

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SIT DOWN AND  
CALCULATE  
**THE COST.**

— LUKE 14:28 —



**SAINT STEPHEN FIRST MARTYR**



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

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025**

# St Stephen First Martyr

## Upcoming Events:

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

**September 13<sup>th</sup> - 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. Each participant will receive a rose to place at the Memorial in Remembrance of a Child whose been Aborted. Light refreshments will be served in the Meditation Garden afterwards. We encourage everyone, especially our Youth to Join us. Come celebrate the GIFT of LIFE we've all been given!

**September 13<sup>th</sup> - 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 20-21 – Red Wagon Weekend** – At all the Masses the St. Vincent De Paul Red Wagon will be in the Narthax to accept donations to stock the pantry.

DATE	MASS TIME	MASS INTENTIONS
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 Trinidad ~Tirso Elomina †Soul of Heinz Bernd Linden ~Spurgeon Family
	12:00PM	Pour Souls in Purgatory
Mon 9/8	7:00PM	Parish Community
Tues. 9/9	12:00PM	†Souls of Yeya & Tomas DeConge ~Al & Berta Ganaway
Weds. 9/10	12:00PM	†Soul of Lisa Vazquez ~ Maria Rios
Thurs. 9/11	12:00PM	†Soul of Alan Nettle ~ Deb Nettle
Thurs. 9/11	7:00PM	Parish Community
Sat. 9/13	5:00PM	†Soul of Marcus Barrett ~Rita & Eric Johanson
Sun. 9/14	8:00AM	†Souls of Francisco & Mary Torres ~Henry & Ione Phillips
	10:00AM	†Soul of Joshua Trinidad ~Tirso Elomina
	12:00PM	Pro Populo ~For the People



9/9- Betty Hoffman, Aaliyah Jacob

9/10- Kelly Bloyer, Jose Chihuahua, Aracely Grimaldo Gomez, Kenyette Madria, Kenneth Rosenberg

9/11- Jacinto Torres Rios

9/12- Carlos Galloza, Arturo Medina, Atiana Rivera

9/13- Mary Chambers, Stacy Humes

9/14- Connor Crowder, Yaileny Gonzalez-Flores, Helen Palang, John Tria, Rhodora Tria



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)



---

## 23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: GOD HAS RIGHTS.

---

*"Great crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and addressed them... 'Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.'" (Lk 14:25-27)*

---

### WORD OF LIFE

We know that there are ten commandments against which we can sin gravely, but usually Catholics who go to confession do so after having failed the fourth, fifth, sixth, or eighth commandment. Sins related to sex, life, family, or lying are the most frequent, or at least, they are the ones we are most aware of when we commit them. Unfortunately, almost no one examines their conscience regarding another sin, the sin against the first of the Ten Commandments, the one that refers to the need to put God first in our lives: *"You shall love the Lord your God above all things."* Actually, any of the other sins is also an infraction of this commandment. In order to respect and fulfill this commandment, it is enough to keep in mind that God has rights and that He has nothing less than the rights of God, the greatest of rights. That means that we have duties toward Him and that we have not done anything extraordinary whenever we fulfill our duties. We have not given Him "a gratuity" for which He should thank us. Rather, we have limited ourselves to simply fulfilling our obligation.

It is from this perspective that we have to analyze this Sunday's Gospel passage. Christ reminds us that He, as God, has the right to occupy the first place in our hearts. That is why He tells us that we cannot love our family more than Him and that if we are not capable of taking up our cross as He bore His, we cannot be His disciples. Faced with this just demand, there is only one thing that is left for us: to ask the Holy Spirit for the necessary help to be faithful to our vocation as Christians.

**Purpose:** Are you giving God what He has the right to expect from you? Do you accept with joy the cross that you have been given to bear for love of Him, just as He bore His out of love for you?



