



# SAINT STEPHEN FIRST MARTYR



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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE GOOD NEWS  
PROCLAIMED  
**TO THEM.**

— MATTHEW 11:5 —

# St Stephen First Martyr

## Upcoming Events:

**December 14<sup>th</sup> – 12p Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass, Procession and Celebration**

**December 14<sup>th</sup> – Angel Tree Gifts due by today!!!! Please return Unwrapped gifts no later than today.**

**December 16<sup>th</sup> - 7p – Grief Support Mtg. - Find comfort and healing from your grief of a lost loved one or companion.**

**December 23-26 – Offices Closed for Christmas, Office will Open Dec. 29-30 9a-12p Only then closed til Jan 5<sup>th</sup>.**

## Christmas Mass Schedule

**December 24<sup>th</sup> – 5p – Vigil Mass**

**December 25<sup>th</sup> – 12a Midnight Mass, 10a English Mass, 12p Spanish Mass**

**December 26<sup>th</sup> – 6p Bilingual St Stephen's Feast Day Mass and Potluck!** Join us in the Social Hall after Mass for a potluck in Honor of St. Stephen's Feast day, our Patron Saint. We are asking everyone to bring their favorite dish, drink, appetizers, or those extra Christmas cookies to share.

DATE	MASS TIME	MASS INTENTIONS
<b>Sat. 12/13</b>	5:00PM	†Soul of Kathryn Johanson ~Eric & Rita Johanson
<b>Sun. 12/14</b>	8:00AM	†Souls of Pitzen Friends & Family ~Mark Pitzen
	10:00AM	†Souls of Thomas E & Doris Spurgeon ~Martina & Thomas Spurgeon
	12:00PM	Pro Populo – For the Community
<b>Mon 12/15</b>	5:30PM	Our Parish Community
<b>Mon 12/15</b>	7:00PM	†Soul of Elba Gonzalez Camacho
<b>Tues. 12/16</b>	12:00PM	Our Parish Community
<b>Weds. 12/17</b>	12:00PM	Our Parish Community
<b>Thurs. 12/18</b>	12:00PM	Nadolski Anniversary Blessings ~Walter Nadolski
<b>Thurs. 12/18</b>	7:00PM	Our Parish Community
<b>Sat. 12/20</b>	5:00PM	†Soul of Michael Dushner Jr. ~Dushner Family
<b>Sun. 12/21</b>	8:00AM	†Soul of Monica Gonzalez ~Irizarry Family
	10:00AM	Pro Populo – For the Community
	12:00PM	†Soul of Carlos Muniz Rivera



12/15- Cassidy Hemminger

12/16- Alexander Benavides

12/17- Edgardo Borrero-Duran, Liam Juan Manglona, Deborah Nettle

12/18- Cecilia Rowland

12/19- O.L. Santiago

12/21-Sue Hinely, Nafi Kone, Michael Thaxon



Willie Crowe, Janice Robertson, Nancy Hill, 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, Nellie Orta, 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)

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent: Announce the Good News to the Poor**

*"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." (Mt 11:4-6).*

#### **WORD OF LIFE**

Who are the poor? They are those who suffer from a physical or material need. They are the multitudes of farmers and laborers in South America, Africa, or Asia, those who dwell in the marginal neighborhoods of the large cities, the immigrants, those hated because of their race, religion, or some deficiency that makes them incapable of competing in a society such as ours. These are the first poor, and it would be an offense to forget them.

But it would also be an error to forget the poor who live alone, those suffering the consequences of the break-up of a marriage, those who are ill, and, in short, all those who suffer for one reason or another. All carry in their bodies or in their spirits the mark of the Crucified One, who on the cross not only suffered the pain of the nails and the thorns but also the abandonment of His friends.

What then does the announcing of the Good News to the poor mean? It means helping them solve their problems, with all of our strength, but, at the same time, offering them the personal experience of our encounter with God, Who is the only One Who can truly help them, and the only One Who can give them, and everyone else, true happiness.

Also, there is something else in this week's "Word of Life": the exclamation of Christ calling blessed those who do not feel disappointed by Him. In other words, those who do not believe that He does nothing because He rejects violence as a means to resolve problems, or because He does not perform miracles so that these problems disappear.

**Purpose:** Help all who suffer, insofar as you are able, with almsgiving or companionship. But also, speak to them of God. Do not doubt Christ nor the effectiveness of His message.

