

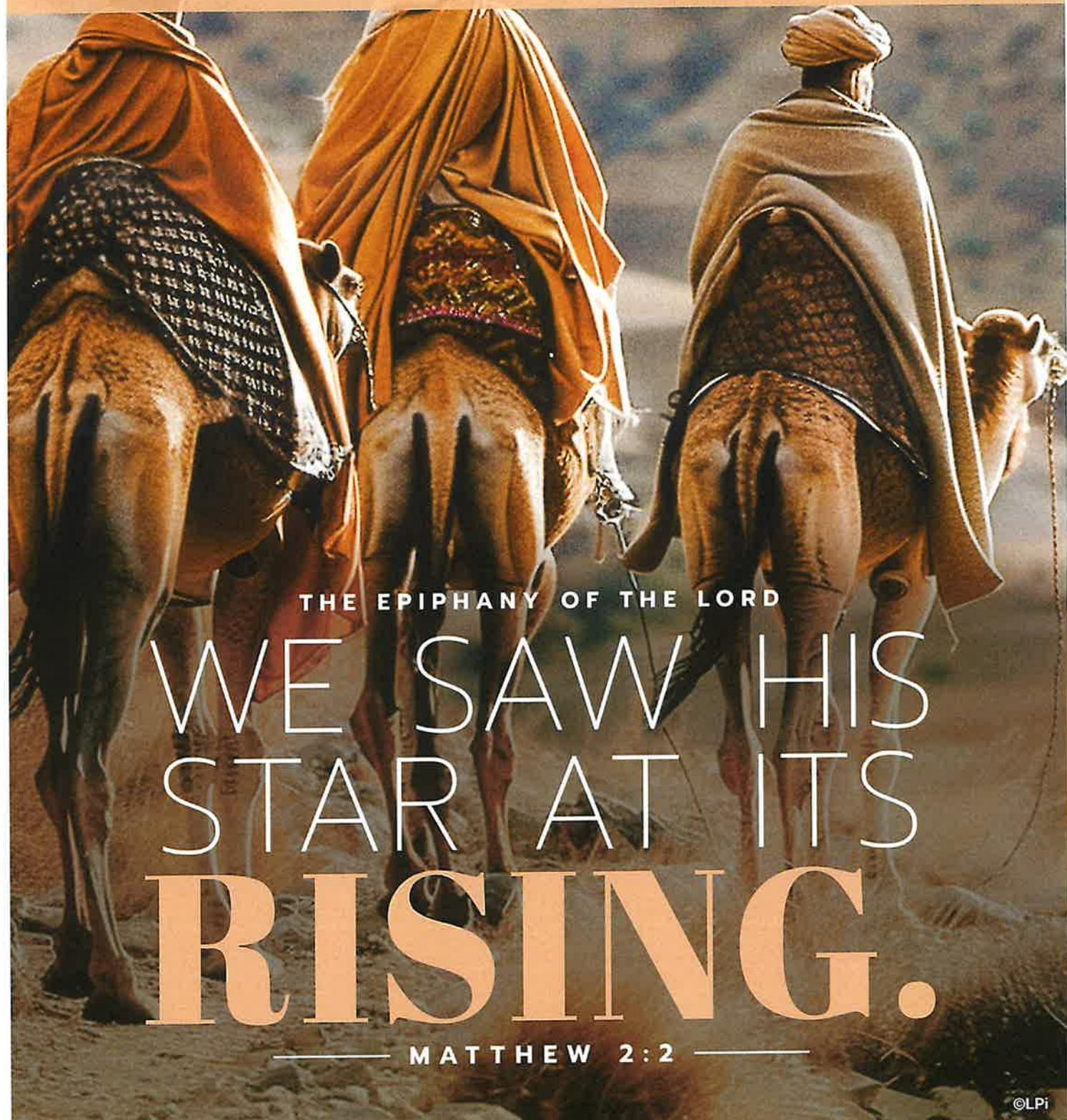


SAINT STEPHEN FIRST MARTYR



399 WOODLAND DR, HINESVILLE, GA 31313 | 912-876-4364 | SSFMCC399@GMAIL.COM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

WE SAW HIS
STAR AT ITS
RISING.

