



St. John Baptiste de LaSalle Catholic Church

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North Wilkesboro NC 28659-9103

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St. Stephen Catholic Church

101 Hawthorne Road
Elkin NC 28621-3016

336-835-3007

Email: connect@ststephennc.org
Website: www.ststephennc.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. Cuauhdemec (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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 11, 2022



ICYMI

On Sunday, Sept. 4, Pope Francis gathered with thousands of the faithful in Rome for the beatification of Pope John Paul I. He is the 177th person beatified by Pope Francis and the fourth 20th-century pope to be beatified in the last dozen years. His predecessors, Paul VI and John XXIII, and John Paul II, have all also been declared saints in the last decade; much ink has been spilled over all three and their monumental impact on the contemporary church. He served as Pope for a mere 33 days and is known as the “smiling pope”.



S. Marie Fatima Kretschman, S.S.J.

Born:

July 26, 1932

Born to Eternal Life:

September 3, 2022

in the 72nd year of her religious life.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us!
Feb. 24, 2022 ~ September 11, 2022
8 months, 200 days, 4,400 hours
of war and inhumanity.



IMPORTANT PARISH GATHERING **RE-INVEST** in YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Now, it *seems* like a good, safer time, with standard protocols in place, e.g., social distancing & masks, (if you choose), to gather together

again and have conversations we haven't been able to have for two years.

If you're interested in reconnecting with your fellow parishioners, **send me an email.**

Connect@StStephenNC.org

Here are three options for you:

Evenings: Sept. 14th or 21st ~ 7:00p

Daytime: September 28 ~ 1:00p

TRI-COUNTY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

ANY non-perishable foods, toiletries, or household items...(small size)



CRISCO STICKS

Visio Divina

This is similar to Lectio Divina, using sacred art.

Settle into stillness...get in touch with your breath and body as you accommodate to entering into the silence...relish the silence...relish the stillness...

Be aware of your desire to grow in intimacy with God

Gazing Upon the Image

Explore the entire image with your eyes...scanning slowly, deeply at the different sections of the piece... Notice the colors, shapes, figures, symbols...pay attention to anything in particular that captures your attention...become aware of what seems to call you to deeper reflection...stay with it and allow yourself to be drawn to that place on the piece and rest there

Reflecting on the Image

Focus on the place where this picture/piece of art captures your attention...allow yourself to go more deeply into the image...invite your imagination to unfold as you rest on the focused place

Notice if it evokes any feelings, memories or other images...

Let your image create spaciousness within for God...become aware of the ways the image touches you....

Responding to the Image

Name the invitation(s) that surfaced in and behind the images, memories, and feelings that unfolded for you...How is God speaking to you/your faith journey at this time through this piece of art? What is the new "yes" that is longing to be expressed/lived?

Resting with God

Share with the others or articulate for yourself, the words and images that have flooded your heart as you prayed with the image/piece of art....

Rest and be with this new grace

Close your eyes...in the darkness, savor the darkness and sense the grace of surrender to the new grace and the depth/breath of God

Conclusion

Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for this time, God's grace, presence, and for all that surfaced in your heart during this Visio Divina Time. Amen.

The
Lost
Sheep



The
Lost
Coin

The
Lost
Son



LOST & FOUND

Morning Church!

There are various degrees of lost-ness. *Get lost!* Being lost. Feeling lost. Feeling lost can result in being exiled from a group you have been part of; or you stay in a group, you suffer the continuous shunning and denial of full access to the group. You feel lost when you are grieving, unemployed, just moved to a new place, or when you struggle to discern God's will in your life. Others choose to be lost. They ghost their relationships and avoid connecting with their family or community. Some get lost and just stay that way because they have no keel, no direction in their life.

You can find the fingerprints of *lost* all over God's Word today. The Chosen, wandering in the desert lost sight of their sacred Covenant. They worshiped and gave credit to a molten calf for their Exodus and new freedom. This infuriated God. So Moses intervened to prevent God from punishing their idolatry, by acknowledging God's faithfulness to them and their ancestors. God relented and showed them mercy and understanding.

In the letter to Timothy, Paul proudly preached how, through God's mercy in Christ, he changed from being a Persecutor of Christ to a Proclaimer of his gospel. Paul's confession ends with a glorious doxology declaring God "...is in every age, is incorruptible, and invisible. Paul is no longer lost and truly believes that Christ Jesus is worthy of all honor and glory.

