

CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025

PENTECOST SUNDAY

COME,
HOLY SPIRIT,
COME!

—PENTECOST SEQUENCE—

St Stephen First Martyr

Upcoming Events:

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 14th – 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.)

June 17th - 7p – Grief Support Meeting - Find comfort and healing from your grief of a lost loved one or companion.

June 17-19 – Church and Office Closed – Praying that the lights will be installed this week in the Church and Fr. Paul will be taking a short vacation at this time.

July 1st - 7p – Grief Support Meeting - Find comfort and healing from your grief of a lost loved one or companion.

July 4th - First Friday Adoration for Vocations and Independence Day Mass– 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hour, Rosary at 11:30am, followed by Mass at 12pm.

July 5&6th 2nd Collection will be held for our Maintenance Fund at all the Masses.

DATE	MASS TIME	MASS INTENTIONS
Mon. 6/09	12:00PM	Mass for the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tues. 6/10	12:00PM	Special Intentions for Charles Parker and those suffering from mental illness ~Linda Blanchard
Weds. 6/11	12:00PM	†Soul of Thea Nadolski ~Walter Nadolski
Thurs. 6/12	12:00PM	†Soul of Bill Keifer ~Bonny Carreker
Sat. 6/14	5:00PM	Pro Populo ~For the People
Sun. 6/15	8:00AM	†Soul of Edward Hoffman Sr. ~Gene & Fran Grabski
	10:00AM	†Souls of the Keifer Family ~Pat Delzeith
	12:00PM	†Souls of Baltazar, Santos & Selso Alcala ~Maria Alcala



6/9- Edgardo Borrero, Sherry Christian, Christine Hause

6/11- Thomas Spurgeon

6/13- Elaine Boggs, Richard Davis, Joseph Mattison, Kimberly Nepomuceno Cruz, Luis Veguilla



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 8, 2025

Pentecost Sunday

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Acts 2:1-11 | 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 | Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

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

In today's first reading, we join the Apostles in the Upper Room. These individuals had accompanied Jesus to his death and been witnesses to his resurrection and ascension. Can you imagine the throes of emotion accompanying each experience? Now, they gather together, perhaps discussing what to do next. They wonder where they should go, and who they should listen to, since Jesus was no longer there: "And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind." In a moment swelling with grace, tongues of fire descended upon each person present, "and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit." What might this moment have sounded like? Looked like? Felt like? The Apostles were weary and grieving, but Jesus made a promise he intended to keep — that he would send an advocate in his name to teach them everything. That same Spirit now waits to guide and empower us if we are willing to receive him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Jesus' death left his followers grieving and disoriented. They had left everything to follow him. And now, he was gone. What would become of them? Jesus said: "I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you." On this feast of Pentecost, Jesus' promise is fulfilled. When the Father sent down the Spirit, it was not just for a singular, grand moment in time; the Spirit came for good. In the same way the Apostles were strengthened by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, so were we strengthened at our confirmation. We were commissioned, as were they, to live out our faith in the world. When we need strength in this mission, let us remember that the word advocate comes from the Latin word *advocatus*, which means "one who draws near." *Come, Holy Spirit, come!*

REFLECT

Read the *Veni, Sancte Spiritus* ("Come, Holy Spirit") prayer that we heard before the Gospel today. Each line, laden with powerful imagery, invites us to understand the Spirit more intimately. Reflect on where you experience the Holy Spirit in your life today, and where you long for a greater outpouring of his fire.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,
which parted and came to rest on each one of them. (Acts 2:3)

Psalm:

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (Ps 104)
Or: Alleluia.

Second Reading:

As a body is one though it has many parts,
and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body,
so also Christ. (1 Cor 12:12)

Gospel:

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (Jn 20:21)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Whoever loves me will keep my word," Jesus tells his disciples, "and my Father...will come to him and make our dwelling with him." We know what's at stake. We know what we have to do. So when the Father comes, will He make His dwelling with us?

Observances for the week of June 8, 2025

- Sunday:** Pentecost Sunday
Monday: Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
Wednesday: St. Barnabas, Apostle
Friday: St. Anthony of Padua,
Priest and Doctor of the Church
Saturday: Flag Day
Next Sunday: The Most Holy Trinity; Father's Day

Readings for the week of June 8, 2025

Sunday:

Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 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/Jl 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

Monday:

Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14/
Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7/Jn 19:25-34

Tuesday:

2 Cor 1:18-22/Ps 119:129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 135/Mt 5:13-16

Wednesday:

Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3 (580)/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 8, 9/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday:

2 Cor 3:15-4:1, 3-6/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 5:20-26

Friday:

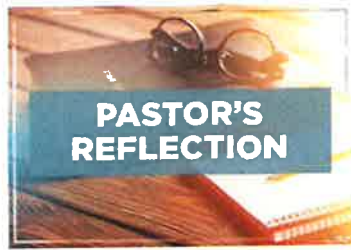
2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 116:10-11, 15-16, 17-18/
Mt 5:27-32

Saturday:

2 Cor 5:14-21/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/
Mt 5:33-37

Next Sunday:

Prv 8:22-31/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (2a)/Rom 5:1-5/Jn 16:12-15



June 8, 2025

Pentecost

The picture painted in the gospel about Pentecost is a colorful description of the spectacular beginnings of the infant church as an active missionary community. The Holy Spirit like a roaring wind descends with tongues of fire on the heads of the apostles, and breathes new life into this faint-hearted band. The immediate impact on the apostles is radical and dramatic. Inspired by the Spirit of God they boldly go out to the market place and proclaim the resurrection of Christ and his conquest of sin and death to those who had only recently crucified their master. They are no longer the terrified and cowardly collection of individuals locked away in the upper room for fear of the Jews. Their world which had fallen apart with the crucifixion and death of Jesus was changed and transformed into a new creation. They emerge full of enthusiasm, gifted with eloquence and with a very clear sense of their vocation.

