

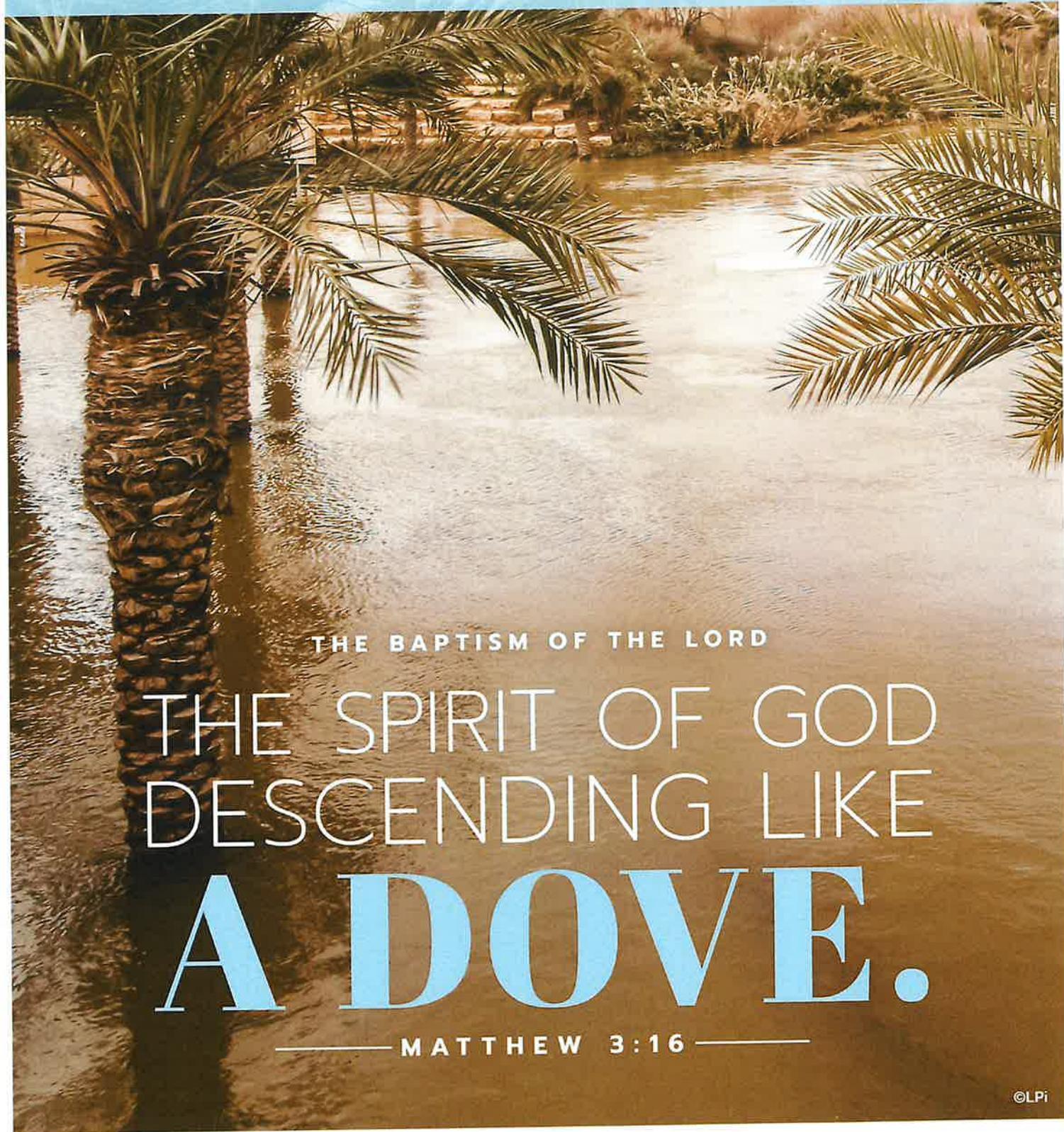


SAINT STEPHEN FIRST MARTYR



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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026



St Stephen First Martyr

Upcoming Events:

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 – Feb 1st – Second Collection for the Building Fund.

