



St. John Baptiste de LaSalle Catholic Church

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St. Stephen Catholic Church

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St. John

Sabrina Caudill 336-957-1295 Bookkeeper
Mary Buran, Karen Huffman Music Ministry
Peggy Mill, Anne Stone RCIA
Garcia Ocompo Youth Ministry
Mary Sorel Faith Formation

St. Stephen

Julie Colglazier 336-353-8222 Bookkeeper
Theresa Martin Music Ministry
Patrick Colglazier Youth Ministry
Peggy Reikowsky Youth Ministry
Phillip Parrish RCIA

Worship Times

Saturday Vigil Mass, 4:00p
Sunday Mass, 11:15a, En español, 1:30p
Daily Mass, Holy Days Consult Bulletin
Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturdays, 3:00-4:00p

Sunday Mass, 9:00a
Holy Days 7:00p
Communion Service Consult bulletin
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

Feast of the Most Holy Trinity

June 7, 2020

When the Mystery is too astonishing for you,
as Trinity is, sometimes a **poet or artist's** imagery
helps you go deeper into the Mystery...

*Let me keep my distance, always, from those
who think they have the answers.*

*Let me keep company always with those who say
“Look!” and laugh in astonishment
and bow their heads. ~ Mary Oliver*



Poured Into Our Hearts A Blessing for Trinity Sunday

Like a cup
like a chalice
like a basin
like a bowl

when the Spirit comes
let it find our heart
like this

shaped like something
that knows how to receive
what is given

that knows how to hold
what comes to fill

that knows how
to gather itself
around what arrives as
unbidden
unsought
unmeasured
love.



Explanation of Andrei Rublev's Icon of the Trinity (1430)

Andrei Rublev was born circa 1360. Little is known of his early life however, his name is associated with the history of the Moscow artistic school. Many of his works, just as those of his disciples and followers, originated in Moscow or in towns and monasteries around it.

Explanation of the meaning on the Trinity Icon

This icon takes as its subject the mysterious story where Abraham receives three visitors as he camps by the oak of Mamre. He serves them a meal. As the conversation progresses he seems to be talking straight to God, as if these 'angels' were in some way a metaphor for the three persons of the Trinity. In Rublev's representation of the scene, the three gold-winged figures are seated around a white table on which a golden, chalice-like bowl contains a roasted lamb.

In the background of the picture, a house can be seen at the top left and a tree in the center. Less distinctly, a rocky hill lies in the upper right corner. The composition is a great circle around the table, focusing the attention on the chalice bowl at the center, which reminds the viewer inescapably of an altar at Communion.

On one level this picture shows three angels seated under Abraham's tree, but on another it is a visual expression of what the Trinity means, what is the nature of God, and how we approach him. Reading the picture from left to right, we see the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The Colors

Rublev gives each person of the Trinity different clothing. On the right, the Holy Spirit has a garment of the clear blue of the sky, wrapped over with a robe of a fragile green. So the Spirit of creation moves in sky and water, breathes in heaven and earth. All living things owe their freshness to his touch. The Son has the deepest colors; a thick heavy garment of the reddish-brown of earth and a cloak of the blue of heaven. In his person he unites heaven and earth, the two natures are present in him, and over his right shoulder (the Government shall be upon his shoulder) there is a band of gold shot through the earthly garment, as his divinity suffuses and transfigures his earthly being.

The Father seems to wear all the colors in a kind of fabric that changes with the light, that seems transparent, that cannot be described or confined in words. And this is how it should be. No one has seen the Father, but the vision of him fills the universe.

The wings of the angels or persons are gold. Their seats are gold. The chalice in the center is gold, and the roof of the house. Whether they sit, whether they fly, all is perfect, precious, and worthy. In stasis, when there is no activity apparent on the part of God, his way is golden. When he flies, blazes with power and unstoppable strength, his way is golden. And in the Sacrifice at the center of all things, his way is golden. The light that shines around their heads is white, pure light. Gold is not enough to express the glory of God. Only light will do, and that same white becomes the holy table, the place of offering. God is revealed and disclosed here, at the heart, in the whiteness of untouchable light.

The Father looks forward, raising his hand in blessing to the Son. It is impossible to tell whether he looks up at the Son or down to the chalice on the table, but his gesture expresses a movement towards the Son. *This is my Son, listen to him...* The hand of the Son points on, around the circle, to the Spirit. In this simple array we see the movement of life towards us, The Father sends the Son, the Son sends the Spirit. The life flows clockwise around the circle. And we complete the circle.

As the Father sends the Son, as the Son sends the Holy Spirit, so we are invited and sent to complete the circle of the Godhead with our response. And we respond to the movement of the Spirit who points us to Jesus. And he shows us the Father in whom all things come to fruition. This is the counter-clockwise movement of our lives, in response to the movement of God. And along the way are the three signs at the top of the picture, the hill, the tree, and the house.

