

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YOUR LIGHT MUST
SHINE.

— MATTHEW 5:16 —



SAINT STEPHEN FIRST MARTYR



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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS



Sat. 2/7	5:00PM	†Souls of Richard Young Sr. & Richard Young Jr. ~ <i>Diana Young</i>
Sun. 2/8	8:00AM	<i>Pro Populo ~ For the Community</i>
	10:00AM	†Soul of Lisa Vazquez ~ <i>Argentina Rios</i>
	12:00PM	†Soul of Tara Cordero ~ <i>Nancy Santiago</i>
Mon 2/9	5:30PM	†Souls of Agosta & Rivera Families ~ <i>Atiana</i>
Mon 2/9	7:00PM	†Souls of Juan Rivera & Ramonita LaSanta ~ <i>Gladys Rivera</i>
Tues. 2/10	12:00PM	<i>Our Parish Community</i>
Weds. 2/11	12:00PM	<i>Our Parish Community</i>
Thurs. 2/12	12:00PM	Healing for Curt Leisentritt ~ <i>Miller Family</i>
Thurs. 2/12	7:00PM	Healing for Juan Rivera ~ <i>Gladys Rivera</i>
Sat. 2/14	5:00PM	†Soul of Helen Hodges ~ <i>Diana Young</i>
Sun. 2/15	8:00AM	†Souls of Jane & Richard Rogers ~ <i>Miller Family</i>
	10:00AM	†Soul of Martin Kane ~ <i>Mark Pitzen</i>
	12:00PM	<i>Pro Populo ~ For the Community</i>

Prayer REQUESTS

Please Pray for the Sick – Por Favor Oren por los Enfermos

Peticiones DE ORACION

Tara Cordero, Sara J. Wheeler, 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 Bovinge, Summer Jones, Robert JoVan, Lounell Scott, David Weeks, Walter Helmick, Andre McCall, Nellie Orta, Angela 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 Pecenek, Amy Smith.

May they be touched by the healing hand of the Lord.



Save THE Date!

Feb. 18th – 12p & 7p (Bilingual) - Ash Wednesday *
Feb. 20th – First Friday of Lent, Fish Fry, Stations, Adoration and Stations of the Cross every Friday.
(Please see full schedule within the bulletin)
Feb. 21st – 6p – Prayer Encounter
Feb. 23rd, March 2nd & 9th – 6:30-8:30p - Lent Retreat

Please find our full Lent schedule within the bulletin pages



2/9- Maureen Jenkinson
 2/10- Josei Cronsell, Veronica Zuniga Hernandez
 2/11- Justin Carroll, Martha Hause
 2/12- Patricia Johnson, Maria Morales, Kennedy Pavlak
 2/14- Rosann Beiter, Michael Navarro, Michael Spurgeon
 2/15- Sharon A Gonzalez, Eric Huot, Isaura Nepomuceno Cruz, Sherifa Catherine Nettles

5th Sunday in OT: Light Even for Those Who Do Not Want to See

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden." (Mt 5:14)

WORD OF LIFE

We are not all called to become messengers of God's love through the proclamation of the Word, maybe because we are not great speakers, or it is not our vocation. But we are all called to preach God's love through our lives and our good deeds. To do so, it is not necessary to do great things. It is enough to fulfill our duties well, which most of the time will consist of carrying out small, insignificant, and routine acts. This way, our testimony will be a light for our neighbor, even when he does not tell us so.

Especialmente importante serán los momentos de dificultad, de sufrimiento. Entonces es cuando más se fijan en nosotros. ¿Cómo reaccionará este cristiano cuando le han ofendido? ¿Qué hará cuando tiene una enfermedad o cuando ha perdido a un ser querido? ¿Cómo vencerá las tentaciones de la carne, o las de la corrupción?. Nos observan siempre, sobre todo cuando hay problemas. Demos, especialmente en esos momentos, un testimonio que sirva para convencer a los demás de que ser cristiano merece la pena, de que ser cristiano no es lo mismo que no serlo, de que ser cristiano introduce cambios en la vida del hombre, cambios que le mejoran y le hacen más feliz.