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

Jan 31st – Feb 1st – Building fund collection, second collection to support our Building Fund for general upkeep and maintenance of our buildings and grounds.

Feb 2nd – 7p - **Knights of Columbus Meeting** – Anyone interested in becoming a KOC, or existing members please attend the monthly meeting to discuss upcoming plans.



DATE	MASS TIME	INTENTIONS
Sat. 1/10	5:00PM	Pro Populo – For the Community
Sun. 1/11	8:00AM	†Soul of Pete Hinley ~Henry & Ione Phillips
	10:00AM	†Soul of Zuriel Vasquez ~Jonathan Wolff
	12:00PM	Our Parish Community
Mon 1/12	5:30PM	Our Parish Community
Mon 1/12	7:00PM	Our Parish Community
Tues. 1/13	12:00PM	†Souls in Purgatory ~Gudron Poertner
Weds. 1/14	12:00PM	Our Parish Community
Thurs. 1/15	12:00PM	Our Parish Community
Thurs. 1/15	7:00PM	Our Parish Community
Sat. 1/17	5:00PM	†Souls of Thomas Allen Crowe, Eichelberger and Cutlip Families ~Dee Eichelberger
Sun. 1/18	8:00AM	Pro Populo – For the Community
	10:00AM	Our Parish Community
	12:00PM	Our Parish Community



1/12- Margaret Chambers, Vielka Davis, Darian Hanna-Wilson, Sylvia Roberson

1/13- Mehmet Kocaclag, Nicole Michel

1/14- Ernest Clark

1/16- Rebecca Carroll, Colleen Hardin, Rita Johanson

1/18- Roscoe Phipps, Tracy Twyford



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 Baptism of the Lord: The Thirty Years of the Carpenter

"After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'" (Mt 3:16-17).

WORD OF LIFE

Just a few days after celebrating the mysteries of the Nativity of the Lord, the Church proposes Jesus' public life to the Christians. A public life that does not begin with the miracle at the wedding of Cana, but with the Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan. In a very short time, the liturgy takes us from the manger to maturity, just like in the movies. This has the inconvenience of making us forget what constituted the major part of Christ's life: the stage in Nazareth. Thus, we might run the risk of forgetting that Christ, with all the urgency He had to save humanity, spent thirty years "doing nothing." Actually, it is not that He did nothing, but that He lived without doing miracles—at least in public—and preaching. He was God, and therefore, He was Love also at this stage, although He remained hidden, letting time go by, a time that was precious in our eyes, and that we would surely have advised Him to use in another way. But, since God is wiser than we are, it is convenient for us to learn from Him and try to imitate Him, even in something as paradoxical as the hidden life in Nazareth. Curiously, to imitate Jesus in that long stage of His existence is very much closer to our reality.

For example, we imitate Him when we fulfill our professional duties, when we take care of our family, when we are the best we can be, whether as citizens, patients, youth, or retired. It is not within our reach to perform miracles, though we can ask for them, but we can live our normal and ordinary lives well. We can also become holy and do what is good without drawing attention toward ourselves.

Like Jesus.

Purpose: Fulfill your professional duties well. Attend to your obligations toward your family and society. Be aware that even your daily routine can be done out of love and with love.



FRANCISCANS OF MARY - FRANCISCANOS DE MARIA

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

Bautismo del Señor: Los treinta años del carpintero

"Apens se bautizó Jesús, salió del agua; se abrió el cielo y vio que Espíritu de Dios bajaba como una paloma y se posaba sobre él. Y vin una voz del cielo que decía: Este es mi Hijo, el amado, mi predilecto (Mt 3, 16-17).