MATTHEW 2:2

St Stephen First Martyr

Upcoming Events:

Jan 4th – Relay for Life interest meeting at 1:30pm in the Social Hall – If you want to join our team and find out more information on the Relay for Life please join us for a quick information meeting.

Jan 5th – Knights of Columbus General Meeting at 7pm in the Social Hall.

Jan 6th – Grief Support meeting at 7pm in the Social Hall.

Jan 8th – St. Vincent DePaul meeting at 1:30pm in the Social Hall.

Jan 10th – Crafts and Fellowship in the Social Hall 11am-2pm.

Jan 10th – 3 Kings Celebration in the Social Hall at 6pm.

Jan 16th-24th – 9 Days for Life Novena – Join us in prayer for Life. Copies of the Novena will be found in the Church or can be found online at 9daysforlife.com.

Jan 31st – 2p Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage in English – **Feb 1st – 2p** - Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage in Spanish.

DATE	MASS TIME	MASS INTENTIONS
Sat. 1/3	5:00PM	†Soul of Gerald Poertner ~Gudrun Poertner
Sun. 1/4	8:00AM	†Soul of Monica Gonzalez ~Irizarry Family
	10:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Renee Delzeith ~Pat Delzeith
	12:00PM	Pro Populo – For the Community
Mon 1/5	5:30PM	Our Parish Community
Mon 1/5	7:00PM	Our Parish Community
Tues. 1/6	12:00PM	†Souls in Purgatory ~Gudron Poertner
Weds. 1/7	12:00PM	Our Parish Community
Thurs. 1/8	10:00AM	†Soul of Ramon Gomez ~Ms. Conchita
Thurs. 1/8	12:00PM	Our Parish Community
Sat. 1/10	5:00PM	Pro Populo – For the Community
Sun. 1/11	8:00AM	†Soul of Pete Hinley ~Henry & Ione Phillips
	10:00AM	Our Parish Community
	12:00PM	Our Parish Community



1/5- Steven Martin, Chris Sinsel, Chase Williams

1/6- Walter Helmick, Daniele Thaxon

1/7- Janah Manglona, Elba Perez, Martina Spurgeon

1/8- Megan Powell

1/9- Chrisitne Dushner, Jenny Li

1/11- Patrice Dumornay, Adam VanDuynhoven



REMEMBER
in your prayers

Joe & Pat Johnson, Gary Hubbard, Willie Crowe, Janice Robertson, Nancy Hill, Tom & Jeannine Wing, June Holt, Leslie Shaw, Stacy Fletcher, Sandra Powell, Joyce Elliott, Laurie Elliott, Doug Walker, Hettie Johnson, Dillion Bovinger, Summer Jones, Robert JoVan, Lounell Scott, David Weeks, Walter Helmick, Andre McCall, Nellie Orta, Angela Wheeler, Sara Wheeler, Merle Stroud, Renee Millner, Larry Harris, Dottie Cozier, Fred Hand, Iris Potett, Mary Huffman, Joan Rambach, Chambers Family, Jane Chatman, Gudrun Poertner, Cindy Gray, Ethin Nettle, Bonny Pecenak, Amy Smith.
(Names remain on the list for 30 days unless notified)

The Epiphany of the Lord: Give with Joy

"They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." (Mt 2: 10-11).

WORD OF LIFE

The feast of the Epiphany is liturgically the feast of the Presentation of the Lord Himself, and His message to all peoples, which are represented in the Three Magi. Tradition, however, has always focused on the aspect that the Magi offered the Child Jesus and His parents some gifts; that is why, at least for the Spanish-speaking countries, this day has become the day in which we exchange gifts with others as a sign of our affection.

