



St. John Baptiste de LaSalle Catholic Church

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St. Stephen Catholic Church

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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

Feast of the Holy Family
December 31, 2023

HOLY FAMILIES?

Morning Church!

The 1950s portrayal of a conflict and pain-free nuclear family like the Cleavers, the Reeds, or the Andersons is an unrealistic one. These families are uncomplicated and easy-going. Their problems are solved in an hour! In 1971, this naive family image is turned inside out when *All in the Family* aired. The father-figure, Archie Bunker, did not always know best. The Archie character, who is blatantly bigoted and unapologetically racist, gave voice to the human shadow side of prejudicial judgment and hate.

More realistically, most family dynamics fall somewhere in the middle and muddle of all of these TV families. The nuclear family of the 1950s fades into the black and white TV folklore.

The Feast of the Holy Family is an opportunity to reflect on and recommit to our family relationships, regardless of their brokenness and likability ~ or ours. This is a graced day to discard our unrealistic family expectations and to accept our family flaws, idiosyncratic habits and behaviors. It's a day to affirm family dreams, hopes, gifts, and virtues.

The transition into a New Year of Grace, invites us to reflect on the darkness and light in our relationships, especially in our family. Christ invites us to live in the light, to cast aside the darkness of unforgiveness, stubbornness, and our selfish need to be right.

This is not a day to list a litany of wrongs exchanged among family members. Instead, it's a call to reflect on the gaps we've created by our judgments, withholds, or unloving choices. It's much easier to judge or condemn than to keep our hearts open to others. Staying open and loving is the very stuff, the very grace that leads to family holiness.

As the world continues to "lay in sin and error pining", Holy Family Sunday is a glorious day to willfully choose to be Children of the Light, to be a healing presence, and a source of hope in our family ~ and beyond into God's Neighborhood.

Whether our family is biological, chosen, or a combo of both, living the virtues listed below can lead to family holiness. In our family we learn how important it is to be known, loved, honored, stretched, and guided into becoming God's image and likeness. The letter to the Colossians serves as a how-to guide to personal and familial holiness.

*Because you are God's chosen one, holy and beloved,
clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, kindness, humility,
gentleness, and patience. Bear with one another, forgive whatever grievances
you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you.
Over all these virtues, put on love,
which binds the rest together and makes them perfect.*

Blessings in this New Year of Grace, 2024!

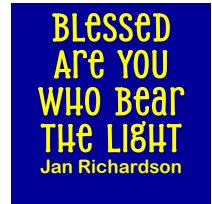
Janis

 HEARTwork

~ Reflecting and Acting on The Word ~

What virtues do I want to cultivate and share in 2024?

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




















Blessed are you
who bear the light
in unbearable times,
who testify
to its endurance
amid the unendurable,
who bear witness
to its persistence
when everything seems
in shadow
and grief.

Blessed are you
in whom
the light lives,
in whom
the brightness blazes—
your heart
a chapel,
an altar where
in the deepest night
can be seen
the fire that
shines forth in you
in unaccountable faith,
in stubborn hope,
in love that illumines
every broken thing
it finds.

WHAT ARE
YOUR
2024

SPIRITUAL
RESOLUTIONS?

D E C E M B E R	
31	Feast of the Holy Family ~ Mass, 9a
J A N U A R Y	
02	Communion Service, 12:15p
03	RCIA, 6p; Choir, 7p
06	PARISH Epiphany Pot Luck, 5p BRING SIDES for Chicken & a dessert to share
 07	Feast of the Epiphany ~ Mass, 9a
 09	Communion Service, 12:15p The Chosen, 10a & 6p
 10	RCIA, 6p; Choir, 7p
 11	SSJ ZOOM, 3:00-5:30P
 12	SSJA Gathering Charlotte, 10a
 14	2ns Sun OT Family Faith Formation, 10:30-12N
 15	Dr. Martin Luther King Day Ladies Guild Gathering, 5p
 16	Communion Service, 12:15p The Chosen, 10a & 6p
 17	RCIA, 6p; Choir, 7p
 18	Wise Ones, 1p Host: Lou Stackhouse Cedarbrook C.C.
 20	Men's Breakfast, Cracker Barrel, 8:30a
 21	3rd Sun OT Family Faith Formation, 10:30-12N
 23	Communion Service, 12:15p The Chosen, 10a & 6p
 24	RCIA, 6p; Choir, 7p
 28	4th Sun OT Faith Formation, 10:30-12N
 30	Communion Service, 12:15p The Chosen, 10a & 6p
 31	RCIA, 6p; Choir, 7p



CARE for CREATION
 RECYCLE INK CARTRIDGES
 LOBBY CONTAINERS
 Thank you!

