



**St. John Baptiste de LaSalle Catholic Church**  
275 C. C. W.



**St. Stephen Catholic Church**  
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Elkin NC 28621-3016

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**STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE**

Your 2024 Envelopes are on the lobby table.  
If you wish to use envelopes and don't have  
an assigned box, contact S. Janis

**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** 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*

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**January 28, 2023**

## How could I not take the risk?

### *Morning Church!*

Often times, in social situations, when people find out that I'm a religious sister, there is a whole series of questions that follow. "Wait, what?!?" "You mean... you're a nun?" "But, where's your habit?" The bluntest inquirers will dive right in. "Why?" They ask— some with curiosity, others with an incredulousness, still others with an honest sense of confusion. This question, "why," is startling, especially coming from a stranger.

"How long do you have?" I often ask to get a grasp on where they're coming from. The question I much prefer comes with a sweet sincerity: "How did you know you were being called?" My response is the same: How long do you have?

That question, the question of how, is an invitation rather than an interrogation. As much as they want to know my experience, there is a deeper pull in their question— a desire of their own to know and be known by the One who calls.

The short answer to the question of why is this: Because I felt called, by God, to this life. The longer answer— the answer we spend a lifetime formulating and living into— is the how of that call. Today's readings invite us into the depth of that call, to explore who we're called to be and how God's call makes itself manifest in our lives.

In today's first reading, Moses speaks of the role of the prophet. The people had asked for someone to convey God's word to them, someone like them who could speak God's word to their hearts. God agrees and promises to send someone like Moses from among them.

Of course, this prophet prefigures Christ. Yet, by our own baptismal call as priest, prophet, and king, it also certainly includes us. We are all meant to be prophets. Each in her own way, bearing the Spirit and fostering a critical creativity that preaches the good news with clarity and conviction.

But how do you know if you're being called? Maybe you will feel it in your bones, like a fire deep within. Or, as the psalmist's refrain warns us, perhaps the temptation to harden your heart might be an indication too.

Just think of Moses. He told God he wasn't prophet material. He didn't have the gifts or the ability. The thing is... none of us have all the gifts. God provides. We bring all of who we are— what we've experienced, our strengths and our weaknesses— and God uses it all. As a sister once said to me, God has an expansive sense of economy in which nothing is wasted.

For years, I thought the idea of being a sister was ludicrous. I didn't know any sisters and in terms of a life or career path, entering religious life seemed unconventional to say the very least. Yet, even as I pushed back on God's call, my heart, not quite hardened, began to respond with openness, joy, and thanksgiving.

The more time I spent with sisters, the more I marveled at the freedom they possessed (or better yet, which possessed them.) They were honest and loving. They were completely and utterly themselves and invited others to be the same. They loved God in uncertain circumstances and in difficult people. They weren't perfect, a fact they readily admitted, but I admired them. Soon, I realized, I didn't just admire them, God was inviting me to be one of them.

In the first letter to the Corinthians, Paul proposes that celibates have a keener focus on God. Indeed, a vowed life of chastity, poverty, and obedience is meant to free us to keep our "eyes fixed on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2), who is the primary focus of all our relationships. The vows free us to serve Christ in others; they are a sign of our commitment and dependence on God. We live them in community, where our humanness is on full display and where, together in that humanness, we strive toward the reign of God.

Ultimately, the freedom we aspire to, and which Paul speaks of, comes when we embrace God's call to be who we truly are, loving God as only we can and letting all other loves flow forth from that. Ask any married or single person and they will tell you the same. Living our truest vocation draws us into relationship with God, in and through the relationships we give ourselves to.

Witnessing someone embody their true calling is unmistakable. In a society where commitment is confounding, answering God's call to authenticity is an astounding act. For some it begs the question: Why? Yet for others, even unclean spirits like the one Jesus encounters in today's Gospel, the message is clear: you know who you are and whose you are.


























This deep sense of knowing is an admission that we are not in control of our own lives, God is. The authority of our action comes from God. We claim that authority when we embrace who we are called to be by being prophets of a God whose infinite love continues to call. Our job is to be attentive to God's voice in us and among us, to name what stirs up hope, what prompts love, and what calls for action, and to keep our hearts supple enough to respond.

In an age of uncertainty, answering such a call is risky. It requires the courage and vulnerability to grow in relationship with God so that you can be and become who you are. When all is said and done, it means standing with Jesus when the whole world asks "why?" and simply and sincerely responding "How could I not?"