### **Domingo III Adviento: Anunciar a los pobres la buena noticia**

*"Id a anunciar a Juan lo que estáis viendo y oyendo: los ciegos ven, los inválidos andan; los leprosos quedan limpios y los sordos oyen; los muertos resucitan y a los pobres se les anuncia la buena noticia. ¡dichoso el que no se siente defraudado por mí!" (Mt 11, 2-6).*

#### **PALABRA DE VIDA**

¿Quiénes son los pobres? Son, en primer lugar, aquellos que padecen necesidad física, material; son las muchedumbres de campesinos de Iberoamérica, África o Asia; los habitantes de los barrios periféricos en las grandes ciudades; los emigrantes; los despreciados por causa de su raza, por su religión o por alguna deficiencia que les hace incapaces de competir en una sociedad como la nuestra. Estos son los primeros pobres, y olvidarlo es una ofensa para ellos.

Pero también es un error olvidar que son pobres los que viven solos, los que padecen las consecuencias de una ruptura matrimonial, los que están enfermos y, en definitiva, todos aquellos que por un motivo u otro sufren. Unos y otros llevan en su cuerpo o en su espíritu la marca del Crucificado, que en la cruz no sólo padeció por los clavos y las espinas, sino también por el abandono de los amigos.

¿Qué significa, entonces, anunciar la buena noticia a los pobres? Significa ayudarles a solucionar sus problemas, con todas nuestras fuerzas. Pero, a la vez, ofrecerles la experiencia personal del encuentro con Dios, que es quien verdaderamente les puede ayudar y el único que a ellos, como a todos los demás, les va a dar la felicidad.

Además, hay otra cosa en esta "palabra de vida": la exclamación de Cristo llamando dichoso al que no se sienta defraudado por Él. Es decir, al que no crea que Él no hace nada porque rechaza la violencia como medio para solucionar los problemas, o porque no hace milagros para que éstos desaparezcan.

**Propósito:** Ayudar a todo aquel que sufre, con la limosna o con la compañía, en la medida de nuestras fuerzas. Pero también hablarles de Dios. Y no dudar de Cristo ni de la eficacia de su mensaje.



#### **FRANCISCANS OF MARY - FRANCISCANOS DE MARIA**

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

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





# Franciscans of Mary

## Missionaries of Gratitude

### PRAYER

**Jesus, I trust in you.**

*I know that whatever happens to me is a fruit of your love.*

**Jesus, I love you.**

*You are first in my heart.*

**Jesus, I adore you.**

*You are more important than my job, my money or any other thing.*

### **Jesus, I GIVE YOU THANKS**

*For having created me, for having become man, for having died and risen from the dead, for the Eucharist and Confession, for the Church, the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints, for the things that I have had, for the things that I have, because I am able to help others, and for the affection that I receive.*

### **Jesus, I ask for your forgiveness.**

*For the evil that I have committed and for the good I have failed to do.*

### **Jesus, I ask for your help.**

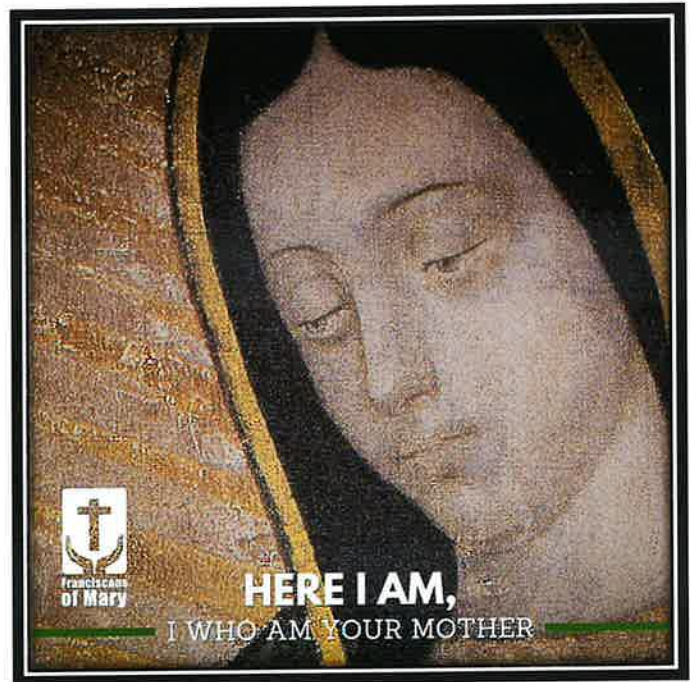
*I ask for spiritual graces, such as the overcoming of my defects and for material help, for me, for others and for society.*

### **Jesus, I offer myself to you.**

*You can count on me for whatever you want.*

### **LIKE MARY.**

*With the tenderness of your mother and through Her way of living by living the virtues. Amen.*



# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return  
and enter Zion singing,  
crowned with everlasting joy;  
they will meet with joy and gladness,  
sorrow and mourning will flee. (Isa 35:10)

### Psalm:

Lord, come and save us. (Ps 146)  
OR  
Alleluia.