PALABRA DE VIDA

Apenas unos días después de celebrar los misterios de la Navidad, la Iglesia propone a los cristianos la vida pública de Jesús. Vida pública que empieza no con el milagro de las bodas de Caná, sino con el bautismo del Señor en el Jordán. En muy poco tiempo, la liturgia nos hace pasar de la cuna a la madurez, como en las películas. Esto tiene el inconveniente de que nos hace olvidar lo que constituyó la mayor parte de la vida de Cristo: la etapa de Nazaret. De este modo se corre el riesgo de olvidar que Cristo, con toda la urgencia que tenía por salvar a la humanidad, estuvo treinta años "sin hacer nada". En realidad, no es que no hiciera nada, pero vivió sin hacer milagros—al menos públicos—y sin predicar. Era Dios y, por lo tanto, era amor también en esa etapa, a pesar de lo cual se mantuvo en la oscuridad, dejando pasar un tiempo que, a nuestros ojos, era precioso y que, seguramente, le habrían aconsejado que aprovechara de otra manera. Pero, como Dios es más sabio que nosotros, nos conviene aprender de Él e intentar imitarle, también en algo tan paradójico como la vida oculta en Nazaret. Imitar a Jesús en esa larga etapa de su existencia está, curiosamente, muy a nuestro alcance. Le imitamos, por ejemplo, cumpliendo bien nuestras obligaciones profesionales, cuidando de nuestra familia, siendo buenos ciudadanos, siendo buenos enfermos, buenos jóvenes o buenos jubilados. No está a nuestro alcance hacer milagros -aunque sí pedirlos-, pero sí podemos vivir bien la vida normal y corriente que nos ha tocado vivir. También sin llamar la atención se puede ser santo y hacer el bien. Como Jesús.

Propósito: Cumplir bien nuestro trabajo profesional. Atender a nuestras obligaciones con la familia, con la sociedad. Ser conscientes de que incluso lo rutinario puede hacerse por amor y con amor.

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.

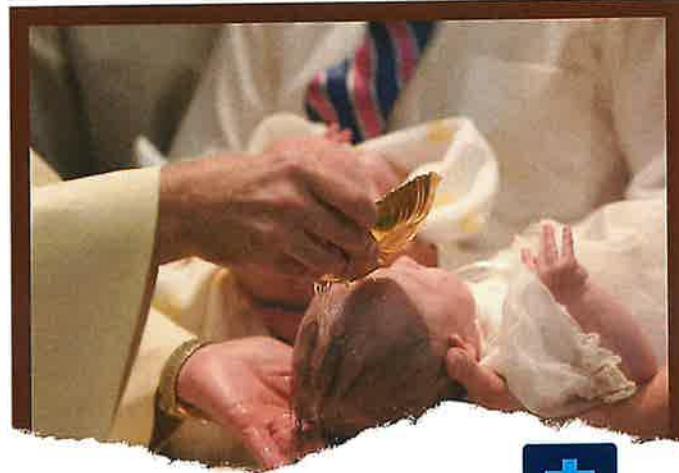
I ask for spiritual graces, such as the overcoming of my defects and for material help, for me, for others and for society.

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.



**Baptism makes us
Children of God**



**El bautismo nos hace
Hijos de Dios**



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice,
I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you
as a covenant of the people,
a light for the nations. (Is 42:6)

Psalm:

The Lord will bless his people with peace. (Ps 29)

Second Reading:

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.
Rather, in every nation whoever fears him
and acts uprightly
is acceptable to him." (Acts 10:34-35)

Gospel:

And a voice came from the heavens, saying,
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am
well pleased." (Mt 3:17)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

John could not believe that Jesus would seek baptism from him, a lowly mortal man. But our God is a humble God. He does not fear our weakness. He extends his hand, saying, "It is fitting." So take his hand. Begin the work he has set out for you.

Observances for the week of January 11, 2026

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord
Tuesday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Saturday: St. Anthony, Abbot
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Virtues, Explained!

Joy is the experience of achieving what we most desire — and what we most desire is love. God made us in love and for love, and so, in the same way that a flower seeks the sunlight, our souls seek the warmth of true, selfless love.

Blessing for Baptismal Grace

Dear God,
Through Baptism, You called and claimed us as Your own, chosen and loved.
Pour Your blessing upon us as we remember our Baptism.
Plant Your identity in our hearts.
Help us to live as Your beloved.
Amen.

