

SAINT STEPHEN FIRST MARTYR



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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

STRIVE
TO ENTER
THROUGH THE
NARROW GATE.

— LUKE 13:24 —

St Stephen First Martyr

Upcoming Events:

September 5th – First Friday Mass - 12p English and 7p Spanish – There will be Eucharistic Adoration starting an hour and a half before Mass and Rosary will begin thirty minutes before Mass.

September 6th – 10:30a – First Saturday Rosary – Join us for Rosary in the Church.

September 6th & 7th - 2nd Collection will be held for our Maintenance Fund at all the Masses.

September 8th - 7p – Knights of Columbus Meeting – Anyone interested in becoming a KOC, or existing members please attend the monthly meeting to discuss upcoming plans.

September 13th - 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
Sat. 8/23	5:00PM	Special Intentions for Robin Blanchard & Holly Hegyesi ~Linda Blanchard
Sun. 8/24	8:00AM	†Souls of Joe & Ann Smith ~Mark Pitzen
	10:00AM	†Soul of Joshua Trinidad ~Tirso Elomina
	12:00PM	†Soul of Carlos Muniz Rivera
Mon 8/25	7:00PM	Parish Community
Tues. 8/26	12:00PM	†Soul of Ralph Payne ~Diana Young
Weds. 8/27	12:00PM	Healing for Tom & Jeanine Wing ~Bonny Carreker
Thurs. 8/28	12:00PM	†Souls of the Faithfully Departed from our Parish ~ Bonny Carreker
Thurs. 8/28	7:00PM	Parish Community
Sat. 8/30	5:00PM	Healing for Pete Neufell ~Bonny Carreker
Sun. 8/31	8:00AM	Healing for Pat & Wendy Farace ~ Bonny Carreker
	10:00AM	†Soul of Joshua Trinidad ~Tirso Elomina
	12:00PM	Pro Populo ~For the People



8/25- Alyssa Belgrave, Alfonso Capapas, Rodrigo Castanon
Zuniga, Jessica Garcia, Keysia Hinds, Jean Ong

8/26- Harriet Paulk

8/27- Diana Malave

8/28- Dorothy Scott

8/30- Rose Patino, Thiha Pham, Angel Rivera



Tom & Jeannine Wing, June Holt, 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, 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 Pecenek, Amy Smith.

(Names remain on the list for 30 days unless notified)

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: BE THE FIRST TO ACT.

"Strive to enter through the narrow door... And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last." (Lk 13:22-30)

WORD OF LIFE

Christ speaks of a narrow door in the Gospel this week and urges us to enter through it. This is the door of love. A love that, at times, consists in living chastely, at other times, by being obedient, or by living austere in the face of the temptations of consumerism, or by forgiving, or by enduring humiliation silently, or by defending clearly and loudly the innocent. Love has thousands of facets, each for the right moment. If we remain silent when we should speak, or if we speak when we should keep silent, it is a failure to love. That being said, love is the narrow, difficult door through which we must enter in order to imitate Christ and, therefore, to enter the Kingdom with Him.

But that is not sufficient. The "Word of Life" for this week hints at something else. It invites us to something else. It asks us to be the first to love, to not wait for others to do the things that need to be done, to speak up and defend those who suffer injustice, and to help the hungry with their alms. We must do so not out of pride, but out of gratitude. If Christ needs us, we cannot delay our response. We must hurry to give Him what He expects from us. It is not about pride, but about gratitude. Frequently, when we realize that something needs to be done and fail to act, it is left undone. So, if we do not make the first move, it is very possible that no one will feel motivated enough, and so what needs to be done will remain undone, and everyone will pay the consequences.

Purpose: When you realize that something needs to be done, do it. Do not wait for others to do it. Love is a blessing, and only by going through the door of love will you enter Heaven.

