TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE PERSON TRUSTWORTHY
IN SMALL MATTERS IS
ALSO TRUSTWORTHY IN

GREAT ONES.

LUKE 16:10





SAINT STEPHEN FIRST MARTYR



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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

St Stephen First Martyr

Upcoming Events:

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.

September 27-28 – Gift Shop – The Gift shop will be open after Mass Saturday evening and after the 8 and 10am Mass Sunday. There's new items in stock come check us out!

October 3rd - 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.

October 4th - 10:30a - First Saturday Rosary - Join us as we pray the Rosary in the Church.

October 5^{th} – 2-3p - Life Chain – In Honor of Respect Life Month we will host our 26^{th} Life Chain.

Please see information in the bulletin for more details.

DATE	MASS TIME	INTENTIONS		
Sat. 9/20	5:00PM	60th Wedding Anniversary Blessings Mr. and Mrs. Johanson ~Rita & Eric Johanson		
Sun. 9/21	8:00AM	Healing for Amy and Trever Smith ~Bonny Carreker		
	10:00AM	†Soul of Joshua Trinidad ~Tirso Elomina		
	12:00PM	Pro Populo ~For the People		
Mon 9/22	7:00PM	Parish Community		
Tues. 9/23	12:00PM	†Souls of Lourdes & Jose Cruz ~Carmen Cruz		
Weds. 9/24	12:00PM	tSouls of Antonio L Ong & Linda Bucayo ~Dr. Cecilia Ong		
Thurs. 9/25	12:00PM	†Soul of Nancy Johanson ~Eric & Rita Johanson		
Thurs. 9/25	7:00PM	Parish Community		
Sat. 9/27	5:00PM	†Soul of Jose P Cruz ~Carmen Cruz		
Sun. 9/28	8:00AM	†Souls of Pitzen Friends and Family ~Mark Pitzen		
	10:00AM	†Soul of Joshua Trinidad ~Tirso Elomina		
	12:00PM	Pro Populo ~For the People		



9/22- Emily Hause, Georgina Oriti, Steven Sartor

9/23- Emily Carrier

9/24- Tirso Elomina, Christopher Jimenez, Kennese Madria

9/25- Rocky Bosch, Vincent Campanella, Gwendolyn Davis, Christopher Perez Jr.

9/27- Eyette Garrow

9/28- Yohou Tade, Susanne Wallen



Tom & Jeannine Wing, June Holt, Leslie Shaw, Stacy Fletcher, Sandra Powell, Joyce 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)

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: BE FAITHFUL IN SMALL MATTERS

"The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth?" (Lk 16, 10-13)

WORD OF LIFE

There is an experience that priests usually have when they hear confessions: some penitents say that they do not have sins, despite the fact that they have not gone to confession for many years. Of course, they are referring to certain sins: not killing, not stealing large amounts, not cheating on their spouse, etc. However, there is an infinite number of venial sins that many commit without giving any importance to them. And, more importantly, there are many more sins of omission that we should also take into account. The Lord does not want us to be His fair-weather friends but to be His totally and completely. He wants us to be faithful in great matters, of course, but also in the small ones, in the daily ones, in those in which we can more easily show Him our love.

Furthermore, and following the teaching thread of this Gospel account: If we are not capable of being faithful in small matters, how will we be faithful in the great? Theoretically, we should be willing to be faithful to Christ even if it means torture and martyrdom; however, this difficult goal may be impossible if we are not trained to do what God asks of us in infinitely less harsh conditions. We have so many excuses for not doing God's will and for not fulfilling our obligations: It is too hot; It is raining; We are tired; We have already helped on another occasion, etc. And so, life passes us by, with good intentions that reassure our conscience, but with achievements that, in our hands, are imperfect.

<u>Purpose:</u> Do well what you have to do, without looking for excuses. Help others in need, without caring that your help does not fully solve their problem.