The Spirit touches us, even though we do not know who it is that is touching us. He leads us by ways we may not be aware of, up the hill of prayer. It may be steep and rocky, but the journeying God goes before us along the path. It leads to Jesus, the Son of God, and it leads to a tree. A great tree in the heat of the day spreads its shade. It is a place of security, a place of peace, a place where we begin to find out the possibilities of who we can be. It is no ordinary tree. It stands above the Son in the picture, and stands above the altar-table where the lamb lies within the chalice. Because of the sacrifice this tree grows. The tree of death has been transformed into a tree of life for us.

The tree is on the way to the house. Over the head of the Father is the house of the Father. It is the goal of our journey. It is the beginning and end of our lives. Its roof is golden. Its door is always open for the traveler. It has a tower, and its window is always open so that the Father can incessantly scan the roads for a glimpse of a returning prodigal.

Staffs for the journey

Each person holds a staff, which is so long it, cuts the picture into sections. Why should beings with wings, that can fly like the light, have need of a staff for their journey? Because we are on a journey and these three persons enter into our journey, our slow movement across the face of the earth. Their feet are tired from traveling. God is with us in the weariness of our human road. The traveler God sits down at our ordinary tables and spreads them with a hint of heaven.

The Table

The table or altar lies at the center of the picture. It is at once the place of Abraham's hospitality to the angels, and God's place of hospitality to us. That ambiguity lies at the heart of communion, at the heart of worship. As soon as we open a sacred place for God to enter, for God to be welcomed and adored, it becomes his place. It is we who are welcomed, it is we who must 'take off our shoes' because of the holiness of the ground.

Contained in the center of the circle, a sign of death. The lamb, killed. The holy meal brought to the table. All points to this space, this mystery: within it, everything about God is summed up and expressed, his power, his glory, and above all his love. And it is expressed in such a way that we can reach it. For the space at this table is on our side. We are invited to join the group at the table and receive the heart of their being for ourselves.

We are invited to complete the circle, to join the dance,
to complete the movements of God in the world
by our own response.

Below the altar a rectangle marks the holy place
where the relics of the martyrs were kept in a church.

It lies before us.

It invites us to come into the depth and intimacy
of all that is represented here.

Come follow the Spirit up the hill of prayer.
Come, live in the shadow of the Son of God,
rest yourself beneath his tree of life.

Come, journey to the home, prepared for you
in the house of your Trinitarian God.

The table is spread, the door is open.

Come.



Morning, Church!

He lived a life described as overwhelmingly tragic. At age 10, his alcoholic father died; at 23 his mother died in a fire and his sister's boyfriend strangled her to death. After losing interest in two businesses, he headed to Hollywood to become an actor. When that proved to be a difficult, slow process, he decided to get attention by sporting events.

He donned a rainbow wig and positioned himself in line with the TV cameras and became the crowd mascot at that event. After the 1979 Super Bowl, he had an epiphany when returned to his hotel room and turned on the TV. He realized his on camera time could be an opportunity to promote the gospel.

Rollen Stewart carried a sign to every sporting event, which read: *John 3:16*. With his rainbow wig and huge sign, Stewart could be easily spotted in the crowd, especially since he knew exactly where to sit to catch the camera's eye.

"Rainbow Man" gained national attention and became a minor celebrity. Often times, the TV announcers would leave tickets for him at the gate to assure he'd get a seat. No one knew he'd been living in his car to save on expenses and as a way to shuttle himself around the country. His personal legacy shifted when his fanaticism for evangelization deteriorated into paranoia. He'd lost his way and believed the world would soon end.

His paranoid crime spree led to him receiving three life sentences in prison. The message he promoted will never end.

The Feast of the Holy Trinity a crucial reminder to keep God's message in the forefront of your mind and heart: God's love of the world and all of us is as eternal as God is. God's faithful love is not linked to sporting events or reprehensible publicity stunts of self-promotion in using the Bible as a politicizing prop.

As baptized Catholics, God's love, enduring even death on the Cross, is the message
you are called to proclaim through your example and your words.

Your Baptismal anointing as God's prophet demands you speak out against every form of injustice,
especially for the most recent voices silenced by injustice: Ahmud Arbrey, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd.

Although we'll never understand the Holy Trinity, we can certainly understand that God's love is the source of all love and that love led Love to lay down his life for all of us on The Cross.

These past 14 weeks have confined you to our homes on Sundays, when you used to be gathered together at St. Stephen for Mass. It's easy to be in a more relaxed groove of watching Mass in your PJs in the comfort of your home. There are a few who have called asking if they could wear their PJs when church re-opens. Absolutely!

The ease of Sundays "just watching" Mass may have caused you to feel complacent or indifferent to worshipping God, In the past 14 weeks, you watched Mass any time, alone or with your family, on your laptop, phone, or TV. Liturgy, *the work of the people*. and praise were made convenient for you. Worshipping our Triune God requires your full presence and leaves no room for complacency.

Motivated Rollen Stewart willingly traveled over 60,000 miles in his car to promote the gospel message of God's love. There is nothing convenient, easy, or complacent about his lifestyle and mission. Resist the temptation to see Phase 3 as an inconvenience to your couchsy. As church reopens, reopen your heart and prepare to exercise of our faith with a renewed spirit.

The Holy Trinity is wrapped in Mystery and Grace.