In CommUNITY,




*(Guest reflection by Colleen Gibson, SSJ)*

	28	4th Sun OT Faith Formation, 10:30-12N	
	30	Communion Service, 12:15p The Chosen, 10a	
	31	RCIA, 6p; Choir, 7p 	
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			
	01	SSJ ZOOM 6:00-7:30p	
	04	5th Sun OT Faith Formation, 10:30-12N	
	06	The Chosen, 10a Communion Service, 12:15p	
	07	Music Mtg., 4p RCIA 6p; Choir, 7p 	
	10	Souper Soup Competition, 5:30p, FLC	
	11	6th Sun OT Baptism: Mason Treannie <b>We Believe in Marriage Sunday</b> 	
	12	Ladies Guild	
	13	The Chosen, 10a Communion Service, 12:15p	
	14	Ash Wednesday Service of Ashes, 12:15p & 7p	
	15	Wise Ones, 1:00p	
	17	Men's Breakfast	
	18	1st Sun Lent RCIA Rite of Election	
	19	Give Blood Rescue Squad, 1:30-6p	
	20	The Chosen, 10a Ministerial Association, 12N Communion Service, 12:15p	
	21	RCIA, 6p; Choir, 7p 	
	24	2nd Sun Lent Faith Formation, 10:30-12N	
	27	The Chosen, 10a Communion Service, 12:15p	
	28	RCIA, 6p; Choir, 7p 	



**CARE for CREATION**  
**KINDLY RECYCLE INK CARTRIDGES**  
**LOBBY CONTAINERS.** Thank you!

 Mass Intentions	
28	+Mae Tyrrell; Michael O'Neill (Birthday) +Ann Goodson Faust, mother of Stephen (RCIA)
04	+Ezekiel Peña Noreen O'Neill (Birthday)
11	St. Stephen Parishioners
18	RCIA Candidates Stephen Faust, Ethan VanHorn, and Jacob Wagoner

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

- |                                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 30 Marta Lopez                    | 31 Dolores Spicer     |
| 01 Jusselly Gonzalez              | 23 Margarita Serafin  |
| 03 Ayda Lopez Chanes              | 24 Andrew Ange        |
| 08 Marbel Garcia                  | Laura Barrientos      |
| 11 Bob Horneck                    | Aaron Kelly           |
| 14 Karen Gochnauer                | Allan Lara            |
| 16 Julian Cortez                  | Marcus Orta           |
| 19 Ryan Treannie                  | 25 Hector Hernandez   |
| 22 Julie Colglazier               | Ray Hernandez         |
| Wendy McClamrock                  | 26 Catalina Hernandez |
| 23 Gabby LaCashio                 |                       |
| 12 Cindy Whitley & Ozzie Martinez |                       |
| 14 Lana & Bob Horneck             |                       |
| 17 Catalina & Sergio Hernanez     |                       |

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**Winter Weather Broadcasts**  
**WXII Ch. 11 or 1203**  
**Fox 8 Ch. 10 or 1206**



**Tuesday Communion Service, 12:15p**  
 Our Communion Service is a life-giving way to strengthen  
 and share your faith with other parishioners.  
 Consider this invitation to come and celebrate  
 God's Word and receive the Eucharist.

**Feed the Elderly: An Opportunity  
for Compassionate, Generous Service**

Jan	17, 18, 19	<p><b>Feed the Elderly (FTE)</b> is a local service for isolated residents here. of our community.</p> <p>Along with other church volunteers, St. S parishioners have served these residents on specific days.</p> <p>If you are willing to help, in this meaningful service, contact our FTE Coordinator: <b>Gayle Altemueller, (336) 468-0676</b></p>
Mar	6, 7, 8	
Apr	24, 25, 26	
Jun	24, 25, 26	
Jul	31	
Aug	1, 2	
Sept	18, 19, 20	
Nov	6, 7, 8	
Dec	25, 26, 27	

**Opportunities  
to Calendar and Gather**



<b>Ladies Guild</b>			
2nd Monday of the Month 5:00p, Family Life Center			
Jan 8	Apr 8	Jul 8	Oct 14
Feb 12	May 13	Aug 12	Nov 11
Mar 11	Jun 10	Sept 9	Dec 9



**St. Stephen Ladies Guild  
Souper Soup Competition**



**February 10, 2024**

**5:30p ~ Family Life Center**

Everyone is invited to enter until all the slots are filled.

