TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GO AND TAKE THE LOWEST PLACE.

LUKE 14:10



SAINT STEPHEN FIRST MARTYR



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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025

St Stephen First Martyr

Upcoming Events:

September 1st - Labor Day Holiday - Office Closed

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.

September 13th - **9:00a** - **National Day of Remembrance For Aborted Children** - We will meet in the Meditation Garden at our Memorial for the Unborn and pray the Pro-Life Rosary.

DATE	MASS TIME	INTENTIONS	
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 Trinadad ~Tirso Elomina	
	12:00PM	Pro Populo ~For the People	
Mon 9/1	7:00PM	†Soul of Gerald Gray ~Cindy Gray	
Tues. 9/2	12:00PM	†Soul of Helen Carreker ~Bonny Carreker	
Weds. 9/3	12:00PM	†Souls of the Agosto & Rivera Families ~Atiana Surage	
Thurs. 9/4	12:00PM	†Soul of Michael Denham ~ Mary Denham	
Thurs. 9/4	7:00PM	Parish Community	
Fri. 9/5	12:00PM	†Souls of the Blanchard & Parker Families ~Atiana Surage	
Fri. 9/5	7:00PM	Parish Community	
Sat. 9/6	5:00PM	Pro Populo ~For the People	
Sun. 9/7	8:00AM	†Soul of Monica Gonzalez ~Irizarry Family	
	10:00AM	†Soul of Joshua Trinadad ~Tirso Elomina	
		†Soul of Heinz Bernd Linden ~Spurgeon Family	
	12:00PM	Pour Souls in Purgatory	



9/1- Julian Garcia, Daniel Rios

9/2- Charlotte Jackson, Staci Osorio

9/3- Julio Daout

9/4- Nathan Delaney, Gloria McCall

9/5- Edgar Habeck, Maarit Scott

9/6- Kamden Nguyen, Hope Tran

9/7- Nemesio Bucayu, Tabrecia Joseph, Kellyann Lopez, Savannaha Elisa Mendiöla, Zoila Nevarez



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 Pecenak, Amy Smith.

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

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: HUMILITY.

"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Lk 14:11)

WORD OF LIFE

Humility has never been an easy virtue to put into practice. However, the saints teach us, through their lives and their writings, that without humility, holiness is not possible. But there are many levels of humility. One level helps us recognize ourselves as we are and accept the truth of the corrections others make about us, even when knowing our defects hurts us. There is the humility of our accepting the mystery of God's will for our lives, despite our not understanding why the Lord allows some misfortunes to happen. Then, there is the humility of our needing to ask for help when we are unable to do as much as we would like, due to poor health or time constraints. There is the humility of our not expecting to be applauded or thanked, even though it may be deserved. There is also the humility of our enduring injustice and calumny, if we are the ones harmed and not the ones doing the harm. And finally, although the list could go on, there is the humility of our willingness to risk failure in fulfilling God's will, rather than waiting for others to act.

But something is missing without which it becomes not only difficult but impossible to live out this humility. What is lacking is our love for the humility of Christ. For Him and to be like Him, we must accept everything that God wants or allows to happen in our lives. For Him and with Him, we can do nothing without His help. For Him and like Mary, our great example of humility who teaches us how to do God's will with simplicity, we do not attribute importance to ourselves but accept the mystery that "God can write straight even with crooked lines."

<u>Purpose:</u> Accept God's plans, even though you do not understand them. Accept critiques. Work so that God may be loved, even if it is not noticed or acknowledged by others.

