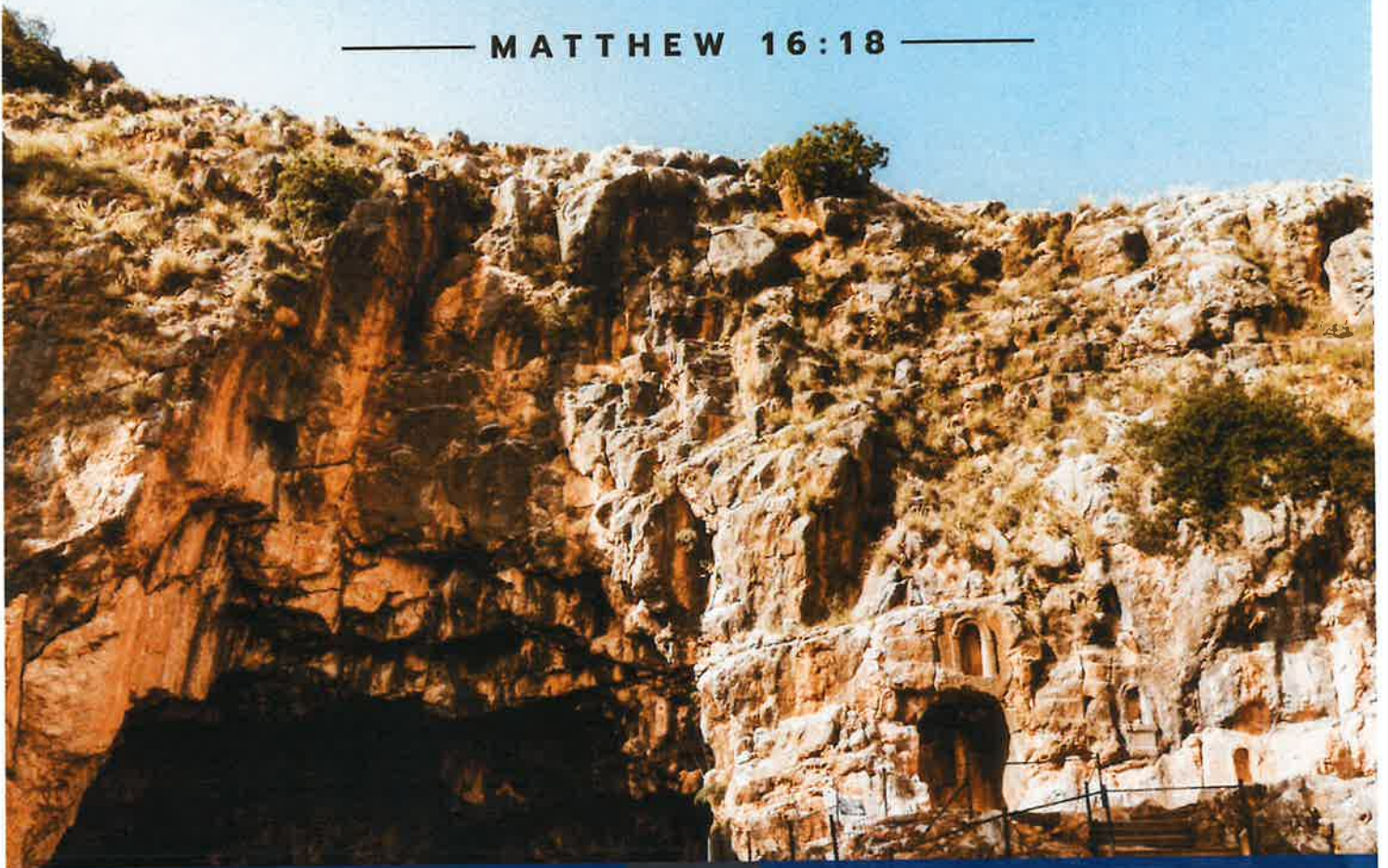


STS. PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

AND UPON THIS
ROCK I WILL BUILD
MY CHURCH.

— MATTHEW 16:18 —



CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025

St Stephen First Martyr

Upcoming Events:

June 30th – 12p – Father Paul will hold his final Daily Mass today before he departs for Moultrie!

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

July 7th - 7p – **Knights of Columbus Meeting** – Anyone interested in becoming a KOC, or existing members please attend the monthly meeting to discuss upcoming plans.

