



St. Stephen Catholic Church

101 Hawthorne Road Elkin NC 28621-3016

336.835.3007

Connect@StStephenNC.org

www.StStephenNC.org

Fr. Englebert Ofon

Administrator

336.838.5562

efon@rcdoc.org

S. Janis McQuade, S.S.J.

Pastoral Associate

336.835.3007

Connect@StStephenNC.org

Mrs. Theresa Martin

Music Ministry

336.816.0214

Connect@StStephenNC.org

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!

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.



Welcome
to St. Stephen,
Fr. Engelbert Ofon!!

Blessings
on your ministry
among us!!

On May 25, 2026, Pope Leo XIV releases his first encyclical entitled:

Magnifica Humanitas: On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence.

He appeals for the safeguarding of humanity, promotion of truth,
dignity of work, social justice, and peace.

Pope Leo XIV opening sentence:

*“Humanity, created by God in all its grandeur, is today facing a pivotal choice:
either to construct a new Tower of Babel
or to build the city in which God and humanity dwell together.”*

The encyclical’s contents: Introduction:

Sets the context for the "new things" (res novae) of our era, framing technology
through the biblical lenses of the Tower of Babel (self-assertion)
and the rebuilding of Jerusalem (communal responsibility).

Chapter One:

A Dynamic Approach Faithful to the Gospel

Explores the historical context of Catholic Social Teaching, particularly
from the Vatican Council II to the present, urging us to interpret these modern technological
advancements through the light of the Gospel.

Chapter Two:

Foundations and Principles of the Social Doctrine of the Church

Lays out core Catholic tenets such as the common good, the universal destination of goods,
subsidiarity, solidarity, and social justice. It acts as a guide to protecting the human person.

Chapter Three:

Technology and Dominance:

The Grandeur of Humanity in Light of the Promises of AI.

Tackles the core theme of the document. It warns against a "technocratic paradigm"
and artificial moral agencies that might reduce human beings to cogs, reminding readers
of humanity's divine origin and the dangers of transhumanist mentalities.

Chapter Four:

Safeguarding Humanity at a Time of Transformation. Truth, Work, Freedom.

Focuses on preserving core human values in the digital age. It discusses
"truth as a common good", the protection of personal data, maintaining
the dignity of work, and protecting freedom against commercialization.

Chapter Five: The Culture of Power and the Civilization of Love.

Addresses how advanced technologies—including AI in warfare
and autonomous weapons ~ affect international stability.
It warns of a "violent culture of power" and offers a theological call
to chose a civilization of love rooted in peace and Eucharistic spirituality.

Conclusion:

Encourages a shared, community-driven responsibility to ensure
that technology serves humanity rather than enslaving it.

Tri-C Almsgiving

Thank you so much !!

JUN

Tooth paste

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



PRAY FOR AN END
TO VIOLENCE,
ESPECIALLY GUN VIOLENCE

You are invited to our Open Table

4:30-6:30pm ~ Jul 16

Third Thursdays ~ NO COST

FBC Elkin 110 Gwyn Avenue

(336) 835-1998 / www.elkinfbc.com

June Stewardship

Weekly Budget	Weekly Income
June 7	\$3194.00
June 14	\$2730.00
June 21	\$1412.00
June 28	\$1186.00
Fundraiser (Taco Sale)	\$600.00
Weekly Budget \$3000 x 4	\$12,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$9122.00
Under budget	\$2878.00



St. Stephen DSA

Assessment	\$10,959.00
Donors	19
Balance	\$3,449.00

WAYS to GIVE

Pledge: Give over time until December 31, 2026

One-time Gift: use DSA envelopes & make a one-time gift.

Online Gift: charlottediocese.org/dsa

Stock Donation: charlottediocese.org/ways-to-give

IRA Contribution: charlottediocese.org/ways-to-give

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...
& the violence that plagues
our planet...



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



25th and 50th

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

If you were married in 1976 or 2001,
you are invited to the annual Diocesan Wedding
Anniversary Mass
Sunday, October 11, 2026 at
The Cathedral of St. Patrick, Charlotte.

Mass begins at 2:00 p.m. and
will be followed by a reception.

Limit of 2 guests per couple.

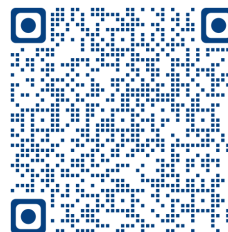
Please scan the QR code to register.

