

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

I KNOW MY SHEEP.

— JOHN 10:27 —



CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN

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

SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025

St Stephen First Martyr

Upcoming Events:

Drawing for Rosaries this Weekend, May 11- Thank you to everyone who entered a Raffle ticket for our Rosaries. Drawing will be held after the 12:00 Mass May 11! Good-luck and God Bless you for your wonderful support of Respect Life Ministry!

May 17th – 11a-2p – Crafts - Please join us for crafts, the school year is almost over; and Summer is just around the corner! It is time for our monthly crafting and fellowship. You can bring your favorite craft or join in the group craft of assembling and decorating a storage/organizing basket. A supply list is available at the office. We hope to see you there!

May 17-18th – Red Wagon Weekend – At all the Masses the St. Vincent De Paul Red Wagon will be in the Narthax to accept donations to stock the pantry.

May 31st – 10a-4p – Martha & Mary Women's Retreat – The Dinner Party with Jesus Women's Retreat. Today's world offers us so much! We are overwhelmed wherever we go, with social media, products, and family & friends battling for our attention and our commitment. In this Retreat, we will reflect on what Jesus calls "the one thing needed" for helping us keep our priorities straight and our faith focus on God.

DATE	MASS TIME	MASST INTENTIONS
Tues. 5/13	12:00PM	† Soul of Ramon Gomez ~Ms. Conchita
Weds. 5/14	12:00PM	† Souls of Eunice Johanson & Elizabeth Cole ~Eric & Rita Johanson
Thurs. 5/15	12:00PM	† Poor Souls in Purgatory ~Gudrun Poertner
Sat. 5/17	5:00PM	† Poor Souls in Purgatory ~Gudrun Poertner
Sun. 5/18	8:00AM	† Souls of the Pitzen Friends and Family ~Mark Pitzen
	10:00AM	† Soul of Dolores Woodliff ~Charles Lee † Souls of the Linden & Spurgeon Family ~Spurgeon Family
	12:00PM	Pro Populo – For the People



5/13- Faaea Tumanuvao

5/14- Miguel Martinez, Judith McGonagle

5/15- Lyse-Faith Daout, Laura Mattaden, Jorge Rosa

5/16- Julio Jr. Garcia, Walter Nadolski, Calvin Steele

5/17- Marcel Bouchard, Angel Luis Padilla Saez

5/18- Angel Batista, Pablo Rodriguez Jr.



Leslie Shaw, Stacy Fletcher, Sandra Powell, Joice Elliott, Laurie Elliott, Doug Walker, Hettie Johnson, Dillion Bovinger, Summer Jones, Robert JoVan, Lounell Scott, David Weeks, Walter Helmick, Andre McCall, Kathy Keune, Nellie Orta, Baby William Henry Rittenberry, 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)



May 11, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 13:14, 43-52 | Rev 7:9, 14b-17 | Jn 10:27-30

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

“My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

The spiritual riches contained in this line alone are enough to sustain us for a lifetime. First, we rejoice that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, calls us his own. We belong to him who, like the shepherds of bygone days, protects his sheep – capable of little in the way of self-defense – even at the cost of his own life. Also, among the distinctive marks of Jesus’ sheep are that they hear his voice and follow him. Thus, to be part of Christ’s flock involves not only being known by him, but knowing him and heeding his call. A sheep who has not attuned its ears to the voice of its shepherd is a lost sheep! Although the world’s fertile meadows may look inviting, *not* to attune our ears to the voice of Christ means exposing ourselves to the dangers of a life apart from God. On the other hand, if we make our pilgrimage of life with him, we abide within the protective confines of his love until the day we follow him into the pastures of eternal life.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Frequently, our free will (something we do not share with sheep) gets in the way of our ability to heed the Shepherd’s voice. For us, his voice is expressed in concrete ways: in his commandments, in the teachings and tradition of his Church, in the Scriptures, in our legitimate superiors, and in prayer. These are the means he uses to mark out the path he wishes us to follow. But this path always involves the cross, and our sheep-ish (pun intended) nature recoils at the sight of suffering. In today’s second reading, however, St. John’s vision offers the key to overcoming our resistance: “For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them.” In other words, Jesus, our Divine Shepherd, is also a lamb who has tread the difficult way of the cross. He is *the* Lamb of God who offered himself in a sacrifice of perfect obedience to his Father’s will. Thus, we do not embark along the way of obedience and suffering alone; Jesus walks before us to sustain and protect us along the way.

OBSERVE

Find an image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd online and spend 15 minutes praying about what you see. What is the Shepherd’s attitude toward his sheep, and the sheep’s attitude toward their Shepherd? What do we learn from this about *our* relationship with Christ?