## FRANCISCANS OF MARY - FRANCISCANOS DE MARIA

Email: [information@franciscansofmary.org](mailto:information@franciscansofmary.org)  
Website: <https://franciscanosdemaria.org/en>

---

## DOMINGO XXIII DEL TO: DIOS TIENE DERECHOS

---

*"Mucha gente acompañaba a Jesús; Él se volvió y les dijo: Quien no lleve su cruz detrás de mí, no puede ser discípulo mío" (Lc 14, 25-27)*

---

### PALABRA DE VIDA

Sabemos que hay diez mandamientos contra los que se puede pecar gravemente, pero habitualmente los católicos que se confiesan lo hacen por haber faltado contra el sexto, el quinto, el cuarto o el octavo. Los pecados relacionados con el sexo, la vida, la familia o la mentira son los más frecuentes o, al menos, son aquellos de los que tenemos más conciencia cuando los cometemos. Por desgracia, casi nadie examina su conciencia sobre otro pecado, el pecado contra el primero de los diez mandamientos que hace referencia a la necesidad de poner a Dios en el primer lugar de la vida: "Amarás a Dios sobre todas las cosas". En realidad, cualquiera de los otros pecados es también una infracción contra este mandamiento. Para respetar y cumplir el primer mandamiento, basta con tener presente que Dios tiene derechos y que tiene, nada menos, que los derechos de Dios, los mayores derechos. Eso significa que nosotros tenemos deberes para con Él y que, cuando cumplimos con nuestro deber, no hemos hecho nada extraordinario, no le hemos dado "propina" que deba agradecernos, sino que nos hemos limitado a cumplir con nuestra obligación.

Es desde esta perspectiva desde la que debemos analizar el fragmento del Evangelio de este domingo. Cristo nos recuerda que Él, por ser Dios, tiene derecho a ocupar el primer lugar en nuestro corazón. Por eso nos dice que no podemos querer más a nuestra familia que a Él y que si no somos capaces de imitarle llevando nuestra cruz como Él llevó la suya, no podemos ser discípulos suyos. Ante esta justa exigencia, solo nos queda una cosa: pedirle al Espíritu Santo la ayuda necesaria para poder ser fieles a nuestra vocación de cristianos.

**Propósito:** ¿Le estoy dando a Dios lo que Él tiene derecho a esperar de mí? ¿Acepto con alegría la cruz que me ha tocado llevar por amor a Él, lo mismo que Él cogió la suya por amor a mí?

Email: [consultas@frmaria.org](mailto:consultas@frmaria.org)  
TV: <https://magnificat.tv/>

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight. (Wis 9:18)

### Psalm:

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge. (Ps 90)

### Second Reading:

Perhaps this is why he was away from you for a while,  
that you might have him back forever. (Phlm 1:15)

### Gospel:

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me  
cannot be my disciple. (Lk 14:27)

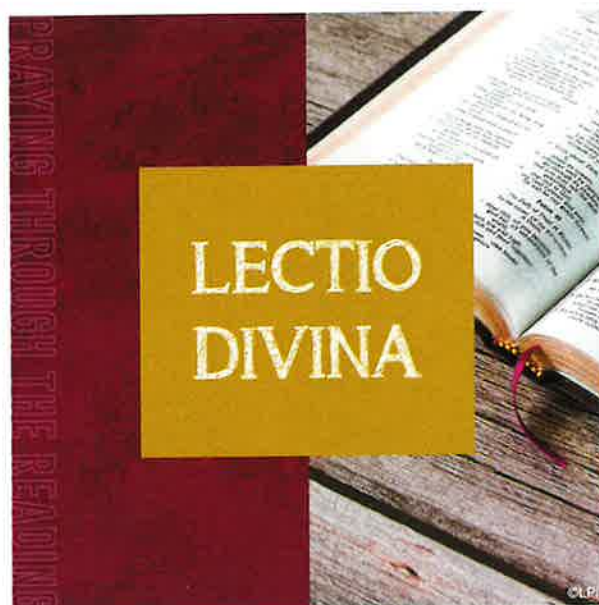
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,  
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Today, Jesus tells us the cost of true discipleship — and it turns out, it's everything. We must reject the world in order to love God. What attachments are holding us back from the relationship we could have — we *should* have — with our Lord?

## Observances for the week of September 7, 2025

<b>Sunday:</b>	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparents' Day
<b>Monday:</b>	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
<b>Tuesday:</b>	St. Peter Claver, Priest
<b>Thursday:</b>	Patriot Day
<b>Friday:</b>	The Most Holy Name of Mary
<b>Saturday:</b>	St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross



## Devotions, *Explained!*

*Lectio divina* ("divine reading") is an ancient practice of praying through the reading of Scripture. It includes four steps: read (*lectio*), meditate (*meditatio*), pray (*oratio*) and contemplate (*contemplatio*).