July 12th and 13th – **Welcome Father Estrada and Father Modesto** – After all the masses we will have small receptions for everyone to say hello to our new Pastors! Anyone who would like to donate baked goods or fruits can do so and drop off during the week or before Mass.

July 15th - 7p – **Grief Support Meeting** - Find comfort and healing from your grief of a lost loved one or companion.

July 19th - 11a-2p- Crafts and Fellowship – We invite all the crafty individuals to join us for our monthly meeting and craft time. We meet in the social hall and welcome everyone to attend.

DATE	MASS TIME	MASS INTENTIONS
Mon. 6/30	12:00PM	Special Intentions for all the Priests of St. Stephen Past, Present and Future.
Tues. 7/1	12:00PM	†Soul of Lourdes S.N. Cruz ~Carmen Cruz-Lanner
Weds. 7/2	12:00PM	†Soul of Mary Leming ~Trever & Amy Smith
Thurs. 7/3	12:00PM	†Souls of Friends of the Smith Family ~ Trever & Amy Smith
Fri. 7/4	12:00PM	Independence Day ~ Bless our Nation!
Sat. 7/5	5:00PM	Pro Populo ~For the People
Sun. 7/6	8:00AM	†Souls of the Jimenez Family ~Chris & Juanita Jimenez
	10:00AM	†Soul of Irene Hicks ~Bonny Carreker
	12:00PM	†Souls of the Nguyen Family ~Nguyen



6/30- Alexander Lopez, Alondra Rivera Vazquez, Linda Stephens

7/1- Lorelei Gordon, Charles Hinds

7/2- Victoria Anthony

7/3- Lawrence Wallen

7/4- Amelia Remillard, Kevin Remillard, Rosaura Rios

7/5- Sammy Beiter, Stephen D'Angelo, Eileen McGirt

7/6- Oliver Castanon Zuniga, Joshua Glandon



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)



By Niccolò da Brescia - Own work. Reproduced by Public Domain

June 29, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

Acts 12:1-11 | 2 Tim 4:6-8, 17-18 | Mt 16:13-19

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

Too often, we conceive of our earthly pilgrimage as a convoluted maze we must travel by ourselves. Consequently, many of us either ignore the question altogether or become overwhelmed by how ill-equipped we are for the task. But in today's Gospel, Jesus indicates that confusion was never part of his plan. Responding to Peter's profession of faith, Jesus says, "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church." From the mouth of Eternal Wisdom comes words which establish a Church on Peter's God-given faith. Already a leader among the disciples, Peter now receives his vocation to be the foundation of unity among the Apostles. Their successors, the bishops, would be recognizable by their union with Peter's successors, the popes. Over time, the Church's understanding of Peter's authority would mature and deepen. From the beginning, however, Peter's role as shepherd meant that navigating the path to heaven was not something we were to do in isolation. We aren't asked to decipher the meaning of the Scriptures ourselves or to untangle centuries of theological speculation in order to follow Jesus. God, who knows we cannot make the journey alone, has given us a visible Church to be our guide.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Jesus established the Church so that we would have a sure and safe means of transit on our earthly pilgrimage. Convinced though we may be of this truth, we nevertheless have to contend with the storms that buffet her from within and without. Yet we can rest in Jesus' assurance to Peter: "the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it." The Church has survived for millennia as empires have risen and fallen around her. Even in her darkest hours, Christ has continued to speak through her and, by his sacraments, to touch us intimately with his love.

PRAY

Today's first reading, which takes place when Peter is in prison, contains an interesting detail: "Prayer by the Church was fervently being made to God on [Peter's] behalf." As members of Christ's Church on earth, we are not meant to be passive players. This week, pray for *Peter* — that is, for his successor, the pope — that he may fulfill his lofty and difficult vocation to lead the world to Christ.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Now I know for certain that the Lord sent his angel
and rescued me from the hand of Herod
and from all that the Jewish people had been expecting."
(Acts 12:11)

Psalm:

The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him. (Ps 34)

Second Reading:

The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat
and will bring me safe to his heavenly Kingdom. (2 Tm 4:18)

Gospel:

I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven.
Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven;
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed
in heaven." (Mt 16:19)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Peter testified to a dangerous and unpopular truth — that Christ was the Messiah. That courage, that trust in God, is the cornerstone of all we believe. Like Peter, we must always bear witness to the truth.