DOMINGO XXII DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO: HUMILDAD

"Todo el que se enaltece será humillado y el que se humilla será enaltecido". (Lc 14, 11)

PALABRA DE VIDA

La humildad no ha sido nunca una virtud de fácil aplicación. Sin embargo, todos los santos enseñan, con su vida y sus escritos, que sin ella no hay santidad posible. Pero hay muchos grados en la humildad. Está aquella que nos ayuda a reconocernos como somos, a aceptar la verdad de las correcciones que nos hacen los demás, aunque nos duela que nuestros defectos sean conocidos por los otros. Está la humildad de quienes asumen el misterio de la voluntad de Dios para sus vidas a pesar de que no entienden por qué el Señor permite ciertas cosas, ciertas desgracias. Está la humildad de los que quisieran hacer más de lo que hacen pero se ven imposibilitados por sus malas condiciones de salud o de tiempo, e incluso se ven forzados a pedir ayuda. Está la humildad del que trabaja sin esperar un aplauso o una muestra de agradecimiento, aunque la tenga más que merecida. Está también la humildad del que soporta la injusticia y la calumnia, siempre que sea él y no otro el perjudicado. Y, para poner fin a una serie que sería interminable, está la humildad del que no le importa correr el riesgo de fracasar y hacer el ridículo para hacer la voluntad de Dios, en lugar de quedarse a la expectativa esperando que sean otros los que resuelvan los problemas.

Pero, para vivir esa humildad, hace falta algo, sin lo cual resulta no sólo difícil sino imposible. Hace falta estar enamorado del Cristo humilde y, por Él y para ser como Él, asumir todo lo que Dios quiere o permite que ocurra en nuestra propia vida. Por Él, pero también con Él, pues sin su ayuda no podemos hacer nada. Por Él y como María, la gran maestra de la humildad, la que nos enseña a hacer la voluntad de Dios con sencillez, sin darnos importancia y aceptando el misterio de los renglones torcidos de Dios.

<u>Propósito</u>: Aceptar los planes de Dios, aunque no los entendamos. Aceptar las críticas y trabajar para que Dios sea amado, aunque no nos lo reconozcan.



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:

Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God. (Sir 3:18)

Psalm:

God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor. (Ps 68)

Second Reading:

You have not approached that which could be touched and a blazing fire and gloomy darkness. (Heb 12:18)

Gospel:

"For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Lk 14:11)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"When you hold a banquet, invite the poor," Jesus instructs. "Blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you." Each of us has our own banquet to offer, our own gifts to share. Who will we invite?

Observances for the week of August 31, 2025

Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

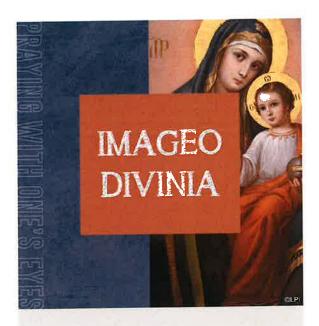
Monday: Labor Day

Wednesday: St. Gregory the Great, Pope and

Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time;

Grandparents' Day



Devotions, Explained!

Imago divina (Latin for "divine image") is an extension of the ancient practice of lectio divina (literally, "divine lesson"). Imago divina is, in a sense, praying with one's eyes, using the medium of artwork to assist in lifting the mind to God.

Prayer for Humility

Dear God,
Mold my heart after Yours.
Help me to see myself as You
see me: surrounded by Your
love. Help me to see others as
You see them as well. Give me
knowledge of your ways, today
and always.
Amen.

National Day

Saturday

Per Aborted Children

Sisters

Solvent Sisters

Substitute Sept. 13

Solvent Sept. 13

On Saturday, September 13, pro-life Americans will honor the memory of the more than 66 million unborn victims of abortion during the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children.

Solemn prayer services will be held simultaneously at gravesites around the country where abortion victims have been buried, as well as at many other memorial sites dedicated in their honor.

Join us for the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children and ensure that our unborn brothers and sisters will not be forgotten.

Memorial Service for Victims of Abortion

Date & Time
Saturday, September 13, 9:00am

Location
St. Stephen First Martyr
399 Woodland Dr
Hinesville, GA 31313

Special Details

We will meet in the Meditation
Garden at our Memorial for the
Unborn. We will pray the Pro-Life
Rosary and place a rose at the
Memorial in Remembrance of a child
whose been aborted.

Local Contact
Respect Life Ministry

Copyright © 2025 National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children, a joint project of Citizens for a Pro-Life Society and the Pro-Life Action League.

