

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FASTED

FOR 40 DAYS.

— MATTHEW 4:2 —



SAINT STEPHEN FIRST MARTYR



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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS



Sat. 2/21	5:00PM	Healing for Pete Neufal ~Bonny Carreker
Sun. 2/22	8:00AM	†Souls of the Clem Pitzen Family ~Mark Pitzen
	10:00AM	†Soul of Francis Pagliuca ~Bonny Carreker
	12:00PM	Pro Populo ~ For the Community
Mon 2/23	5:30PM	Our Parish Community
Mon 2/23	7:00PM	Our Parish Community
Tues. 2/24	12:00PM	†Soul of Kathy Walden ~Bonny Carreker
Weds. 2/25	12:00PM	†Soul of Justo Paredes ~Berta Ganaway
Thurs. 2/26	12:00PM	Our Parish Community
Thurs. 2/26	7:00PM	Our Parish Community
Fri. 2/27	7:00PM	Our Parish Community
Sat. 2/28	5:00PM	†Soul of Belin Rico ~Martina Bouchard
Sun. 3/1	8:00AM	†Soul of Monica Gonzalez ~Irizarry Family
	10:00AM	†Soul of Doris Spurgeon ~Bonny Carreker
	12:00PM	Pro Populo ~ For the Community

Prayer REQUESTS

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

Peticiones DE ORACION

Sara J. Wheeler, Joe & Pat Johnson, Gary Hubbard, 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, 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.

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

If you are ill or know someone who is and you want to have them included in this prayer, please contact the office.



Save THE Date!

Feb. 21st – March 8th – FAM Fundraiser

Feb. 23rd, March 2nd & 9th – 6:30-8:30p - Lent Retreat

Every Friday of Lent there is a Fish Fry, Adoration and Stations of the Cross. (Please see full schedule within the bulletin for specific times)

March 1st – Relay for Life Meeting at 1:30p in Social Hall, if interested in joining the team please attend.



2/23- Robin M Feuti, Camila Gonzalez

2/24- Hyacinth Wright

2/26- Antonio Hollar, Ricardo Pereira, Luis Perez, Henry Phillips, Maritza Vazquez

2/27- Danny Garcia, Curtis Hanna

2/28- Joseph Anthony, Samantha Durden, Macario Tria

3/1- Sharron Hays

1st Sunday of Lent: The Worst Temptation

*“The tempter approached and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread.’”
(Mt 4:3)*

WORD OF LIFE

The Lord wanted to experience the most common test that every human being suffers: temptation. Thus, He showed His solidarity with us. Some of these temptations are inactivity, laziness, and waiting for miracles instead of doing our best to solve our problems. Miracles exist, and we should ask for them, but not at the expense of fostering our indolence.

On top of that, there are many people who dare to blame God for the things that are going wrong in the world while they do nothing to solve them. Mother Teresa said, “What you can do is little, just a drop of water in a desert, but you are accountable for that little.” Therefore, it is unjust and offensive to criticize God or other people for the things that are going wrong while we are not doing everything possible to solve those problems. We overcome this temptation by accepting the commitment and effort that helping others implies. At the same time, we must pray knowing that our strengths are not sufficient to fix the problems. God’s miracles should find us working.

Moreover, it often happens that people who do good, even heroically, do not have a crisis of faith. Mother Teresa, as well as many missionaries and religious men and women, are examples of this. They simply accept God’s mystery and do not waste their time on crises, which would only serve to undermine their strengths in helping the poor.

Purpose: When you feel like criticizing someone because he does not do what he is supposed to be doing, think of what you are doing. Do something each day to help someone, knowing that you are responsible for that good deed.

I Domingo de Cuaresma: La peor tentación

“El tentador se le acercó y le dijo: ‘Si eres Hijo de Dios, di que estas piedras se conviertan en panes’”(Mt4,3)

PALABRA DE VIDA

El Señor quiso pasar por la prueba más común que sufre cualquier hombre: la de la tentación. Así nos demostraba su completa solidaridad con nosotros. Una de esas tentaciones fue la de la inactividad, la de la pereza, la de recurrir a los milagros en vez de poner todo de nuestra parte para que se resuelvan los problemas. Los milagros existen y hay que pedirlos, pero no a costa de que sirvan para cultivar nuestra indolencia.