Bring a crockpot of your favorite soup, and, if you like, crackers, bread, or chips

If you're willing, bring copies of your recipe to share with everyone.

Sample as many soups and you like, then vote for your favorites.

Winners announces at 7p.

<b>Entry Fee</b>	
Soup Chef	Free
Adults & children over 6	\$5.00
Children 3-6	\$3.00
Children under 3	Free

**Registration deadliine: February 5**

For more info or to register and give the name of your soup: Call to leave a message or text Aileen, (336) 466-1484



<b>Men's Breakfast Group</b>			
3rd Saturday of the Month 8:30a, Cracker Barrel *			
<b>*Any change of venue will be in the bulletin</b>			
Jan 20	Apr 20	Jul 20	Oct 19
Feb 17	May 18	Aug 17	Nov 16
Mar 16	Jun 15	Sept 21	Dec 21



<b>Wise Ones Luncheon</b>			
3rd Thursday of the Month Host and venue vary and will be in the bulletin			
Jan 18	Apr 18	Jul 18	Oct 17
Feb 15	May 16	Aug 15*	Nov 21
Mar 21	Jun 20	Sept 19	Dec 19

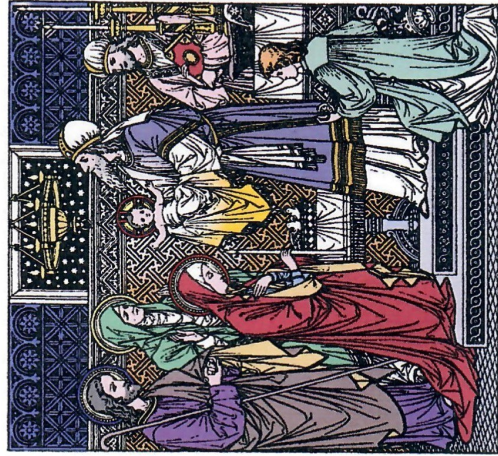
# Baby Jesus is Presented in the Temple

On February second we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. That is the day that Saint Joseph and Our Lady took the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to consecrate Him to God. The Jews were supposed to dedicate their first-born sons to God, so Mary and Joseph were obedient to the law even though their Baby was God.

This was a most amazing moment, even though almost nobody noticed it: here was the great Temple where the people came to worship God, and now God had actually come into it- as a little Baby! But only Mary and Joseph and the prophets Simeon and Anna knew what had happened.

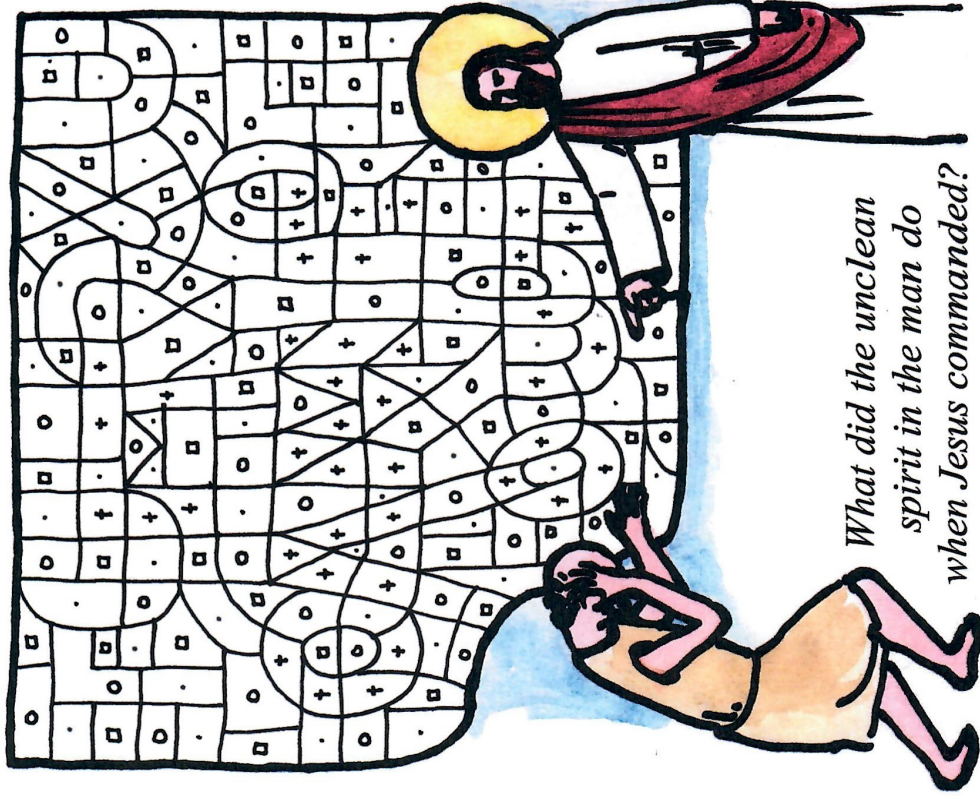
Saint Paul tells us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Every time you receive Holy Communion, it's like baby Jesus entering the Temple. When you go to Communion, remember that you know that amazing secret- that even though the rest of the world might not know, you have just received Jesus! What a special moment!