Instead of just complaining about waste and consumerism, we should focus on the fact that Jesus, today as when He was born in Bethlehem, is still in need of gifts, of our help. First,

Jesus wants us to offer ourselves to Him by telling Him sincerely, but not with empty words, that He is the first and most important person in our lives. Then, we can think about what else He would like us to give Him, taking into account that God is present in the neighbor who is in need: the sick, the lonely, the hungry; in short, anyone who needs help.

May we become like the Magi, giving our hearts to Jesus and our love to our neighbor. Let's do it joyfully because helping the Lord is a privilege, a great gift—in fact, the greatest gift that a human being can aspire to.

Purpose: Offer yourself to the Lord in prayer. Joyfully, offer your best to Him and those who need your help because it is a blessing to be able to do so.

Epifanía: Dar con alegría

"Al ver la estrella se llenaron de inmensa alegría. Entraron en la casa vieron al niño con María, su madre, y cayendo de rodillas lo adoraron después, abriendo sus cofres, le ofrecieron regalos: oro, incienso y mirra" (Mt 2, 10-11).

PALABRA DE VIDA

La fiesta de la Epifanía es, litúrgicamente, la fiesta de la presentación del Señor y de su mensaje a todos los pueblos, representados estos en los tres Magos. La tradición, sin embargo, se ha fijado siempre en el detalle de que los Magos ofrecieron al Niño Jesús y a sus padres unos dones, unos regalos, de ahí, al menos en los países latinos, el que este día se haya convertido en el momento elegido para hacer llegar a los demás unos presentes como muestra de nuestro afecto.

En lugar de limitarnos a quejarnos contra el despilfarro y el consumismo, podemos fijarnos en que Jesús sigue, hoy como cuando nació en Belén, necesitado de regalos, de ayuda. Lo primero que quiere de ti es que seas tú mismo el que te ofrezcas a Él y eso lo harás cuando le digas, con sinceridad y no sólo con palabras vacías, que Él es lo primero en tu vida, lo más importante. Después, puedes pensar en qué cosas le gustarían a Él que tú le dieras, teniendo en cuenta que Dios está presente en el prójimo que pasa necesidad: el enfermo, el solitario, el hambriento, en definitiva, en todo aquel que necesita ayuda.

Sé tú un rey Mago. Dale tu corazón a Jesús y tu amor al prójimo. Y hazlo con alegría, porque ayudar al Señor es un privilegio, un gran don, el más grande al que puede aspirar un ser humano.

Propósito: Ofrecernos al Señor, ofrecerle lo mejor que tenemos, dándoselo a Él en la oración y en los que necesitan ayuda, y hacerlo con alegría porque es un don poderle ayudar.



FRANCISCANS OF MARY - FRANCISCANOS DE MARÍA

Email: information@franciscansofmary.org
Website: <https://franciscanosdemaria.org/en>

Email: consultas@frmaria.org
TV: <https://magnificat.tv/>



Franciscans of Mary

Missionaries of Gratitude

PRAYER

Jesus, I trust in you.

I know that whatever happens to me is a fruit of your love.

Jesus, I love you.

You are first in my heart.

Jesus, I adore you.

You are more important than my job, my money or any other thing.

Jesus, I GIVE YOU THANKS

For having created me, for having become man, for having died and risen from the dead, for the Eucharist and Confession, for the Church, the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints, for the things that I have had, for the things that I have, because I am able to help others, and for the affection that I receive.

Jesus, I ask for your forgiveness.

For the evil that I have committed and for the good I have failed to do.

Jesus, I ask for your help.

