

# CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN

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

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

AS I HAVE  
**LOVED YOU.**

— JOHN 13:34 —

# St Stephen First Martyr

## Upcoming Events:

**May 17-18<sup>th</sup> – 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 31<sup>st</sup> – 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.

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

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7p – Grief Support Meeting** - Find comfort and healing from your grief of a lost loved one or companion.

**June 6<sup>th</sup> - First Friday Adoration for Vocations** – 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hour, Rosary at 11:30am, followed by Mass at 12pm.

DATE	MASS TIME	<b>MASST</b> <b>INTENTIONS</b>
<b>Tues. 5/20</b>	12:00PM	Healing for Liz Mary Montesino ~Ana Garcia †Soul of Bigon Love Roder ~Gladys Rivera
<b>Weds. 5/21</b>	12:00PM	Our Politicians so that they welcome Jesus inside them and live by God's expectations ~Atian Surage
<b>Thurs. 5/22</b>	12:00PM	†Soul of Erma Parker Berlinger ~Linda Blanchard
<b>Sat. 5/24</b>	5:00PM	†Soul of Harvey Parker ~Linda Blanchard †Soul of Maria Ruth Ruiz de Somocurcio ~Dora Ernest
<b>Sun. 5/25</b>	8:00AM	To improve our educational system ~Atian Surage
	10:00AM	Deacon Doug's Ordination Anniversary ~Pat Delzeith
	12:00PM	†Soul of Omar Garcia ~Ana Garcia



5/20- Arabella Jimenez, Carolyn Wells

5/21- Julianne Ong

5/22- Michael Carroll, Hunter Hanna-yox

5/24- Alegria Cruz, Heny Ong

5/25- Sherry Golembeski, Kenneth Labadie



Ana Garcia, Leslie Shaw, Stacy Fletcher, Sandra Powell, Joice Elliott, Laurie Elliott, Doug Walker, Hettie Johnson, Dillion Boving, 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 18, 2025

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 14:21-27 | Rev 21:1-5a | Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

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

Today's Gospel occurs shortly before Jesus gives his Last Supper Discourses in the Gospel of John. Judas has betrayed Jesus, and now the Lord speaks to his inner circle for one of the last times before his arrest. "I will be with you only a little while longer," he says. At these words, I imagine a hush falling over the group. Rattled by Judas' strange actions and alarmed by the Lord announcing his impending departure, the disciples' eyes must have darted about as they held their breath, awaiting Jesus' words. "I give you a new commandment," he says. "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." In a word, Jesus summarizes his teaching: love as God loves. He is using these last moments to exhort his disciples to be as he is. We know it won't be easy – it will involve sacrifice and suffering – but the Holy Spirit is present with us to guide and advocate for us on our journey.

### GO EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Have you ever experienced a season of suffering and wondered, "Have I done something wrong?" When we meet resistance on the narrow path, it can make us question our choices, ourselves, and sometimes even God. Let today's first reading be a boost of confidence on your journey; remember that your suffering does not imply a misstep. "It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," Paul and Barnabas exhort the disciples (and us). It is natural to grow fatigued, especially when we encounter hardships. This is one reason why the Lord desires that we never journey alone. By God's perfect design, humans require companionship, from other humans and from the Creator himself. In the reading from the Book of Revelation, John the Apostle hears a loud voice saying, "God himself will always be with them as their God." Though the road may be peppered with pain, and the trials overwhelming, may we never forget that our God is very near!

### PRAY

Today's readings reveal themes of perseverance in faith, radical love, and the stunning reality that the Lord is *truly present* to us. As we pray with these Scriptures, consider asking yourself: *What areas of my life feel distant from the Lord's presence? How can I open these areas up to receive his light and his love?* Take time to talk to the Lord in prayer about these things. When you do, make sure you leave space and silence for him to speak.



