



SAINT STEPHEN FIRST MARTYR



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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE.

MATTHEW 1:23

St Stephen First Martyr

Upcoming Events:

December 23-26 – Offices Closed for Christmas, Office will Open Dec. 29-30 9a-12p Only then closed until Jan 5th.

Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24th – 5p – Vigil Mass

December 25th – 12a Midnight Mass, 10a English Mass, 12p Spanish Mass

December 26th – 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
Sat. 12/20	5:00PM	†Soul of Michael Dushner Jr. ~Dushner Family
Sun. 12/21	8:00AM	†Soul of Monica Gonzalez ~Irizarry Family
	10:00AM	Pro Populo – For the Community
	12:00PM	†Soul of Carlos Muniz Rivera
Mon 12/22	5:30PM	Our Parish Community
Mon 12/22	7:00PM	†Soul of Providencio Muniz Vega
Tues. 12/23	12:00PM	2 nd Anniversary Blessings for Eduardo Almanza & Katheryn De La Hoz
Weds. 12/24	5:00PM	†Soul of Victoria Keiffer ~Pat Delzeith
Thurs. 12/25	12:00AM	†Souls of Richard Young Sr. & Richard Young Jr. ~Diana Young
Thurs. 12/25	10:00AM	†Soul of Jose A Mercado ~Jose Mercado
Thurs. 12/25	12:00PM	Our Parish Community
Fri. 12/26	6:00PM	Birthday Blessings for Diana Young and Jim Sellitto ~Diana Young
Sat. 12/27	5:00PM	†Souls of Cutlip, Eichelberger, Gasior Families ~Dee Eichelberger
Sun. 12/28	8:00AM	†Soul of Jose Cruz ~The Lemapu Family
	10:00AM	Pro Populo – For the Community
	12:00PM	Our Parish Community



12/23- Eiel Pereira, Bon Tria

12/24- Jose Borrero, Christopher Perez

12/25- Aizalea Fejeran

12/26- Gloria Malave, James Sellitto, Diana Young

12/27- Julia Antonino Jacomino Tario, Alexandria Carrington, Lydia Casillano

12/28- Justice Smith



Joe & Pat Johnson, Gary Hubbard, 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)

4th Sunday of Advent: Take Mary Home

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her....’ When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.” (Mt 1:20-24).

WORD OF LIFE

It was not easy for Saint Joseph to accept the news that his spouse was with child without having relations with him. Without God’s intervention, Mary would have had to assume the difficult condition of being a single mother and Jesus would have had to bear the stigma of being the son of an unknown father. But Saint Joseph’s fear also has a symbolic meaning: the fear of allowing the Son of God into his life. The Son of God who did not come with the proper raiment of His rank, for if that had been the case, no one would have hesitated to accept Him with all the honors due Him. On the contrary, He came swaddled in weakness, the weakness of a poor child, so poor that He had only the arms and the heart of a very young Nazarene woman to defend Him.

The same thing can happen to us for fear of making our lives more complicated or for fear of what God might ask of us. So, we turn a deaf ear to the voice of the Angel of the Lord, who invites us to take into our home the Virgin Mary with a Child in her womb, with her Child in her arms. We do not want any trouble. But since problems cannot be avoided, we are plagued by our sin, our own selfishness, and the temptations of the Enemy. Taking Mary home, as Joseph did, is synonymous with accepting what God asks of us. It is accepting the law of love as the supreme law in our lives. Rejecting Mary is not making life easier, but rather complicating it in a more harmful way for both others and ourselves. So, whether we align our-selves with God and Mary or with the Enemy is totally up to us.

Purpose: Participate in the Schools of Gratitude and in the formation courses. Help whoever needs you, being aware that, by doing so, you allow God to enter your life.

Domingo IV Adviento: Llevar a María a casa

“‘José, hijo de David, no tengas reparo en llevarte a María, tu mujer porque la criatura que hay en ella viene del Espíritu Santo’. Cuana José se despertó hizo lo que le había mandado el ángel del Señor y llevó a casa a su mujer”. (Mt 1, 18-24).

PALABRA DE VIDA

No fue fácil para San José aceptar la noticia de que su mujer estaba embarazada sin haber tenido relaciones con él. Sin la intervención de Dios, María habría tenido que asumir la dura condición de madre soltera y Jesús habría llevado el baldón de ser un hijo de padre desconocido. Pero ese miedo de San José tiene también un significado simbólico: el miedo a dejar entrar en la propia vida al Hijo de Dios. A un Hijo de Dios que no venía con los ropajes propios de su rango, pues si así hubiera sido, nadie habría dudado en aceptarle con todos los honores. Por el contrario, venía camuflado de debilidad, de la debilidad de un niño pobre, tan pobre que sólo tenía para defenderle los brazos y el corazón de una jovencísima muchacha nazarena.

También a nosotros nos puede pasar lo mismo: por miedo a complicarnos la vida, por miedo a lo que Dios nos pueda pedir, hacemos oídos sordos a la voz del ángel del Señor, que nos invita a llevarnos a nuestra casa a la Virgen con el Niño en su seno, con el Niño en los brazos. No queremos líos y, efectivamente, no tenemos los líos de Dios. Pero como los problemas no se pueden evitar, tenemos, a cambio, los que proceden del enemigo, del pecado, de nuestro propio egoísmo. Llevarse a María a casa, como hizo San José, es sinónimo de aceptar lo que Dios nos pida, de aceptar la ley del amor como la suprema de nuestra vida. Rechazar a María no es simplificar la vida, sino complicarla de otra manera, de una manera más dañina para nosotros y también para los demás. De nosotros depende con quién nos complicamos la vida: si con Dios y María o con sus enemigos.

