also, it is a profound act of faith to pray for the living and for special intentions.

In Catholic practice, we have a Mass celebrated for our deceased loved ones, those celebrating a special occasion, or our own special intentions.

If you wish to schedule a Mass for any of these reasons, use the Mass Intention envelopes in the lobby. Print the name/ reason for the Mass and your name on the front. Include the ten dollars stipend for the Mass in the envelope and give the envelope to S. Janis so the Mass can be scheduled.

Mass Intentions



JULY	
01	Choir, 7p
02	Formation & Information Acolytes 10:30a church
04	<i>Pray for a United States of America</i>
05	14th Sunday OT Eucharistic Ministers' Formation & Information, 10:15
07	Communion Service, 12:15p
 08	Choir, 7p
09	Formation & Information Acolytes 10:30a, church
11	New Proclaimer's Formation & Information, 10:30a
12	15th Sunday OT
 13	Ladies Guild, 5p
14	Communion Service, 12:15p
15	Greeters/Ushers 11a or 6:30p
 15	Choir, 7p
 16	Wise Ones, Theo's J'ville, 1p Host: Jerry
 18	Men's Breakfast, Cracker Barrel, 8:30a
19	16th Sunday OT
 20	Give Blood, EV Baptist Ch 1:30-6:00p
 21	Communion Service, 12:15p OCIA, 6:30p
 22	Choir, 7p
24 /25	PARISH YARD SALE See flyer p. 7 for Items list
26	17th Sunday OT
28	Communion Service, 12:15p
 29	Choir, 7p



🌿 Mass Intentions	
05	Fr. Engelbert +Roxanne Arrowood
12	+Judy Tymko
19	+Elizabeth & Joseph Dittrich r/b Donna Stvartak
26	+Michael J. Hicks r/b Anthony Caracciolo

Birthdays & Anniversaries



- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 04 Michael Kelly | 21 Roseamelia Kelly |
| S. Janis McQuade, SSJ | 22 Barbara DeJohn |
| David Serafin | 24 Kevin Robinson |
| 06 Bryan Wagoner | 26 Frank Simon |
| 08 Isidro Rodriguez | 27 Abigail Mariano |
| 11 Julia Mantero | 29 Julian Espino |
| 12 Ofelia Nava | 31 Lauren Peruzzo |
| 14 Dianne & Andy Crawford | 27 Jacquie & John Darcey |
| 22 Ashley & Aymes Davis | 29 Christine & Bryan Whitler |



The National Constitution Center's annual Liberty Medal honors men and women of courage and conviction who strive to secure the blessings of liberty for people around the globe.

*On July 3, 2026, the eve of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the U. S. they awarded the **38th annual Liberty Medal to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV** for his lifelong work promoting religious liberty and freedom of conscience and expression around the world ~ ideals enshrined by America's founders in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.*



S. Maria Theresa Griffin, S.S.J.
Given by God March 14, 1928
Given to God July 1, 2026
in her 80th year as a SSJ



S. Alice T. Boyle, S.S.J.
Given by God January 31, 1937
Given to God July 4, 2026
in her 71st year as a SSJ



PARISH YARD SALE ~ JULY 24 - 25 @ 8:00a
VENTA DE GARAJE PARROQUIA - 24-25 JULIO @ 8:00a

Donations accepted:
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
9:30-10:30a
or
Immediately after Mass
July 6, 13, 20

Se aceptan donaciones:
Lunes, miércoles y viernes
9:30-10:30 a. m.
o
Inmediatamente después de la misa
6, 13 y 20 de julio

Donations do not included:

Clothing	Books without covers
Cribs or baby equipment	Large / CRT TVs
Large appliances	Building supplies
Opened paint cans	Broken or dirty items
Unframed glass	

Las donaciones no incluyen:

Ropa	Libros sin tapas
Cunas o artículos para bebés	Televisores grandes/CRT
Electrodomésticos grandes	Materiales de construcción
Latas de pintura abiertas	Artículos rotos o sucios
Vidrios sin marco	

God Gives Us Rest

In our gospel today, Jesus say, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest." God understand that we get tired, especially when we are serving our dear neighbors as Jesus did. God gives us the energy and strength to continue.



Do you ever feel like quitting when a job seems hard? Maybe you get tired of school or helping at home. When you feel like giving up, it's time to pray and ask God to give you a generous heart. Then whatever you are doing, do it with love, for God.

When Jesus says, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." He means he is helping us carry our burdens, because he in on the other side of our yoke, walking with us on our faithjourney.