The thought strikes us that the first Pentecost must have been an exciting time to be alive in the church. The atmosphere was joyful, change was in the air and the outpouring of God's love upon all of creation was like a river in flood. However the coming of the Holy Spirit was not something that happened only at the foundation of the church. The living breath of God is at work in every age as a permanent feature renewing and building up the body of the church. The gift of the Holy Spirit, given at Pentecost, is available to the worshipping community gathered here, provided we are open and willing to receive it. He acts through human persons like ourselves but depends on our response to his promptings. If we are prepared to live our lives according to his guidance and inspiration, by always doing what we sincerely believe is right, there will be no limit to the support he will give us.

This feast, which celebrates the birthday of the church, is an excellent opportunity for evaluating the use we are making of our God-given gifts. The church is built up when we use our individual talents, not for our own personal benefit but for the good of all. We are all laborers whom the Lord asks to go into the harvest. How we love each other and care for each other is a message to everyone we meet and is what outsiders judge our Christian faith on. The fact that our gifts are not of the spectacular type which fascinated the onlookers on the first Pentecost, does not diminish their importance. Being a patient father, a loving mother, a good listener and having time for the elderly may not attract the headlines but it witnesses to the fact that God is to be found in the humdrum of a daily routine.

It is in the ordinary that we share most fully in the greatest of God's gifts. As we face the difficulties and trials on our earthly journey we should rejoice that the Holy Spirit is ever present, enlightening our mind with hope and gradually forming Christ in us as he did in the womb of Mary. 'Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.'



8 de junio de 2025

Pentecostés

El cuadro pintado en el Evangelio de Pentecostés es una descripción colorida de los espectaculares comienzos de la iglesia naciente como una comunidad misionera activa. El Espíritu Santo, como un viento rugiente, desciende con lenguas de fuego sobre las cabezas de los apóstoles y da nueva vida a este grupo de pusilánimes. El impacto inmediato en los apóstoles es radical y dramático. Inspirados por el Espíritu de Dios, salen audazmente a la plaza del mercado y proclaman la resurrección de Cristo y su conquista del pecado y la muerte a los que acababan de crucificar a su señor. Ya no son la colección aterrorizada y cobarde de individuos encerrados en el aposento alto por miedo a los judíos. Su mundo, que se había desmoronado con la crucifixión y muerte de Jesús, fue cambiado y transformado en una nueva creación. Salen llenos de entusiasmo, dotados de elocuencia y con un sentido muy claro de su vocación.

Nos golpea la idea de que el primer Pentecostés debe haber sido un tiempo emocionante para estar vivo en la iglesia. El ambiente era alegre, el cambio estaba en el aire y la efusión del amor de Dios sobre toda la creación fue como un río en crecida. Sin embargo, la venida del Espíritu Santo no fue algo que sucedió solo en la fundación de la iglesia. El aliento vivo de Dios está obrando en cada época como una característica permanente que renueva y edifica el cuerpo de la iglesia. El don del Espíritu Santo, dado en Pentecostés, está disponible para la comunidad de adoración reunida aquí, siempre que estemos abiertos y dispuestos a recibirlo. Él actúa a través de personas humanas como nosotros, pero depende de nuestra respuesta a sus impresiones. Si estamos preparados para vivir nuestras vidas de acuerdo con su guía e inspiración, haciendo siempre lo que sinceramente creemos que es correcto, no habrá límite para el apoyo que nos dará.

Esta fiesta, que celebra el cumpleaños de la iglesia, es una excelente oportunidad para evaluar el uso que estamos haciendo de los dones que Dios nos ha dado. La iglesia se edifica cuando usamos nuestros talentos individuales, no para nuestro propio beneficio personal, sino para el bien de todos. Todos somos obreros a los que el Señor pide que vayan a la siega. La forma en que nos amamos y nos cuidamos unos a otros es un mensaje para todos los que conocemos y es por lo que los extraños juzgan nuestra fe cristiana. El hecho de que nuestros dones no sean del tipo espectacular que fascinó a los espectadores en el primer Pentecostés, no disminuye su importancia. Ser un padre paciente, una madre amorosa, un buen oyente y tener tiempo para los ancianos puede no atraer los titulares, pero da testimonio del hecho de que Dios se encuentra en la monotonía de la rutina diaria.

Es en lo ordinario donde compartimos más plenamente el más grande de los dones de Dios. Al enfrentar las dificultades y pruebas en nuestro viaje terrenal, debemos regocijarnos de que el Espíritu Santo esté siempre presente, iluminando nuestra mente con esperanza y formando gradualmente a Cristo en nosotros como lo hizo en el vientre de María. "Ven, Espíritu Santo, llena los corazones de tus fieles y enciende en ellos el fuego de tu amor".



Join us in Thanking Father Paul for all he's given our Parish this last year and wish him well on his move to Moultrie! June 14th at 6p we will host a Farewell Dinner for Father. If you would like to help by donating drinks, sides, desserts please contact Rita or Renee. Items can be dropped off starting at 4p.



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 donations! We've raised \$10,200!

Donor Name: _____ Phone : _____

In Honor/In Memory of: _____

PARISH SUPPORT

DONATIONS

Weekly Offertory – May 25

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

Offertory	\$4,685
Building Fund	\$25
Online Giving	\$499
Total	\$5,209
Light Fixtures	Raised:
\$20,000 Goal	\$10,200

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
beiterri@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)



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.