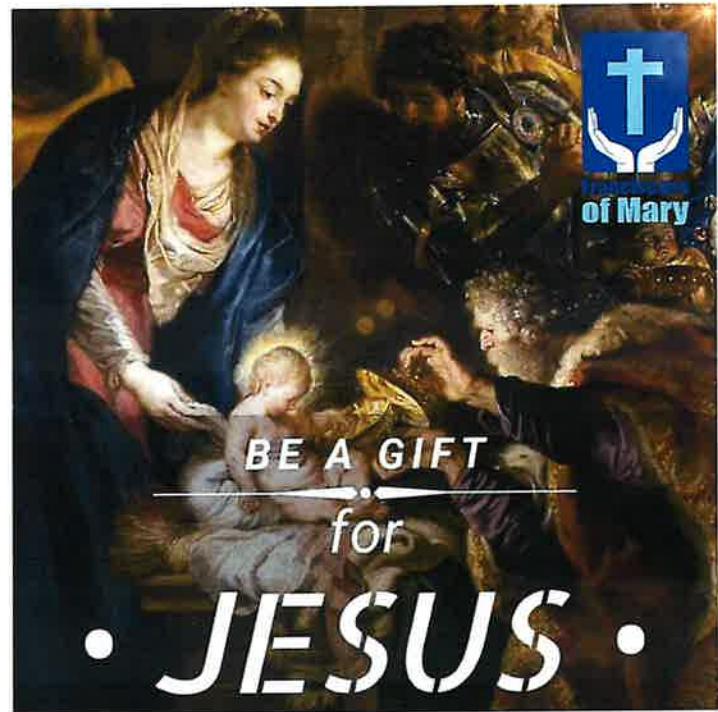
I ask for spiritual graces, such as the overcoming of my defects and for material help, for me, for others and for society.

Jesus, I offer myself to you.

You can count on me for whatever you want.

LIKE MARY.

With the tenderness of your mother and through Her way of living by living the virtues. Amen.



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

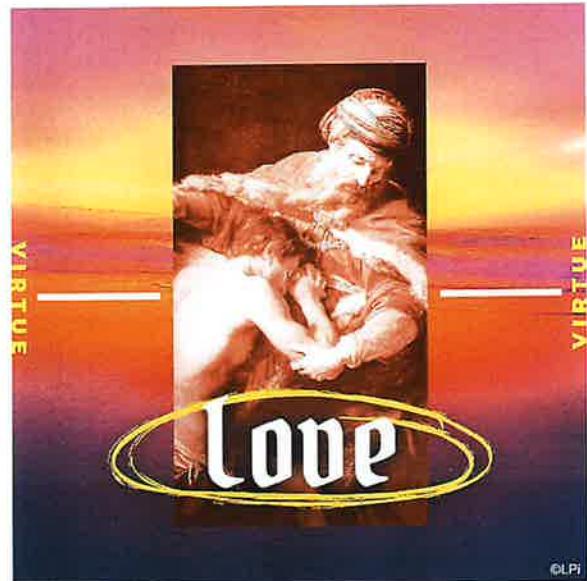
Second Reading:

It was not made known to people in other generations
as it has now been revealed
to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body.
(Eph 3:5-6)

Gospel:

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

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Virtues, Explained!

The virtue of love seeks the good of the other, a reflection of the love of God who created us for this very purpose. In practicing this virtue, we express the fullness of our identities as sons and daughters of God. In true Christian love, we find freedom.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The journey of the Magi reflects how treacherous our Christian life on earth can be. Always, evil works against us — Satan lays traps. He sows confusion. May we, like the Magi, recognize the will of God as our guiding star.

Observances for the week of January 4, 2026

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord
Monday: St. John Neumann, Bishop
Tuesday: St. André Bessette, Religious
Wednesday: St. Raymond of Peñafort, Priest
Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

Epiphany Blessing

Dear God,
It was You who inspired the Magi
to follow the star to find You.
Inspire us to seek You, as well.
Bless our homes and families this
season, make them places where
we can encounter You through
prayer and community.
Amen.

