



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

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**St. Stephen Catholic Church**

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**Sister Janis McQuade, S.S.J.** 336-835-4542

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**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*

**Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**September 24, 2023**

## God's Ridiculously Sense of Fairness

Connection: UAW  
Strike & just compensation

### Morning Church!

The prophet Isaiah sets the tone for today's Word and flows into the parable. God's ways are not our ways. God's thoughts are not our thoughts. *Thanks be to God!*

This parable is not about compensation; it's about affirming human dignity and keeping your word. It's a mirror on how you are called to treat others, not work or compensation. It's about God and our relationship with God and our Dear Neighbors and the unrestricted way God's unconditional love is your greatest reward. It's about the promise of life eternal.

How long or hard you've "worked" doesn't matter to God. What matters to God is your faith and your desire to be in relationship with God and your Dear Neighbors. God's not "fair" in the way you understand fairness. All of us ought to be as fair as God is.

It's understandable this story causes you to feel frustrated and angry about the parable's outcome. Would you rather have a God who is love than a God who is fair according to human standards? There is a big difference between saying life isn't fair - it most certainly isn't - and God isn't fair. It's true: God is better than fair and generous beyond measure, rich in grace and mercy and full of compassion. All the grumbling and complaining in the world won't change God's Ways or Thoughts.

Jesus cautions us not to begrudge God's goodness and mercy to those that we find wanting. The truth is at some point in each of our lives we receive God's abundant mercy and more grace than we ever merit. Your view, your frustration and anger for the Christ's Parable of Injustice, are understandable. Don't let them be a stumbling block to your relationship with him or others.

There are times when unfairness *must* be confronted. The injustices of our Church, our nation, and our world need to be addressed. Helpful solutions need to be offered to begin to dismantle the structures of injustice and begin the healing. This is the hope of the Synod, initiated by Pope Francis, which offers us to renew and live full what it means to be Church together.

Our Bible's full of unfairness stories that led some to question God. Consider Job's enduring disasters; or young Jeremiah who reeled from the injustice leveled against him, "You duped me, O Lord, and I let myself be duped". What about our Mother in Faith, Sarah: "You want us to go where and bear a child at my age? Did Joseph find his brothers fair when they sold him into slavery?; or Ruth, who married and her husband dies young leaving her in an alien land?

If you're among them, you're in blest company.

There is a big difference between saying life isn't fair—it most certainly isn't—and God isn't fair. It's true: God is not fair, but God is better than fair, generous beyond measure, rich in grace and mercy and full of compassion.

The reality is our God doesn't owe us anything. We owe God everything: time, talent, treasure, your very life, the gift of those we love and who allow us to love them in return...all of it is a gift from God. God's justice doesn't work like ours; God's ways are not our ways; God's thoughts are not our thoughts. That's very good news.

Jesus' marvelous parable warns against begrudging God's goodness to those that we find wanting. The truth is: at some point in our life, we receive God's abundant grace, mercy, and more love than we ever merit.

When someone hurts us,  
we want a fair and just God to act.  
When we're the offender, we want a God who  
is forgiving and generous.

True: Life isn't fair. Our God's not fair either.  
This is life-affirming, soul-saving good news.  
Our God is generous in love and compassion.  
Be grateful yours is a God who is love rather  
than a God who is fair by human standards.

God's blessings,






 HEARTwork ~ Reflecting and Acting on The Word

How would you access your sense of fairness?

When and how to you challenge injustice in the Church, our country and the world?

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

S E P T E M B E R	
<b>Hispanic Heritage Month Sept 15 ~ Oct 15</b>	
24	25th Sun OT 
26	Communion Service, 12:15p
27	RCIA, 6:45p; Choir, 7p
30	Blessings of Creation & Animals Animal Ark, 10:30a 
OCTOBER	
01	26th Sun OT Family Faith Formation Parents & Youth, 10:30a
03	Communion Service, 12:15p
04	RCIA, 6:45p
05	Wolfhus Theater
07	SSJ Assembly, Chestnut Hill, PA
08	27th Sun OT Family Faith Formation Parents & Youth, 10:30a
10	Communion Service, 12:15p
11	RCIA, 6:45p
15	27th Sun OT SSJ Associate Rite of Welcome Family Faith Formation Parents & Youth, 10:30a 
17	Ministerial Association, 12N HCH Communion Service, 12:15p
18	RCIA, 6:45p

☪ Mass Intentions	
17	+Rhoda Scott (r/b John Bentley)
24	Faith Formation Families & Catechists
01	+Deceased Sisters of St. Joseph St. Stephen Parishioners
08	+Msgr. Thomas P. Ivory S. Geri Rogers, SSJ

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

25 Theresa Martin  
27 Sergio Hernandez



28 Britney Crispin  
29 Minnie Espino

23 Marie & Jose Ledesma  
29 Julia & Diego Carreon



### ADULT FAITH FORMATION

**"The Chosen"**  
**TUESDAYS**

**10:00a-12Noon or 6:45p-8:45p**

Finally, media produced something life-giving for all of us! *The Chosen* is a Christian historical multi-season drama TV series about Christ's life and ministry. Primarily set in Judea and Galilee in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, the series centers on Jesus and the different people who met and followed or otherwise interacted with him. No doubt, this is a series worth reflecting on individually and together as a community.

