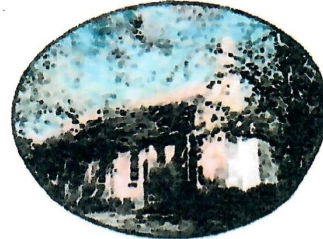




**St. John Baptiste de LaSalle Catholic Church**

275 C.C. Wright School Road  
North Wilkesboro NC 28659-9103  
(336)838-5562  
Email: [Info@StJohnNC.org](mailto:Info@StJohnNC.org)  
Website: [www.StJohnNC.org](http://www.StJohnNC.org)



**St. Stephen Catholic Church**

101 Hawthorne Road  
Elkin NC 28521-3016  
(336) 835-3007  
Email: [Connect@StStephenNC.org](mailto:Connect@StStephenNC.org)  
Website: [www.StStephenNC.org](http://www.StStephenNC.org)

**Fr. John D. Hanic, V.F.** (704) 763-2475  
**Rev. Mr. Harold Markle** (336) 466-4173  
**S. Janis McQuade, S.S.J.** (336) 835-4542  
**Fr. Jose Rebuque** (203) 954-7134  
**Mr. Cuauhtemoc (Temoc) Herrejon** (828) 773-2353

**St. John**  
**Temoc Herrejon** Faith Formation  
**Ann Stone** RCIA  
**Joel Everett** Music

**St. Stephen**  
**S. Janis McQuade, S.S.J.** Faith Formation  
**Phillip Parrish** RCIA  
**Theresa Martin** Music

**Mass Schedule**

**St. John**  
**Saturday** 4:00p  
**Sunday** 11:15a English  
1:00p en español  
**Wednesday** 11:00a

**St. Stephen**  
**Sunday** 9:00a  
**Communion Service**  
**Tuesday, 12:15p**  
**Holy Days** 7:00p

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Saturday** 3:00 - 3:45p  
**By appointment**

**Welcome, New Parishioners!**

*We are a Stewardship community, who share our time, talent, and treasure in life-giving ways.  
We invite you to register with us by going to our website and completing the form on the Home page.*

**Sacrament Preparation**  
Call S. Janis, (336) 835-4542

**Order of Christian Initiation (OCIA)**  
*A way of exploring and seeking Christ through the Catholic faith.*

**Sacrament of Anointing and Pastoral Care of the Sick**  
*If you, or someone you know is desirous of God's healing, contact S. Janis*

**February 22, 2026**



## Our Choices Empowers Us or Impede Us

*Morning, Church!*

Our choices tell us who we are, and serve to define who we strive to be. Consider how much real truth is in what others say about us.

Free Will and Choice are the utmost human power. Our God, in loving confidence, entrusts these gifts to us. Every choice we make forms and informs us. Most surely, the choices we make identify us as either genuine pilgrims on this faithjourney, hitchhikers, or passive bystanders.

The Spirit, who leads Jesus into the desert, is willing to lead us through these Lenten days. Belva Billings, Greg Billings, Israel Lynch, Brittany Reece, Francis Ritz, and Josh Talbott began their faithjourney with us last year. Today, they join us as we journey into the desert as they celebrate the Rite of Election and make immediate preparation for Sacraments. We affirm their presence among us and their desire to celebrate the Sacraments.

Our OCIA sisters and brothers have made their choice to follow Christ into the desert, on the road to Jerusalem, and all the way to Calvary. They've chosen to do what it takes to follow Christ.

Our Lenten spiritual practices are meant to lead us to a deeper relationship with Christ and one another. We are grace with free will, the power to choose. We do not live by bread alone, or power, or prestige. Choose wisely.

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

## LENTEN FAST & ABSTAINENCE

***Fasting:*** no eating between meals

***Abstinence:*** no eating meat.

Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics.

All Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

This obligatory fasting and abstinence from meat applies to those from age 18 - 59.

***Fasting:***

a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members from age 14 and older.



## Nuestras decisiones nos empoderan o nos impiden

*¡Buenos días, Iglesia!*

Nuestras decisiones nos dicen quiénes somos y definen quiénes aspiramos a ser. Consideremos cuánta verdad hay en lo que otros dicen de nosotros.

El libre albedrío y la elección son el máximo poder humano. Nuestro Dios, con amorosa confianza, nos confía estos dones. Cada decisión que tomamos nos forma y nos informa. Sin duda, nuestras decisiones nos identifican como auténticos peregrinos en este camino de fe, como autoestopistas o como espectadores pasivos.