Finally, we must also be a light for those who do not want to see because they are more comfortable in the darkness of their sin. It is not about leading them by force to the truth, to goodness. Rather, it is about standing up for the truth, lovingly but courageously. In a time as dark as ours, this is especially urgent, and it is a great work of charity, even though they may not understand it.

Purpose: Every day, think about doing something that is difficult for you, so that you may be consistent in your faith when others notice your behavior. Do not be silent out of cowardice.



FRANCISCANS OF MARY - FRANCISCANOS DE MARIA

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

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

V Domingo del TO: Luz incluso para los que no quieren ver

"Vosotros sois la luz del mundo. No se puede ocultar una ciudad puesta en lo alto de un monte" (Mt 5,14)

PALABRA DE VIDA

No todos estamos llamados a ser mensajeros del amor de Dios por medio de la predicación de la palabra, quizá porque no somos grandes oradores o porque esa no es nuestra vocación. Pero todos estamos llamados a predicar ese amor de Dios por medio de nuestra vida, de nuestras buenas obras. Para ello no es necesario hacer grandes cosas; basta con intentar cumplir bien nuestro deber, que en la mayor parte de los casos será llevar a cabo actos pequeños, insignificantes y rutinarios. De esta forma, nuestro testimonio será luz para el prójimo, aun cuando éste no nos lo diga.

Por último, también tenemos que ser luz para aquellos que no quieren ver porque están más cómodos en la oscuridad de su pecado. No se trata de llevarles a la fuerza a la verdad, a la bondad. Más bien se trata de defender la verdad, con amor pero con valentía. En una época oscura como la nuestra, esto resulta especialmente urgente y es una gran obra de caridad, aunque no lo entiendan.

Propósito: Piensa, cada día, en algo que preveas que te va a resultar difícil, para ser coherente con tu fe cuando los demás se fijan en tu comportamiento. No calles por cobardía.



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.

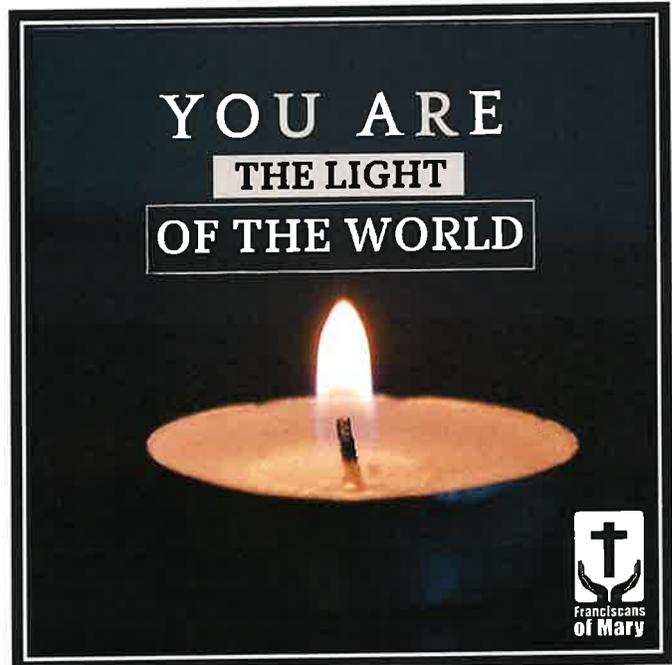
*I ask for spiritual graces, such as the
overcoming of my defects and for material
help, for me, for others and for society.*

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.*



Lenten Schedule

Feb 18th: Ash Wednesday we will have Mass at 12p and 7p (Bilingual).

Starting Feb 20th and all Friday's through March 27th:
K of C Fish Fry Every Friday 4p- 7p (except for Good Friday).
6p Bilingual Stations of the Cross.
7p Bilingual Mass.

8p-12a: Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions. *

8p Rosary in English, 9p Rosary in Latin, 10p Rosary in Spanish and at 11p Meditation Hour on the readings of the Lord's Passion.

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday Mass will be at 6p.