DOMINGO XXV DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO: "FIELES EN LO POCO"

"El que es de fiar en lo menudo, también en lo importante es de fiar; el que no es honrado en lo menudo, tampoco en lo importante es honrado. Si no fuisteis de fiar en el vil dinero, ¿quién os confiará lo que vale de veras?". (Lc 16, 10-13)

PALABRA DE VIDA

Hay una experiencia que suelen hacer los sacerdotes cuando confiesan y es la de escuchar a algunos penitentes decir que ellos no tienen pecados a pesar de que hace muchos años que no se confiesan. Se están refiriendo, por supuesto, a determinados pecados: no matar, no robar grandes cantidades, no engañar a la esposa o al marido. Pero hay infinidad de pecados veniales que muchos cometen sin darles importancia. Y, sobre todo, hay una gran cantidad de pecados de omisión que también tendríamos que tener en cuenta. El Señor no quiere que seamos amigos suyos a medias, sino del todo. Quiere que seamos fieles en las cosas grandes, por supuesto, pero también en las pequeñas, en las de cada día, en aquellas en las que con más facilidad podemos demostrarle nuestro amor.

Más aún, y siguiendo el hilo de enseñanza de este relato evangélico: si no somos capaces de ser fieles en lo poco, ¿cómo lo seremos en lo mucho? Teóricamente deberíamos estar dispuestos a ser fieles a Cristo hasta el martirio, con tortura incluida; sin embargo, esa difícil meta puede ser imposible cuando no estamos entrenados a hacer lo que Dios nos pide en condiciones infinitamente menos duras. ¡Cuántas excusas para no hacer la voluntad de Dios e incluso para no cumplir nuestras obligaciones! Que si hace calor, que si llueve, que si estamos cansados, que si ya hemos ayudado en otra ocasión... Y así se nos pasa la vida, con grandes propósitos que tranquilizan nuestra conciencia, pero con realizaciones demasiado pobres en nuestras manos.

<u>Propósito:</u> Hacer bien lo que tengo que hacer, sin buscar excusas. Ayudar al prójimo necesitado sin importarnos que nuestra ayuda no resuelva del todo su problema.



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:

The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Never will I forget a thing they have done! (Am 8:7)

Psalm:

Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor. (Ps 113)

Second Reading:

There is also one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as ransom for all. (1 Tm 2:5-6)

Gospel:

"No servant can serve two masters.

He will either hate one and love the other,
or be devoted to one and despise the other.

You cannot serve both God and mammon." (Lk 16:13)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

No servant can serve two masters, and in his goodness, God gives us the ability to choose. Will we serve mammon, the riches of this world? Or will we seek true wealth, the kind that cannot be hoarded or wasted, but only given freely away?

Observances for the week of September 21, 2025

Sunday: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time;

Catechetical Sunday

Monday: National Migration Week

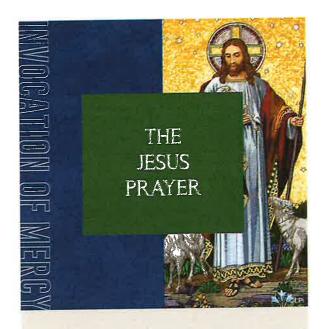
Tuesday: St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

Friday: Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs

Saturday: St. Vincent de Paul, Priest

Next Sunday: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time;

Priesthood Sunday



Devotions, Explained!

The Jesus Prayer is a short invocation of mercy in the name of Jesus: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Often attributed to the tradition of Eastern Christianity, its short form makes it ideal for meditative prayer.

Prayer for Trust

Jesus,

Amen.

With your gentle mercy, build my trust. Help me to believe you when you say you want good for me. In every season, give me grace. In every need, be my answer.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of September 21, 2025

Sunday:

Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 (see 1a, 7b)/ 1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

Monday:

Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/ Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday:

Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday:

Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8/ Lk 9:1-6

Thursday:

Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/ Lk 9:7-9

Friday:

Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4/Lk 9:18-22

Saturday:

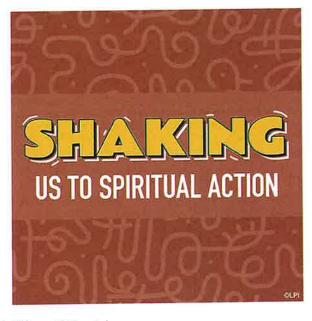
Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/ Lk 9:43b-45