Readings for the week of January 11, 2026

Sunday:

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

Monday:

1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/
Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday:

1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/
Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday:

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a,
8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday:

1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/
Mk 1:40-45

Friday:

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/
Mk 2:1-12

Saturday:

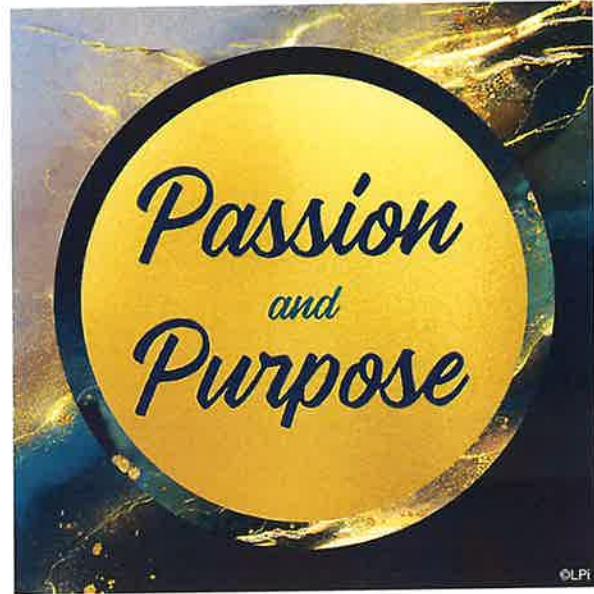
1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday:

Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/
1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Apple ran a commercial not long ago called "Behind the Mac - Greatness." It shows artists and creators, such as Kendrick Lamar, Billie Eilish, and Lady Gaga, working behind their MacBooks. The narration says, "There's a certain kind of person who doesn't wait for greatness. They make it." It's a compelling message. There's beauty in using our gifts with passion and purpose. But there lies a hidden weight in that idea: If you are what you make, what happens when you can't anymore? When the project fails, the passion fades, or the spotlight moves on, where is greatness then?

Today's Gospel offers a differing vision of greatness. Jesus steps into the Jordan River. He hasn't preached, healed, or performed a single miracle. Then the heavens open, and the Father speaks: **"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."** It's not a reward for success. It's not earned. Before he does anything "great," Jesus receives the greatness of his identity from the Father.

And so do you. At your baptism, God said the same thing over you: "You are my beloved." That is your true identity, not constructed or earned but received. When we see ourselves and others this way, everything changes for the better. We discover a greatness that can never be taken away.

This week, reflect on your baptism: look up the date, thank God for it, pray for those baptized with you, or visit the church where it happened. Let your identity be rooted there.

— Father John Muir



You Are Invited

Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience®

Saturday, January 31st

St. Stephen First Martyr

Catholic Church

399 Woodland Drive

Hinesville, GA 31313

2:00 pm

- Touch the Grotto Rock
- Experience Lourdes Water
- Adoration & Benediction
- Rosary Procession

For more information
call (912) 876-4364

Free Will Offering Graciously Accepted!



**A Plenary Indulgence Granted
by Papal Decree**





Los invitamos

Peregrinaje Virtual al
Santuario de Lourdes®

Domingo, 1 de Febrero, 2026

St. Stephen First Martyr
Catholic Church

399 Woodland Drive
Hinesville GA 31313

a las 2:00pm

- Roca de la Gruta
- Agua de Lourdes
- Adoración & Bendición Eucarística
- Rosario completo en la iglesia

Para mayor información
llamar (912) 876-4364

¡Ofrenda de libre voluntad aceptada con gracia!