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The Gentiles were delighted when they heard this and glorified the word of the Lord.
All who were destined for eternal life came to believe, and the word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region. (Acts 13:48-49)

Psalm:

We are his people, the sheep of his flock. (Ps 100)
Or: Alleluia.

Second Reading:

"For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Rv 7:17)

Gospel:

Jesus said:
"My sheep hear my voice;
I know them, and they follow me." (Jn 10:27)

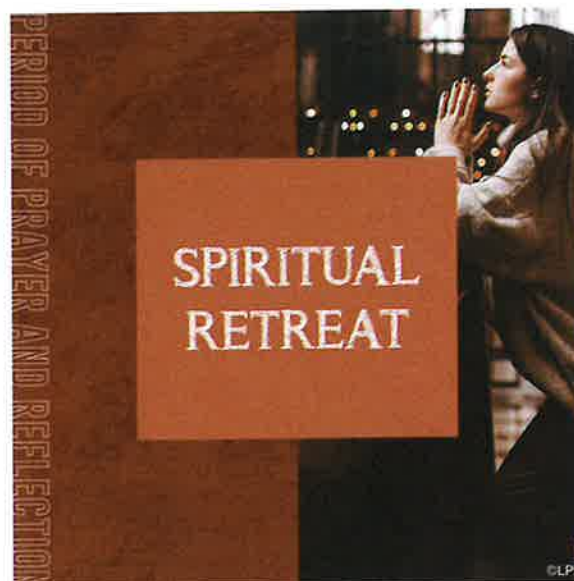
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me." To follow him, we must know him. This week, how can we know Jesus better?

Observances for the week of May 11, 2025

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Easter; World Day of Prayer for Vocations; Mother's Day
- Monday:** Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs;
St. Pancras, Martyr
- Tuesday:** Our Lady of Fatima
- Wednesday:** St. Matthias, Apostle
- Thursday:** St. Isidore
- Saturday:** Armed Forces Day
- Next Sunday:** 5th Sunday of Easter



Devotions, Explained!

Spiritual retreats are an act of removing oneself from daily life for a period of prayer and reflection, with the intent of returning transformed. There are many kinds of retreats, but all share a common purpose: communion with God.

Prayer to the Good Shepherd

Beloved Shepherd,
You guide in a way often
beyond my understanding.
You lead to paths yet
undiscovered.
Keep me in Your care, as
together we seek green
pastures and still waters.
Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of May 11, 2025

Sunday:

Acts 13:14, 43-52/Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5 (3c)/
Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30

Monday:

Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday:

Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn
10:22-30

Wednesday:

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6,
7-8/ Jn 15:9-17

Thursday:

Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/
Jn 13:16-20

Friday:

Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn
14:1-6

Saturday:

Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Jn 14:7-14

Next Sunday:

Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13 (see
1)/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A few years back, I felt as if I couldn't hear God's voice the way I used to. The words in the Bible seemed like cold ink on a page. Prayer felt like sitting anxiously in a lonely room. I was worried — how could I, a priest, preach or help others if I couldn't hear God's voice? It went on for months.

Then a friend encouraged me to go on a retreat and spend as much time as possible in silence. After a day or two of quiet prayer, I noticed gentle but clear thoughts of repentance in two specific areas of my life. I asked God for the grace to change, and I went to confession. Suddenly, the divine silence that haunted me was filled with a sense of God's closeness and goodness. I realized, gratefully, that God had been speaking to me in the quiet voice of my conscience.

This week we hear Jesus say, **"My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me" (John 10:27).** Jesus links the hearing of his voice to following him. He speaks to us in our conscience in an intimate, personal way, when we most need to hear him. When you feel deaf to God's voice, perhaps it is time to listen in silence for His voice in your conscience calling you to hear and follow the Good Shepherd of your soul.

— Father John Muir



2025 Mother's Day



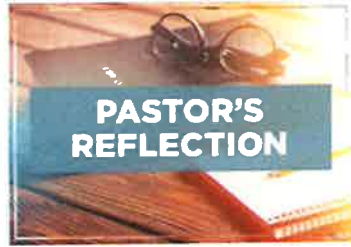
DECEASED:

Lide Barrett
Gloria Camacho
Yvonne Clark
Epifania Colon
Debbie Delgado
Maria Delgado
Kathryn Johanson
Ramena Robles La Santa
Martinez Family
Felicita Mendez
Louise Miller
Janette Paulk
Maria Rios
Jane Rogers
Lydia Sanabria
Darlene Schnur
Peggy Starro
Lisa Vasquez
Mercedes Velez