Like our Hebrew ancestors, we can be the lost sheep who has an appetite for "greener pastures", who moves beyond the safe protection and influence of faith and family. The lost sheep that wandered senselessly, oblivious that each step taken moved him further away from his vital centers of home and community. The lost sheep cannot find his way back home on his own; he needs someone to seek him out and bring him home. As Fr. John asked last Sunday, "Have you reached out to your fellow parishioners who still have not returned to church ~ even though pandemic protocols have ended? Fr. John invited you to seek out and shepherd your sisters and brothers back to their St. S faith community. How will you respond to his invitation?

The gospel has a trinity of dramatic parable images about lostness and disappointment. The father is lost when his youngest son deserts the family. He trades his family for the darkness of debauchery and disillusionment. His *intentional* selfishness becomes the holy darkness that *unintentionally* leads him back to the light, and warm welcome of his loving father. His older brother seems to disappoint his father, as well. Instead of celebrating his brother's return, he chose to shun him and get lost in his own jealousy and resentment.

When you feel lost or disappointed, remember *The Way*. With a renewed desire to honor the God who has given you all that you are and can be in faith and grace, reaffirm your relationship with Christ. Bask in God's mercy and come back with *all* your heart. *Where there's a will, there's The Way*.

God's blessings,



🌿 Reflecting and Acting on the Word 🌿

Reflect on a time you felt lost and couldn't find your way.

How did you sense God in your lost-ness?

Did you pray? Talk with a friend? How did you respond?

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

S E P T E M B E R	
11	24 th Sun OT
	12 Ladies Guild, 7p
13	Communion Service, 12:15p
14	Parish Gathering, 7:00p
	15 Wise Ones ~ Cedarbrook C.C., 1p ~ Host: Gayle
17	Men's Breakfast, Cracker Barrel, 8:30a 
	18 25 th Sun OT Baptism: Osvaldo Martinez All Faith Formation Families!  NEW to St. Stephen? Bring a copy of your child's BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE GATHER in the FLC after MASS ~ 10:30a If you will, please bring juice bags & soft granola bars
20	Communion Service, 12:15p
21	Parish Gathering, 7:00p
	25 26 th Sun OT <small>Priests' Retirement Collection</small> Baptism: Roberto Eric Garcia
27	Communion Service, 12:15p
28	Parish Gathering, 1:00p

Pope Francis Walking the Word

The Parable of the Prodigal Son is a lesson about forgiveness, rejoicing, and how to show a true welcome to those struggling with their sins...and leads us to God's heart who always forgives compassionately and tenderly. Always, God always forgives. We are the ones who get tired of asking for forgiveness, but God always forgives.

Mass Intentions

9/11	+Penny C. Davis r/b Amyes & Ashley +Octavio Pasco Rodriguez for Karen & family +Stanley Ring r/b Pauline Ring Sener
9/18	+Richard "Richie" M. Falcone Kate & Michael Garwood (Anniv) Kassi & Kyle Whitman (Anniv)
9/26	+Mattie Douthit Glenn r/b Carol Ross
Now that we're back to in-person Mass, you are requesting Masses for Special Intentions, Birthdays and Anniversaries, as well as Masses for deceased loved ones. If you are new to St. S, there are Mass Intention envelopes in the lobby and in the pew pockets. The usual stipend is ten dollars and the check is made payable to Fr. John, instead of St. S Church.	

Parish Celebrations



13 Erika Ramirez
15 Peggy Reikowsky
25 Theresa Martin
28 Britney Crispin
29 Minnie Espino



11 Ceil & Richie Jones
16 Claire & James St. Cyr
19 Erika & Ruben Ramirez
23 Maria & Jose Ledesma
29 Julia & Diego Carreon

HELP NEEDED:

...volunteers willing to serve on our Altar Linen team...

If there are eleven (11) volunteers, you'll only have to do it once a year.

Thank you!

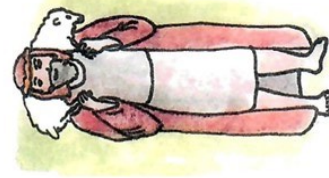
Liturgical Ministries

Date	Acolyte	Proclaimer		EM	Greeters/Ushers		Altar Linens
9/11	Volunteer	Mary H	Kathy J	Ronnie	Bob H	Frank S	Kathy J
9/18	Volunteer	Elia M	S. Janis	S. Janis	Jerry S	Bob H	
9/25	Morgan	Lukas McC	Wendy McC	Judy	Wendy McC	Jason McC	

Liturgical Minister, please consult our website for the schedule...If you are unable to serve, please find your own substitute.

<https://www.ststephenncc.org/liturgical-ministries-1>

Lost & Found Parables (stories)



Jesus teaches us how much he loves us in the three parables about being lost and found. Jesus tells the story of the shepherd who lost *one* of his 100 sheep. He cared so much about the sheep that he searched for it until he found it. God is like the shepherd and will always be there with us when we feel lost or alone. We are blessed to know God is always caring for us and all of Creation.