Readings for the week of January 4, 2026

Sunday:

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday:

1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday:

1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/
Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday:

1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/
Mk 6:45-52

Thursday:

1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/
Lk 4:14-22a

Friday:

1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/
Lk 5:12-16

Saturday:

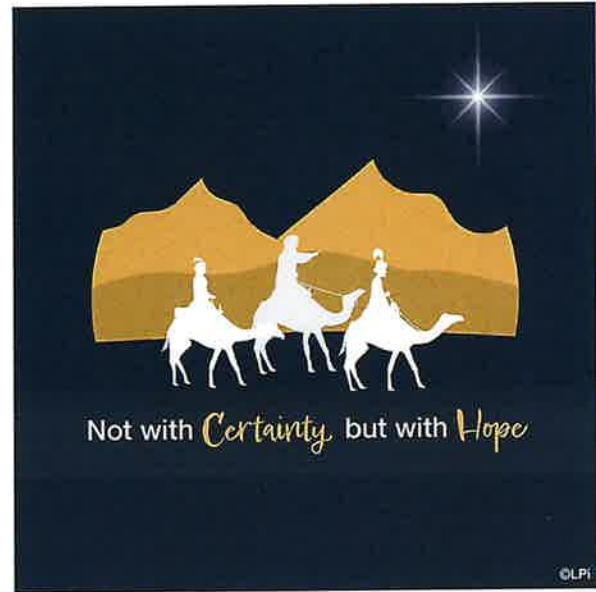
1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and
9b/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday:

Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/
Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

When I was 22, I went on a pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year of 2000. I was traveling light with just a backpack, one blue shirt and black pants, little money, and no Italian. I had a few close friends and one goal: to reach the Eternal City. Despite the challenges and deprivations, I felt alive in a way I had never known before.

When do you feel most alive? I'd wager it's not when you're most comfortable or surrounded by stuff. Rather, it's when your life is aimed at something great; when you're on a meaningful and challenging journey with good friends.

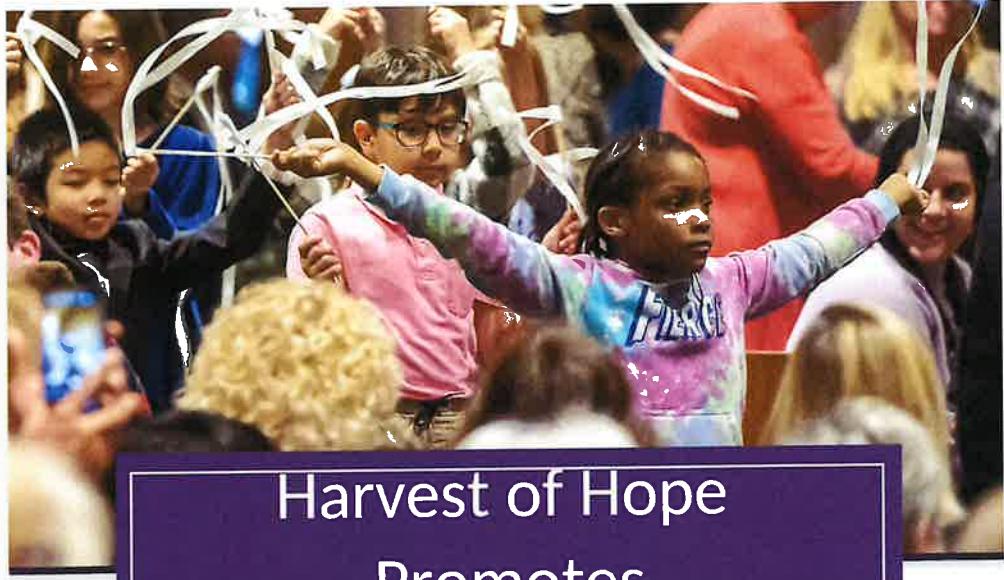
That's the image the Magi give us in today's Gospel. They set out from the East not with certainty, but with hope. They study the signs, discipline their attention, and journey together, offering the best they have when they find the newborn King.

The Church gives us their story at the start of the year to reawaken something in us. We are not meant to drift. We're meant to journey as pilgrims. The Jubilee Year of 2025 may have ended, but our pilgrimage has not. Like the magi, the closer we get to Christ, the more alive we become.

