



St. Stephen Catholic Church

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336.835.3007

Connect@StStephenNC.org

www.StStephenNC.org

Fr. Englebert Ofon

Administrator

(704) 578-2478

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Pastoral Associate

(336)835-3007

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Mrs. Theresa Martin

Music Ministry

(336)816-0214

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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! ¡Bienvenidos a St. Stephen! Chào mừng đến với 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.



Come and join us for the
St. Stephen Ladies Guild

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Saturday, October 3
5:30pm to 7:30pm
Family Life Center



MENU

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



TICKETS

\$12.00 for adults

\$3.00 for children (3 to 10 years)

Tickets should be bought in advance
available after Masses

September 6, 13, 20 and 27





Celebrating
70 Acts of Kindness in gratitude for
St. Stephen Faith Community 70 Years

This is a blessed time in the history of our faith community.

Our parish is known for its generous service, hospitality,
and life-giving ministry among our dear neighbors.

You are invited to continue that same loving spirit
by doing 70 Acts of Kindness between now and the

Feast of St. Stephen
on December 26.

Keep a record of your loving acts

They will offer at Mass on the

Feast of the Holy Family,
Sunday, December 27.

The Ridiculous Unfairness of God

Morning, Church!

“Once upon a time...” *always* captures my attention.
Those words peak my curiosity and imagination.
They open my heart to whatever follows.
I’m ready to listen.

Imagine life without stories. Like nothing else, stories bond relationships and communicate experiences and feelings. We remember good stories and we retell them over and over again.

While in teaching ministry, I used to read one chapter from a great book to my students right after their noon recess. They *loved* being read to. By hearing only one chapter of a great story per day, they remained very engaged and captivated till the story’s end.

Stories reach others in the way a general conversation doesn’t. Story-telling activates an interconnected network of multiple brain areas ~ depending on the elements within the narrative. More importantly, a great story engages the heart and the soul.

The most meaningful stories we hear are found in the Liturgy of the Word, especially the gospel ~ the Story of Jesus. His parables, layered with meaning, invite us to go deeper and to reflect on the grace being offered in his words.

Today’s story celebrates the **ridiculous unfairness of God** and the quality of one’s commitment to God, no matter when that commitment begins. It’s the story of God’s ridiculous justice and compassion, too.

Jesus says,
“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner...”

Are you ready to listen?

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

spanis

**“Are you jealous
because
I’m generous?”**



La Ridícula Injusticia de Dios

¡Buenos días, Iglesia!

La frase «Érase una vez...» siempre capta mi atención. Esas palabras despiertan mi curiosidad y mi imaginación, y abren mi corazón a lo que está por venir. Estoy listo para escuchar.

Imagínate la vida sin historias. Como ninguna otra cosa, las historias transmiten experiencias y sentimientos, y fortalecen los vínculos entre las personas. Recordamos las buenas historias y las volvemos a contar una y otra vez.

Cuando me dedicaba a la enseñanza, solía leer un capítulo de un libro a los alumnos justo después del recreo del mediodía. Les encantaba que les leyera; escuchar solo un capítulo de una gran historia cada vez los mantenía cautivados y atentos durante semanas.

Las historias son la forma más sencilla de llegar a los demás, de un modo que una conversación común no logra. El acto de narrar activa una red interconectada de múltiples áreas cerebrales, dependiendo de los elementos que componen la historia. Y lo que es más importante: una gran historia llega al corazón y al alma.

Las historias más valiosas que escuchamos a lo largo de la semana se encuentran en la Liturgia de la Palabra, especialmente en el Evangelio: la historia de Jesús. Sus parábolas, cargadas de significado, nos invitan a profundizar y a reflexionar sobre la gracia que se nos ofrece en sus palabras.

La historia de hoy celebra la injusticia aparentemente absurda de Dios y la calidad del compromiso que uno asume con Él, sin importar cuándo comience dicho compromiso. Es una historia sobre la justicia y la compasión asombrosas de Dios también.

Jesús dice: *«El Reino de los Cielos es semejante a un propietario...»*

¿Estás listo para escuchar?