Para colmo, hay muchos que tienen la osadía de hacerle a Dios responsable de las cosas que van mal en el mundo mientras ellos no hacen nada para solucionarlas. La Madre Teresa decía: “Lo que tú puedes hacer es muy poco, apenas una gota de agua en un desierto, pero de ese poco tú eres responsable”. Por lo tanto, es injusto y ofensivo criticar a Dios o a los demás por las cosas que van mal mientras no se está haciendo todo lo posible para solucionar los problemas. Esta tentación se vence aceptando el compromiso, el esfuerzo que representa ayudar a los demás. A la vez hay que rezar, sabiendo que nuestras fuerzas no son suficientes para conseguir los problemas. Los milagros de Dios deben encontrarnos trabajando.

Suele suceder, además, que las personas que hacen el bien incluso de forma heroica no tienen crisis de fe. La Madre Teresa es un ejemplo y, como ella, tantos misioneros, religiosos y religiosas. Simplemente, se limitan a aceptar el misterio de Dios y a no perder el tiempo con crisis que para lo único que sirven es para quitarles fuerzas en su trabajo de ayudar a los pobres.

Propósito: Cuando tengas ganas de criticar a alguien porque no hace lo que debe, piensa en qué haces tú. Haz cada día algo para ayudar a alguien, porque de eso tú eres el responsable.



FRANCISCANS OF MARY - FRANCISCANOS DE MARIA

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.

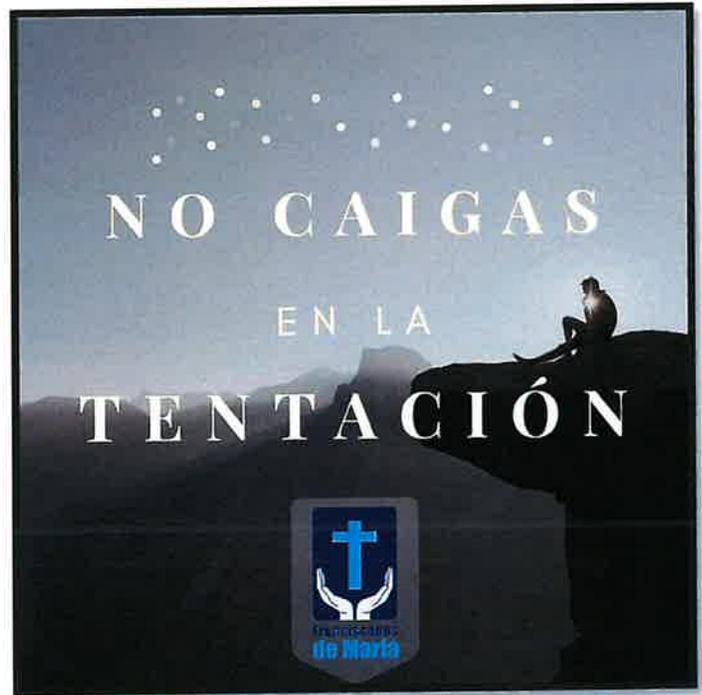
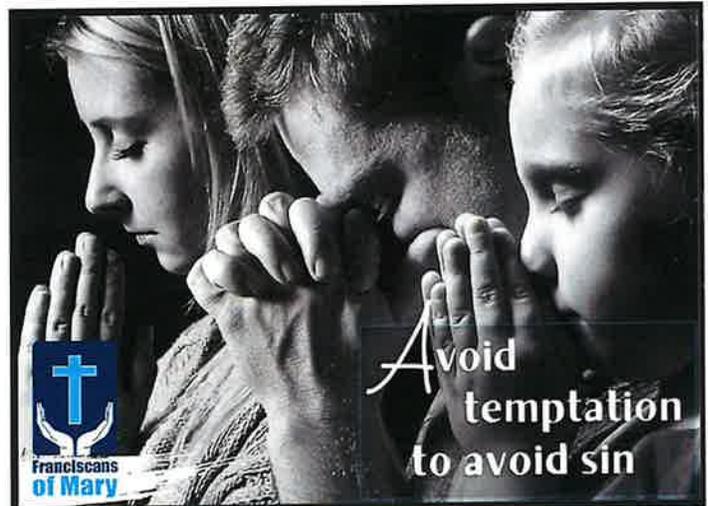
I ask for spiritual graces, such as the overcoming of my defects and for material help, for me, for others and for society.

