

St. John Baptiste de LaSalle Catholic Church

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St. Stephen Catholic Church

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St. John

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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

Holy Week, April 5~11, 2020

The Week We Call Holy

One of my personal theologies developing along my journey has its roots in Holy Week. The poignant, distressing, and intimate moments of The Week We Call Holy prays in me like no other liturgical season or feast. In my experience, you can find yourself on one of these days of Holy Week through the different times on our journey.

You can stay in prayer on a single day for weeks, or even months.

My experience of Holy Week is as deeply personal as it is profoundly universal.

Find yourself in Holy Week, in Christ's experience of life, death, and resurrection.

As you pray these days, their holy Scriptures, and respond to the suggested reflections, follow the Spirit's lead as you discern which of these sacred days most reflects where you are on your faithjourney.

It is my hope and prayer that these guided reflections will draw you closer to Christ and to a deeper understanding of how, on your faithjourney, Christ's understands your experiences.

You can find the link to these Scriptures here: www.usccb.org/readings (click on calendar date you wish)

Palm Sunday



Affirmation and Recognition

Just before Jesus and his followers made their way to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, they'd stopped in Bethany, where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

Imagine the astonishment of those who witnessed this miracle!

Exuberantly, they go with Jesus to the Holy City. There he is greeted like a visiting dignitary with waving palm branches, and shouts:

"Hosanna to the Son of David!" and "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

Recall a time when you were honored for your service; for completing a project; for an achievement in the arts or sports, or academics? What did that mean to you?

Prayer & reflection: Ask Jesus to help you to be humble, to use your gifts and talents to honor him; to look for ways to affirm others and to be grateful for all that you are and have.

Jesus understands how insincere affirmation devalues a person's worth. Do you find yourself on *Palm Sunday*?

The Betrayal



Swirling Rumors, Betrayals, Disloyalty in Relationship

There is long-lasting pain in your heart when rumors are spread about you; when you are betrayed and rashly judged. Emotional pain lasts much longer than physical pain.

The religious leaders, observing that the people were putting their faith in Jesus, so they plotted against him. "This man is doing many miraculous signs.

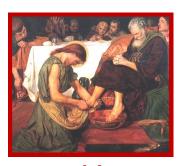
If we let him keep on doing this, everyone will believe in him."

As painful as their rejection, it can't compare to Judas' betrayal. You never expect your family, close friends, or fellow parishioners to betray you or your trust. When it happens, it is a crushing, painful experience.

Recall a time when someone you trusted betrayed you or spread rumors about you. How did you feel knowing that a person or a group damaged your reputation and good name? How did it impact your ability to put your trust in others?

Jesus understands how you feel when you're on the receiving end of rumors and rash judgment. Do you find yourself on *Holy Week Tuesday* as the betrayer in a relationship, as one who is betrayed?

And so it begins...



Holy Thursday



Good Friday



Holy Saturday

Intimacy, Nourishment, Humility, and Servant-Leadership

"With great desire I have desired to have this meal with you."

Recall a time when you gathered with those who nourish you, those who have "washed your feet" in a variety of ways.

Jesus lead by example. In humility, he took the role of the slave, the servant of all, to give us the best example of inclusive love.

Jesus washed Judas' feet, fully aware

The Iscariot would betray him ~ and his love.

Who's feet are you *willing* "to wash"; who are you *willing* to love and serve? Are you willing to forgive those who betray you, who sell you out for a few coins?

Jesus understands the cost of "washing feet", of being a servant-leader. Do you find yourself on *Holy Thursday*, willingly to wash feet, and nourish those around you?

Suffering, Abandonment, Agony, Death, and Forgiveness

"...forgive them, for they know not what they do."

The Way of the Cross has ended.

It is the most horrific death penalty, especially of an innocent man.

The agony begun in the Garden of Prayer, ends with a prayer for forgiveness for those Christ's executioners and contemptuous crowd.

Jesus is abandoned by his hand-picked followers, surrounded only by his mother, some of her companions and youngest disciple, John.

His agony is unquestionably physical, and even more painful spiritually and emotionally.

He's laid down his life on countless occasions before this day.
His Good Friday death would be the most life-giving for the world.

Jesus understands your unwillingness to let go of what you want, your resistance to forgive those who hurt you.

Do you find yourself on a *Good Friday*, more forgiving, more vulnerable, more willing to lay down your life for others?

Entombment, Utter Isolation, Waiting, and Trusting

Your bludgeoned body is taken down from the cross and handed to your mother, who enfolds you in her grieving arms, the same arms that held you and rocked you to sleep as an infant.

Your body, washed and anointed is shrouded in the death's darkness, placed in a borrowed tomb, and left in solitude and silence.

The aroma of sweet oils fills the tomb as you lay still on the cold slab. You, who offered comfort to others, have no one to comfort you.

You, who offered healing and hope to others,

have no one to be your healing presence, and offer you hope.

So, you wait, and wait, and wait. You wait for The Eternal Promise to be fulfilled by the God of Promise: you wait for New Life. You wait and wait, and wait.

Again and again, you put your trust in God in your tomb of unknowing and anxiety.

Jesus knows your struggles, especially these days, as you wait for new life.

Do you find yourself waiting on *Holy Saturday*, trusting in God, and for New Life will to come?

APRIL

ALL MASSES and PARISH ACTIVITIES

are canceled until further notice.



1955 ~ 2020

65th Anniversary

At our Pancake Breakfast you were invited to offer your suggestions for celebrating our 65th Anniversary as a faith community. Those suggestions are being collated and will be shared with the parish for further input.

With all of us spending more time at home these days, please take some time to send your suggestions for how we can celebrate the life and legacy of our parish community.

Send your suggestions to: parrishd1109@gmail.com or Connect@StStephenNC.org

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 05 Marcelino Trinadad
- 06 Natalia Trinadad
- 08 Melisa Bustos Clyde Colwell Emma Golden Jennifer LaCashio
- 09 Lesly Avila
 Osvaldo Bustos
- 10 Richard Jones
- 11 Osvaldo Martinez Keith Stringer
- 19 Mario Crispin
- 23 Kimberly Lopez
- 27 Deborah Lopez Luis Rodriguez
- 30 Vanessa Lopez



- 04 Eileen & Leo Ouellette
- 05 Beth Altemueller & Newell Hauser
- 15 Judy & Frank Simon
- 21 Guadalupe & Ray Hernandez
- 27 Julie & Patrick Colglazier

With the exception of Holy Week & Wednesday evenings, when our RCIA folks are on Zoom 7:00-8:30p I am willing to help you or get you help with a ride to the store or doctor, or any other critical errands.

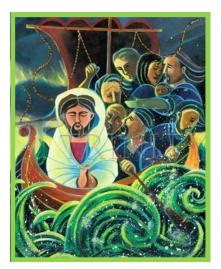
Please call and we'll make it happen.

(336)835-4542 (H)

Your best source for parish info is:

ST. STEPHEN PARISH WEBSITE https://www.ststephennc.org

Please check our website for weekly Mass, the bulletin and parish updates



Bro. Mickey McGrath, O.S.F.S.

Faith and peace go hand-in-hand.

Storms can be frightening,
so trust all the more that God is
in the boat with you as you navigate this storm.
God anchors your heart so you can serve
as an anchor for each other,
especially your family.
Maintain your inner balance and peace,
as you name and recognize each storm.

Remain protected in faith as you pray to
The One Who Calms the Storm.

Keep asking for resilient hope, deeper faith,
and the conviction of peace only God can give.

~ Janis McQuade, S.S.J.