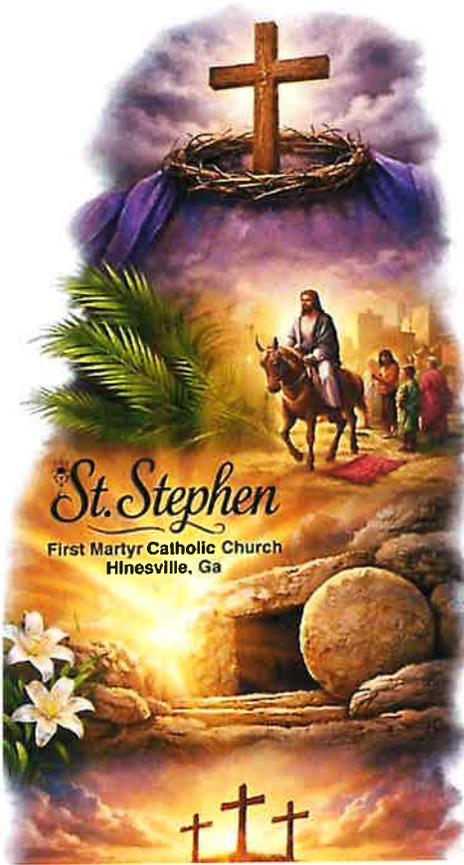
Good Friday 2p Stations of the Cross and 3p Celebration of the Passion of the Lord.

Easter Saturday rehearsal and set up at 9a, Vigil Mass at 10p.

Easter Sunday Mass at 10a and 12p ONLY.

* Exposition of the Most Holy Eucharist will take place after Mass and last until Midnight. We will have sign up sheets in the narthex as 2 adorers are needed per hour that Jesus is exposed.

Jesus wants us to spend time with Him, this is a perfect time to do so.



St. Stephen

First Martyr Catholic Church
Hinesville, Ga

Father Estrada invites you to

The Prayer Encounter

Feb 21 • 5pm Mass
6pm The Prayer Encounter

An evening to Encounter Christ
through Holy Mass and Prayer.
Followed by fellowship in the Social Hall.
Come and be renewed as you grow
in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

St. Stephen

First Martyr Catholic Church
Hinesville, Ga



All parishioners are invited to attend a Prayer Encounter with Father Estrada on February 21, 2026 after the 5:00 PM Mass. The focus of this Encounter will be on prayer, how to pray, prayers common to our Catholic faith and how you can build an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer. Following the Encounter, there will be a small social in the parish hall. So, come, learn how you can grow your relationship with Jesus Christ and mingle with the St. Stephen's Community.

— THE — COLORS OF THE CROSS

A RETREAT GUIDE FOR LENT

by Fr. John Bartunek, LC, S.Th.D.
RCSpirituality.org

Dates: February 23rd , March 2nd & 9th
Time: 6:30pm



St. Stephen

First Martyr Catholic Church
Hinesville, Ga





Bible Study

St. Stephen

Tuesday's, 10-11:30am.
All are welcome to come to the social hall for our Bible Study discerning on the liturgy for the upcoming week.



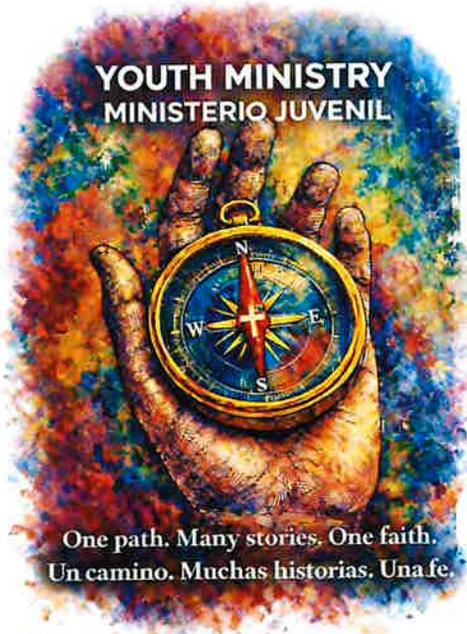
Grief Support Ministry

←You are not alone→

Grief Support Meeting
1st and 3rd Tuesday's at 7pm. Find comfort and healing from your grief of a lost loved one or companion.



The Prayer Ministry provides prayer support to our parishioners and to the community through prayer. To be a member please email sshprayers@gmail.com and get added to the prayer chain emails. 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



Thursday's 6-8:00 pm Saint Stephen Social Hall

The Youth Ministries purpose is to inspire other young people by making a positive impact on our Christian community, bringing joy, hope, comfort, and faith. We focus on the teachings of Jesus and take Blessed Carlo Acutis as our role model, who said: "Let yourself be found by God, and you will see a change in your life. "Sow a seed, and you will reap many fruits." Open to Youth Ages 14 to 23.