El Espíritu, que guía a Jesús al desierto, está dispuesto a guiarnos en estos días de Cuaresma. Belva Billings, Greg Billings, Israel Lynch, Brittany Reece, Francis Ritz y Josh Talbott comenzaron su camino de fe con nosotros el año pasado. Hoy, nos acompañan en nuestro viaje al desierto para celebrar el Rito de Elección y prepararse de inmediato para los Sacramentos. Afirmamos su presencia entre nosotros y su deseo de celebrar los Sacramentos.

Nuestros hermanos y hermanas de OCIA han decidido seguir a Cristo en el desierto, camino a Jerusalén y hasta el Calvario. Han decidido hacer lo necesario para seguir a Cristo.

Nuestras prácticas espirituales cuaresmales nos guían hacia una relación más profunda con Cristo y con los demás. Somos gracia con libre albedrío, el poder de elegir. No solo vivimos de pan, ni de poder, ni de prestigio. Elige con sabiduría.

En el Uno, somos uno, en ComUNIDAD,

## AYUNO Y ABSTENCIÓN DE CUARESMA


















**Ayuno:** no comer entre comidas. **Abstinencia:** no comer carne.

El Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo son días obligatorios de ayuno y abstinencia para los católicos.

Todos los viernes de Cuaresma son días obligatorios de abstinencia. Este ayuno y abstinencia de carne se aplica a las personas de 18 a 59 años.

Ayuno: se permite una comida completa, así como dos comidas más pequeñas que juntas no equivalgan a una comida completa.

Las normas sobre la abstinencia de carne son vinculantes para los miembros mayores de 14 años.

F E B R U A R Y	
01	4th Sun OT All events cancelled
03	All events cancelled
04	Zoom OCIA 2, 6:30p; No Choir, 7p
 08	5th Sun OT Faith Formation ALL parents & children, after Mass
09	Ladies Guild cancelled
 10	Chosen, 10a; Communion Service, 12:15p Being Catholic, 1p
 11	OCIA, 6:30p. Choir, 7p 
14	Valentine's Day 
 15	6th Sun OT World Marriage Day  Faith Formation ALL parents & children, after Mass
 16	Give Blood, Rescue Squad, 1:30-6:00p 1st Baptist Church, Gwyn Ave 
 17	Chosen, 10a; Communion Service, 12:15p
18	Ash Wednesday Service of Ashes, 6:45p 
 19	Wise Ones, 1p Cowboys Host: Karen G
20	Stations of the Cross, 6:30p
21	Men's Group @ Breakfast Time, 8:30a 
 22	1st Sun Lent Rite of Election Faith Formation ALL parents & children, after Mass
 24	Chosen, 10a; Communion Service, 12:15p OCIA 2, 6:30p
 25	OCIA, 6:30p; Choir, 7p 

🕊️ Mass Intentions	
01	+Georgette & William Dyer
08	+Bob Horneck r/b Lana
15	Married Couples +Penny Davis; +Dustin Transou
22	OCIA Candidates & Sponsors

### Birthdays & Anniversaries



01 Jusselly Loyola	23 Gabby LaCashio
02 Julie Cortez	Margarita Lara
Jovanny Lopez	24 Andrew Ange
08 Marbel Garcia	Laura Barrientos
14 Karen Gochnauer	Allan Lara
17 Belva Billings	Marcus Orta
Brittany Reece	Sutton Kageorge
19 Ryan Treannie	Kiera O'Reilly
21 John Castillo	27 Catalina Hernandez
22 Wendy McClamrock	28 Giovanny Mariano
Julie Colglazier	
17 Catalina & Sergio Hernandez	



Why should it be said among the peoples,  
**"Where is their God?"**  
(Joel 2:17).

The prophet's question is a warning. It also reminds us of what others think about us, especially those who observe the people of God from the outside.

Lent urges us towards  
 a change of direction ~ a conversion ~  
 that makes our proclamation more credible.

## LENT COMMUNAL PRAYER

### Stations of the Cross

Fridays of Lent, 6:30p  
 Feb 20 & 27 Mar 6, 13, 20, 27

### Women of Jerusalem

Good Friday  
 April 3

## Opportunities for Adult Spiritual Formation

Tuesday, March 3	Tuesday, March 10	Tuesday, March 17
<i>God of All Power, Fountain of Grace, O, Living Water, show us your face.</i>	<i>God of All Mercy, restore our sight, Lead us from darkness into light.</i>	<i>God of Living not of the dead, Raise us to life beyond our death.</i>
During the Communion Service 12:15p or 6:30p	During the Communion Service 12:15p or 6:30p	During the Communion Service 12:15p or 6:30p