Answer to front page: it came out  
Answers to Unscramble: man, Jesus,  
destroy, holy, come, spirit, voice, they,  
saying. AUTHORITY



# The Kids' Bulletin

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
January 28th, 2024



*What did the unclean spirit in the man do when Jesus commanded?*

*Colour in only the spaces that have crosses to find out what it did.*

# SAINT BRIGÍD OF KÍLDARE

## FEBRUARY 1

SAINT BRIGID WAS BORN AROUND THE YEAR 450 IN IRELAND. HER MOTHER WAS A CHRISTIAN SLAVE AND HER FATHER WAS A PAGAN CHIEFTAIN.



BRIGID WAS GENEROUS TO THE POOR AND GAVE AWAY HER FATHER'S FOOD.




Where is all our food going??

SHE WAS INSPIRED BY THE TEACHING OF SAINT PATRICK.



There can only be one true God...

BRIGID DEDICATED HER LIFE TO GOD AND RECEIVED THE VEIL FROM SAINT MEL.



SHE WAS SOON JOINED BY MANY OTHER YOUNG WOMEN.



What greater happiness can there be than to give one's life to God?

SOON SHE WAS THE ABBESS OF TWIN MONASTERIES: ONE FOR MEN AND ONE FOR WOMEN.



SAINT BRIGID ENCOURAGED LEARNING, AS WELL AS POETRY, ART AND MUSIC. SHE WAS VERY SENSIBLE AND REGARDED BY MANY AS A SAINT EVEN DURING LIFE.



SAINT BRIGID IS HELD IN GREAT HONOUR, ESPECIALLY IN IRELAND, WHERE SHE HELPED SO MANY PEOPLE COME TO GOD. AND YET ALL SHE DID WAS WHAT SHE OUGHT TO HAVE DONE- SHE SHARED FOOD, TAUGHT PEOPLE ABOUT THE TRUTH AND BEAUTY AND MOST OF ALL LOVED GOD. CAN YOU DO THE SAME?

# Unscramble: Jesus Casts out a Demon

Sort out the letters to fill in the blanks.

Use the letters in the boxes to fill in the last row of boxes.

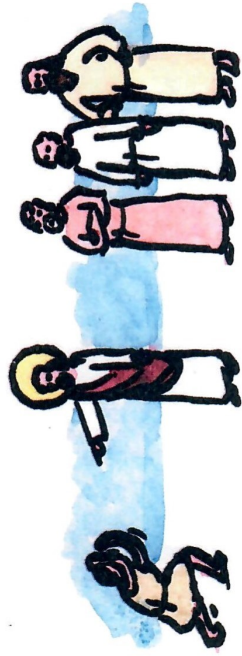
And immediately there was in their synagogue a   (NMA) with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, "What have you to do with us,   (ESSJU) of Nazareth? Have you come to    (YDSETR) us? I know who you are, the    (OYLH) One of God."

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and    (MEOC) out of him!"

And the unclean    (TRSIP), convulsing him and crying with a loud    (IOCEV), came out of him.

And    (YEHT) were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves,    (YSNIAG), "What is this? A new teaching!"

With           he commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."



We pray for our sisters and brothers in Gaza, Maui, Morocco, Middle East, and Libya... and the 32 places where war is being raged now.



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

Ukrainian Catholics dedicate their country to *Our Lady of Protection*, interceding to Mary to wrap their country with her mantle of loving protection.

**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 2024?



**WHEN IS ENOUGH, ENOUGH?**