☪ Mass Intentions	
31	Michelle Garwood (Birthday)
07	Familias de Cortez y Parral

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 31 Crystal & Francisco Fuentes
- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 03 Alayna Faw | 20 Isabella Estrada |
| 08 Francisco Fuentes | 20 Ceceila Jones |
| 10 Anahi Parral | 21 Inez Trejo |
| 11 Rosa Parral | 22 Sonia Rodgiruez |
| 13 Luis Martinez | 23 Lou Stackhouse |
| 16 Jenny Ardizzola | 25 Braulio Mata |
| 16 Barry Blackburn | 20 Marta Lopez |
| 16 Epi Cortez | 31 Dolores Spicer |

- 01 Minnie & Julian Espino
 02 Mary & Barry Blackburn



+S. Anna Marie Boyer, SSJ	
Born	June 2, 1933
Born to Eternal Life	December 22, 2023
in the 72 nd year of religious life	

Christmas Flowers	
Donor	In honor/memory
Aileen Cahill	John & Denis Cahill Gloria Garcia
Jacquie & John Darcey	Thomas Darcey, Edna Wilder
Becky Dursee	Charles Dursee
The Faw-Faust Family	Chuck, Mickey & Chad Brantley Greg & Nancy Faust
Wendy McClamrock	Mary Elizabeth Cain
Anonymous donation	



Joyful Reflection Questions

*Thank you, LORD, for a good, full year. One of memories and laughter and tears.
Stamp in our minds memories of Your faithfulness that we will pass down
to generations to come and carry with us into eternity.
Keep us close to You – in the deep rivers of the Holy Spirit – as we joyfully reflect. Amen.*

1. Who is someone you'd like to say "thank you" to – for making this year easier/happier/ lovelier?
2. How did you see the LORD's goodness in your life this year?
3. What did the LORD prune off of you this year?
4. Winter – What was one of your favorite things?
How did you see the LORD's faithfulness?
5. Spring – What was one of your favorite things?
How did you see the LORD's faithfulness?
6. Summer – What was one of your favorite things?
How did you see the LORD's faithfulness?
7. Fall – What was one of your favorite things?
How did you see the LORD's faithfulness?
8. What's one way you could draw nearer to God in 2024?

LORD, you are so good to us.

Thank You for our years – we are so full of hope for the things to come.

*~ Painting, Prayers, and Joyful Reflection Questions
by my friend, Caroline Hand*

Saint Gregory Nazianzen

January 2



GREGORY'S FATHER WAS A PAGAN AT FIRST BUT BECAME A BISHOP IN THE EARLY CHURCH THROUGH THE PRAYERS AND SACRIFICES OF HIS HOLY WIFE.



DURING A STORM AT SEA, GREGORY REALIZED HIS SOUL WAS IN DANGER BECAUSE HE WAS NOT YET BAPTIZED.

My soul isn't ready!



I baptize you...

HE WAS BAPTIZED AND BECAME A GREAT FRIEND OF ST. BASIL.



THEY STUDIED THE SCRIPTURES AND LED DEVOUT LIVES.

Look what Isaiah says about Christ!



I need to pray about this...

WHEN HIS FATHER FORCED HIM TO BE ORDAINED, GREGORY RAN AWAY TO THE DESERT FOR A WHILE.



The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and Son.

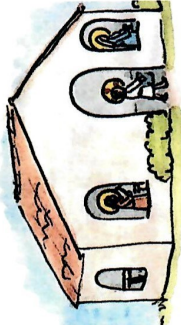
WHEN HE RETURNED HE BEGAN TO PREACH AND WAS MADE A BISHOP EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE.



HE PREACHED SO WELL THAT HERETICS CAME BACK TO THE FAITH. HOWEVER, HE WAS PERSECUTED TOO. FINALLY HE GAVE UP HIS DIOCESE AND BECAME A HERMIT.

SAINT GREGORY LIVED A LIFE OF SACRIFICE AND PENANCE, AND THOUGHT NOTHING OF ALL WORLDLY RICHES AND PLEASURES. HE WROTE AND TAUGHT ABOUT THE FAITH SO ELOQUENTLY THAT MANY WERE BROUGHT BACK TO THE FAITH. BECAUSE OF ALL HE DID TO TEACH THE FAITH HE IS CALLED A DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH.

Holy Family Word-Find



See if you can find all these words about the Holy Family in the puzzle!

Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end!

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

CARE	GOD	LOVE
CARPENTER	HAPPY	MOTHER
CHILD	HELP	MARY
COOPERATION	HOLY	PEACE
FAITH	HOME	PERFECT
FAMILY	JESUS	POOR
FATHER	JOSEPH	SELFLESS
FOSTER	JOY	SHARE
	LEARN	

The best way to be like the Holy Family:



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 waged 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.

**Our Lady of Protection,
 pray for us!**

Tri-C Almsgiving Thank you so much !!	
JAN	Canned tomatoes, Spaghetti sauce
FEB	Corn meal
MAR	Small laundry soap

CARE for CREATION
RECYCLE INK CARTRIDGES
LOBBY CONTAINERS
 Thank you!



**Do you know the number of
 U.S. Mass shootings and
 gun-related deaths
 so far in 2023?**



**WHEN IS
 ENOUGH,
 ENOUGH?**