DOMINGO XXI DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO: "SER LOS PRIMEROS"

"Jesús les dijo: Esforzaos en entrar por la puerta estrecha... Y vendrán de Oriente y Occidente, del Norte y del Sur, y se sentarán a la mesa en el Reino de Dios. Mirad, hay últimos que serán primeros y primeros que serán últimos". (Lc 13, 22-30)

PALABRA DE VIDA

Cristo habla, en el Evangelio de esta semana, de una puerta estrecha, y nos insta a cruzarla, a pasar por ella. Esa puerta es la del amor. Un amor que a veces consiste en vivir la castidad, otras en obedecer, otras en mantener la austeridad frente a las tentaciones del consumismo, otras en perdonar, otras en aguantar en silencio una humillación, otras en hablar claro y alto para defender al inocente. El amor tienes mil facetas, cada una para el momento adecuado, de forma que si se calla cuando hay que hablar o si se habla cuando hay que guardar silencio, se falta al amor. Pues bien, el amor es la puerta estrecha y difícil que debemos cruzar para seguir e imitar a Cristo y, por consiguiente, para entrar con Él en el Reino.

Pero no basta con eso. La palabra de vida de esta semana nos sugiere algo más, nos invita a algo más. Nos pide que seamos los primeros en amar, que no esperemos a que otros hagan las cosas, hablen para defender al que sufre la injusticia o ayuden con su limosna al que pasa hambre. Tenemos que hacerlo no por soberbia, sino por agradecimiento. Si Cristo nos necesita —y nos necesita en el Sagrario y en el prójimo—, no podemos estar dilatando la respuesta, sino que debemos correr a darle lo que él espera de nosotros. No se trata, pues, de soberbia, sino de gratitud. Además, con frecuencia se comprueba que cuando alguien que se ha dado cuenta de que hay que hacer algo no lo hace, eso se queda sin hacer. Si no damos nosotros el primer paso, es muy posible que nadie se anime y lo que había que hacer permanece sin hacer, pagando todos las consecuencias.

Propósito: Cuando nos damos cuenta de que hay que hacer algo, hacerlo sin esperar a que sea otro el que lo haga. Amar es una suerte y que sólo pasando por la puerta del amor entraremos en el cielo.



FRANCISCANS OF MARY - FRANCISCANOS DE MARIA

Email: information@franciscansofmary.org

Website: <https://franciscanosdemaria.org/en>

Email: consultas@frmaria.org

TV: <https://magnificat.tv/>

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I know their works and their thoughts,
and I come to gather nations of every language;
they shall come and see my glory. (Is 66:18)

Psalm:

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News. (Ps 117)

Second Reading:

So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees.
Make straight paths for your feet,
that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.
(Heb 12:12-13)

Gospel:

For behold, some are last who will be first,
and some are first who will be last." (Lk 13:30)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate,"
Jesus tells us. "Many will attempt...but will
not be strong enough." So let us never be
so foolish that we rely on our own strength.
Narrow does not mean unpassable — not if
we ask for help.

Observances for the week of August 24, 2025

- Sunday:** 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz,
Priest
Wednesday: St. Monica
Wednesday: St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor
of the Church
Friday: The Passion of St. John the Baptist
Next Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings for the week of August 24, 2025

Sunday:

Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/
Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30

Monday:

1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a
and 9b/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday:

1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3, 4-6/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday:

1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab/
Mt 23:27-32

Thursday:

1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 24:42-51

Friday:

1 Thes 4:1-8 (429)/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10,
11-12/Mk 6:17-29

Saturday:

1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14-30

Next Sunday:

Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5
(1a)/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14



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Saint Stephen First Martyr Catholic Church

399 Woodland Ave

Hinesville, GA 31313

Phone: (912) 876-4364 Fax: (912) 876-3150

Email: ssfmcc399@gmail.com



ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

Are you an adult 18 years of age or older who:

- Has not been baptized, or has been baptized into the Catholic faith but not received the sacraments of confirmation and / or communion?
- Or were baptized in another faith tradition, but are interested in becoming Catholic?
- Or perhaps just want to learn more about your faith?

If so, we have an adult faith formation process starting on Wednesday, 17 September 2025 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Parish Hall. The program will meet on Wednesday evenings thereafter at the same time and place until Easter 2026 (April 5th 2026).