Jueves de 6-8:00 pm Salon Social San Esteban

El propósito del Ministerio Juvenil es inspirar a otros jóvenes, generando un impacto positivo en nuestra comunidad cristiana, brindando alegría, esperanza, consuelo y fe. Nos centramos en las enseñanzas de Jesús y tomamos como modelo a seguir a San Carlo Acutis, quien dijo: "Déjate encontrar por Dios y verás un cambio en tu vida. Siembra una semilla y cosecharás muchos frutos".
Abierto a jóvenes de 14 a 23 años.

School of Gratitude

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



Escuela de Gratiud

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



Respect Life is a ministry that respects life from conception to death. Life is a gift from God to be valued in every stage of life! Our next general meeting is Feb 10th at 5p all are welcome to attend and see how through our prayers and actions we reflect Life in what we are currently planning.



We have a lovely selection of religious jewelry, spiritual books, candles, decor, and so much more. Come visit our gift shop for your faith based items and gifts. Scan the QR code to go to our FB for updates & hours.



We invite all the crafty individuals to join us for our monthly meeting in the social hall for fellowship and crafts. Our next craft meeting is Feb. 28 from 11a-2p and in anticipation of St. Patrick's day, we will enjoy Irish inspired snacks and will work on a festive wreath or table centerpiece. You can always work on your current project also.



Garden Ministry

St. Stephen's Parishioners; Did you know that we have a 1 acre meditation garden? However, much like our kitchen it doesn't take care of itself. If you wish to help our gardener would love to hear from you! Please call or text him at 912-610-1184.



KOC members are a community of like-minded Catholic men who challenge each other to grow in faith and put that faith into action. Our local chapter holds meetings the 1st Monday of every month at 7p.



Our local CCW is a part of The National Council of Catholic Women which acts through its members to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. The next CCW event is Feb. 21st from 11a-2p and they will be having a chinese New Year celebration in the social hall. This is open to current members and anyone interested in becoming a member. For more information on CCW you can contact Betsy at betsyfstewart@gmail.com



Saint Vincent de Paul (SVdP)



SVdP supports our Parish and local community through their Food Pantry. We meet monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 1:30 PM. Our pantry is open to those in need on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month from 10a-12p. Donations of non-perishable food items and personal hygiene items can be brought anytime and placed in the blue food collection box by the gift shop or dropped off at the office during office hours. SVdP also has "Red Wagon Weekends" the 3rd weekend of every month when red wagons are placed in the Narthex to collect donations. If you would like to volunteer and join SVdP, please come to one of our monthly meetings! Thank you for helping us to help others in need!



St Vincent de Paul—Food Pantry Fund
Raiser

SWEET TREATS AND FLOWERS

FOR

YOUR VALENTINE

BAKE SALE

FEBRUARY 14 & 15

AFTER MASSES

Sales will be next to the

SVdP Food Pantry Building

Respect Life Fundraiser Very Successful

"Thank you" to everyone who bought a ticket for our Crucifix Drawing or made Donations. We raised \$833! What a blessing!! Samuel Silas won the large Crucifix and Yamila Calixto won the other Crucifix.

Both recipients were thrilled.

We truly appreciate all your support!!

Respect Life Ministry



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**

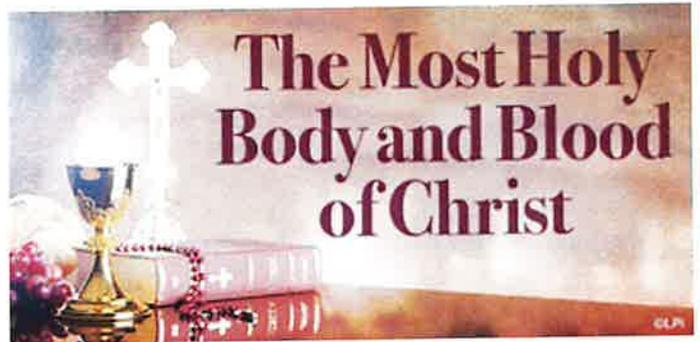


ANY QUESTIONS TEXT OR EMAIL MARSHA CLIFTON
912-737-1344 OR LOOKYOURBESTWITHME@YAHOO.COM

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.



formed™

Formed - It's "Netflix for Catholics" provided free of charge by our Parish! There are Catholic movies, books and audios available for all ages. Go to formed.org, click formed for parishes to start creating your account. Search by zip code 31313 to find our parish membership.