## JUBILARIANS 2026

### 80 Years

S. Saint Herman D'Uva  
S. Annemarie J. Feeley  
S. Maria Teresa Griffin

### 75 Years

S. Michael Eileen Kelly  
S. Elizabeth M. Lauginiger  
S. Antoinette Munafo

S. Rosemarie Elizabeth Puettnner  
S. Anna Louise Schuck  
S. Kathleen Bernard Winner

### 70 Years

S. Joan Marie Callahan  
S. Theresa Cargan  
S. Julia Dougherty  
S. Lillian I. Devlin  
S. Mary Elizabeth Farrell  
S. Judith Gallen  
S. Johanna Gedaka  
S. Sandra A. Kessler

S. Beatrice McElrone  
S. Margaret Ann McFadden  
S. Barbara Elizabeth Nolan  
S. Anna Mary O'Mara  
S. Catherine Pisarczyk  
S. Denise Regina Sharp  
S. Helen Gertrude Steinmetz

### 60 Years

S. Grace Christi Costello  
S. Patricia J Gannon  
S. Mary Joan Huggard  
S. Eileen M. Lynch

S. Kathleen McGonigle  
S. Sally Russell  
S. Merylyn Anne Ryan

### 50 Years

S. Mary Ann Pfund



**PRAY the ROSARY DAILY**

...for peace in U.S., in Ukraine & Russia;  
for Presidents Zelenskyy, Putin & Trump;  
for Abbas & Netanyahu for the end to all bombings in Gaza, a peaceful and just end to these wars, and all wars...

<b>Tri-C Almsgiving</b> <i>Thank you so much !!</i>		
<b>JAN</b> Canned tomatoes Spaghetti sauce	<b>MAR</b> Laundry detergent	<b>MAY</b> Toilet paper
<b>FEB</b> Corn meal	<b>APR</b> Canned fruit	<b>JUN</b> Tooth paste



PRAY FOR AN END  
TO VIOLENCE,  
ESPECIALLY GUN VIOLENCE



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

Kindly complete this survey for Catholic Charities: All survey responses will remain confidential and will only be used in summary form to identify trends and key themes.

Thank you for helping ensure the voices of our Diocese are heard. Your partnership is essential as we work together to guide this important process and strengthen our shared ability to care for the most vulnerable in our communities.

Catholic Charities, under the direction of Bishop Michael Martin, is entering a time of visioning for the future. To guide this important work, Catholic Charities is inviting everyone in our parish—and throughout the diocese—to take part in a short survey.

The survey will help identify the most pressing human needs in our communities and shape how Catholic Charities serves people in the years ahead. Your input is vital to this process of listening and discernment.

Please take a few minutes today to complete the survey, there's a QR code in the parish bulletin and on our website. Thank you for sharing your voice and helping Catholic Charities continue to be a sign of God's love and mercy in our diocese

Complete the survey here:



[https://www.surveymonkey.com/tr/DOCPARISHES?DG=\[DG\\_value\]](https://www.surveymonkey.com/tr/DOCPARISHES?DG=[DG_value])

Por favor, complete esta encuesta para Caridades Católicas:  
Todas las respuestas a la encuesta se mantendrán confidenciales y solo se utilizarán de forma resumida para identificar tendencias y temas clave.

Gracias por ayudarnos a garantizar que se escuchen las voces de nuestra Diócesis.  
Su colaboración es esencial mientras trabajamos juntos para guiar este importante proceso y fortalecer nuestra capacidad conjunta para cuidar a los más vulnerables de nuestras comunidades.

Caridades Católicas, bajo la dirección del obispo, Monseñor Michael Martin, está entrando en un tiempo de proyección para el futuro. Para guiar este importante trabajo, Caridades Católicas invita a todos en nuestra parroquia —y en toda la diócesis— a participar en una breve encuesta.

La encuesta ayudará a identificar las necesidades humanas más urgentes en nuestras comunidades y a definir cómo Caridades Católicas brindará asistencia a las personas en los próximos años. Su aporte es fundamental para este proceso de escucha y discernimiento.

Por favor, tómese unos minutos hoy para completar la encuesta; hay un código QR en el boletín parroquial y en nuestro sitio web. Gracias por compartir su voz y ayudar a Caridades Católicas a seguir siendo un signo del amor y la misericordia de Dios en nuestra diócesis.

# What Happens in Lent?

In today's Gospel story, Jesus goes out into the desert to fast and pray for forty days. In the forty days of Lent, the Church asks us to fast, give alms, and pray.



In Lent we don't eat meat on Fridays. Many people give up things like candy or dessert for all of Lent. When we give up food that we like, it reminds us that food isn't the only thing we need- we need God too!