Saint Stephen First Martyr Catholic Church

399 Woodland Ave Hinesville, GA 31313 Phone: (912) 876-4364 Fax: (912) 876-3150 Email: <u>ssfmcc399@gmail.com</u>



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.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of August 31, 2025

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

Monday:

1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13/Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday:

1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/ Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday:

Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/Lk 4:38-44

Thursday:

Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/ Lk 5:1-11

Friday:

Col 1:15-20/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 5:33-39

Saturday:

Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8/Lk 6:1-5

Next Sunday:

Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1)/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33



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Gospel Meditation Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Once I was invited to a group meeting with Pope Francis. Entering the room, I paused, eyeing the seats next to the Pope's fancy chair. Someone saw my paralysis and invited me to sit in the seat farthest from what I wanted. Hiding my disappointment, I sat. We waited. To our surprise, an aid pointed out that those seats were still empty and invited me and another to have them. We calmly but gleefully strode across the room and sat. Pope Francis entered, and we enjoyed two hours of amazingly uplifting conversation.

Jesus says this week to us: "When you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position.' Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table" (Luke 14:10). This is not about how to score free seat upgrades. Rather, it is a wise pattern for the whole of life. It is how to live free from the anxiety of constantly grasping for status and recognition.

Jesus perfectly embodies his seat-taking advice. He eschews his glorious throne for the lowest: death on a cross, that lonely chair we all deserve. In his resurrection, he calls us up higher to his marvelous banquet seats. This week, perhaps we should look for opportunities to choose the lowest seat. We'll be pleasantly surprised when we do.

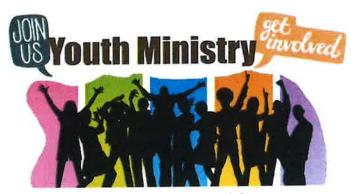
- Father John Muir

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!



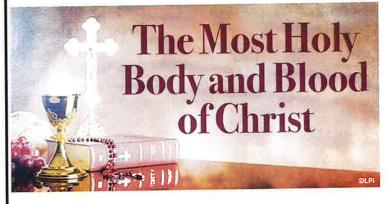
Thursdays 6-8:30pm Saint Stephen Social Hall



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.

New Office Hours



This office will now be open Monday's from 9a-6p and Tuesday through Thursday 9a-2p.

(We will be closed for Labor Day September 1st.)



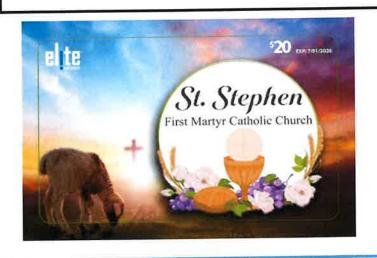
Thank You!



Light Fixture Upgrade

We are so thankful for ALL who donated to upgrade our lights in the Church. We reached our goal of \$20,000 to pay for the lights themselves and surpassed it by \$800 so those funds are helping us cover the additional expense of \$6,275 for the switches and electrical panel to be upgraded to handle the LED lights.

Thank you for your generosity in helping us reach the goal!





Discount Cards are still available while they last!!!

We still have many cards available for purchase! 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.)



Weekly Offertory - August 17

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

Offertory	\$5,694
Building Fund	\$130
Online Giving	\$765
Total	\$6,589
Total Light Fixtures	\$6,589 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



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.

Our Harvest of Hope Campaign will kick of in September! We are so excited for what this means for our Parish!

Please see the videos if you haven't already!



Address:

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 Please use the form below to register or update you (We may call you for additional information.)	e resident or have recently arrived in our parish -Welcome! our information. You may place this form in the collection basket.
Name:	Phone:

Parish Staff

Pastor:

Fr. Eder Estrada, FM eestrada@diosav.org

Parochial Vicar:

Fr. Modeste Seloukou, FM

Deacon:

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

Sacristan:

Sam Beiter beiterrl@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

Bible Study

Appointment.

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

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.