Parish Stewardship

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is an important concept for spiritual growth. It is a way to thank God for all His blessings. The offertory is the primary means of support for the parish and its programs.

Online giving is available at <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/ststephenhinesville> or by scanning the QR code.



<u>Weekly Offertory – Jan 25th</u>	
<i>Min. of \$10,000 needed weekly to operate</i>	
Offertory	\$5,243
Building Fund	\$75
Online Giving	\$803
Total	\$6,121

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.

Second Collection: Our Building Fund collection is the First weekend of every month.

The next collection is Feb. 28 / March 1.



HARVEST OF HOPE
COSECHA & ESPERANZA

Our Harvest of Hope overall goal is \$247,268.00 So far we have received \$38,682, with an additional \$87,783 pledged to be paid by the end of the campaign. This has us at 51% of our goal for the Harvest of Hope, Thank you to all who have donated and pledged.

Envelopes are in the church or you can go online to <https://diosav.org/en/hope> to donate or make your pledge!



PROMISE
To Protect



The Diocese of Savannah provides Safe Environment Training online at virtusonline.org available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Korean. All volunteers must complete training, a background check and sign the code of conduct. Contact the office for questions.

Safe Environment is a Ministry, through and through, because it ensures GRACE is prevalent where Child Protection abides.

JOAN ALTMAYER, DIRECTOR OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your wound shall quickly be healed. (Is 58:8)

Psalm:

The just man is a light in darkness to the upright. (Ps 112)
Or Alleluia.

Second Reading:

When I came to you, brothers and sisters,
proclaiming the mystery of God,
I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom.
For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you
except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. (1 Cor 2:1-2)

Gospel:

"You are the light of the world.
A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.
Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel
basket." (Mt 5:14-15)

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Readings for the week of February 8, 2026

Sunday:

Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/
Mt 5:13-16

Monday:

1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-7, 8-10/
Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday:

1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10,
11/Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday:

1 Kgs 10:1-10/Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40/
Mk 7:14-23

Thursday:

1 Kgs 11:4-13/Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and
40/Mk 7:24-30

Friday:

1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13,
14-15/Mk 7:31-37

Saturday:

1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Ps 106:6-7ab,
19-20, 21-22/Mk 8:1-10

Next Sunday:

Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/
1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a,
27-28, 33-34a, 37

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Salt without flavor is no longer salt. Light
that illuminates nothing is no longer light. As
Christians, we must be what we have been
made to be. So think about it, carefully: what
stands between you and being who you were
made to be?

Observances for the week of February 8, 2026

- Sunday:** 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
World Marriage Day
- Tuesday:** St. Scholastica, Virgin
- Wednesday:** Our Lady of Lourdes
- Saturday:** Sts. Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop;
Valentine's Day
- Next Sunday:** 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time



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St. Stephen

**First Martyr Catholic Church
Hinesville, Ga**

English Weekday Masses- Monday at 5:30p.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday weekly at 12pm and First Friday's at 5:30pm.

(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's 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.

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.

Children's Religious Education ~Faith Formation~

Saint Stephen provides opportunities for each person to receive the Sacraments and grow in greater communion with our Lord. Classes are available 1st – 8th grade and they meet Sundays at 9a Sept. to May.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Parish Office is Open Monday 9a-6p and Tuesday-Thursday 9a-2p

Pastor: Fr. Eder Estrada, FM eestrada@diosav.org

Deacon: Doug Delzeith ddelzeith@yahoo.com

Office Manager: Annette Miller

ssfmcc399@gmail.com

912-876-4364

912-876-4364

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Modeste Seloukou, FM

Sacristan: Sam Beiterr beiterrl@yahoo.com

Office Assistant: Diana Young

Parish Catechetical Leader: Berta Ganaway

(912)312-4174