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.



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.

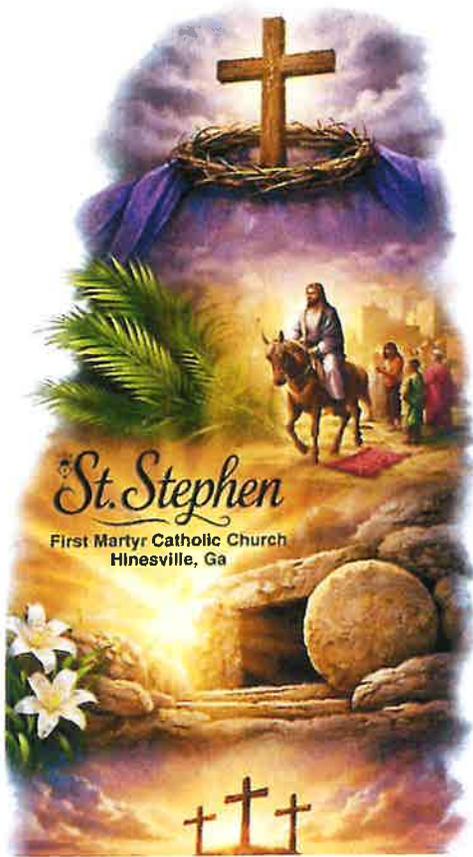
Good Friday 2p Stations of the Cross and 3p Celebration of the Passion of the Lord.

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.



Father Estrada invites you to

The Prayer Encounter

Feb 21 • 5pm Mass

6pm The Prayer Encounter

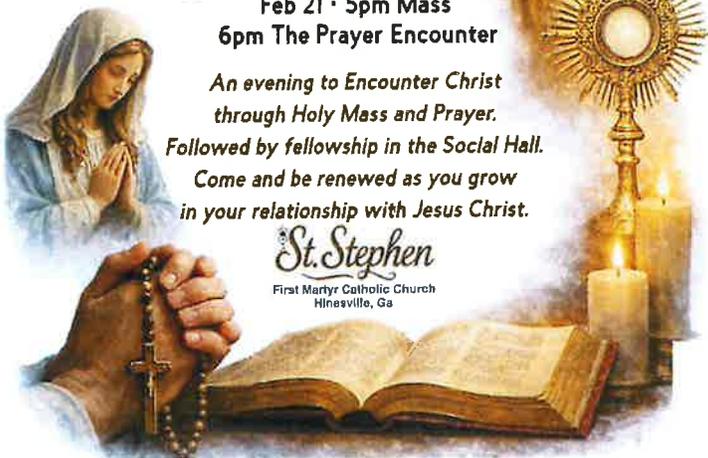
An evening to Encounter Christ through Holy Mass and Prayer.

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

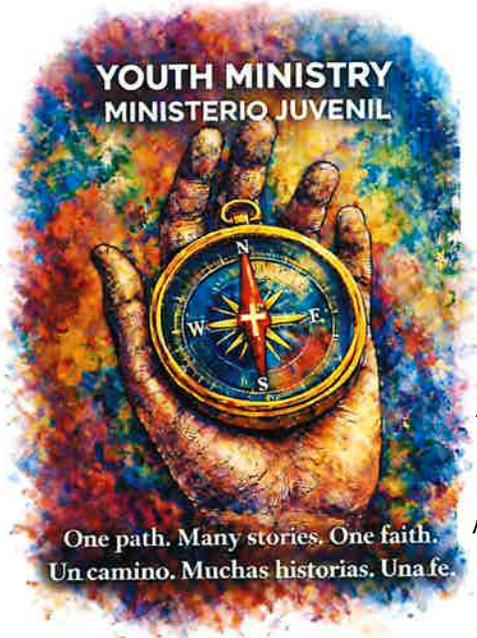
—You are not alone—

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



YOUTH MINISTRY MINISTERIO JUVENIL

One path. Many stories. One faith.
Un camino. Muchas historias. Una fe.

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.