On *this* 2020 Feast of Mystery and Grace, pray for the Oneness of the Trinity
to become oneness in your heart, your community, your country and your world.

Toss complacency aside and really pray.
It's what Love does.

LIFE. FAMILY. PARISH. YOU'RE MAKING THEM BETTER.

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☞ Sunday Scriptures	
Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9	2 Cor 13:11-13
Daniel 3:52-56	John 3:16-18

☞ Reflecting & Acting on the Word

Once the danger of the virus is past, how willing are you to set aside any hint of complacency, and re-engage in parish life, communal worship, and service?



Phase 3 ~ Re-opening

As we prepare to re-open for Mass on June 14 at 9a, there will have some adjustments to make, similar to the Fall and Spring weekends when we all go through seasonal time changes. We're coming back to schedules and getting up earlier, getting dress for church and traveling to Hawthorne Road to be on time for the Mass. This requires a renewed energy and eagerness to gather around the Tables of Word and Sacrament, instead of your coffee table.

If you plan to come, please review and come prepared to follow the health guidelines sent to you in a letter.

This weekend you have four choices for Mass, three live streamed and one videoed.

The live streamed Masses will be on St. John FB page: Sat., at 4:00p and Sunday at 11:15p (English) Domingo, at 1:30p en espanol

Following the 4:00p live streaming, the Mass will be posted on St. S FB page for you to pray any time on Saturday or Sunday. All of this information is on our website and FB page for your reference.

Finally, next week I'll need help preparing an cleaning our church for Mass, as well having the FLC cleaned.

If you're willing the help, please email or call me. Thanks so much!

☞ June Intentions	
07	+Deceased members of the Doyle Family + Bob Ackerman
14	+Tina McCaughtry r/b Judy & Frank Simon +Helen Purcell r/b Lana & Bob
21	All Fathers, living and deceased
28	+Mona Schaufenbuel

Your best source for parish info is:
ST. STEPHEN PARISH WEBSITE
<https://www.ststephenc.org>

Please check our website for weekly Mass
When white box pops up, click to the side of it and box will disappear.
Scroll down to L-hand column for Music sheet, **Sunday Scriptures and Mass video.**
Middle column is your bulletin, **Wednesday's Word.**
R-hand column is for **Prayer Requests.**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

10 Emiliano Mata
11 Juan Islas
Maddox LaCashio
12 Roxana Hernandez
14 Danny Kerr
15 Gerardo Parral, Jr.



15 Olivia Rodriguez
16 Carmen Kitts
22 Olivia Golden
26 Daniel Reikowsky
30 Aileen Cahill
Susana Martinez



10 Sonia & Sixto DeJesus
12 Pat & Clyde Colwell
15 Wendy & Jason McClamrock
18 Holly & Keith Stringer
20 Karen & Rod Hosking

22 Debbie & Phillip Parish
25 Mary Gayle & Craig Golden
Jane & Matt Norman
26 Jenny & Rudy Ardizzola
27 Ellen & Richard Bernabe



Sisters of St. Joseph ~ Maxim 78
Treat embarrassment and criticism as opportunities to grow. This is everything.

- ☞ *These are like fertilizer ~ unpleasant, but rich for the soul's roots.*
- ☞ *I welcome the grace of growing detachment from others' opinions.*
- ☞ *Pray for those who persecute you even while you try to perform acts of recycling.*

St Stephen 65th Anniversary Celebration Ideas to Date

This list is a *conversation starter* in the hope other ideas will be generated.

So review the suggestions, add your own and email them to me
so I can add them to this list and share it with everyone.

This will give us a running start so when we are able to gather, we can solidify
how we want to celebrate this monumental time in our parish history.

Pasta feast with different pastas to sample

Invite priests who have served here to celebrate Mass
and join us in sharing St. S stories

Parish Picnic

Parish Pizza Party we share our stories and memories
and the love we share for St. S

Every parishioner, adults and children,
do 65 acts of love, 65 acts of forgiveness,
and 65 acts of compassion by January, 2021;
then we share the most meaningful ones
at a brunch after Mass

Fireworks (Sparklers)
Sponsor a walk/run 5K as a fundraiser for community.
(Lila can explain 336-530-4268)

Make the effort to get to know each other better

2020 Special Historical Directory
current members history of parish
old photographs (advertising to pay for this-free
as for Chapman)

Children craft for the church

Bingo 1-2 times a month

After Sunday Mass- Omelet Bar/fresh fruit/drinks

Family hiking day

Day out with the kids playing games, hide and seek,
blind chicken, etc

Family/community games and activities

Pray in community

Pig roast, pot luck, sides, drinks

Saturday Mass followed by celebration

Slide show pictures/happenings over past 65 years

I would like to buy or make new altar linens,
scarves, and runners

Pictures on tv screen narrated to tell us the year,
event, people in the photo

Paint good message rocks for kids

Written history of how parish was formed
in small town in the South 65 years ago

Learn church song in sign language

Elizabeth von Trapp tours the country,
does concerts; has been at small Catholic churches
in NC. Maybe we could get her and invite the public.