Observances for the week of June 29, 2025

Sunday: Sts Peter and Paul, Apostles

Monday: The First Martyrs of the
Holy Roman Church

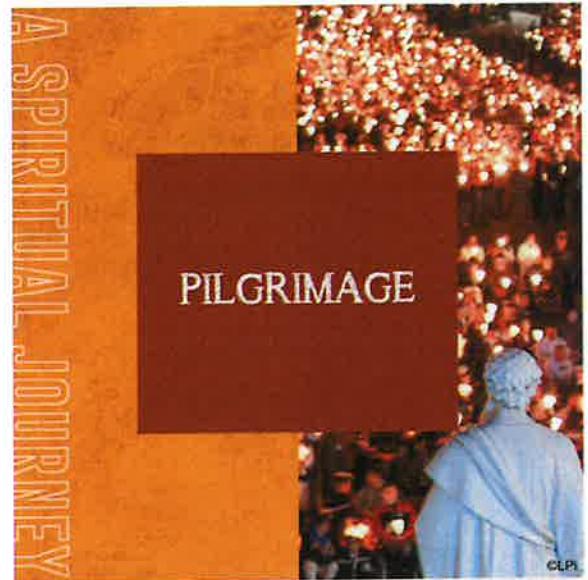
Tuesday: St. Junípero Serra, Priest

Thursday: St. Thomas, Apostle

Friday: Independence Day (USA)

Saturday: St. Anthony Zaccaria, Priest;
St. Elizabeth of Portugal

Next Sunday: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Devotions, Explained!

A pilgrimage is a journey to a place of spiritual significance undertaken by one who is seeking closeness to Heaven while still on Earth.

Prayer of Pastoral Care

O God,
Bless the souls You have
entrusted to our care. As You hear
every one of their prayers, help us
to hear them, too. Answer their
prayer intentions and personal
needs through us and our
ministry, as we all seek to do Your
will.
Amen.

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

I just want to take this last opportunity to say farewell and thank you.

My stay with you as your pastor was short but also very happy.

I am so grateful for all you do for the parish.

I never expected to be moving to a new assignment after a year.

Naturally I'm sad to be leaving you and at the same time looking forward to my new assignment.

So many of you have been such a great help, especially Annette, Diana and Rita and Deacon Doug and Renee.

So many of you are such good stewards and witnesses to the ordinary everyday life of a parish. All the lectors, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, Servers, Acolytes Sam and Miguel and Chris, and Janet as well as the choir members Kadee and Joshua as well as the members of the Hispanic community Pablo and the Spanish Choir. Thank you for making our liturgies so meaningful and enriching.

Thank you to head Knight Steve Martin and all the members of council 10210 Georgia Martyrs.

I have been very blessed as a priest to serve in parishes like St Stephen the First Martyr if I had a second life I would hope I would be called to be a priest in that life too.

We did a lot together in such a short time, we were encouraged in the seminary to always leave a place better than you found it, I think we did that.

I wish Fr Estrada and his community every blessing for the future with you and thank you all.

Gracias and Dios te Bendiga.

Fr Paul

Readings for the week of June 29, 2025

Sunday:

Vigil: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Gal 1:11-20/Jn 21:15-19 *Day:* Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19

Monday:

Gn 18:16-33/Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 8-9, 10-11/Mt 8:18-22

Tuesday:

Gn 19:15-29/Ps 26:2-3, 9-10, 11-12/Mt 8:23-27

Wednesday:

Gn 21:5, 8-20a/Ps 34:7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Mt 8:28-34

Thursday:

Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 20:24-29

Friday:

Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67/Ps 106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5/Mt 9:9-13

Saturday:

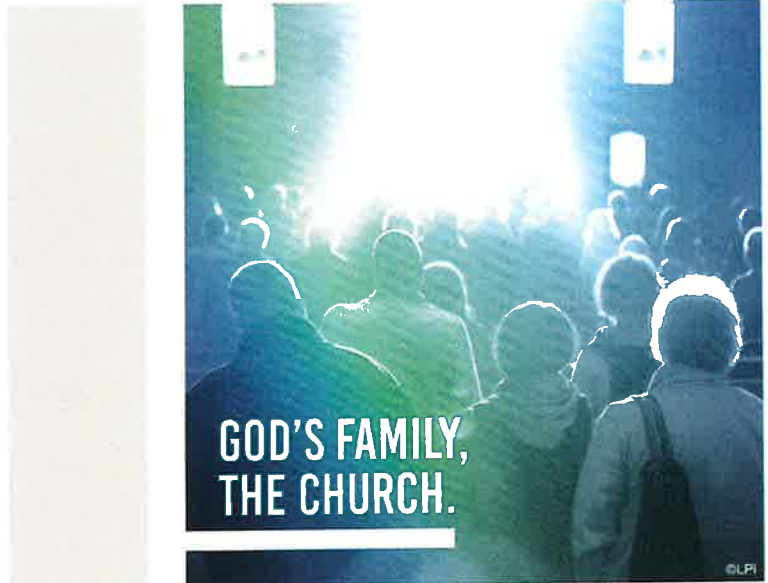
Gn 27:1-5, 15-29/Ps 135:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:14-17