Prayer: *Jesus, walk beside me all the days of my life. When I get tired, give me new energy and strength to be loving an generous, just like you. Amen.*

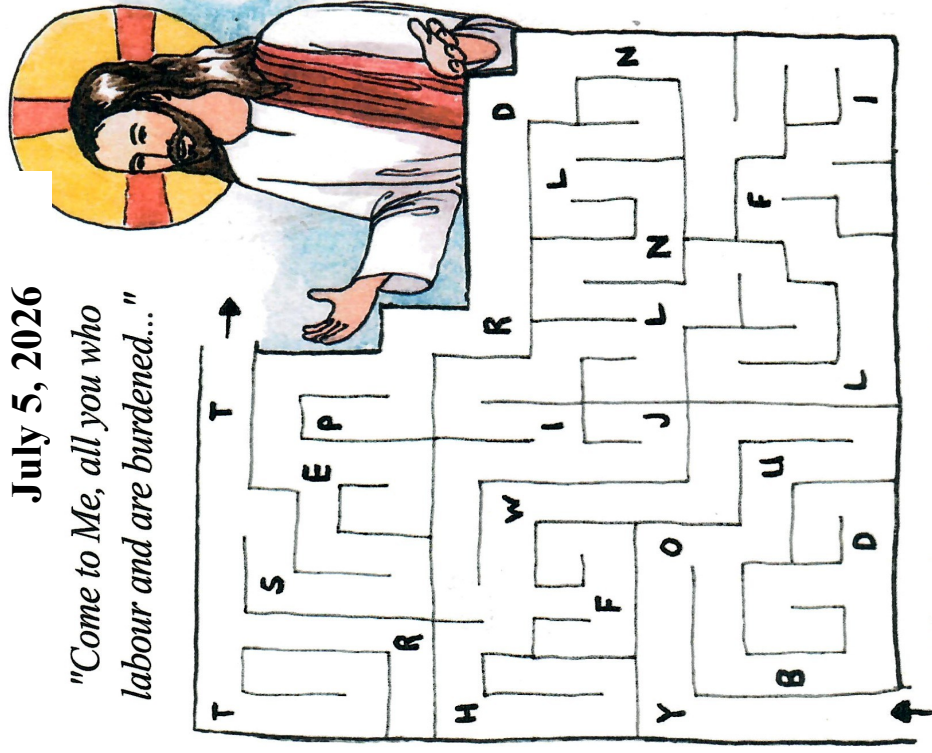


The Kids' Bulletin

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 5, 2026

"Come to Me, all you who labour and are burdened..."



What does Jesus say will happen if you go to Him when you're tired and worn out? First find your way through the maze and then use the words from that path to fill in the blanks.

Answer to maze on front: You will find rest.
Answer to word-find: He is compassionate.

Saint Henry

Holy Roman Emperor

July 13

What does it profit a man to gain the world...

HENRY WAS THE SON OF A DUKE AND A PRINCESS. HE WAS BORN IN 973 AND WAS TAUGHT WELL BY THE HOLY BISHOP WOLFGANG.

HENRY MAY HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING THE PRIESTHOOD, BUT WHEN HIS FATHER DIED HE WAS MADE DUKE.

Now that your father has died you must take his place.

ONE DAY HIS NOW DEAD TEACHER, SAINT WOLFGANG, APPEARED TO HIM.

AFTER SIX

I might die any day now...

You have been chosen...

HE PREPARED FOR DEATH BY DOING GOOD, BUT IN SIX YEARS HE BECAME EMPEROR INSTEAD!

HENRY RULED THE EMPIRE WELL AND RESPECTED THE CHURCH.

We won't touch those lands- they belong to the Church!

HIS ARMIES ONLY FOUGHT TO DEFEND LAND FROM THEIR ENEMIES AND TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE.

Our aim in this battle is to bring peace to our subjects.

HENRY AND HIS WIFE, SAINT CUNEGUNDE, DID NOT HAVE ANY CHILDREN. WHEN SHE DIED, HENRY WANTED TO BECOME A MONK BUT A HOLY ABBOT TOLD HIM TO KEEP RULING.

God has pleased you here to rule His people.

SAINT HENRY DIED IN 1024. HE HAD THE HIGHEST POSITION OF POWER IN EUROPE, BUT HE DID NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. HE KNEW THAT GOD GAVE HIM THE POWER TO LOOK AFTER THE PEOPLE. GOD WANTS US TO RESPECT PEOPLE IN AUTHORITY AND TO CARE FOR OTHERS WHEN WE ARE IN AUTHORITY.

Psalm 145 Word-Find

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

Find the words from today's Psalm that are in CAPITALS. Use the letters that are left over to fill in the blanks:

What is one of the things this Psalm tells us about God?

I will EXTOL you, O my GOD and King, and I will bless your NAME forever and ever. Every day will I bless YOU, and I will PRAISE your name FOREVER and ever.

The Lord is GRACIOUS and MERCIFUL, SLOW to ANGER and of great KINDNESS. The Lord is GOOD to all and compassionate toward all his works.

Let all your works give you THANKS, O Lord, and let your faithful ones BLESS you. Let them discourse of the GLORY of your KINGDOM and SPEAK of your MIGHT.

The Lord is FAITHFUL in all his WORDS and holy in all his WORKS. The LORD lifts up all who are FALLING and RAISES up the bowed down.