— Father John Muir



**HARVEST
of HOPE**
COSECHA de ESPERANZA



Harvest of Hope Promotes Tax Advantaged Giving

WE PRAY TOGETHER

Heavenly Father, who in Your providence have brought us together at this time and in this place, we ask You to guide, inspire, and bless our Diocese of Savannah and the Harvest of Hope campaign.

Provide us, Your children, with the rich soil of faith, hope, and love, that the seeds we are planting now will bear abundant fruit for generations.

As we work together for the full coming of Your kingdom, O Lord, may we find a new way of belonging to You and to one another, rejoicing always in Your generosity.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Planting seeds for the future of the Diocese of Savannah

Thank you to all who turned in their pledge card at Mass, mailed it to the diocese, or made a gift online. Please visit diosav.org/hope for more information or to make your gift today.

THE BENEFITS OF TAX ADVANTAGED GIVING

Gifts From An IRA

An IRA owner, age 70 1/2 or older, can directly transfer up to \$108,000 per year to an eligible charity tax-free in 2025. This option can be used for distributions from IRAs, regardless of whether the owners itemize their deductions. To qualify, the funds must be transferred directly by the IRA trustee to the Harvest of Hope campaign. Distributed amounts may be excluded from the IRA owner's income, resulting in lower taxable income for the IRA owner.

Gifts Of Stock

Donors can use their broker/agent to transfer stock. If the stock has been held long-term (over one year), the donor does not have to pay capital gains tax on the stock and is allowed a tax deduction for the full value of the stock. Stock must first be transferred to the Harvest of Hope campaign before being liquidated. Ensure that the donor name and parish are provided on the check and on all paperwork to the diocese.

To ensure our parish receives credit for an IRA gift or a stock transfer, please visit diosav.org/hope and complete the relevant forms

For more information, please contact our campaign director Christine Goodwin at 908-907-5769 or cgoodwin@guidanceingiving.com

School of Gratitude

Father Estrada is hosting a School of Gratitude for Young Adults beginning Oct. 20th after 5:30pm Mass and a SOG for Adults on Thursday's after 12pm Mass . Everyone is welcome to join!



Thursdays 6-8:30pm
Saint Stephen Social Hall

Escuela de Gratitud

El Padre Estrada está impartiendo una Escuela de Agradecimiento los lunes después de la Misa. ¡Todos son bienvenidos a unirse!

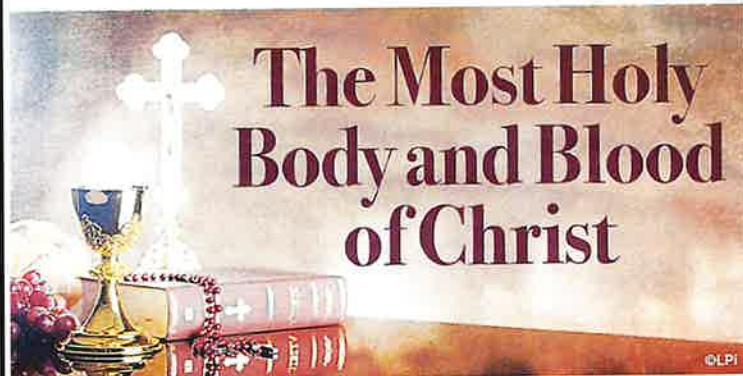
Ministerio Juvenil



Jueves de 6 -8:30 pm
Salón Social San Esteban

Guidelines for Receiving the Eucharist

You are not to eat or drink anything except for water or required medicine, for one hour before actually receiving communion. This is called the Communion or Eucharist fast. It is meant to help us focus on our Lord and what we are about to receive. Chewing gum, candy, mints, etc. during Mass is therefore inappropriate. Both forms for receiving the host are acceptable, in the palm of one hand with the other hand underneath, or on the extended tongue. Extend your hands palm-side up toward the priest and stand as close to the priest as possible when receiving Communion. Never take the host from the priest. After receiving the Eucharist, you say *Amen*. Proper reverence and respect is most important, hands should be reverently folded while waiting to receive the Sacrament.