If you would like more information regarding this process, please contact Deacon Doug Delzeith at:

Telephone: 912-977-5278 / Email: ddelzeith@yahoo.com

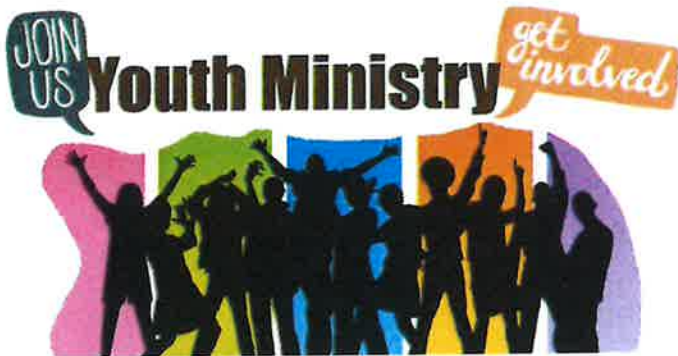
Please note: If you or your spouse are presently married and have had previous marriages: annulments of former marriages must be obtained prior to seeking initiation into the Catholic Church. This is required for Catholics and non-Catholics as well. Please contact Deacon Doug Delzeith at 977-5278 or email: ddelzeith@yahoo.com for more information about the annulment process.

School of Gratitude

Father Estrada is hosting a School of Gratitude Thursday's after Mass . Everyone is welcome to join!

Escuela de Gratitud

El Padre Estrada está impartiendo una Escuela de Agradecimiento los lunes después de la Misa. ¡Todos son bienvenidos a unirse!



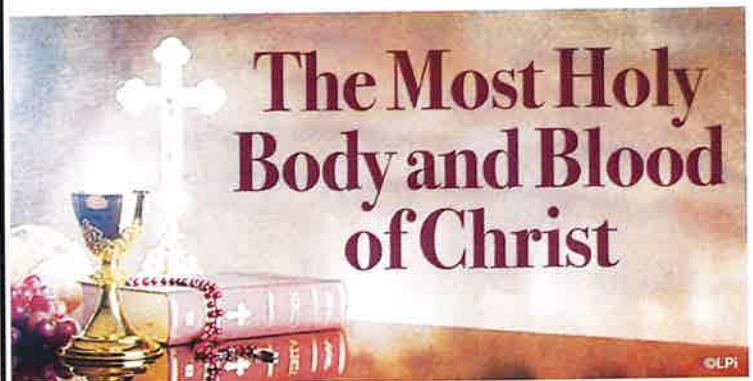
Thursdays 6-8:30pm
Saint Stephen Social Hall



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

Guidelines for Receiving the Eucharist

You are not to eat or drink anything except for water or required medicine, for one hour before actually receiving communion. This is called the Communion or Eucharist fast. It is meant to help us focus on our Lord and what we are about to receive. Chewing gum, candy, mints, etc. during Mass is therefore inappropriate. Both forms for receiving the host are acceptable, in the palm of one hand with the other hand underneath, or on the extended tongue. Extend your hands palm-side up toward the priest and stand as close to the priest as possible when receiving Communion. Never take the host from the priest. After receiving the Eucharist, you say **Amen**. Proper reverence and respect is most important, hands should be reverently folded while waiting to receive the Sacrament.



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.

REGISTER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



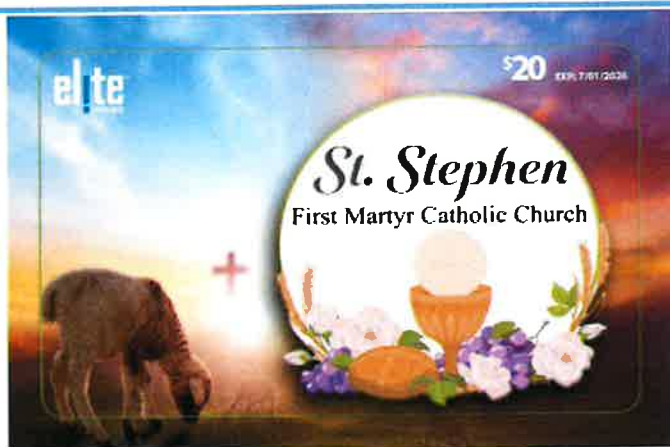
Registration for the upcoming Faith Formation Year has begun!

Sign up forms are in the Narthex and can be turned in with payment to the office or to Berta Ganaway.

August 17 is first day of classes, this will be a meet and greet with the teachers! Parents and children should be present.

Discount Cards are still available while they last!!!

We are so close to making our goal please help us! They will be for sale after all the Masses and can be purchased in the office during normal business hours.
(A Sample of the cards is below.)