### Second Reading:

Be patient, brothers and sisters,  
until the coming of the Lord. (Jas 5:7)

### Gospel:

Jesus said to them in reply,  
"Go and tell John what you hear and see:  
the blind regain their sight,  
the lame walk,  
lepers are cleansed,  
the deaf hear,  
the dead are raised,  
and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."  
(Mt 11:4-5)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Go and tell what you have seen and heard,"  
Jesus says. When it comes to proving who he  
is, he always lets his actions do the talking. We  
have heard. We have seen. We must go and  
tell. Let's let our actions do the talking. Who  
do we think Jesus is?

## Observances for the week of December 14, 2025

**Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Advent

**Next Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent

## Readings for the week of December 14, 2025

### Sunday:

Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10  
(see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

### Monday:

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and  
7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

### Tuesday:

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18,  
19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

### Wednesday:

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/  
Mt 1:1-17

### Thursday:

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/  
Mt 1:18-25

### Friday:

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-  
17/Lk 1:5-25

### Saturday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/  
Lk 1:26-38

### Next Sunday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/  
Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24



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Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in  
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# 2026 MACON

## MARCHA POR LA VIDA

23 de enero de 2026

¡Únase al Obispo Parkes, la Diócesis de Savannah, y el Kolbe Center para la Marcha por la Vida 2026 de Macon!

### HORARIO

**9:30 am**

Rosario en el Kolbe Center  
833 Walnut St., Macon

**11 am**

Misa con el Obispo Parkes  
en la Iglesia St. Joseph  
830 Poplar St.

**12 pm**

Concentración de Respeto por  
la Vida fuera de St. Joseph y  
marcha al Kolbe Center

**12:45 pm**

Almuerzo en el Salón  
Social de St. Joseph

**SE REQUIERE  
REGISTRARSE PARA  
EL ALMUERZO**

Adultos \$5  
18 y menores gratis

### PREGUNTAS

**Patrick Tunnell**

ptunnell@diosav.org  
(912) 201-4068

**El Kolbe Center**

(478) 257-4425

**Registrarse en  
[diosav.org/march-for-life](https://diosav.org/march-for-life)**



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE of SAVANNAH

# 2026 MACON MARCH FOR LIFE

January 23, 2026

Join Bishop Parkes, the Diocese of Savannah, and the Kolbe Center for the 2026 Macon March for Life!

## SCHEDULE

**9:30 am**

Rosary at the Kolbe Center  
833 Walnut St., Macon

**11 am**

Mass with Bishop Parkes  
at St. Joseph Church  
830 Poplar St.

**12 pm**

Respect Life Rally outside  
of St. Joseph and march to  
the Kolbe Center

**12:45 pm**

Lunch at St. Joseph's Social Hall

## REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR LUNCH

Adults \$5  
18 and under free

## QUESTIONS

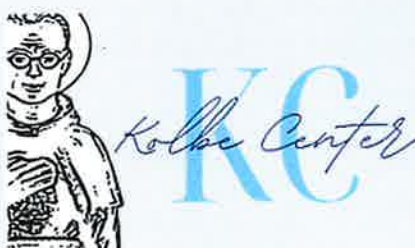
**Patrick Tunnell**

ptunnell@diosav.org  
(912) 201-4068

**The Kolbe Center**

(478) 257-4425

Register at  
[diosav.org/march-for-life](https://diosav.org/march-for-life)



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE of SAVANNAH



## *School of Gratitude*

*Father Estrada is hosting a School of Gratitude for Young Adults beginning Oct. 20th after 5:30p Mass and a SOG for Adults on Thursday's after 12pm 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!*



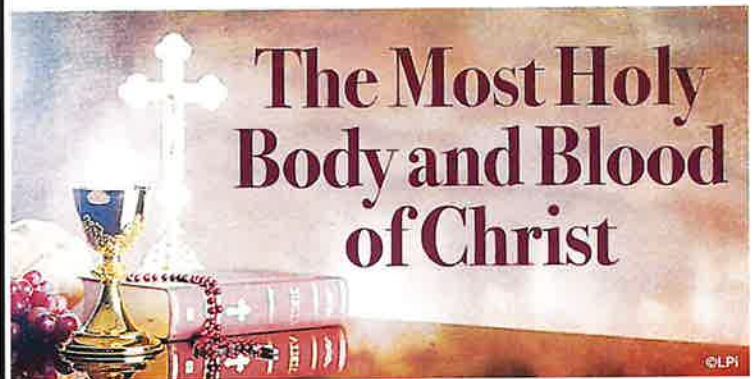
Thursdays 6-8:30pm  
Saint Stephen Social Hall



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.