En el Uno, somos uno, en ComUNIDAD,

spanis

**“¿Estás celosa
porque
soy generosa?”**

S E P T E M B E R	
01	Communion Service, 12:15p
 02	Choir, 7p
06	23rd Sunday OT
 07	OCIA, 6:30p
08	Communion Service, 12:15p
 09	Choir, 7p
13	24th Sunday OT
 14	Ladies Guild, 5p OCIA, 6:30p 
15	Communion Service, 12:15p
 16	Choir, 7p
17	Wise Ones, 1p Country Club EFBC Free dinner, 4:30 - 6:30p 
19	Men's Breakfast, Cracker Barrel, 8:30a 
 20	25th Sunday OT Family Faith Formation Meeting, 10:15-11:45a
 21	Give Blood EV Baptist Ch 1:30-6:00p OCIA, 6:30p 
22	Communion Service, 12:15p
 23	Choir, 7p; OCIA Mystagogia, 7p
24	Theology on Tap, <i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i> , Downtown Beer Garden, 5:30p
 27	26st Sunday OT Family Faith Formation 10:15-11:45a
 28	OCIA, 6:30p
29	Communion Service, 12:15p
 30	Choir, 7p

☪ Mass Intentions	
06	+Elizabeth & Michael Karaffa; +Dr. Bob Gochnauer +Ellyn M. Garwood +Kathleen Hyer
13	+Fr. Jim Buchholtz r/b Jane & Rob Worley +Vietnamese mother, Anna Marie r/b her son
20	+Thomas Dursee r/b Becky Dursee
27	+JoAnn Skinner r/b Patti Taddio +Bob Horneck r/b Lana Horneck Celeste & Larry Liss (Anniv) r/b S Janis

Birthdays & Anniversaries



01 Oscar Hernandez	16 Yareli Nava
03 Hanna Brown	17 Sergio Hernandez
Salomon Mata	Ann Nickerson
05 Rianna Hernandez	18 Eric Garcia
06 Carlos Trejo	19 Andrea Faw
07 Liam Lopez	22 Aracely Hernandez
10 Sonia DeJesus	25 Theresa Martin
13 Erika Ramirez	27 Lucas Brown
15 Peggy Reikowsky	29 Minnie Espino
Josh Talbott	
12 S. Janis McQuade	23 Maria & Jose Ledesma
25 Vanessa & Dakota Spicer	29 Julia & Diego Carreon



Formación en la fe para la familia
Domingo: Padres y jóvenes
Reunión después de la Misa, FLC

Faith Formation for the Family
Sunday: Parents and Youth
Meeting after Mass, FLC



Jóvenes de Primera Comunión 2026

¿Estarías dispuesto a servir en el altar como acólito?

Sesiones de preparación

26 de septiembre 10:30 am – 12:00pm

2026 First Communion Youth

Would you be willing to serve at the Altar as an Acolyte?

Preparation sessions

Sept. 26 10:30am -12pn



...to Jerry Schaufenbuel for 18 years of service with the Men's Breakfast group and Wise Ones...to Dianne Crawford who has followed Jerry as the Wise Ones convener...and to Joseph Spears who has followed as convener of the Men's Group...Arelis and Lee Hadfield for repositioning the church altar lights and replacing the burned out ones...to Judy Simon for sewing Baptism stoles for our children and doing the Altar linens last week...to Lupe Hernandez, Israel Lynch, Jessica Nieland, Beth Orta, and Peggy Reikowsky who are serving as Faith Formation Leadership Team...to Caddy Fuentes, our newest Acolyte/Altar Server and Melia Orta who's helping train her...all sharing their gifts with the Body of Christ...

Thank you so much!

**ONE WITH OUR
DEAR NEIGHBORS**
IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS





Tri-C Almsgiving

Thank you so much !!

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



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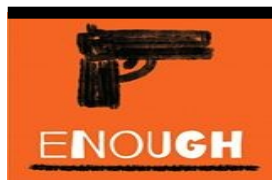
2026 First Communion Youth

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to serve at the Altar as an Acolyte?

Preparation sessions

Sept. 26

10:30-12Noon



PRAY FOR AN END
TO WAR and VIOLENCE,
ESPECIALLY GUN VIOLENCE

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 & violence
that plagues our planet...



Continue to pray...

The Russo-Ukrainian War began
in **February 2014** with *Russia's annexation
of Crimea* and the start of fighting
in eastern Ukraine.

The conflict entered a major new phase
February 24, 2022, when Russia launched
a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.
...four years, seven months...and counting...



**THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING
YOUR INK HERE. IT'S GOOD for
EARTH & HELPS THE CHURCH.**

You are invited!!