Next Sunday:

Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1b)/ 1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31



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Gospel Meditation Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Before I was a priest, I was a lazy worker for a retail Apple store. Hearing a rumor that my boss was going to fire me, I secretly sold iPhones for half-price, gave away dozens of free iPads, and donated several brand-new laptops to managers in other stores in the mall. After a week, my boss called me into his office. He knew what I was up to. He said I had cost the store thousands of dollars. "Really great work, John," he said. "I am going to recommend you to be my assistant manager and double your pay." I was amazed.

And so are you. Which is understandable because it never happened. How could it? My tall tale is a retelling of Jesus' brow-furrowing parable we hear this week. A lazy, dishonest steward defrauds his boss and then the "master commended the dishonest servant for acting prudently" (Luke 16:8). What is the Lord saying to us?

Most of us treat our spiritual lives like a lazy teenager at an Apple store. We really don't care. We go through the motions. Then, if we are lucky, something happens that shakes us to spiritual action; to employ whatever time, money, and resources we have to build around us a strong network of love. Every saint did that. Our Lord is so good he wants us to use his stuff to forgive debts and to bless others. He wants us to ensure our future. So do it!

- Father John Muir

ST. STEPHEN FIRST MARTYR- ISSUE 2



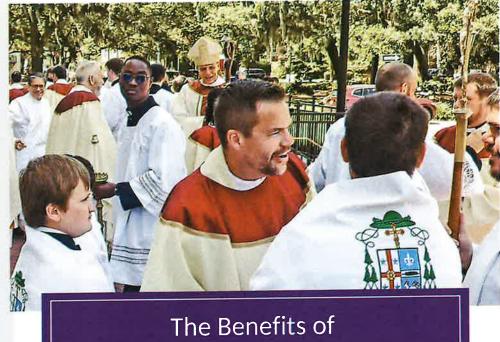
WE PRAY TOGETHER

Heavenly Father, who in Your providence have brought us together at this time and in this place, we ask You to guide, inspire, and bless our Diocese of Savannah and the Harvest of Hope campaign.

Provide us, Your children, with the rich soil of faith, hope, and love, that the seeds we are planting now will bear abundant fruit for generations.

As we work together for the full coming of Your kingdom, O Lord, may we find a new way of belonging to You and to one another, rejoicing always in Your generosity.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



PARISH CASE:

The funds generated by the Harvest of Hope campaign will allow St. Stephen First Martyr to:

Harvest of Hope

- Update Flooring in the Sanctuary
- · Rewiring of the Parish Office Building and Social Hall

DIOCESAN CASE:

With God's blessing and the support of the faithful, the diocesan-wide Harvest of Hope capital campaign will help ensure a lasting legacy for our local Church. Funds raised will:

- create a \$30,000 endowment for every one of our parishes and missions;
- establish endowments for seminarian education, vocations, and evangelization;
- secure funding for a centrally-located tract of land within the diocese; and
- provide for the 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal.

The first funds raised by the parish will fulfill our 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal. Once the parish Appeal is met, 50% of all funds raised up to the \$247,268 parish goal will remain in the parish. After the parish goal is surpassed, 70% of all new funds will remain in the parish.

For more information, please contact our campaign director Iris Bodré at 863-840-1483, ibodre@guidanceingiving.com or in the parish office most Mondays from 4 - 6 pm



COSECHA de ESPERANZA

ORAMOS JUNTOS

Padre Celestial, que nos has reunido hoy y aquí en Tu providencia, te pedimos guíes, inspires y bendigas nuestra Diócesis de Savannah y la campaña Cosecha de Esperanza.

Otorga Señor a Tus hijos, el terreno rico de la fe, esperanza y el amor, para que las semillas que sembramos hoy den frutos abundantes para las generaciones venideras.

Mientras trabajamos juntos por la venida plena de Tu reino, Señor, que encontremos una nueva forma de ser para Ti y para los demás, regocijándonos siempre en Tu generosidad.