CELEBRACIÓN DEL

25.º Y 50.º ANIVERSARIO DE BODAS

Si contrajeron matrimonio en 1976 o 2001,
están invitados a la Misa Diocesana Anual
de Aniversario de Bodas el
domingo 11 de octubre de 2026,
en la Catedral de San Patricio, Charlotte.

La Misa comenzará a las 2:00 p. m. y
será seguida por una recepción.
Límite de 2 invitados por pareja.



La palabra y las erratas

¡Buenos días, Iglesia!

La parábola del Sembrador es la primera que Jesús utilizó para proclamar el *Kindom* (Reino de Parentesco). Este término no es una errata; anuncia nuestro parentesco con Dios y entre nosotros.

El padre Paul Holmes señala que la mayoría de la gente escucha esta parábola y no capta su verdadero sentido, pues imagina a Jesús como el Sembrador que esparce el Evangelio por todas partes. Por nuestra parte, debemos prepararnos para ser la «buena tierra» que recibe la semilla —la Palabra— y da buen fruto.

Holmes sostiene que Dios es el Sembrador Divino,
que siembra una Semilla Divina
—Jesús— en todo el mundo.

Quienes escucharon esta parábola por primera vez creían que Dios solo sembraba la Semilla Divina entre ellos, el pueblo elegido. ¿Por qué, entonces, habría de extenderse el favor de Dios más allá de su círculo?

El Sembrador Divino esparce la Palabra Divina por todas partes. Jesús es sembrado en todas partes. Es imposible que el amor de Dios se limite a un solo grupo de personas, a una nación o a un solo individuo. El amor expansivo de Dios es inclusivo y personal: abarca a cada uno de nosotros y a todos nosotros en conjunto.

El amor y la Palabra de Dios no se limitan a los cristianos ni solo a los católicos. Esta parábola es prueba de la generosidad absolutamente desmesurada de Dios.

El amor de Dios es inagotable y se ofrece a toda persona que haya existido, exista o existirá: judíos, bautistas, musulmanes, budistas, hindúes, ateos, agnósticos y todos los demás.

Hay quienes entre nosotros actúan de manera totalmente opuesta. Se muestran cerrados, prejuiciosos y tacaños con el amor que Dios les ha otorgado. Niegan la Palabra que Dios ha sembrado en sus corazones en el Bautismo a aquellos a quienes consideran ajenos o inferiores.

El dicho «Baila como si nadie te estuviera mirando» puede invertirse para decir: «Ama como si todos te estuvieran mirando». Reconoce tu vínculo de hermandad con tus hermanos y hermanas.

La Palabra de Dios está «escrita»
en tus palabras y acciones.
¡Ama generosamente y evita las erratas!

En el Uno, somos uno, en ComUNIDAD,

spanis



Bendecir la semilla

Debo decirte
desde el principio:
esta bendición
requerirá que
hagas algo de trabajo.
Primero debes simplemente
dejar que esta
bendición caiga
de tu mano,
como si fuera algo pequeño
que pudieras dejar escapar
fácilmente
entre tus dedos,
como si no fuera
algo sumamente preciado
para ti,
como si tu vida no
dependiera de ello.
Luego debes confiar
en que esta bendición sabe
adónde va,
en que comprende
los caminos de la oscuridad,
en que es sabia
respecto a las estaciones
y a los tiempos.
Entonces —
y sé que esta bendición
ya te ha pedido mucho

Cabe esperar que
descanses
y aprendas
que algo está obrando
cuando todo parece
quieto,
parece dormido,
parece muerto.
Te prometo
que esta bendición no
te ha abandonado.
Te prometo
que esta bendición
está regresando
hacia ti.
Te prometo —
cuando menos
lo esperes,
cuando hayas perdido
tu última esperanza —
esta bendición brotará
verde
y plena
y nueva.

~ Jan Richardson

The Word & Typos

Morning, Church!

The Sower is the first parable Jesus used to proclaim *The Kingdom*. This term is not a typo; it's announces our kinship with God and one another).

Fr. Paul Holmes most folks hear this parable and completely miss the point, envisioning Jesus as The Sower, sowing the gospel everywhere. On our part we need to be prepared as the "good soil" to receive the seed, the Word, and bear good fruit.

Holmes believes God is the Divine Sower, sowing a Divine Seed, Jesus, everywhere the world.

Those who first heard this parable believe God only sowed the Divine Seed among them, the Chosen Ones. So why would God's favor be extend beyond their circle?