## Angel Tree Guidelines

Saint Stephen First Martyr Catholic Church

*\*Select a gift tag from the Angel Tree in Narthax.*

*\*Purchase the requested gift.*

*\*Return Unwrapped gift to the Narthax with the gift tag attached to the gift.*

*Gifts will be collected starting November 27<sup>th</sup> thru December 14<sup>th</sup>.*



Are YOU Ready to Fight Against Cancer???

## JOIN ST STEPHEN RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM

To Join or Donate to our Team

<https://main.acsevents.org/goto/ststephnhinesville>



Any Cancer Survivors  
or if you are going through Cancer  
Contact Marsha for a Free Survivor's  
Tshirt



Relay for Life Liberty County  
May 1st 2026

ANY QUESTIONS TEXT OR EMAIL MARSHA CLIFTON  
912-737-1344 OR LOOKYOURBESTWITHME@YAHOO.COM

# Discount Card Blow Out NOW ONLY \$10!!!!!!

Available in the  
Office or the  
Gift Shop!

The cards don't expire  
until July 1<sup>st</sup>, you still  
have plenty of time to  
use these great  
discounts at local  
businesses around town!

They make great  
Stocking Stuffers!!!!!!

*13498893* FOR FUNDRAISING INFO: 866-543-5483 FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE: 866-701-3473				
 20% OFF IN PROMO CODE WINNERS WWW.1000FLOWERS.COM	 \$1 OFF ANY DINNER PLATTER 187 W GENERAL SCREVEN WAY	 FREE SM FRY W PUR 147 GENERAL SCREVEN WAY	 FREE APP W PUR 1876 S MCCONALD ST	 FREE KIDS MEAL W PUR OF COMBO MEAL 188 W OGLETHORPE HWY
 10% OFF ANY REG MEAL PRICED ITEMS 887 OGLETHORPE HWY	 LG PIZZA FOR \$11.99 788 E OGLETHORPE	 30% OFF TOTAL BILL 181 W OGLETHORPE HWY	 FREE TWO PRICE DINNER W PUR OF 3 PRICE DINNER AND 2 BEER DRINK 815 E OGLETHORPE AVE STATE RD 34	 15% OFF TOTAL BILL "EXCL. ALCOHOL AND OTHER OFFERS" 304 W OGLETHORPE HWY
 FREE SINGLE PATTY SONIC CHEESEBURGER W PUR OF THE SAME 725 W OGLETHORPE HWY	 PUR OF ENTREE, GET REG SIZED DRK FOR FREE 718 W OGLETHORPE HWY STE 115	 10% OFF TOTAL BILL 548 W OGLETHORPE HWY	 10% OFF TOTAL PUR 883 W OGLETHORPE HWY 4280	 15% OFF TOTAL BILL 883 E OGLETHORPE HWY
DISCOUNTS ARE GOOD FOR EQUAL OR LESS SERVICE, VALID FOR REG. PRICE ITEMS ONLY. OFFERS NOT GOOD WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNTS OR COMBO MEALS. ALL DISCOUNTS OFFERED BY LOCAL BUSINESS. DISCOUNTS GOOD AT PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS ONLY. FUNDS NOT TO BE USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES. 10% OFF PURCHASE OF 17 ALL ITEMS TO COMPLY WITH RULES STATED MAY RESULT IN CARD SEIZURE. OFFERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. THESE WINNERS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR CLOSURE OF ANY BUSINESS OR CARD. WWW.ELITEFUNDRAISING.COM				

# PARISH SUPPORT

## DONATIONS

### Weekly Offertory – NOV 30

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

Offertory	\$4,654
Building Fund	\$62
Online Giving	\$1,316
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,032</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.



HARVEST  
of HOPE  
COSECHA de ESPERANZA

*So far we have been given \$25,981 towards our Harvest of Hope goal, with an additional \$56,000 pledged to be paid to our goal. This has us at 33% of our goal for the Harvest of Hope, we encourage everyone to make a pledge for the upcoming 3 years to help us reach our overall goal of \$247,268.00.*

### 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  
[beiterrr@yahoo.com](mailto:beiterrr@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:**

#### **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-** Monday at 5:30p.

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 5:30pm followed by Rosary at 6:20pm)

**Wednesday-** 6-7p - Holy Hour with Rosary.

**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 Apt.

### **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 Wednesday Evenings: 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 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 during the First Friday's Mass at 12p. 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 by 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.