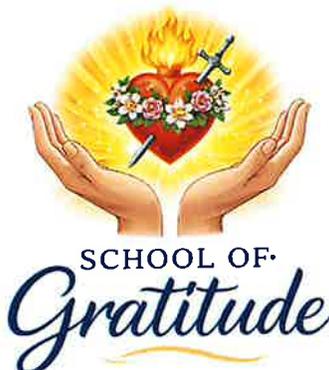
Jueves de 6-8:00 pm Salon Social San Esteban

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 Gratitude

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! **During our "FAM" goods drive Feb. 21st - March 8th**, support life by helping new mothers with necessary items for their babies. Return goods and monetary donations by March 8th.

Thank you!

Sacred Garden GIFT SHOP

St. Stephen First Martyr Catholic Church
Hinesville, Georgia



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.



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 betsystewart@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!

Feb.21-March 8th Goods Drive for FAM

Family Advancement is a Family Ministry in Macon we've supported for 26 years. It is a Diocesan program helping young families become successful. As part of our ALMS-Giving for Lent, we will collect items needed for New Mother's first 3 weeks of Motherhood.

Please provide Only the following items:

- Diapers size newborn, 1 and 2
- Diaper wipes including sensitive wipes
- Baby towels and/or washcloths
- Baby shampoo and/or body wash
- Diaper rash cream
- Onesies in preemie and newborn sizes



Or make a Financial Donation using the self-addressed Envelopes to FAM found in the Narthax. No donation is too small to help a young family in need!

Return goods NLT March 8th to the bin in the Narthex. or order on-line/ Mail directly:

Family Advancement Ministries
538 Orange St.
Macon, Ga. 31201

Last year, we sent 160 lbs. of goods/ \$2100 in Financial Donations. Thank you as always for your Wonderful support!
---Respect Life Ministry



Join the Fun Team Planning Meeting

Sunday, March 1st

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



Mark Your Calendar

Team Fundraiser

Dine in*Takeout*Delivery

March 3, 2026

5PM-8PM

HUEY MAGOO'S

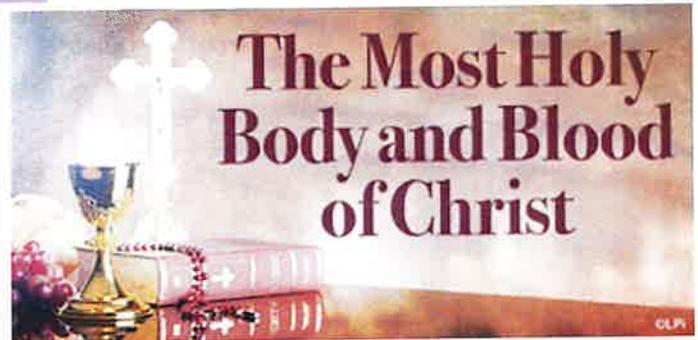
A Portion of ALL Sales will be donated to
St Stephen Relay For Life Team

Questions text Marsha Clifton 912-737-1344
or email mchbbd@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 it's programs.

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



<u>Weekly Offertory - Feb 8th</u>	
<i>Min. of \$10,000 needed weekly to operate</i>	
Offertory	\$6,094
Building Fund	\$389
Online Giving	\$1,163
Total	\$7,646

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.

Our Harvest of Hope overall goal is \$247,268.00 So far we have received \$45,979, with an additional \$91,021 pledged to be paid by the end of the campaign. This has us at 55% 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!



HARVEST OF HOPE
COSECHA & ESPERANZA



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:

The LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. (Gn 2:7)

Psalm:

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. (Ps 51)

Second Reading:

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous. (Rom 5:19)

Gospel:

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights. (Mt 4:1-2)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Our Lord is so humble that he allows us to see him experience temptation. The vulnerability of this moment is awesome to behold. Let us learn from Jesus' interaction with the devil, and be transformed by it. Let us say, with him: "Get away, Satan."

Observances for the week of February 22, 2026

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent

Monday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

Friday: St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent

Readings for the week of February 22, 2026

Sunday:

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/
Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

Monday:

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/
Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday:

Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/
Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday:

Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/
Lk 11:29-32

Thursday:

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab,
2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

Friday:

Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/
Mt 5:20-26

Saturday:

Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/
Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday:

Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/
2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9



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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

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Modeste Seloukou, FM

Sacristan: Sam Beiterr beiterrl@yahoo.com

Office Assistant: Diana Young

Parish Catechetical Leader: Berta Ganaway

(912)312-4174