Whether you've seen it or not, this is an opportunity to come together and journey with Jesus with those who knew him first, witness his healing and see between the lines of the Scripture you know so well. You'll gain new insights through your faithsharings on this life-giving experience.

**COME AND SEE!**

*Sign up in the lobby by October 18*

### CARE for CREATION RECYCLE INK CARTRIDGES



Recycle containers  
are in the lobby.  
Thank you!



# ADULT SACRAMENTS

First Communion  
Confirmation

Sacrament of Matrimony

For couples who would like to marry  
or who are married civilly and would  
like to have your marriage  
blessed in the Church.

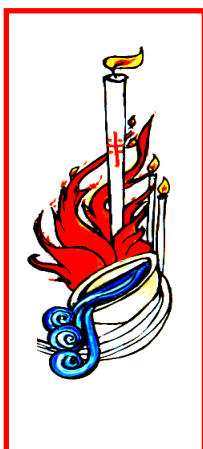
Anointing of the Sick

Offered to the hospitalized or homebound

R.C.I.A

For Adults desiring to explore the Catholic Faith.

For more information,  
contact S. Janis (336) 835-4542





# *Blessing of Animals, Creation and Pet Life Celebration Service*

*Saturday, September 30, 2023 ~ 10:30a  
Yadkin Valley Pet Funeral Services  
Located behind  
Animal Ark Veterinary Hospital*



*To celebrate and remember our pet companions, join us for our special  
Blessing and Celebration Service.*

*We ask that pets please be on a leash or in secure carriers. You may also  
bring photos of your special companions to be honored or blessed.*

*This event is open to pets and people of all faiths.*

**Sponsors:**

**Tri-County Ministerial Association**





Come and join us for the  
St. Stephen Ladies Guild

## SEVENTH ANNUAL SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Saturday, October 28  
6 pm to 7:30pm  
Family Life Center



### MENU

Spaghetti and Meatballs  
Green Salad  
Italian Bread  
Dessert  
Coffee (Decaf) or Juice  
Bring your own wine



### TICKETS

\$8.00 for adults  
\$3.00 for children ( 3 to 10 years)  
Tickets must be bought in advance  
available after Masses  
October 15 and 22





# A Christmas Story: The Musical

December 10th, 2023 @ 3pm  
Yadkin Arts Council Arts Center  
Yadkinville

Cost is \$24 Adults + children  
Show Only No Meal Serve

Tickets must be purchased by:  
September 24 Sign up at church  
or contact

Julie Colglazier (336) 353-822

The venue is small, so first come, first serve

Ticket prices include **all taxes & fees**

Tickets are **non-refundable**

Seating is **general admission**

Available upon request **ADA accessible seats**



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH  
15 septiembre ~ 15 octubre, 2023

¡Eres parte  
de nuestra familia  
y una bendición!

We pray  
for our sisters  
and brothers  
in Morocco  
and Libya



*Our Lady of Protection*  
Ukrainian Madonna

**FEBRUARY 24, 2022**  
**25 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!**

**As of Sept. 17, 2023**  
**U.S. Mass Shootings: 500**  
**Gun-related deaths: 25,200**  
Of those who died,  
879 were teens &  
170 were children.



**WHEN IS  
ENOUGH,  
ENOUGH?**



**Tri-C Almsgiving**  
Thank you so much !!

**SEPT**

**Sm. bottles of shampoo**

**OCT**

**Sm. dish soap**

## Showing MERCY to others...

Today's gospel is a parable, a story about hired vineyard workers. The vineyard's owner went out at different times to find workers to help him. At the end of the day, he gave each one a whole day's wages, even though some had only worked for a short part of the day.



## MERCY to you...

...as God shows

Jesus says that the **Kingdom** of heaven (Jesus' friends are all his **kin, his family**) is like this story. Some people spend their whole lives working for God, and some people only turn to God at the last minute. God's arms are open to all people who turn to God in love.