## Prayer of Simplicity

Dear God,  
In my desire for You, take away anything that keeps me from knowing You, myself, or my mission here on earth. Help me to remember what is truly important, and to seek and treasure that.  
Amen.

To Honor the Gravesites of our Unborn Brothers and Sisters

# National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

Saturday  
Sept. 13  
2025

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.

For more information on this event, visit [NationalDayOfRemembrance.org](http://NationalDayOfRemembrance.org)



# *Saint Stephen First Martyr Catholic Church*

*399 Woodland Ave*

*Hinesville, GA 31313*

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

*Email: [ssfmcc399@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ddelzeith@yahoo.com) for more information about the annulment process.

## Readings for the week of September 7, 2025

### 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

### Monday:

Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

### Tuesday:

Col 2:6-15/Ps 62:6-7, 9/Lk 6:12-19

### Wednesday:

Col 3:1-11/Ps 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab/Lk 6:20-26

### Thursday:

Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 6:27-38

### Friday:

1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11/Lk 6:39-42

### Saturday:

1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7/Lk 6:43-49

### Next Sunday:

Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

One hot Arizona summer afternoon my car ran out of gas. I phoned the parish office and begged for help. My secretary came and helped me fill the gas tank. She chided me, "If you can't manage getting your car from A to B, how can we expect you to guide the parish where it needs to go?" Point taken, Julie. I vowed to always make sure I have plenty of gas in my car.

The Lord Jesus chides us in this week's Gospel, too. He uses the two images of a man building a tower and a king marching soldiers into war to make this single point: acquire what is needed to follow him or look ridiculous. We rightly mock the builder who lacks money for his tower and the king with a short-handed army. But our mocking boomerangs back on us. How do we expect to follow Jesus to the end with insufficient detachment from our possessions and divided hearts?

The good news is, there is still time. Jesus is building a great tower to heaven—his own body. So we renounce all and give ourselves to him as his precious stones. Jesus is waging a battle against our enemy. So we forsake all and swear allegiance and march under his banner. In this way, we will finish what has begun in our discipleship. Or better put, our Lord will have the stones and soldiers required to see his great work through.

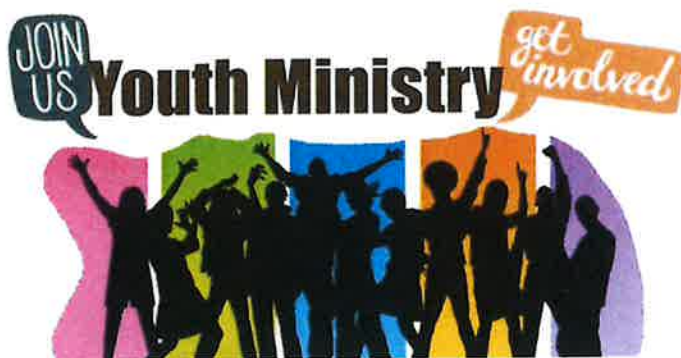
— *Father John Muir*

## *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!*



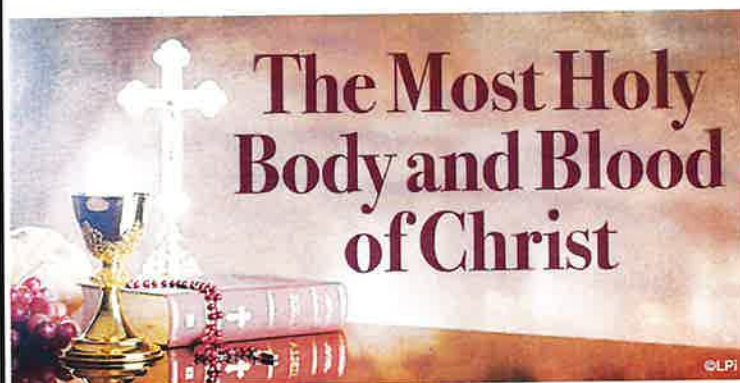
Thursdays 6-8:30pm  
Saint Stephen Social Hall