LIVING:

Susan Leisentritt
Gladys Medina
Gladys Mendez
Annette Miller
Betty Miller
Lori Caye Miller
Shirley Miller
Keri Nealey
Robin Nealey
Allison Silva
Lydia Silva





May 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter

There is such a need for religious vocations in the church that the Holy Father has set this Sunday aside as a world day of prayer that the Lord of the harvest may send laborers into his harvest. We all have a mission in life, because the word of God, which came to birth in our souls at baptism, is waiting to blossom forth in a more total way in each of us. God has created us for some definite service. While we may not be able to gauge with any real accuracy the effectiveness of our lives, there is nowhere we walk in life without leaving the imprint of who we are upon the ground we tread. We can be a little bit of Christ in our own homes and do our best to cooperate with his invitation to 'come, follow me.'

The gospel picks up the idea of Christ the good shepherd calling each of us by name as we journey through life by different ways. Youth is a time of great generosity, idealism and hope. Evidence of this is in the way young people give of their time and talents to deprived groups in society. In these loud and frantic days it may be more difficult for them to hear the voice of the Lord calling, so we should pray that, as they face the decision about their future role in life, they will leave open the possibility of a religious vocation and ask God's help to make the right choice in their calling. There are enormous riches within the hearts of youth - riches that are theirs to spend lavishly during life. Many of them are unaware of their giftedness and never draw on their talents because they are afraid to take the risk of faith which is needed. By opening their hearts in prayerful service, God, and not material things, will be the focus of their attention. The special calling facing them is to be Christ to others in times of need, to be healers in times of sorrow, towers of strength in times of distress and a shoulder to lean upon when support is needed.

It is always easier to wash one's hands of the responsibility of proclaiming the gospel than to become involved. However, the duty of fostering vocations is the concern of the whole believing community and we discharge that responsibility by living full Christian lives. Parents, vocations come from families like your own, where there is a climate created within the home based on solid Christian values, and where encouragement is given to follow the Lord in a special way. Your support is particularly important, because your child's faith grows through the example of your own faith, by the practice of prayer in the church and in the family. We preach not something exterior but the life we live and lead. God does not knock at every door looking for someone to respond to a religious vocation. If he happens to knock at your door, be generous enough to let him in. How otherwise will the needs of the flock in the next generation be met?



11 de mayo de 2025

Cuarto Domingo de Pascua

Hay tal necesidad de vocaciones religiosas en la Iglesia que el Santo Padre ha reservado este domingo como día mundial de oración para que el Señor de la mies envíe obreros a su mies. Todos tenemos una misión en la vida, porque la Palabra de Dios, que nació en nuestras almas en el bautismo, está esperando florecer de manera más total en cada uno de nosotros. Dios nos ha creado para un servicio definido. Si bien es posible que no podamos medir con verdadera precisión la efectividad de nuestras vidas, no hay ningún lugar por el que caminemos en la vida sin dejar la huella de quiénes somos en el suelo que pisamos. Podemos ser un poco de Cristo en nuestros propios hogares y hacer todo lo posible por cooperar con su invitación de 'ven, sígueme'.

El evangelio recoge la idea de Cristo, el buen pastor, llamándonos a cada uno de nosotros por nuestro nombre mientras viajamos por la vida por diferentes caminos. La juventud es un tiempo de gran generosidad, idealismo y esperanza. Prueba de ello es la forma en que los jóvenes dedican su tiempo y sus talentos a los grupos desfavorecidos de la sociedad. En estos días ruidosos y frenéticos puede ser más difícil para ellos escuchar la voz del Señor llamando, por lo que debemos orar para que, al enfrentar la decisión sobre su futuro papel en la vida, dejen abierta la posibilidad de una vocación religiosa y pidan la ayuda de Dios para tomar la decisión correcta en su llamado. Hay enormes riquezas en el corazón de los jóvenes, riquezas que son suyas para gastarlas generosamente durante la vida. Muchos de ellos no son conscientes de sus dones y nunca recurren a sus talentos porque tienen miedo de correr el riesgo de la fe que se necesita. Al abrir sus corazones en servicio de oración, Dios, y no las cosas materiales, será el foco de su atención. El llamado especial que enfrentan es ser Cristo para los demás en tiempos de necesidad, ser sanadores en tiempos de tristeza, torres de fortaleza en tiempos de angustia y un hombro en el que apoyarse cuando se necesita apoyo.