Next Sunday:

Is 66:10-14c/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 (1)/Gal 6:14-18/Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9



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Gospel Meditation

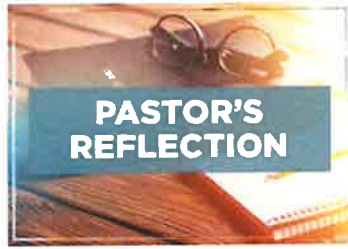
Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

What do you call brothers who are born on the same day? Twins, of course. That is what we celebrate today in the inestimable saints, Peter and Paul. Wait: twins? Yes. The early Church believed that Peter and Paul were martyred in Rome on the same day. Since the day of martyrdom is celebrated as a saints' birth into eternal life, the result is striking: Peter and Paul are twins in God's family, the Church.

Who should care about this? Well, anyone who longs to live in a world marked by love and peace. Remember, the Romans believed that twins, Romulus and Remus, founded their city through an act of fratricide, the former murdering the latter. Sadly, the structures of this fallen world emerge through violence between those who should love each other. But in the Church, a new city has been founded upon this new set of twins, embodying the non-violent power of Jesus' cross and resurrection.

That's why traditional icons represent Peter and Paul in a fraternal and warm embrace. Contrasted with the violence of Rome's founders, it challenges us with a bold claim: do we believe that structures of merciful love are more powerful and lasting than those based on power, violence, and domination? Am I willing to see others in my life as my "twin," with whom I am called to give my life for Christ, or as my rival? Am I committed to living what is embodied in Romulus and Remus, or in Peter and Paul?

— Father John Muir



June 29, 2025

Thirteenth Sunday of the Year

The call and the cost of Christian commitment are heavily emphasized in this gospel where the life of discipleship and its qualities are laid out before us. There is nothing about being a follower of Jesus that does not demand effort. As all existing responsibilities have to take second place, discipleship is not something to be entered into casually. On his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus meets three men who are anxious to follow him but who are unfit and unprepared for the challenge involved. The young man bursting with enthusiasm who, with whole-hearted response, vowed to be a follower wherever he would go, must have been surprised to hear Jesus dampen his spirits and warn him off with the caution, that the Son of Man did not have a home to call his own. Jesus is only being fair when he makes it clear in very direct speech what is expected of those who wish to join his group. If we want to accompany him we must know what we are doing and be aware of the harsh realities of life. To follow Jesus to Calvary can be no casual accompaniment of a wandering preacher. The message is harsh but clear - if anything at all stands in our way or takes priority over Jesus in our lives, then we are not free to follow him.

Every day we are faced with a situation similar to these three young volunteers. In the midst of our work, as we are hurrying about our business, we encounter Jesus who beckons us to come and serve. He longs for us to acknowledge his loving presence in silently carrying out his will. It's an on-going challenge requiring practical daily choices which are not always easy to make. Sometimes it may involve a serious conflict of loyalty or it may be a simple call to be friendly or neighborly. Our journeying with Christ began at baptism with the promise to make his way of life our own. Growing in closeness to him is the result of making daily sacrifices, but the grind of monotonous living gets to us all and is evident in our half-hearted responses.

We love the call but we quibble about the cost to our personal freedom. Sunday Mass affords us a wonderful opportunity to deepen and renew the relationship which we have established with Christ as a believing community. It's a time to pray for the grace to follow him whole-heartedly without wavering or reservation. The Lord's call requires an immediate response and is not just something to be fitted in after we have attended to all the important business; like maintaining our status, our popularity and all the other goals we set ourselves. Whatever invitation comes our way, our reply should always be: 'You are my God. It is you who are my portion'.