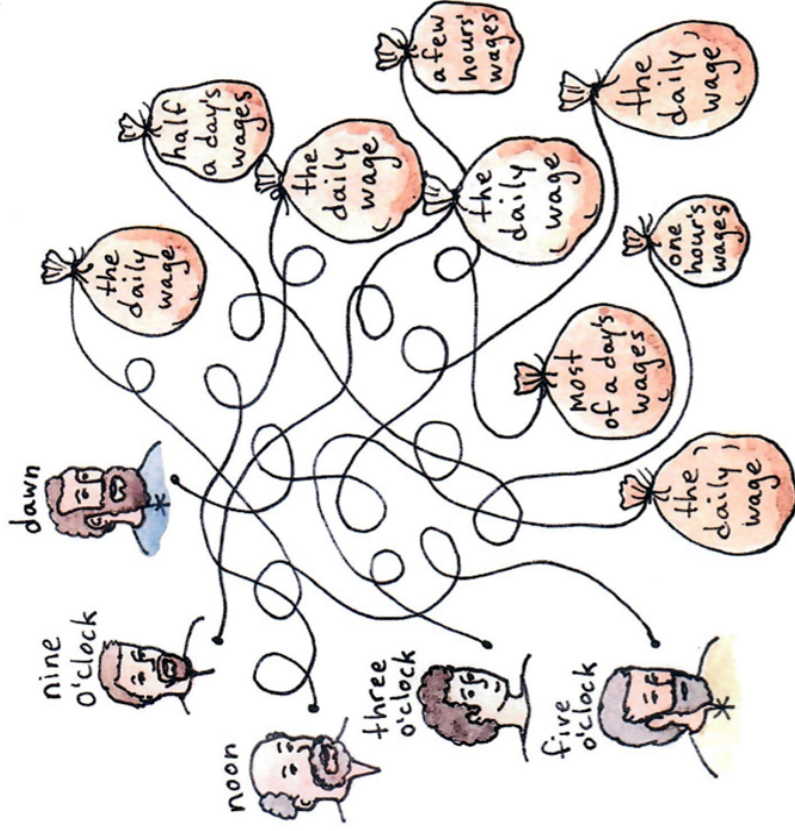
When you hear this story you may think it doesn't seem fair that all the workers received a full day's pay. Yet, they did receive what the owner promised.

Some people give their whole lives to serving God, and others hardly anything. God is always fair since God does what God promises: all of God's family, God's kin, receive the promise of everlasting life.

This story teaches you the importance of generosity and how to treat others. The story teaches you how you can be kind to all kind of people, the ones you've known a long time and the ones you will meet in the future. Be fair with others. Be kind to others. Be generous and merciful with others. That's exactly the way God is with you.

# The Kids' Bulletin

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 24th, 2023



*In the parable in today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells the story of a man with a vineyard who went out to hire men at different times of the day.*

*At the end of the day,  
how much did each man get paid?  
Follow the wiggly lines to see!*



# Saint Jerome

## September 30

JEROME LIVED IN THE MID 300'S. WHEN HE GREW UP HE LIVED IN ROME. AT FIRST HE JUST HAD FUN, BUT THEN HE DECIDED TO GET BAPTIZED.

What is the point of all this?

JEROME STUDIED HARD. HE LEARNED LATIN AND GREEK AND STUDIED THE BIBLE.

THEN HE MOVED TO THE DESERT, WHERE HE STUDIED MORE.

THE VIRGIN MARY: "This angel Gabriel said to me that I would be the mother of God's son!"

THERE HE WROTE AGAINST HERESIES OF THAT TIME.

JEROME HAD A SHORT TEMPER, AND OFTEN MADE SHARP REMARKS

You'd be better off if you'd think as much as you talk!

HE BECAME A PRIEST AND WORKED FOR THE POPE, TRANSLATING THE BIBLE INTO THEIR LANGUAGE, LATIN.

A RICH LADY, PAULA, GAVE ST. JEROME MONEY TO BUILD SOME MONASTERIES IN THE HOLY LAND. SHE AND HER DAUGHTERS BECAME NUNS THERE.

This room will be for the study of scriptures.

SAINT JEROME DIED AS AN OLD MAN. HE IS CONSIDERED A DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH BECAUSE HE DID SO MUCH TO HELP PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD. WE CAN LEARN FROM ST. JEROME THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE. TRY TO READ A BIT OF THE BIBLE EVERY DAY.

## Fill in the blanks:

Saint Paul tries to decide if it is better to live or die!

Use the words in the list to fill in the blanks, and then put the letters from the boxes into the spaces at the bottom.



Brothers and  <sup>5</sup> , Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ, and  <sup>2</sup>  is gain. If I go on living in the flesh, that means  <sup>4</sup>    labour for me. And I do not know which I shall  <sup>1</sup>   . I am caught  <sup>6</sup>    the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for  <sup>3</sup>    benefit.

- between
- death
- sisters
- your
- fruitful
- choose
- Like Saint Paul, we should be ready to either live or die for

1 2 3 4 5 6