Siempre es más fácil lavarse las manos de la responsabilidad de proclamar el Evangelio que involucrarse. Sin embargo, el deber de fomentar las vocaciones es una preocupación de toda la comunidad creyente y cumplimos con esa responsabilidad viviendo vidas cristianas plenas. Padres, las vocaciones vienen de familias como la nuestra, donde se crea un clima dentro del hogar basado en sólidos valores cristianos, y donde se anima a seguir al Señor de una manera especial. Su apoyo es particularmente importante, porque la fe de su hijo crece a través del ejemplo de su propia fe, mediante la práctica de la oración en la iglesia y en la familia. No predicamos algo exterior, sino la vida que vivimos y llevamos. Dios no llama a todas las puertas en busca de alguien que responda a una vocación religiosa. Si por casualidad llama a tu puerta, sé lo suficientemente generoso como para dejarlo entrar. ¿De qué otra manera se satisfarán las necesidades del rebaño en la próxima generación?

Let's Get Crafty

The school year is almost over; and Summer is just around the corner!

It is time for our monthly crafting and fellowship.

Please join us for crafts on Saturday, 17 MAY 25, at the social hall from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

You can bring your favorite craft or join in the group craft of assembling and decorating a storage/organizing basket. A supply list is available at the office.

Tuesday, May 20th Grief Support Meeting

Find comfort and healing from your grief of a lost loved one or companion.

Meeting in the Social Hall.

Mark Greenwald and Vivian Williams have started a twice monthly support meeting. POC is Mark e-mail findingpeaceonearth@gmail.com



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

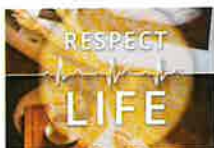
Respect Life Rosary Raffle—May 3-11

Thank you to everyone who entered a ticket for our Rosary Drawing. Tickets are still available after all the Masses this weekend. Good-luck and God Bless you for your

wonderful support of the Respect Life Ministry.

Each family will be given one raffle ticket.

The drawing will be held after the 12:00 Mass Mother's Day!



Ordination to the
Transitional Diaconate
May 31, 10 am

Ordination to the Priesthood
June 7, 10 am

Savannah Cathedral

Martha and Mary
You're Invited to
The Dinner Party With Jesus
Women's Retreat
on May 31, 2025 from 10am-4pm

St Stephens First Martyr Catholic Church
399 Woodland Drive – Hinesville, Georgia 31313

RSVP Sign-up sheet
is in the Narthex



PARISH SUPPORT

DONATIONS

Weekly Offertory – April 27

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

Offertory	\$4,797
Building Fund	\$1,067
Online Giving	\$1,177
Total	\$7,041

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.

The 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal will kick off after August 1 and more information will be shared later this year. See Bishop Parkes' latest video on the diocesan or parish Facebook page more information.



HARVEST
of HOPE
COSECHA de ESPERANZA

Video links:

English: <https://youtu.be/OtWljZwg8HQ>

Spanish: <https://youtu.be/-9D78ewalE4>



HARVEST
of HOPE
COSECHA de ESPERANZA

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. Paul O'Connell
poconnell@diosav.org

Deacon:

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

Sacristan:

Sam Beiter
beiterrrl@yahoo.com

Office Manager:

Annette Miller
(912) 876-4364

Office Assistant:

Diana Young

**Parish Catechetical
Leader:**

Berta Ganaway
saintstephenfaithformation
@gmail.com

Parish Council**President:**

Tom Wing

Office Hours:

Tues-Thurs: 9AM-2PM

Gift Shop Hours:

TBA

**SACRED GARDEN
GIFT SHOP**

ST. STEPHEN



ssfmcc399@gmail.com



912-876-4364 (office)

912-876-3150 (fax)



ststephenshinesville.com

Mass Times

Weekday Masses- Tuesday 12pm, Wednesday 12pm, Thursday 12:00pm.

(Exposition and Holy Hour start one hour before Weekday Mass times along with a Rosary)

Saturday- Vigil 5:00 pm

Confession- Saturday 4:15-4:45pm & By Appointment.

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

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.

RCIA Classes

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 Sept. through May, must attend all sessions to receive sacraments.

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 Saturday of every month at 6pm and must be completed prior to scheduling baptism date. One Godparent must be an active Catholic. A copy of the Child's Birth Certificate is needed at time of registration and the child should have a Christian name in their name, if not on the Birth Certificate it will be added to the Baptismal Certificate and should be listed on the registration form. Please contact the Office for scheduling.

Anointing of the Sick

Fr. Paul is offering Anointing of the Sick Tuesday's during the 12p Mass. If needed at another time please contact the office or Father Paul 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, simply 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.