Giving alms means giving money or things to the poor or the Church. God lets there be people who need our help so that we can become better by helping them!



The third thing that we should do in Lent is praying. You could say an extra prayer every day- maybe an "Our Father" or a "Hail Mary" when you wake up or before you go to bed. Another good idea is reading a bit from the Bible, because when we read the Bible we let God speak to us.



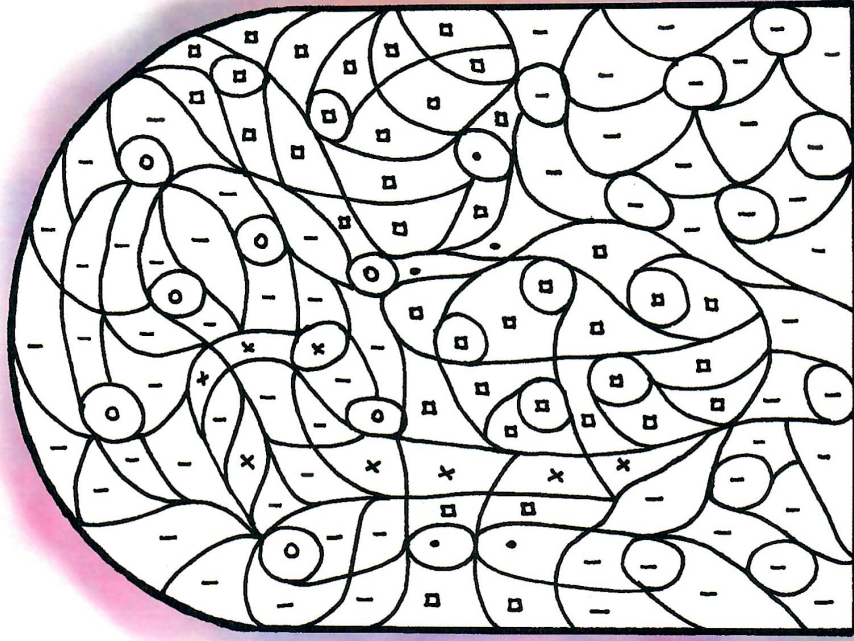
What are some little things you could do for Lent? Try to do things that will help you think a bit more about God every day.

Answers to picture puzzle inside:  
top: 4, 6, middle: 5, 1, bottom: 2, 3.

# The Kids' Bulletin

First Sunday of Lent  
February 22nd, 2026

*Today's first reading tells us about sin.  
Use the code at the bottom to colour in the spaces  
and find out what the story was.*



■ blue    | green    ✕ brown  
○ red    • skin colour

# Saint Polycarp

February 23

SAINT POLYCARP LEARNED ABOUT JESUS FROM SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE. HE BECAME THE BISHOP OF SMYRNA, IN TURKEY.

POLYCARP FOUGHT AGAINST HERESIES THAT CONFUSED PEOPLE ABOUT GOD, BUT WAS KIND TO EVERYONE.

Do you not see that you are in error?

POLYCARP CELEBRATED EASTER ON A DIFFERENT DAY THAN THE POPE, BUT THEY DID NOT ARGUE ABOUT IT.

The celebration is more important than the date.

WHO DO THESE CHRISTIANS THINK THEY ARE?

IN THOSE DAYS THE ROMANS HATED THE CHRISTIANS BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT WORSHIP THE GODS.

WHEN THEY CAME FOR POLYCARP HE HID ON A FARM, BUT WAS FOUND.

AT FIRST THEY FELT SORRY FOR HIM BECAUSE HE WAS SO OLD. THEY TRIED TO CONVINCE HIM TO GIVE UP THE FAITH.

Don't you see it is useless to resist?

HE WOULDN'T REJECT THE FAITH, SO THEY TRIED TO BURN HIM, BUT THE FIRE ONLY WENT AROUND HIM AND DIDN'T HURT HIM! FINALLY THEY STABBED HIM.

SAINT POLYCARP HELD ONTO HIS FAITH EVEN WHEN HE WAS VERY OLD. HE WOULDN'T EVEN GIVE UP ON JESUS WHEN HE WAS FACED WITH TORTURE. MOST OF US WON'T HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN KEEPING OUR FAITH AND GETTING KILLED, BUT WE STILL HAVE TO BE BRAVE TO STAY TRUE TO JESUS IN THE WORLD.

# Sort the Story!

What happened when Jesus had prayed and fasted for forty days in the desert?

See if you can sort out the order of these pictures.

Write 1 on the first, 2 on the second, and so on.

The angels will catch you...

It's all yours if you bow to me!

I'm hungry!

Why don't you turn these into bread?