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.**



# 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!*



\*13458893\* FOR FUNDRAISING INFO: 866-543-5483 FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE: 866-701-3473

 <b>1800 flowers</b> 20% OFF W/ PROMO CODE: WINNERS WWW.1800FLOWERS.COM	 <b>Café 101</b> \$1 OFF ANY DINNER PLATTER 197 W GENERAL SCREVEN HWY	 <b>Checkers</b> FREE 3M FRY W/ PUR 147 GENERAL SCREVEN HWY	 <b>FIREHOUSE SUBS</b> FREE KIDS MEAL W/ PUR OF COMBO MEAL 1876 S McDONALD ST	 <b>POPEYES</b> FREE TWO PIECE CHICKEN W/ PUR OF 3 PIECE CHICKEN AND 2 MILD DRINKS 815 E OGLETHORPE AVE STATE RD 84
 <b>magoos</b> 40% OFF ANY REG MENU PRICED ITEMS 967 OGLETHORPE HWY	 <b>Papa John's</b> LG PIZZA FOR \$11.99 755 E OGLETHORPE HWY	 <b>Panda Express</b> 20% OFF TOTAL BILL 801 W OGLETHORPE HWY	 <b>POPEYES</b> FREE TWO PIECE CHICKEN W/ PUR OF 3 PIECE CHICKEN AND 2 MILD DRINKS 815 E OGLETHORPE AVE STATE RD 84	 <b>ZAXBY'S</b> 15% OFF TOTAL BILL *EXCL ALCOHOL AND OTHER OFFERS* 304 W OGLETHORPE HWY
 <b>SONIC</b> FREE SINGLE PATTY SONIC CHEESEBURGER W/ PUR OF THE SAME 726 W OGLETHORPE HWY	 <b>SURCHEROS</b> PUR OF ENTRÉE, GET REG SIZED DRINK FOR FREE 715 W OGLETHORPE HWY STE 115	 <b>THE LITTLE SHOP OF FLOWERS</b> 10% OFF TOTAL BILL 545 W OGLETHORPE HWY	 <b>WAYBACK BURGERS</b> 15% OFF TOTAL PUR 863 W OGLETHORPE HWY 4205	 <b>ZAXBY'S</b> 15% OFF TOTAL BILL 403 E OGLETHORPE HWY

DISCOUNTS ARE GOOD FOR EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE, VALID FOR REG. PRICE ITEMS ONLY. OFFERS NOT GOOD WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNT OR COMBO MEALS. ALL DISCOUNTS OFFER EXCEPT FOR ALCOHOL. DISCOUNTS GOOD AT PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS ONLY, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. THESE PURCHASES MAY VARY BY ALL STATE TO COMPLY W/ RULES STATED MAY RESULT IN CARD SEIZURE. OFFERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. THREE WINNERS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR CLOSURE OF ANY BUSINESS ON CARD.

WWW.ELTEFUNDRAISING.COM

### 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.)

# PARISH SUPPORT

## DONATIONS

### Weekly Offertory – August 24

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

Offertory	\$4,544
Building Fund	\$70
Online Giving	\$767
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,381</b>

### 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



PLEDGE TO  
HEAL

**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](http://virtusonline.org) to register. (912) 201-4074.

***Our Harvest of Hope Campaign will kick off in September! We are so excited for what this means for our Parish! Please see the videos if you haven't already!***



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](mailto: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](mailto:eedstrada@diosav.org)

### **Parochial Vicar:**

Fr. Modeste Seloukou,  
FM

### **Deacon:**

Doug Delzeith  
[ddelzeith@yahoo.com](mailto:ddelzeith@yahoo.com)  
(912) 977-5278

### **Sacristan:**

Sam Beiter  
[beiterl@yahoo.com](mailto:beiterl@yahoo.com)

### **Office Manager:**

Annette Miller

### **Office Assistant:**

Diana Young

### **Parish Catechetical Leader:**

Berta Ganaway  
[saintstephenfaithformation@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ssfmcc399@gmail.com)



912-876-4364 (office)



912-876-3150 (fax)

[ststephenshinesville.com](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 and attend class as well. 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](mailto: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.