The second parable is about a woman who searches her whole house looking for a special coin she lost. Can you remember losing something that is precious to you? What did you do? The grateful woman rejoiced and celebrated when she found the coin!

The third parable is the story of the Prodigal Son. Prodigal means wasteful. The son ran away from home. He spent his time and his inheritance carelessly.

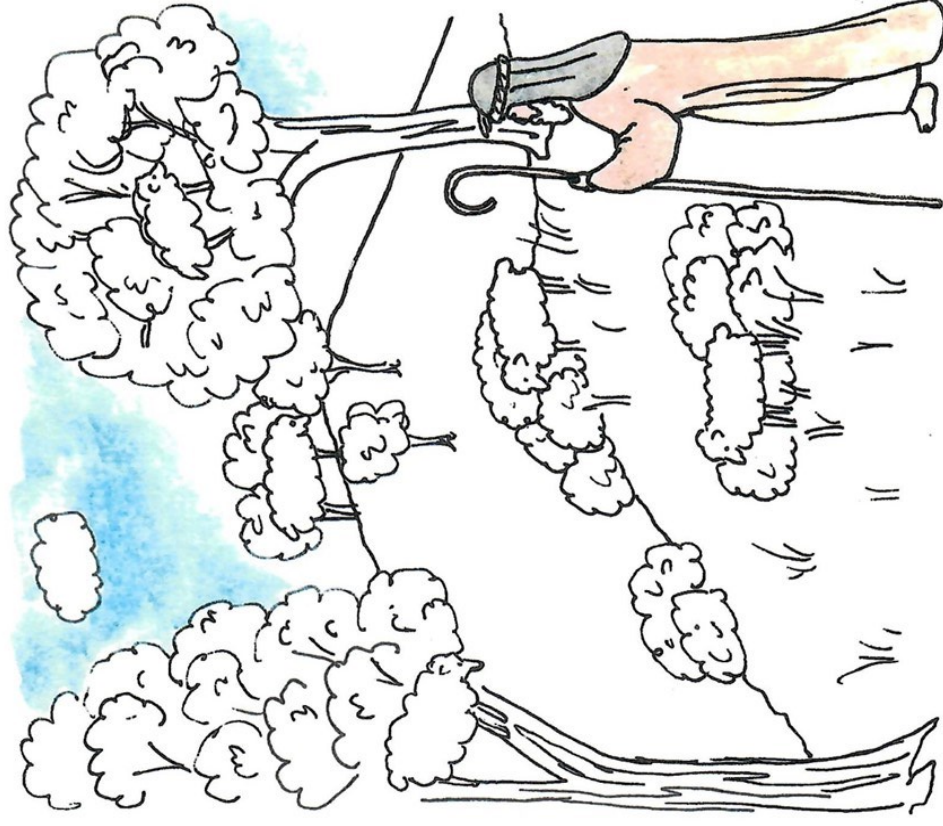
Every day his father would look for him, hoping he would come home again.

Like the father in this parable, God loves us very much. It's important to stay close to God. Say a prayer of thanks today for God's love and the love of your family and friends.



Front page answers: there are 5 sheep.
Fill in the blanks: loses, found, have,
tell, sinner, LOVES

The Kids' Bulletin 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time



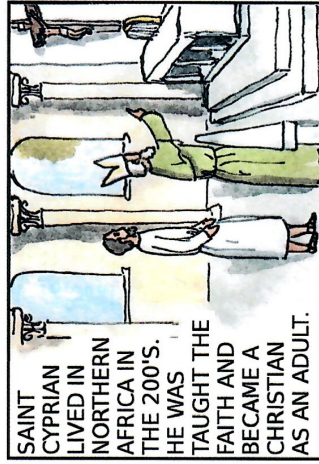
Jesus told us that God is like a shepherd.

God cares for everyone of the sheep.

Find the lost sheep in the picture and color them and the rest of the picture.

Saint Cyprian

September 16



SAINT CYPRIAN TAUGHT MANY PEOPLE WITH HIS LETTERS AND EXPLANATIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE. THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD, SO WE CAN LEARN A LOT ABOUT HIM BY READING IT. TRY TO READ SOME OF THE BIBLE EVERY DAY. PRAY TO ST. CYPRIAN TO UNDERSTAND WHAT GOD IS TEACHING US IN IT.

Fill in the Blanks:

The Lost Coin

Here is part of today's Gospel reading. See if you can fill in the blanks and use the marked letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently

until she finds it?

And when she has it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I found the coin which I had lost.'

Just so, I you, there is joy before the angels of God over one who repents."

This parable helps to show us how much God each of us.

1 2 3 4 5