The Last Supper, Carl Heinrich Bloch (1834-1904), Public Domain

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

And when they arrived, they called the church together  
and reported what God had done with them  
and how he had opened the door of faith to the  
Gentiles. (Acts 14:27)

### Psalm:

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.  
(Ps 145) Or: Alleluia.

### Second Reading:

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race.  
He will dwell with them and they will be his people  
and God himself will always be with them as their God."  
(Rv 21:4)

### Gospel:

I give you a new commandment: love one another.  
As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.  
(Jn 13:34)

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## Readings for the week of May 18, 2025

### 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

### Monday:

Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/  
Jn 14:21-26

### Tuesday:

Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/  
Jn 14:27-31a

### Wednesday:

Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/  
Jn 15:1-8

### Thursday:

Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/  
Jn 15:9-11

### Friday:

Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12/  
Jn 15:12-17

### Saturday:

Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

### Next Sunday:

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (4)/  
Rv 21:10-14, 22-23/Jn 14:23-29



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for  
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in  
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

There is an invitation in the empty tomb and  
the abandoned burial cloths. What great  
things could we accomplish, if we only believe  
that Christ has conquered death? Go forth  
this Easter season, boldly embracing the  
hope of the resurrection.

## Observances for the week of May 18, 2025

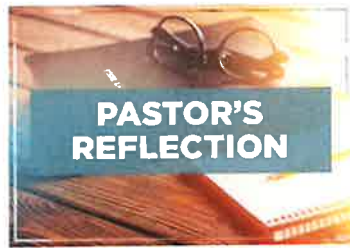
**Sunday:** 5th Sunday of Easter

**Tuesday:** St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest

**Wednesday:** St. Christopher Magallanes,  
Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

**Thursday:** St. Rita of Cascia, Religious

**Next Sunday:** 6th Sunday of Easter



**May 18, 2025**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

It may come as a surprise to realize that Jesus gave us the command to love one another at the Last Supper shortly after Judas had left the upper room on his mission of betrayal. This was the new order the Savior had come to bring, and the sign by which the world would recognize his followers. Christ paid a great price to love us. It meant crucifixion and death on the cross at Calvary. If we are to live by this new commandment we must undergo many trials, for this love makes as many demands upon us as it did upon Christ. We need to learn how to go about loving others for the sake of God because, in the evening of life, we will be judged on how well we have loved.

Christ's rule for living life properly may not present problems as far as loving our friends is concerned. Most of us are fairly good at overlooking their faults, making allowances for their shortcomings and forgiving their failures. It is easy to love those who are kind and loving towards us but Christian love calls us to do more than this. Nobody must be excluded from our loving. What about our enemies - those who have done us harm and perhaps still do? We fail miserably when we retaliate and our good intentions are shattered as we gossip maliciously about them. The making of ourselves into real Christians is the work of a lifetime. Conversion does not take place overnight and requires much patience.

The one thing we all need to experience is the kind of love that Jesus lived and preached. It's a love which finds its source in God, is a fragment of eternity within our being and without which our lives have no meaning. This is the one Commandment on which we are called to base every action and it is the very core of the gospel. Love has the power to give meaning to impossible situations, to bring light into darkness, to inspire people, fill them with hope and give them the courage to continue on the road ahead. The Lord may not be walking our pathway today in his physical body but in every age he continues the work of making the whole of creation new through his disciples. The good news is that we have been chosen to be instruments of his grace, channels through which others may experience his love. It may simply be a smile which costs nothing but means so much, because it comes from our heart. In one sense the only failure facing any Christian in life is the failure to love.

The gospel is an invitation to look into our hearts and see how we are answering this call to love in our lives and within our families. There is always the danger that we may be in love with ourselves instead of with one another. The presence of God so easily fades into the background when we give way to this inner selfishness. The real test of love is how we respect others. No-one can be a friend of Jesus Christ who does not love his neighbor.