The Divine Sower scatters the Divine Word everywhere. Jesus is sown everywhere. It's impossible for God's love to be limited to one group of people, one nation, or one person. God's expansive love is inclusive and personal to each of us and all of us together.

God's love and Word are not limited to Christians or only Catholics. This parable's the proof of God's absolutely ridiculous generosity.

God's love is inexhaustible and given to every person who ever was, is, or will be ~ Jews, Baptists, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, atheists, agnostics, and everyone in between.

There are some among us who behave in the exact opposite way. They are closed off, prejudicial, and stingy with the love God has bestowed on them. They withhold the Word God has planted in their hearts at Baptism from those they deem outsiders or less than in their eyes.

The saying, "Dance like no one's watching" can be flipped to say, "Love like everyone's watching." Claim your kinship with your sisters and brothers.

The Word of God is "written"
in your words and actions.
Love generously and avoid typos!

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

spanis



Blessing the Seed

I should tell you
at the outset:
this blessing
will require you
to do some work.
First you must simply
let this blessing fall
from your hand,
as if it were a small thing
you could easily let slip
through your fingers,
as if it were not
most precious to you,
as if your life did not
depend on it.
Next you must trust
that this blessing knows
where it is going,
that it understands
the ways of the dark,
that it is wise
to seasons
and to times.
Then—
and I know this blessing
has already asked much
of you—

it is to be hoped that
you will rest
and learn
that something is at
work
when all seems still,
seems dormant,
seems dead.
I promise you
this blessing has not
abandoned you.
I promise you
this blessing
is on its way back
to you.
I promise you—
when you are least
expecting it,
when you have given up
your last hope—
this blessing will rise
green
and whole
and new.

~ Jan Richardson

JULY	
01	Choir, 7p
02	Formation & Information Acolytes 10:30a church
04	<i>Pray for a United States of America</i>
05	14th Sunday OT Eucharistic Ministers' Formation & Information, 10:15
07	Communion Service, 12:15p
08	Choir, 7p
11	New Proclaimer's Formation & Information, 10:30a
12	15th Sunday OT
13	Ladies Guild, 5p
14	Communion Service, 12:15p
15	Greeters/Ushers 11a or 6:30p
15	Choir, 7p Greeter/Ushers Session, 11a or Greeter/Ushers Session, 6:30p
16	Wise Ones, Theo's J'ville, 1p Host: Jerry
18	Men's Breakfast, Cracker Barrel, 8:30a
19	16th Sunday OT
20	Give Blood, EV Baptist Ch 1:30-6:00p
21	Communion Service, 12:15p OCIA TUES, 6:30p
22	OCIA OAKLAND, 7p Choir, 7p
24 / 25	PARISH YARD SALE See flyer p. 7 for Items list
26	17th Sunday OT
28	Communion Service, 12:15p
29	Choir, 7p

☪ Mass Intentions	
05	Fr. Engelbert +Roxanne Arrowood
12	+Judy Tymko
19	+Elizabeth & Joseph Dittrich r/b Donna Stvartak
26	+Michael J. Hicks r/b Anthony Caracciolo



S. Nancy C. Hilla, S.S.J.

Given by God June 4, 1932

Given to God July 5, 2026

in her 76th year as a SSJ

Birthdays & Anniversaries



04 Michael Kelly	21 Roseamelia Kelly
S. Janis McQuade, SSJ	22 Barbara DeJohn
David Serafin	24 Kevin Robinson
06 Bryan Wagoner	26 Frank Simon
08 Isidro Rodriguez	27 Abigail Mariano
11 Julia Mantero	29 Julian Espino
12 Ofelia Nava	31 Lauren Peruzzo
14 Dianne & Andy Crawford	27 Jacquie & John Darcey
22 Ashley & Aymes Davis	29 Christine & Bryan Whitler

Mass Intentions



*Praying for others is a profound act of faith
to pray for the living, the dead,
and special intentions.*

*In Catholic practice, we have a Mass
celebrated for our deceased loved ones,
those celebrating a special occasion,
or our own special intentions.*

*If you wish to schedule a Mass for any
of these reasons, use the Mass Intention
envelopes in the lobby.*

*Print the name and reason for the Mass
and your name on the front.
Include the ten dollars stipend for the Mass
in the envelope and give the envelope
to S. Janis who'll schedule the Mass.*



PARISH YARD SALE ~ JULY 24 - 25 @ 8:00a
VENTA DE GARAJE PARROQUIA - 24-25 JULIO @ 8:00a

Donations accepted:

