THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

HE WAS TAKEN UP TO HIBAMBIN

LUKE 24:51

CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2025

St Stephen First Martyr

Upcoming Events:

June 2nd - **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 rd - **7p** – **Grief Support Meeting** - Find comfort and healing from your grief of a lost loved one or companion.

June 6th - First Friday Adoration for Vocations – Celebration Mass for Fr. Paul 22 Year Anniversary of Ordination - 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hour, Rosary at 11:30am, followed by Mass at 12pm.

June 12th - **1p** - **St. Vincent DePaul meeting** – Join us for our monthly meeting to discuss the upcoming Holiday's and our pantries goals to help the community.

June 14^{th} – 6-8p – Father Paul Farewell Dinner – Please join us in thanking Fr. Paul for his service to our Parish and wish him well on his move to Moultrie. (More details to come.)

DATE	MASS TIME	INTENTIONS	
Tues. 6/3	12:00PM	Special Intentions for Annette Miller ~Bonny Carreker	
Weds. 6/4	12:00PM	†Soul of Guy Berg ~Bonny Carreker	
Thurs. 6/5	12:00PM	tSouls of Anna & William O'Connell ~Fr. Paul O'Connell	
Fri. 6/6	12:00PM	Fr. Paul's 12 year Anniversary of Ordination	
Sat. 6/7	5:00PM	Americans Struggling with Mental Illness ~Atiana Surage	
Sun. 6/8	8:00AM	tSoul of Guy Berg ~Henry & Ione Phillips	
	10:00AM	Pro Populo ~For the People	
	12:00PM	†Souls of the Ganaway Family ~Berta Ganaway	



6/3- Ana Vargas

6/4- Andres Arnaldo

6/5- Nicole D'Angelo, Peter Hinely



Ana Garcia, 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)



June 1, 2025

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11 | Eph 1:17-23 | Lk 24:46-53

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

Every day the world urges us to place our trust in countless things: money, brands, self-improvement methods — all with instant results! As Christians, however, we know that only God's promises are worth betting everything on, and they are not fulfilled on our self-determined timelines. Today's readings portray Jesus, the wounds of his crucifixion still visible, accompanying his followers for 40 days after his resurrection. Now the Apostles, some with questions of their own, are asked to wait once more for "the promise of the Father" of which they heard Jesus speak: baptism by the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. For the Apostles as for us, following Christ is not an easy path, the Apostles likely were wondering what to expect in this "baptism." The fulfillment of God's promises doesn't always happen quickly, nor are we usually able to grasp the big picture at the moment of fulfillment. Nevertheless, it is in these periods of waiting that faith takes root and deepens. Uncertainty makes room for faith, and as the Holy Spirit descends into our life and makes things clear, we see the beauty in God's mysterious and loving plan for us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

There's a saying, "If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans." It is often a matter of timing and expectations around life that can sew doubt into our faith. In the first reading, the Apostles ask the resurrected Christ if now he would restore the kingdom of Israel. He responds, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons." We are reminded that our faith never obligates us to know what events are to come, and which date in our calendars to mark. Our role, as the second reading says, is to let our "hearts be enlightened, that [we] may know what is the hope that belongs to his call." We wait in faith for the Holy Spirit to move and enlighten us to what God wills. We can rest secure in the assurance that we will be given all we need.

PRAY

Is your prayer sometimes full of questions about God's timing and intentions, or are you able to wait in faith for God to act? Ask the Holy Spirit for the faith and hope you need to remain at peace as you wait. Then, keep your eyes fixed on Christ, and be not afraid.



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven." (Acts 1:11)

Psalm:

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. (Ps 47) Or: Alleluia.

Second Reading:

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. (Eph 1:17)

Gospel:

As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. (Lk 24:51)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

As Christ ascends to heaven, he asks the Apostles to embrace hope, to again put their trust in his promise. This week, can we be like the Apostles? Can we embrace the hope of what is promised?

Observances for the week of June 1, 2025

Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of

Easter; World Communications Day

Monday: Sts. Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs

Tuesday: St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs

Thursday: St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr

Friday: St. Norbert, Bishop

Next Sunday: Pentecost Sunday

Readings for the week of June 1, 2025

Sunday:

Acts 7:55-60/Rv 22:12-14, 16-17, 20/ Jn 17:20-26 *Ascension:* Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6)/Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23/Lk 24:46-53

Monday:

Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab/ Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday:

Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/ Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday:

Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab/Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday:

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10. 11/Jn 17:20-26

Friday:

Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab/ Jn 21:15-19

Saturday:

Morning: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/ Ps 11:4, 5 and 7/Jn 21:20-25

Next Sunday:

Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or JI 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 (see 30)/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39 Extended Vigil: Gn 11:1-9/Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/Ez 37:1-14/JI 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 (see 30)/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39

Day: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 (see 30)/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17/Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26



June 1, 2025 Ascension of the Lord

By virtue of our calling as Christians, we are meant to be optimistic people, full of hope and deep rooted confidence about our future. The ascension, which marks the final departure of Christ from his friends on earth, celebrates that hope. It proclaims that Jesus, who spent his life in Jerusalem and the surrounding countryside, achieved the work he was sent to do and is now in heaven in the company of God the Father, beyond the boundaries of death and decay. What the feast does is to give us a glimpse of the destiny that awaits us. It spells out in no uncertain terms that our homeland is heaven. Where Christ has gone we hope to follow, once our earthly journey is over. In his own person Christ has made available a sharing in his complete happiness which death cannot take from us or interrupt. This is the joyful hope we have as a safe and sure anchor for our lives. The Ascension assures us that the longing for happiness and fullness of life which is deeply imprinted within every person can ultimately be realized.