**18 de mayo de 2025**

## **Quinto Domingo de Pascua**

Puede ser una sorpresa darse cuenta de que Jesús nos dio el mandamiento de amarnos unos a otros en la Última Cena poco después de que Judas había dejado el aposento alto en su misión de traición. Este era el nuevo orden que el Salvador había venido a traer, y la señal por la cual el mundo reconocería a Sus seguidores. Cristo pagó un gran precio por amarnos. Significaba la crucifixión y la muerte en la cruz en el

Calvario. Si hemos de vivir de acuerdo con este nuevo mandamiento, debemos pasar por muchas pruebas, porque este amor nos exige tantas como lo hizo con Cristo. Necesitamos aprender a amar a los demás por amor a Dios porque, en el ocaso de la vida, seremos juzgados por lo bien que hemos amado.

La regla de Cristo para vivir la vida correctamente puede no presentar problemas en cuanto a amar a nuestros amigos. La mayoría de nosotros somos bastante buenos para pasar por alto sus defectos, hacer concesiones para sus defectos y perdonar sus fracasos. Es fácil amar a los que son amables y amorosos con nosotros, pero el amor cristiano nos llama a hacer más que esto. Nadie debe ser excluido de nuestro amor. ¿Qué pasa con nuestros enemigos, aquellos que nos han hecho daño y tal vez todavía lo hacen? Fracasamos estrepitosamente cuando tomamos represalias y nuestras buenas intenciones se hacen añicos cuando chismorreamos maliciosamente sobre ellas. Convertirnos en verdaderos cristianos es el trabajo de toda una vida. La conversión no se lleva a cabo de la noche a la mañana y requiere mucha paciencia.

Lo único que todos necesitamos experimentar es el tipo de amor que Jesús vivió y predicó. Es un amor que encuentra su fuente en Dios, es un fragmento de eternidad dentro de nuestro ser y sin el cual nuestra vida no tiene sentido. Este es el único mandamiento en el que estamos llamados a basar cada acción y es el núcleo mismo del evangelio. El amor tiene el poder de dar sentido a situaciones imposibles, de traer luz a la oscuridad, de inspirar a las personas, llenarlas de esperanza y darles el coraje para continuar en el camino que tienen por delante. Puede que el Señor no esté recorriendo nuestro camino hoy en su cuerpo físico, pero en cada época continúa la obra de hacer nueva toda la creación a través de sus discípulos. La buena noticia es que hemos sido elegidos para ser instrumentos de su gracia, canales a través de los cuales otros pueden experimentar su amor. Puede ser simplemente una sonrisa que no cuesta nada pero que significa mucho, porque proviene de nuestro corazón. En cierto sentido, el único fracaso que enfrenta cualquier cristiano en la vida es el fracaso de amar.

El Evangelio es una invitación a mirar dentro de nuestros corazones y ver cómo estamos respondiendo a este llamado al amor en nuestras vidas y dentro de nuestras familias. Siempre existe el peligro de que estemos enamorados de nosotros mismos en lugar de estar enamorados el uno del otro. La presencia de Dios se desvanece tan fácilmente en el fondo cuando damos paso a este egoísmo interior. La verdadera prueba del amor es cómo respetamos a los demás. Nadie puede ser amigo de Jesucristo si no ama a su prójimo.

# The First American Pope!

*Robert Prevost of the United States becomes Pope Leo XIV.*



Pope Leo spoke from a balcony at the Vatican.

The Catholic Church has more than 1 billion followers. The leader of that religion is called the pope, and there have been more than 260 popes throughout history. Most of those leaders came from Italy, some came from other nations in Europe, and three came from Africa. The last pope — Pope Francis — was the first from South America. Now, the church has its first pope from North America!

On May 8, 2025, religious leaders called cardinals chose Robert Prevost of the United States to be pope. It's tradition for popes to pick new names, which is why Prevost is now *Pope Leo XIV (14)*.