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday

9:30-10:30a

or

Immediately after Mass

July 6, 13, 20

Se aceptan donaciones:

Lunes, miércoles y viernes

9:30-10:30 a. m.

o

Inmediatamente después de la misa

6, 13 y 20 de julio

Donations do not included:

Clothing

Books without covers

Cribs or baby equipment

Large / CRT TVs

Large appliances

Building supplies

Opened paint cans

Broken or dirty items

Unframed glass

Las donaciones no incluyen:

Ropa

Libros sin tapas

Cunas o artículos para bebés

Televisores grandes/CRT

Electrodomésticos grandes

Materiales de construcción

Latas de pintura abiertas

Artículos rotos o sucios

Vidrios sin marco

God's Word is Like Seed...



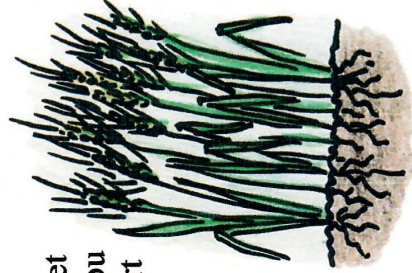
In today's Gospel reading, Jesus explains the parable of the sower and the seed to the disciples. Like the seed, the word of God comes to all sorts of people. Some people hear it and the devil takes it away, like the seed that falls on the path and is eaten by the birds. Some people hear God's word and love it for a little while, but they don't let it grow deeply in themselves, like the seed on rocky ground that doesn't grow good roots. Some people hear God's word and it starts to grow in them, but they have so many other things going on in their lives that they forget God.



The people who hear the word of God and let it grow in them are like the good soil. When the sower plants the seed in the good soil it gets deep roots, grows high and produces a good harvest. When we receive the word of God well, it takes root in us so that it is really deep in our hearts. It grows when we feed it by learning more about God and trying to love God more. It produces a harvest when other people come to love God because of us.



What kind of soil are you like? Do you let God's word be snatched away as soon as you hear it? Do you let it take root in your heart and love it, or is it like the seed sown on rocky ground that is too shallow? Do you let other things in your life crowd out God's life in you, or do you let God's word in deep and feed it and let it grow?



Answers to Unscramble Puzzle:
Lord, rain, snow, earth, seed, bread, mouth, word, sent.

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 12th, 2026

Here is the parable Our Lord told in today's Gospel reading, with pictures!

A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed,

some of the  fell on on the , and  came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky

ground, where it had little soil.

It sprang up at once because the soil was

not deep, and when the  rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of .

Some  fell among  and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some  fell on

rich soil and produced fruit, a hundred or

sixty, or thirty-fold.

July 13

Isaiah 55 Unscramble

Unscramble the words to finish today's first reading!

What does it profit
a man to gain the
world...

HENRY MAY HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING THE PRIESTHOOD, BUT WHEN HIS FATHER DIED HE WAS MADE DUKE.

Now that your father has died you must take his place.

ONE DAY HIS NOW
DEAD TEACHER, SAINT
WOLFGANG, APPEARED
TO HIM.

AFTER
SIX



I might die any day now...

You have been chosen.

HE PREPARED FOR DEATH BY DOING GOOD, BUT IN SIX YEARS HE BECAME EMPEROR INSTEAD!

HENRY RULED THE EMPIRE WELL AND RESPECTED THE CHURCH.



We won't touch those lands- they belong to the Church!

HIS ARMIES ONLY FOUGHT TO DEFEND LAND FROM THEIR ENEMIES AND TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE.

Our aim in this battle is to bring peace to our subjects

God placed you here to rule His people.

SAINT HENRY DIED IN 1024. HE HAD THE HIGHEST POSITION OF POWER IN EUROPE, BUT HE DID NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. HE KNEW THAT GOD GAVE HIM THE POWER TO LOOK AFTER THE PEOPLE. GOD WANTS US TO RESPECT PEOPLE IN AUTHORITY AND TO CARE FOR OTHERS WHEN WE ARE IN AUTHORITY.

Thus says the _____: [DRLO]
 Just as from the heavens
 the _____ [NIRA] and _____ [OWNS] _____
 come down
 and do not return there
 till they have watered the _____, [HRATE]
 making it fertile and fruitful,
 giving _____ [EDSE] to the one who sows
 and _____ [EBDRA] to the one who eats,
 so shall my word be
 that goes forth from my _____; [TOUMH]
 my _____ [DOWR] shall not return to me void
 but shall do my will,
 achieving the end for which I _____ [NTSE] it