The final words of Jesus to the apostles were brief and to the point. 'I am with you always. Go teach all nations.' No longer confined to a bodily presence, he will be with his disciples in a new way, through the power of the Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. Now that his earthly mission is over, he entrusts the continuation of his work to his friends who believe in him. Their task is to spread out from Jerusalem and to proclaim to all nations the salvation that he has won. In the same way as the first disciples, we are called to follow Christ and proclaim his message, by living in this passing world with our hearts set on a world that will never end. The best place to make a start is to get our own lives in good spiritual shape. Actions speak louder than words. We carry on his mission more by what we are than by what we say. If the love of God burns in our hearts, people will see from our joy that life is good, has a purpose and is worth living. We preach the values of Christ in our neighborhood by our good example. The faithful love of a husband for his wife and the concern shown for the welfare of their children speaks more effectively about marriage and the family than any sermon. In the absence of Jesus we are placed firmly at the center of the stage to busy ourselves being his healing hands, his warm smile and his comforting words. The ascension reveals the work we must do in order to be with Christ forever. Our way to glory is none other than to witness to the Lord by taking up our cross and following in his footsteps.



1 de junio de 2025 Ascensión del Señor

En virtud de nuestro llamado como cristianos, estamos destinados a ser personas optimistas, llenas de esperanza y una confianza profundamente arraigada sobre nuestro futuro. La ascensión, que marca la partida final de Cristo de sus amigos en la tierra, celebra esa esperanza. Proclama que Jesús, que pasó su vida en Jerusalén y en el campo circundante, realizó la obra para la que fue enviado y ahora está en el cielo en compañía de Dios Padre, más allá de los límites de la muerte y la decadencia. Lo que hace la fiesta es darnos una idea del destino que nos espera. Explica en términos inequívocos que nuestra patria es el cielo. Esperamos seguir a donde Cristo ha ido, una vez que nuestro viaje terrenal haya terminado. En su propia persona, Cristo ha hecho partícipe de su completa felicidad, que la muerte no puede arrebatarnos ni interrumpir. Esta es la gozosa esperanza que tenemos como un ancla segura y segura para nuestras vidas. La Ascensión nos asegura que el anhelo de felicidad y plenitud de vida que está profundamente impreso en cada persona puede finalmente realizarse.

Las últimas palabras de Jesús a los apóstoles fueron breves y directas. "Yo estoy con ustedes todos los días. Ve a enseñar a todas las naciones'. Ya no estará confinado a una presencia corporal, estará con sus discípulos de una manera nueva, a través del poder del Espíritu, el Señor, el dador de vida. Ahora que su misión terrenal ha terminado, confía la continuación de su trabajo a sus amigos que creen en él.

Su tarea es extenderse desde Jerusalén y proclamar a todas las naciones la salvación que él ha conquistado. De la misma manera que los primeros discípulos, estamos llamados a seguir a Cristo y proclamar su mensaje, viviendo en este mundo pasajero con el corazón puesto en un mundo que nunca se acabará. El mejor lugar para comenzar es poner nuestras propias vidas en buena forma espiritual. Los hechos hablan más que mil palabras. Llevamos a cabo su misión más por lo que somos que por lo que decimos. Si el amor de Dios arde en nuestros corazones, las personas verán en nuestro gozo que la vida

es buena, tiene un propósito y vale la pena vivirla. Predicamos los valores de Cristo en nuestro vecindario con nuestro buen ejemplo. El amor fiel de un esposo por su esposa y el interés mostrado por el bienestar de sus hijos habla más eficazmente sobre el matrimonio y la familia que cualquier sermón. En ausencia de Jesús, somos colocados firmemente en el centro del escenario para ocuparnos de ser sus manos sanadoras, su cálida sonrisa y sus palabras de consuelo. La ascensión revela el trabajo que debemos hacer para estar con Cristo para siempre. Nuestro camino a la gloria no es otro que dar testimonio del Señor tomando nuestra cruz y siguiendo sus pasos.

Thank you

Thank you for all the Birthday wishes made to Father Paul for his 60th Birthday, he wants everyone to know how much he appreciated everything done to make his birthday extra special!



POPE LEO SHIRTS



We will be taking orders for shirts from now until Sunday June 1st. Cash Only. We have order forms in the gift shop, and will also be taking orders before and after mass starting next week. You can bring your order and money in an envelop to: The Gift Shop, Rita, Renee, Christina or drop your envelope off at the office during office hours ONLY! Please write T-Shirt order along with your name on the envelope.

SACRED GARDEN GIFT SHOP & ST VINCENT DE PAUL FUND RAISER To Support Upcoming Fund Raising Events

ALL SALES ARE CASH ONLY



Thursdays 6-8:30pm Saint Stephen Social Hall



Jueves de 6 -8:30 pm Salón Social San Esteban

Light Fixture Upgrade

As previously announced 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

Thank you to those who have made do	nations! We've raised \$7,700 so far!
Donor Name:	Phone :
In Honor/In Memory of:	

PARISHANSUPPORT

Weekly Offertory - May 18

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

Offertory	\$4,073
Building Fund	\$25
Online Giving	\$656
Total	\$4,754
Total Light Fixtures	\$4,754 Raised:



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



PROMISE TO PROTECT



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.



Video links:

English: https://youtu.be/OtWIjZwg8HQ

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



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: _____

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:

Closed in June for Restock

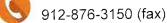
SACRED GARDEN GIFT SHOP

ST. STEPHEN





ssfmcc399@gmail.com 912-876-4364 (office)





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.