**First Baptist Church
Open Table**

4:30-6:30pm

Oct 28 ~ Community Meal

Sponsor: Ministerial Association

NO COST

FBC Elkin

110 Gwyn Avenue

(336) 835-1998

www.elkinfbc.com



A Full Day's Wages

Today in the Gospel, Jesus tells a story of several men who were hired to work at a vineyard. The owner of the vineyard went out at different times to find men to work. At the end of the day, he gave each man a whole day's wages, even though some had only worked for a little while!



WOW! HE PAID US A FULL DAY'S WAGE!

THAT'S NOT

FAIR - THEY GOT A WHOLE DAY'S PAY! Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of Heaven is like this too: some people spend their whole lives working for God, and some people only turn to God at the last minute. God opens Heaven to all the people who choose to love God.



At first this doesn't seem fair. After all, some people give their whole lives to God and some give hardly any! But here is why it is fair: the only reason that any of us turns to God is because God gave us that grace. Some people have to live their whole lives without God's grace until the very end, but some of us have been given grace all our lives.

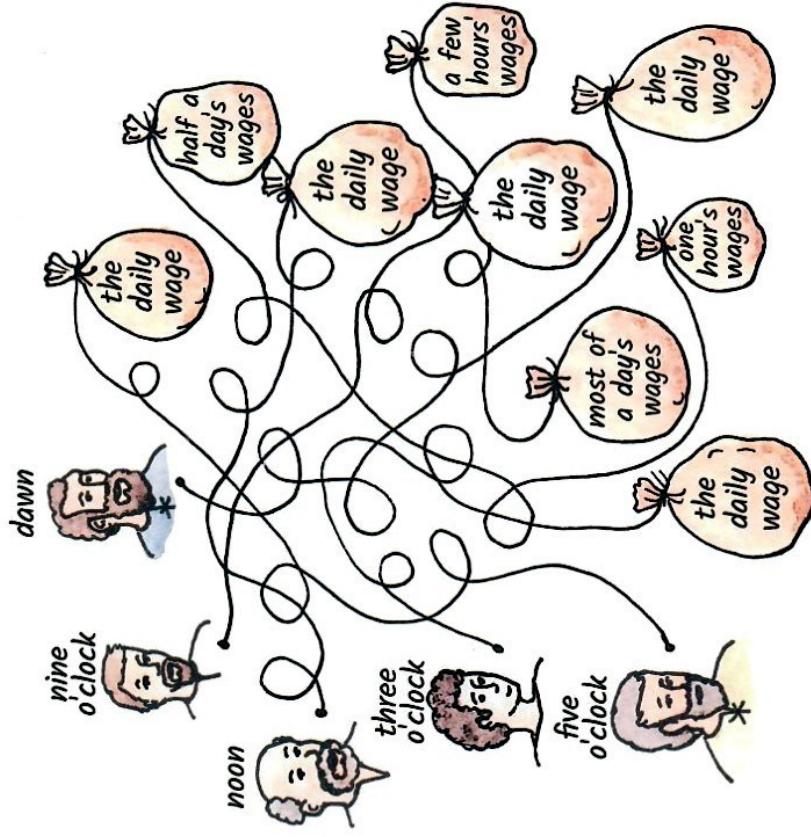
I PAID YOU AS MUCH AS I SAID I WOULD.



Answers: front page- all received the full day's wage.
Inside page- Christ.

The Kids' Bulletin

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 20th, 2026

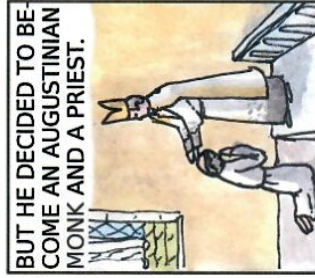


In the parable in today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells the story of a man with a vineyard who went out to hire men at different times of the day.

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

Saint Thomas of Villanova

September 22



PEOPLE CRITICIZED ST. THOMAS BECAUSE HE WOULD GIVE TO ANYONE WHO ASKED, AND BECAUSE HE WAS GENTLE WITH SINNERS. BUT HE KNEW THAT HE COULD WIN MORE SOULS TO GOD BY BEING GENEROUS AND KIND. WE CAN IMITATE ST. THOMAS' GENEROSITY BY SHARING OUR GOOD THINGS.

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 ⁵_____, Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ, and ²____ is gain. If I go on living in the flesh, that means ⁴_____ labour for me. And I do not know which I shall ¹_____. I am caught ⁶_____ 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 ³_____ benefit.

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

1 2 3 4 5 6