SCAM WARNING

Please note: If you receive a request for gift cards purporting to be from your pastor, parish, or the Bishop, *it is a scam and should be ignored*. If you aren't sure if an email or message is authentic, do not reply. Check with the person or parish using another method.

Linen Ministry

The Linen Ministry is looking for a few more parishioners to join the current members in washing the altar linen for a month-long period. With the current number of members, you would only have to wash the linen one to two time each year. We could really use some help. The new schedule will be published in January 2026.

If you would like to join this group, please contact the Parish Office or Wendy Farace (912-271-2051) to sign up.



Join Us Meet and Greet Sunday, January 4th

1:30-2:30

in the Social Hall

Meet Current Team Members
Join or Donate to the Team

Find out more about what Relay For Life is and how Relay supports Cancer Research and Patient Services



2026 MACON MARCH FOR LIFE

January 23, 2026

With Bishop Parkes, the Diocese of Savannah, & the Kolbe Center
Register: diosav.org/march-for-life



St Vincent de Paul Holiday Season Outreach Generosity of Our Parishioners

Through the remarkable generosity shown by our parishioners during this holiday season, the St Stephen St Vincent de Paul Food Pantry was able to make a significant impact in our parish and community.

Thanksgiving Food Assistance

In November, the Food Pantry provided Thanksgiving food boxes to 51 families, reaching a total of 111 adults and 97 children. These efforts ensured that many families in need were able to celebrate Thanksgiving with a nutritious meal.

Christmas Food Distribution

On December 18th, Christmas food boxes were distributed to 47 families, supporting 101 adults and 86 children. This continued outreach brought comfort and joy to many households during the festive season.

Angel Tree Gift Program

The Angel Tree program provided Christmas gifts for each of the 86 children from the participating families. Additionally, the Angel Tree supplied gifts for Father Eder to distribute to children at St. Joseph in Jesup further extending the spirit of giving beyond our immediate parish community. Gifts were also donated for St. Stephen's Three Kings Celebration in January,

Our St Vincent de Paul's ministry of giving would not have been successful without your wonderful generosity. Thank you!!!

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and many blessings in the new year.

PARISH SUPPORT

DONATIONS

Weekly Offertory – Dec 21st

Min. of \$10,000 needed weekly to operate

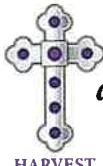
Offertory	\$6,868
Building Fund	\$70
Online Giving	\$673
Total	\$7,611

3 great ways to support our Parish

1. USE THE ENVELOPES Located in the Pews.
2. TEXT 'GIVE' TO 912-551-5553
3. GIVE ONLINE—Scan QR Code or go to:
<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/ststephenhinesville>



Are You Certified to Volunteer? VIRTUS training; background check; code of conduct. If you would like to volunteer in any way within the church go to virtusonline.org to register. (912) 201-4074.



So far we have been given \$32732 towards our Harvest of Hope goal, with an additional \$74,000 pledged to be paid to our goal. This has us at 40% of our goal for the Harvest of Hope, we encourage everyone to make a pledge for the upcoming 3 years to help us reach our overall goal of \$247,268.00.

Active Parishioner Status

Each year we receive many requests from parishioners to qualify for weddings, be godparents or sponsors for the Sacrament of Confirmation, Communion and Baptism. When a request is made, we must be able to verify that a person is an "active member" of St. Stephen's Parish.

An active member is one who 1) Is properly registered with the Parish office and gives regular to the offertory through envelopes or online giving. 2) Faithfully attends Mass on Sunday's and Holy days of Obligation.

Even though you attend Mass, if you are not registered with the Parish, we have no information about you and you are not eligible to be Sponsors, God-parents, etc. While assessments of an inquirer's status will be made individually, the above are the main factors that will be considered in making that determination. Please be sure to register with the office and keep your information up to date! You can easily send an email to ssfmcc399@gmail.com to make changes.

