

DECEMBER 26 - FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR:

Stephen is the first-named among the seven deacons chosen to minister to Greek-speaking Christians in Jerusalem at the very dawn of the Christian Church. He is also the first recorded martyr of the New Testament.

DECEMBER 27 - FEAST OF SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST:

Also known as John the Divine, the apostle John was the son of Zebedee and the brother of James. John was a fisherman, was very close to Jesus, and is the “beloved disciple” referred to in the Gospels. He was present at the Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus’ daughter, and the Agony in the Garden. He is remembered for the fourth Gospel, the Book of Revelation, and the three Epistles which bear his name. John is believed to have died at Ephesus in extreme old age. In Christian iconography, his symbol is the eagle.

DECEMBER 28 - FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS:

This feast commemorates the ‘Holy Infants’, the male children recorded slain by King Herod in Saint Matthew’s Gospel. This incident, along with the account of the flight into Egypt, presents the ancient tradition of the early Church: Jesus as the ‘new Israel’, persecuted and forced to flee, and the ‘new Moses’, marvellously rescued from the slaughter of the Hebrew children. This feast also points to Jesus as the Messiah and foreshadows the secular opposition which Jesus will later meet, culminating in his Passion.

December 29 - Memorial of Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr: Born in London, England, about 1118, Thomas was ordained a deacon in 1154 and appointed Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162 by King Henry II. However, Thomas and the king did not agree on matters regarding the Church, forcing Thomas into exile in France. Within weeks of his return, he and the king clashed again. In a fit of rage the king wished aloud to be rid of this “low-born priest”, and four of the king’s men took this to be a command. As a result, Thomas was martyred in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170. Upon learning of the archbishop’s fate, the king was shocked and all Europe with him. In 1173, Pope Alexander III declared Thomas a saint.

DECEMBER 30 - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH:

This feast, instituted in 1921, is observed on the first Sunday following Christmas, unless Christmas itself falls on a Sunday, in which case the Feast of the Holy Family is celebrated on December 30. Devotion to the Holy Family flourished during the Renaissance, and leading artists of the time – Michelangelo, Raphael, El Greco, Rembrandt, Rubens, to name a few – often portrayed the Holy Family in their work



St. Ignatius Parish



St.

Ignatius Church-St. Alban's St. Anne's Church- Conne River

Pastor: Father Patrick Osuji **Administrative Assistant:** Doug Lambert

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Office hours: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Today we begin the Christmas season which celebrates the birth of the Lord Jesus and the ways he manifested the presence of God among us. The word *Christmas* literally means *Christ's Mass or the Mass of Christ*. Historically, Christmas commemorates the birth of Jesus of Nazareth to Mary, a young maiden from Galilee. Theologically, Christmas is the celebration of the Incarnation of God in Jesus the Christ – the self-revelation of God to the world in human form for the reconciliation of humanity to God. Liturgically, the Christmas season begins with “Mass During the Night” on Christmas Eve and ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Jesus. **This day is a Holy Day of Obligation.**

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Daily Masses Mon December 26– Fri December 30

Mon - 11:00 a.m. Parish Chapel-----Evelyn & Reg Organ

Tues - 11:00 a.m. Parish Chapel-----Audrey O'Quinn

Wed - 11:00 a.m. Parish Chapel-----Theresa Collier (Wilson)

Thurs- 11:00 a.m. Parish Chapel-----Edith Collier

Fri-----11:00 a.m. Parish Chapel-----Shirley Collier

Weekend Liturgy: Sat – December 31 and Sun – January 1

St.Alban's-**New Years Eve**-Saturday 7:00p.m.St.IgnatiusChurch---John Muphy Jr., Rosaleen, Ralph, Christopher, & Regina Collier, and George & Theresa Collier

St.Alban's-**New Years Day** Sunday 10:30 a.m. St. Ignatius Church—**Parish Family**

(Note: There will be no mass at 2:00 pm at St. Anne's on Sunday, Jan.1st)

Ministries' schedule for Weekend Masses

DATE	Sacristan	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Music
Dec 24	Edith O	Ann B	Father Patrick	
Dec 25	Edith O	Mary S	Father Patrick	
Dec 31	Mary S	Monica W	Father Patrick	
Jan 1	Mary S		Father Patrick	

Weekly Parish Income

St. Ignatius Church	\$698.25
St. Anne's Church	65.00
Advent Folders	123.50
Mass Stipends	30.00
Christmas Flowers	820.00
Parish Dues	45.00
Candles	73.25
Donations	700.00
Funeral Stipend	200.00

Thank you for your continued support to the parish.

Thank you

A special thank you to Melita Barnes for her donation IMO Everest Barnes.
 A special thank you to Burt Willcott for his donation IMO Joclyn Crant.
 A special thank you to Gerald & Frances Cox for their donation IMO Barry Cox.

Christmas Flowers: St. Ignatius Parish would like to thank all who donated in support of the purchase of Christmas Poinsettias for the Altar this Christmas Season.

St. Alban's Clover Farm Christmas Fundraiser: Congratulations to Trevor Organ- winner of the \$500 1st prize, Ruby Ball- winner of the \$300 2nd prize, and Genevieve Drew- winner of the \$200 3rd prize. St. Ignatius Parish would like to thank St. Alban's Clover Farm for conducting this fundraiser and for their donation of the second prize. Thank you to all for your support of the Parish.

WELCOME TO ST. IGNATIUS PARISH: ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH AND ST. ANNE'S CHURCH:

We are happy to have you here in our parish. It is our hope that you experience the presence of Christ during our worship.

"Where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them" Matt 18:20

Home Visits and Holy Communion

If you or someone you know who would like to receive Holy Communion in their home, you are asked to please inform Father Patrick at 709-280-4904 or call the Parish office at 709-538-3106 Wednesday, Thursday and Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The Body of Christ is often such an important part of people's lives, so when they are sick or unable to attend Mass, I would greatly bring them Holy Communion.....Father Patrick Osuji

Condolences

The parishioners of St. Ignatius Parish extend to the family of the late Simon Collier their profound sympathies. We join you in prayer for the repose of your loved one. May God bless you and console you.

2023 Initial Envelope The first envelope in your box is labeled **INITIAL OFFERING**. This envelope has two purposes: 1) the proceeds are meant to help cover the parish cost currently about \$5 per box of envelopes and 2) by putting your name on this envelope, it allows us to check the accuracy of our parish records by comparing this name with the name on file. **If you DO NOT use the initial envelope, then please put your name on the first 2023 envelope that you DO USE.** Thank you.

Christmas Message

SOFTLY, EVER SO GENTLY HE COMES. MAY HIS SILENT COMING TOUCH YOU WITH LOVE, ENFOLD YOU IN PEACE AND FILL YOU WITH HOPE.

May your **Christmas** be filled with the true miracles and meaning of this Merry time. May the joy and peace of **Christmas** be with you all through the New Year. Wishing you a season of blessings from heaven above. May your world be filled with warmth and good cheer this Holy season, we wish you a joy-filled **Christmas**.

Merry Christmas to all and May God Bless You!