Prevost was chosen through a process that goes back hundreds of years. After Pope Francis died on April 21, cardinals from around the world traveled to Vatican City, the home of the pope and the seat of the Catholic Church. On May 7, the cardinals started a process called a conclave, in which they cast votes while being cut off from the rest of the world. After votes, the cardinals release smoke to share the results. Black smoke from the Vatican means a decision hasn't been made yet, and white smoke means a pope was picked.

The 2025 conclave started with several plumes of black smoke, but on May 8, the crowd gathered outside in Saint Peter's Square saw white smoke rising. There was a new pope, but who was it?

Watchers had to wait a bit longer to find out. Finally, up on a balcony, curtains were pulled aside and doors opened. A man stepped out and shared the name of the new Catholic leader.

Robert Prevost was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He studied at Catholic schools in Chicago and later in Rome, Italy. Prevost was ordained as a priest in 1982, and his work with the Catholic Church brought him to Peru in South America, where he lived for many years. Prevost worked his way up from a missionary to a bishop and later got a top job at the Vatican, managing and selecting bishops around the world.

Now at 69 years old, Prevost's life is taking a huge turn. Back on the Vatican balcony, he stepped out to greet the waiting crowd — and the world — for his first time as pope. Pope Leo waved and began speaking with simple yet powerful words: "Peace be with you all."

Pope Leo was close to Pope Francis, and experts believe that some of his messages will be similar to Francis's work, such as a focus on helping migrants and the poor. In his first speech, Pope Leo talked about bringing people together, saying he wants "a church that builds bridges and dialogue." He said, "Without fear, united, hand in hand — let us go forward."

*By Ashley Morgan*

Updated May 8, 2025, 5:00 P.M. (ET)

## ¡El primer Papa estadounidense!

*Robert Prevost, de Estados Unidos, se convierte en el Papa León XIV.*



El Papa León habla desde un balcón del Vaticano.

Hay más de mil millones de católicos. El Papa es quien dirige esa religión. Ha habido más de 260 papas. La mayoría eran de Italia. Algunos eran de otros países de Europa. Y tres eran de África. El último Papa, el papa Francisco, fue el primero de Sudamérica. Ahora, ¡la Iglesia tiene su primer Papa de América del Norte!

El nuevo Papa es Robert Prevost, de Estados Unidos. Los papas eligen un nuevo nombre. Así que Prevost es el *Papa León XIV (14)*.

Los líderes religiosos, llamados cardenales, son quienes eligen al Papa. Van a la Ciudad del Vaticano. Es donde vive el Papa. Allí está la sede de la Iglesia católica.



Los cardenales votan en una reunión llamada cónclave. Este proceso empezó el 7 de mayo. Las votaciones son secretas. Usan humo para mostrar el resultado. El humo negro del Vaticano significa que todavía no hay decisión. El humo blanco quiere decir que ya eligieron a un Papa.

Una gran cantidad de personas se juntó afuera. El 8 de mayo, salió humo blanco. ¡Ya había un nuevo Papa!