Te lo pedimos por Cristo Nuestro Señor. Amén.

Sembrando semillas para el futuro de la Diócesis de Savannah.



Los beneficios de Cosecha de Esperanza

Los fondos generados por la campaña Cosecha de Esperanza permitirán a la Iglesia San Esteban, Mártir a:

- Renovar el piso del santuario
- Reinstalar el cableado del edificio de oficinas parroquiales y el salón social

CASO DIOCESANO:

Con la bendición de Dios y el apoyo de los fieles, la campaña diocesana Cosecha de Esperanza ayudará a asegurar un legado para nuestra Iglesia local. Los fondos recaudados servirán para:

- crear una fondo patrimonial de 30.000 dólares para cada una de nuestras parroquias y misiones;
- establecer fondos patrimoniales para la educación de los seminaristas, las vocaciones y la evangelización;
- comprar terreno céntrico en la diócesis; y
- apoyar la Campaña Católica Anual 2025.

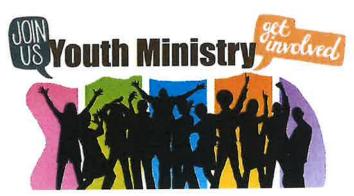
Los primeros fondos recaudados por la parroquia se destinarán a nuestra Campaña Católica Anual de 2025. Una vez alcanzada la meta de \$247,268, el 50% de los fondos recaudados permanecerán en la parroquia. Una vez superada la meta, el 70% de los nuevos fondos permanecerán aqui.

Para más información, póngase en contacto con nuestra directora de la campaña Iris Bodré en el 863-940-1483, ibodre@guidanceingiving.com o en la oficína de la parroquia, lunes de 4 - 6 pm 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!



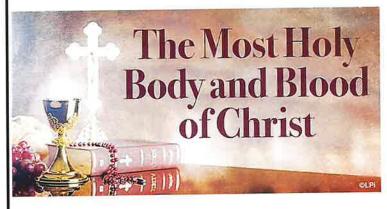
Thursdays 6-8:30pm Saint Stephen Social Hall



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.

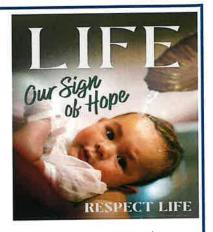


SCAM WARNING

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.

October Respect Life Month Life Chain October 5th @1:45-3:00

The National Life Chain is held on the first Sunday of October, this is known as Respect Life Sunday! For 26 years, we've participated!



We will meet at Carter's Funeral home, next to Bojangles at 1:45. We pray, distribute signs and stand silently for 1 hour in prayer. Christians ALL across America are standing with us in SUPPORT of Life at the same time.

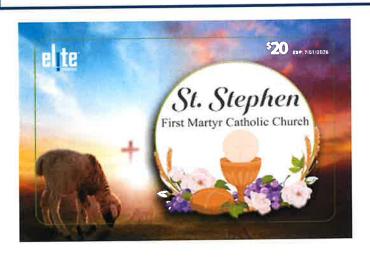
Please join us as we Reflect the Gift of Life to others. We never know if we make a Difference in someone's life considering an abortion, hopefully, we do!!



Sign-up sheets and flyers with additional information are at the Respect Life Display after all the Masses. Members available for questions!

See you at the LIFE CHAIN.







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 above.)



PONATIONS

Weekly Offertory – September 7

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

Offertory	\$7,008
Building Fund	\$1,992
Online Giving	\$748
Total	\$9,748

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!



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	ou are a longtime resident or have recently arrived in our parish -Welcome!
Please use the form below to re	ister or update your information. You may place this form in the collection basket.
(We may call you for additional	formation.)
Name:	Phone:
Address:	

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:

Office Hours:

Mon: 9AM-6PM

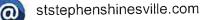
Tues-Thurs: 9AM-2PM

Gift Shop Hours:

Sept 27-28 SACRED GARDEN CIFT SHOP ST. STEPHEN







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 $1^{\rm st}$ 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 Sunday of every month at 1pm 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

Active Parishioner Status

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