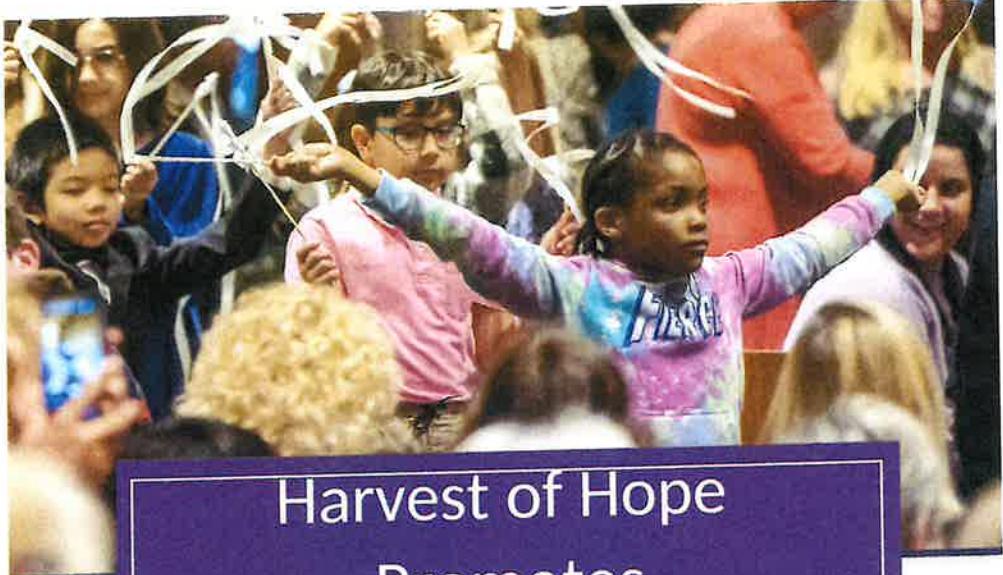


Indulgencia Plenaria Otorgada
por Decreto Papal





**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

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!

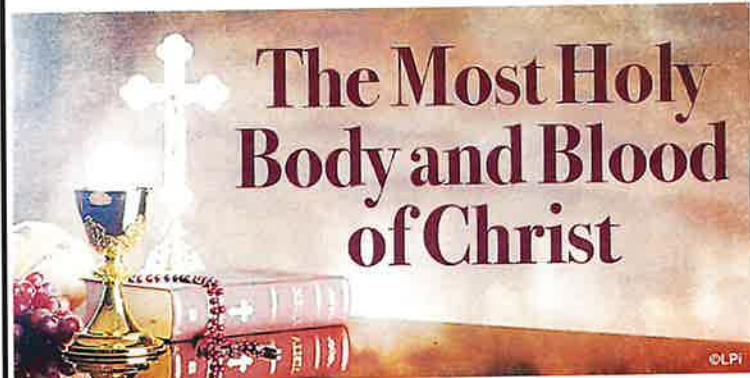
Ministerio Juvenil



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.

2026 MACON MARCH FOR LIFE

January 23, 2026

With Bishop Parkes, the Diocese of Savannah, & the Kolbe Center

Register: diosav.org/march-for-life



GOLD and SILVER JUBILEE

Anniversary Mass

25th or 50th wedding anniversaries in 2026

February 15, 2026, 1:30 pm
Savannah Cathedral

RSVP by January 31: 912.201.4068
diosav.org/gold-and-silver

Misa de Aniversario de BODAS de ORO y PLATA

25º o 50º aniversario
de bodas en 2026

15 de febrero de 2026, 1:30 pm
Catedral de Savannah

RSVP antes del 31 de enero: 912.201.4068
diosav.org/gold-and-silver



Are YOU Ready to Fight Against Cancer???

JOIN ST STEPHEN RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM

To Join or Donate to our Team

<https://main.acsevents.org/goto/ststephenhinesville>



Any Cancer Survivors
or if you are going through Cancer
Contact Marsha for a Free Survivor's
Tshirt



Relay for Life Liberty County
May 1st 2026

ANY QUESTIONS TEXT OR EMAIL MARSHA CLIFTON
912-737-1344 OR LOOKYOURBESTWITHME@YAHOO.COM

9 DAYS
FOR LIFE

pray to protect
HUMAN LIFE
JANUARY 16-24

9daysforlife.

9 DÍAS
LA VIDA

reza por la protección de la
VIDA HUMANA
ENERO 16 AL 24

9daysforlife.com

PARISH SUPPORT

DONATIONS

Weekly Offertory – Dec 28th

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

Offertory	\$4,786
Building Fund	\$136
Online Giving	\$1,054
Total	\$5,976

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 \$32,732 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



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:
sshprayers@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.



ssfmcc399@gmail.com



912-876-4364 (office)



912-876-3150 (fax)



ststephenshinesville.com