29 de junio de 2025

Decimotercer Domingo del Año

La llamada y el costo del compromiso cristiano están fuertemente enfatizados en este evangelio donde la vida de discipulado y sus cualidades se presentan ante nosotros. No hay nada en ser un seguidor de Jesús que no exija esfuerzo. Como todas las responsabilidades existentes tienen que ocupar un segundo lugar, el discipulado no es algo en lo que se deba entrar casualmente. En su viaje a Jerusalén, Jesús se encuentra con tres hombres que están ansiosos por seguirlo, pero que no son aptos ni están preparados para el desafío que implica. El joven, rebosante de entusiasmo, que, con una respuesta sincera, juró ser un seguidor dondequiera que fuera, debe haberse sorprendido al oír a Jesús desanimarse y advertirle con la advertencia de que el Hijo del Hombre no tenía un hogar al que llamar suyo. Jesús solo es justo cuando deja claro en un discurso muy directo lo que se espera de aquellos que desean unirse a su grupo. Si queremos acompañarlo debemos saber lo que estamos haciendo y ser conscientes de las duras realidades de la vida. Seguir a Jesús al Calvario no puede ser un acompañamiento casual de un predicador errante. El mensaje es duro pero claro: si algo se interpone en nuestro camino o tiene prioridad sobre Jesús en nuestras vidas, entonces no somos libres de seguirlo.

Todos los días nos enfrentamos a una situación similar a la de estos tres jóvenes voluntarios. En medio de nuestro trabajo, mientras nos apresuramos a nuestros asuntos, nos encontramos con Jesús que nos hace señas para que vayamos y sirvamos. Él anhela que reconozcamos su presencia amorosa para llevar a cabo su voluntad en silencio. Es un desafío continuo que requiere decisiones prácticas diarias que no siempre son fáciles de tomar. A veces puede implicar un grave conflicto de lealtad o puede ser un simple llamado a ser amigable o de buena vecindad. Nuestro camino con Cristo comenzó en el bautismo con la promesa de hacer nuestro su camino de vida. Crecer en cercanía a él es el resultado de hacer sacrificios diarios, pero la rutina de la vida monótona nos afecta a todos y es evidente en nuestras respuestas poco entusiastas.

Nos encanta la llamada, pero nos quejamos del costo para nuestra libertad personal. La Misa dominical nos brinda una maravillosa oportunidad para profundizar y renovar la relación que hemos establecido con Cristo como comunidad creyente. Es un tiempo para orar por la gracia de seguirlo de todo corazón, sin vacilaciones ni reservas. El llamado del Señor requiere una respuesta inmediata y no es solo algo que hay que encajar después de haber atendido todos los asuntos importantes; como mantener nuestro estatus, nuestra popularidad y todos los demás objetivos que nos propongamos. Cualquiera que sea la invitación que se nos presente, nuestra respuesta siempre debe ser: 'Tú eres mi Dios. Eres tú quien es mi porción'.

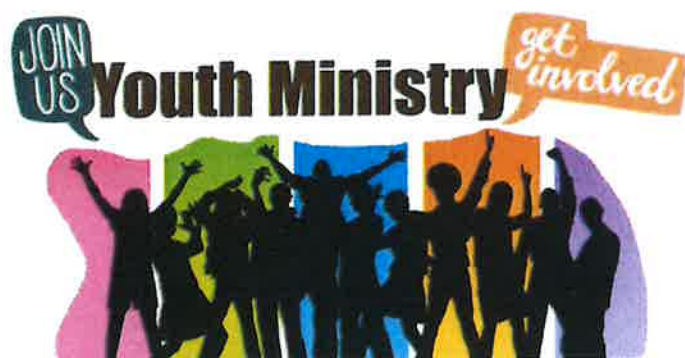


*Thank you to Father Paul from all of us
at St. Stephen Parish! While your time
was short you have left a positive impact
on so many and our Parish!
Many Blessings as you go forth to serve!*



SCAM WARNING

Please note: If you receive a request for gift cards purporting to be from your pastor, parish, or the Bishop, it is a scam and should be ignored. If you aren't sure if an email or message is authentic, do not reply. Check with the person or parish using another method.



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 \$12,985!

Donor Name: _____ Phone : _____

In Honor/In Memory of: _____

PARISH SUPPORT

DONATIONS

Weekly Offertory – June 15

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

Offertory	\$6,014
Building Fund	\$630
Online Giving	\$1,134
Total	\$7,778
Light Fixtures	Raised:
\$20,000 Goal	\$12,985

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. Eder Estrada, FM

Parochial Vicar:

Fr. Modeste Seloukou,
FM

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:

July TBD

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