Parish Membership: Whether you are a longtime resident or have recently arrived in our parish -Welcome! Please use the form below to register or update your information. You may place this form in the collection basket. (We may call you for additional information.)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Parish Staff

Pastor:

Fr. Eder Estrada, FM
eestrada@diosav.org

Parochial Vicar:

Fr. Modeste Seloukou,
FM

Deacon:

Doug Delzeith
ddelzeith@yahoo.com
(912) 977-5278

Sacristan:

Sam Beiter
beiterrl@yahoo.com

Office Manager:

Annette Miller

Office Assistant:

Diana Young

Parish Catechetical Leader:

Berta Ganaway
saintstephenfaithformation@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Mon: 9AM-6PM

Tues-Thurs: 9AM-2PM

Gift Shop Hours:

TBD
SACRED GARDEN
GIFT SHOP
ST. STEPHEN



ssfmcc399@gmail.com
912-876-4364 (office)
912-876-3150 (fax)
ststephenshinesville.com

Mass Times

English Weekday Masses- Monday at 5:30p.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday weekly at 12pm and First Friday's at 12pm.
(Exposition and Holy Hour start at 10:30am followed by Rosary at 11:20am)

Spanish Weekday Masses- Monday and Thursday weekly at 7pm and First Friday at 7pm. (Exposition and Holy Hour start at 5:30pm followed by Rosary at 6:20pm)

Wednesday- 6-7p - Holy Hour with Rosary.

Saturday- Vigil 5:00 pm; 7pm Spanish in Jesup.

Sunday- 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm (Spanish); 2:00pm Spanish in Jesup.

Confession- Weekdays during Holy Hour, Saturday 4:15-4:45pm & By Apt.

Bible Study

Every Tuesday from 10-11:30am all are welcome to come to the social hall for Bible Study discerning on the liturgy for the upcoming week.

OCIA Classes Wednesday Evenings: 7-8:30p in Social Hall

For Catholics and non-Catholics who wish to gain knowledge and information about the Catholic faith. The classes are also for those Catholic adults and high schoolers that have not completed their sacraments. The classes begin in September and will be completed by Easter. For additional information please call the office.

Religious Education

Saint Stephen the First Martyr Catholic Church provides opportunities for each person to receive the Sacraments and grow in greater communion with our Lord. Classes are available starting with 1st graders and meet Sundays at 9a Sept. through May.

Matrimony

Arrangements must be made at least 6 months in advance of the proposed date. Participation in a marriage preparation program is required. Couples contemplating marriage MUST meet with the priest before setting a date.

Baptism

For a child to be baptized, you must be attending Mass regularly, attend a Baptism class and fill out a registration form. **Classes are held the last Sunday of every month at 1pm and must be completed prior to scheduling baptism date.** One Godparent must be an active Catholic and attend class as well. A copy of the Child's Birth Certificate is needed at time of registration. Please contact the Office for scheduling.

Anointing of the Sick

Fr. Estrada is offering Anointing of the Sick during the First Friday's Mass at 12p. If needed at another time please contact the office or Father Estrada directly.

Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Ministry provides prayer support to our parishioners and to the community. There is a Prayer Intention book at the back of the church for you to write your prayer request or you can make a prayer request by email: ssfmccprayerministry@gmail.com

Active Parishioner Status

Each year we receive many requests from parishioners to qualify for weddings, be godparents or sponsors for the Sacrament of Confirmation, Communion and Baptism. An active member is one who is properly registered with the Parish office, regularly gives offertory, attends parish activities when possible and most importantly faithfully attends Mass on Sunday's and Holy days of Obligation. Even though you attend Mass, if you are not registered with the Parish, we have no information about you and you are not eligible to be Sponsors, Godparents, etc. While assessments of an inquirer's status will be made individually, the above are the main factors that will be considered in making that determination.