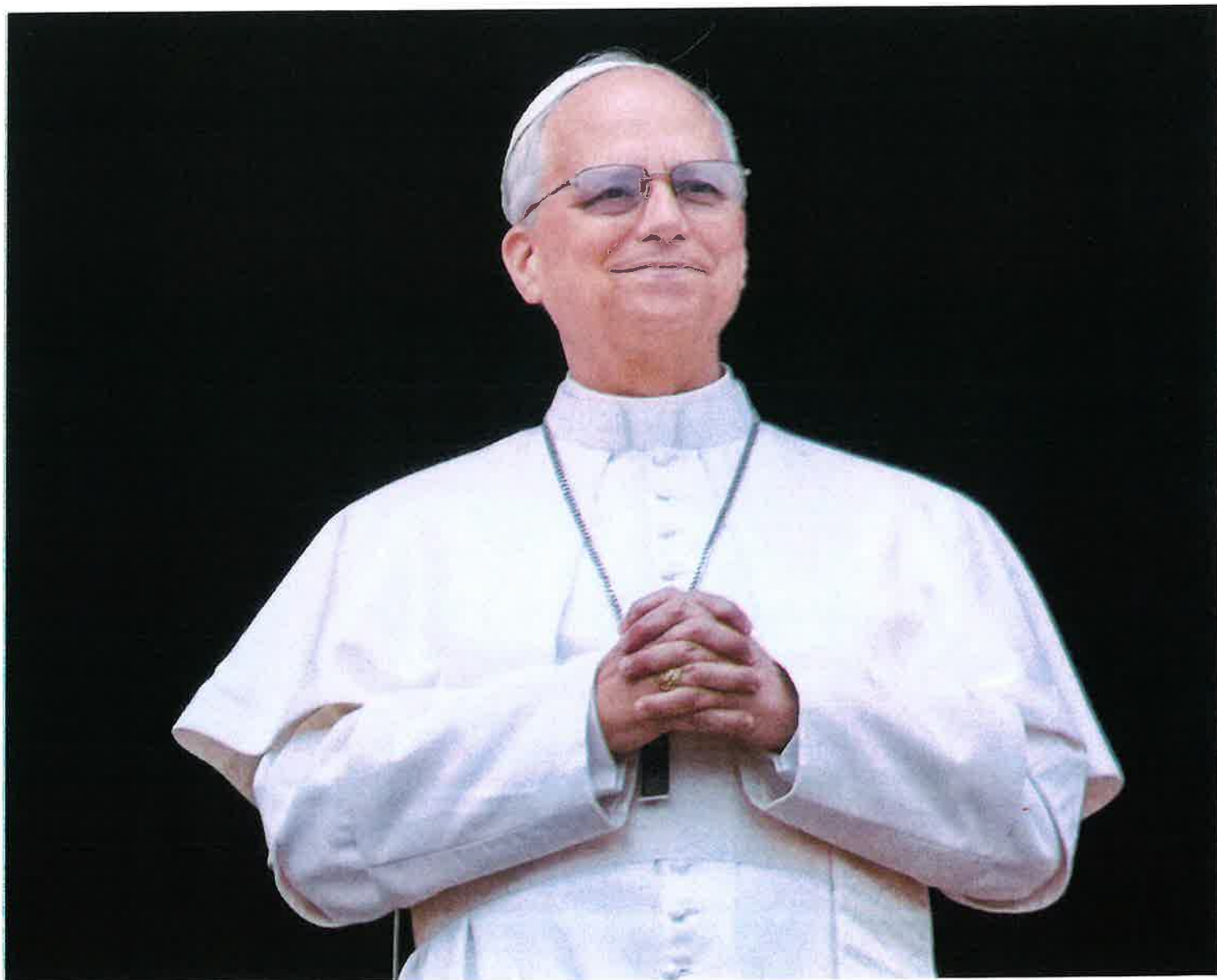
Robert Prevost nació en Chicago, Illinois. Fue a escuelas católicas. Se hizo sacerdote en 1982. Su trabajo lo llevó a Perú, en Sudamérica. Vivió muchos años allí. Pasó de ser misionero a obispo. Después, tuvo un cargo importante en el Vaticano.

Ahora Prevost tiene 69 años, y su vida cambió mucho. Salió a un balcón para saludar al mundo como Papa. Dijo: «La paz sea con todos vosotros».

El Papa León era muy cercano al papa Francisco. Podría hacer cosas parecidas. Por ejemplo, ayudar a los migrantes y a las personas pobres. El Papa León habló de estar unidos. Dijo: «Unidos, de la mano, sigamos adelante».

*Por Ashley Morgan*

Actualizado el 8 de mayo de 2025, 5:00 P.M. (ET)





YOU ARE INVITED to our DIOCESAN JUBILEE GATHERING on October 11<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart Parish in Warner Robins! Catholics across South Georgia are invited to join us to celebrate our faith and come together as a diocesan family! The day will begin with Adoration and will include a morning and afternoon keynote, lunch, breakout talks, activities for all ages and in different languages, praise and worship, exhibitors, and a Vigil Mass celebrated by Bishop Parkes. Registration information and additional details coming soon.