13498893 FOR FUNDRAISING INFO: 866-543-5483 FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE: 866-781-3473

Y flowers 20% OFF W/ PROMO CODE: WINNERS WWW.1800FLOWERS.COM	Checkers \$1 OFF ANY DINNER PLATTER 187 W/ GENERAL SCREVEN WAY	Firehouse Subs FREE KIDS MEAL W/ PUR OF COMBO MEAL 556 W/ OGLETHORPE HWY
magoo's 10% OFF ANY REG MENU PRICED ITEMS 967 OGLETHORPE HWY	macco's LG PIZZA FOR \$11.99 755 E OGLETHORPE	POPEYES FREE TWO PIECE DINNER W/ PUR OF 3 PIECE DINNER AND 2 MED DRINKS 815 E OGLETHORPE AVE STATE RD 84
SONIC FREE SINGLE PATTY SONIC CHEESEBURGER W/ PUR OF THE SAME 726 W OGLETHORPE HWY	SURCHEROS PUR OF ENTREE, GET REG SIZED DRK FOR FREE 718 W OGLETHORPE HWY STE 115	WAYBACK 15% OFF TOTAL PUR 863 W OGLETHORPE HWY 8233
<p>DISCOUNTS ARE GOOD FOR CASH OR CREDIT CARD ONLY. CASH ONLY. PRECEDENCE ONLY. OFFERS NOT GOOD WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNT OR COMBO MEALS. ALL DISCOUNTS OFFER DISCOUNTS. ALL DISCOUNTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. THREE WINNERS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR CLOSURE OF ANY BUSINESS ON CARD. IF RULES STATED MAY RESULT IN CARD SEIZURE. OFFERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. THREE WINNERS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR CLOSURE OF ANY BUSINESS ON CARD.</p> <p>WWW.ELITEFUNDRAISING.COM</p>		

Light Fixture Upgrade

Our Light Fixture Fundraiser is going so well!!! We will close out donations for the "Sponsor a Light" fundraiser August 31st.
Anyone who still wants to make a \$500 Sponsorship to Memorialize or Honor a loved one should do so by August 31st.

We are open to taking payments towards sponsorship, but arrangements must be made with the Office by August 31st. After this date donations can still be made but the plaque will be sent to the printers at this time and can not be changed. 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 \$18,771!

Donor Name: _____ Phone : _____

In Honor/In Memory of: _____

PARISH SUPPORT

DONATIONS

Weekly Offertory – August 10

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

Offertory	\$5,669
Building Fund	\$125
Online Giving	\$827
Total	\$6,621
Light Fixtures	Raised:
\$20,000 Goal	\$18,771

3 great ways to support our Parish

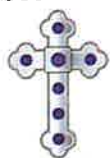
1. **USE THE ENVELOPES** Located in the Pews.
2. **TEXT 'GIVE' TO 912-551-5553**
3. **GIVE ONLINE**—Scan QR Code or go to:
<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/ststephenhinesville>



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.

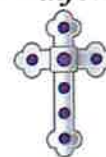


HARVEST
of HOPE
COSECHA de ESPERANZA

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
eedstrada@diosav.org

Parochial Vicar:

Fr. Modeste Seloukou,
FM

Deacon:

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

Sacristan:

Sam Beiter
beiterl@yahoo.com

Office Manager:

Annette Miller

Office Assistant:

Diana Young

Parish Catechetical Leader:

Berta Ganaway
saintstephenfaithformation@gmail.com

Parish Council

President:

Tom Wing

Office Hours:

Mon: 9AM-6PM

Tues-Thurs: 9AM-2PM

Gift Shop Hours:

TBD

SACRED GARDEN
GIFT SHOP
ST. STEPHEN



ssfmcc399@gmail.com



912-876-4364 (office)

912-876-3150 (fax)



ststephenshinesville.com

Mass Times

English Weekday Masses- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 12pm.
(Exposition and Holy Hour start at 10:30am followed by Rosary at 11:20am)

Spanish Weekday Masses- Monday and Thursday at 7pm.
(Exposition and Holy Hour start at 5:20pm followed by Rosary at 6:30pm)

Saturday- Vigil 5:00 pm; 7pm Spanish in Jesup

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

Confession- Weekdays during Holy Hour, Saturday 4:15-4:45pm & By Appointment.

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.

OCIA Classes **Beginning September 17, 2025**** 7-8:30p in Social Hall**

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.

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. Please contact the Office for scheduling.

Anointing of the Sick

Fr. Estrada is offering Anointing of the Sick the First Tuesday at 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

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