### ***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](mailto:findingpeaceonearth@gmail.com)***

 **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

*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*

### ***Light Fixture Upgrade***



As announced last weekend we have found a company to upgrade the Church lights to LED, the cost savings in electricity will reduce our energy costs by 87% over time. While the Building fund had enough saved to cover the \$20,000, we want to replenish the account! One way we are hoping to do that is by having a "Sponsor a Light" fundraiser. \$500 Sponsorship will help us reach our goal quickly and give you the opportunity to Memorialize or Honor a loved one. Donations can be placed in the offertory with the slip below in a Building Fund envelope or made online at <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/ststephenhinesville>

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor/In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_





CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
SAVANNAH, GA

JUBILEE  
INDULGENCE  
EVENT



JUNE 28, 2025

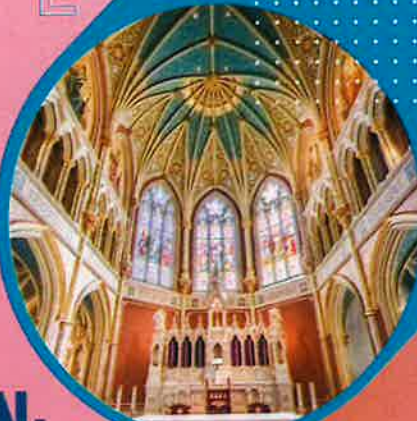
CATHEDRAL CCW  
WOMEN'S RETREAT

## HOPE UNSHAKEN:

*Living the Jubilee Spirit*

Join us for a day of fellowship as Deacon Arthur Miller—nationally known speaker and author—invites us to embrace our call as modern-day pilgrims during Pope Francis' Jubilee Year of Hope. Through powerful preaching and deep reflection, we will journey toward a conversion of hope, rooted in radical love.

MORE INFO & REGISTER ONLINE  
[WWW.SAVANNAHCATHEDRAL.ORG/CBCCW](http://WWW.SAVANNAHCATHEDRAL.ORG/CBCCW)



Guest speaker

DEACON ARTHUR MILLER

DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH



CAMPAMENTOS VOCACIONALES DE VERANO

ANCLADO EN LA ESPERANZA



LLAMADO A LA SANTIDAD: JUNIO 22 AL 25

Para Chicas que iniciaran los grados 7 al 12

VOCATIO DEI: JUNIO 25 AL 28

Para Chicos que iniciaran los grados 7 al 10

DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH



VOCATION SUMMER CAMPS

ANCHORED IN



CALL TO HOLINESS is JUNE 22-25

For rising 7th graders through graduating senior girls

VOCATION DEI is JUNE 25-28

For rising 7th graders through 10th grade boys

LAS INSCRIPCIONES ESTÁRAN ABIERTAS EL LUNES DE  
PASCUA EN [SAVANNAHVOCATIONS.ORG](http://SAVANNAHVOCATIONS.ORG)

REGISTRATION OPENS EASTER MONDAY  
[SAVANNAHVOCATIONS.ORG](http://SAVANNAHVOCATIONS.ORG)



Ordination to the  
Transitional Diaconate  
May 31, 10 am

Ordination to the Priesthood  
June 7, 10 am

Savannah Cathedral



# PARISH SUPPORT

## DONATIONS

### Weekly Offertory – May 4

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

Offertory	\$8,426
Building Fund	\$2,508
Online Giving	\$635
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,569</b>

### 3 great ways to support our Parish

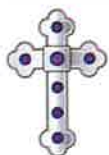
1. **USE THE ENVELOPES** Located in the Pews.
2. **TEXT 'GIVE' TO 912-551-5553**
3. **GIVE ONLINE**—Scan QR Code or go to:  
<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/ststephenhinesville>



**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](http://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](mailto: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  
beiterrl@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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.