Propósito: Participar en las escuelas de agradecimiento y en los cursos de formación. Ayudar a quien nos necesita, conscientes de que así dejamos entrar a Dios en nuestra vida.



FRANCISCANS OF MARY - FRANCISCANOS DE MARÍA

Email: information@franciscansofmary.org
Website: <https://franciscanosdemaria.org/en>

Email: consultas@frmaria.org
TV: <https://magnificat.tv/>



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.



JESÚS me fio de ti, te quiero,
te adoro, te doy gracias,
te pido perdón, te pido gracias,
y me ofrezco a ti, como MARÍA.

Amén.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign:
the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and shall name him Emmanuel. (Isa 7:14)

Psalm:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. (Ps 24)

Second Reading:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom 1:7)

Gospel:

"Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.
For it is through the Holy Spirit
that this child has been conceived in her.
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins." (Mt 1:20-21)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Sometimes we want God's instructions to be clear and precise — like the angel in Joseph's dream. But Joseph's understanding was only as strong as his devotion to God's will. If we give our lives to God as Joseph did, we will know what he asks of us.

Observances for the week of December 21, 2025

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent

Tuesday: St. John of Kenty, Priest

Wednesday: Christmas Eve

Thursday: The Nativity of the Lord

Friday: St. Stephen, First Martyr

Saturday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Next Sunday: The Holy Family

Readings for the week of December 21, 2025

Sunday:

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

Monday:

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/
Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday:

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and
14/Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday:

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps
89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Thursday:

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
(2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or
1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13
(Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/
Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/
Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday:

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and
8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Saturday:

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Next Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1)/
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH

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**



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH

School of Gratitude

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



Thursdays 6-8:30pm
Saint Stephen Social Hall

Escuela de Gratitud

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

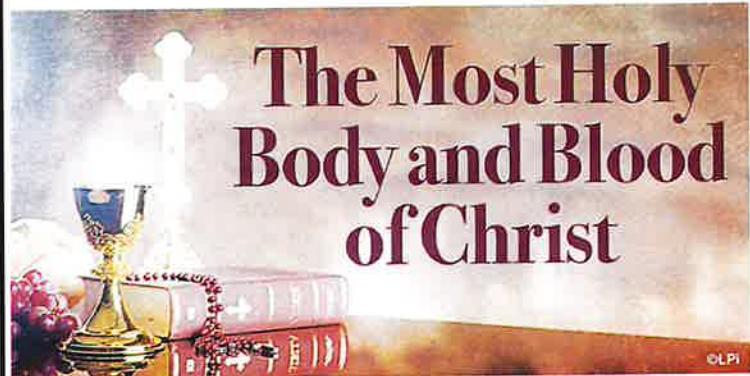
Ministerio Juvenil



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.

2026 MACON MARCH FOR LIFE



January 23, 2026

With Bishop Parkes, the Diocese of Savannah, & the Kolbe Center

Register: diosav.org/march-for-life



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH

HARVEST of HOPE / COSECHA de ESPERANZA

Harvest of Hope Promotes Tax Advantaged Giving

THE BENEFITS OF TAX ADVANTAGED GIVING

Gifts From An IRA

An IRA owner, age 70 1/2 or older, can directly transfer up to \$108,000 per year to an eligible charity tax-free in 2025. This option can be used for distributions from IRAs, regardless of whether the owners itemize their deductions. To qualify, the funds must be transferred directly by the IRA trustee to the Harvest of Hope campaign. Distributed amounts may be excluded from the IRA owner's income, resulting in lower taxable income for the IRA owner.

Gifts Of Stock

Donors can use their broker/agent to transfer stock. If the stock has been held long-term (over one year), the donor does not have to pay capital gains tax on the stock and is allowed a tax deduction for the full value of the stock. Stock must first be transferred to the Harvest of Hope campaign before being liquidated. Ensure that the donor name and parish are provided on the check and on all paperwork to the diocese.

To ensure our parish receives credit for an IRA gift or a stock transfer, please visit diosav.org/hope and complete the relevant forms



Join Us
Meet and Greet
Sunday, January 4th

1:30-2:30

in the Social Hall
Meet Current Team Members
Join or Donate to the Team

Find out more about what Relay For Life is and how Relay supports Cancer Research and Patient Services



Discount Card Blow Out

NOW ONLY \$10!!!!

Available in the
Office or the
Gift Shop!

The cards don't expire until July 1st, 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: 866-791-3473				
	\$1 OFF ANY DINNER PLATE SPECIAL 187 W GENERAL SCREWEN HWY		FREE SIDE FRY OR FOR 147 GENERAL SCREWEN HWY	
	20% OFF ANY REG MENU PRICED ITEMS 567 OGLETHORPE HWY		FREE APP IN PUR 1878 S MCDONALD ST	FREE KIDS MEAL IN PUR OF COMBO MEAL 516 W OGLETHORPE HWY
	10% OFF ANY REG MENU PRICED ITEMS 567 OGLETHORPE HWY		FREE TWO PIECE DINNER IN PUR OF 3 PIECE DINNER AND 2 MEDIUM DRINKS 815 E OGLETHORPE AVE STATE RD 84	10% OFF TOTAL BILL EXCLUDING TAXES AND OTHER OFFERS 164 W OGLETHORPE HWY
	PUR OF ENTRÉE, GET REG SIDES AND DRINK FOR FREE 718 W OGLETHORPE HWY STE 115		10% OFF TOTAL BILL 648 W OGLETHORPE HWY	10% OFF TOTAL BILL EXCLUDING TAXES AND OTHER OFFERS 164 W OGLETHORPE HWY
	DISCOUNTS ARE GOOD FOR EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE THAN PURCHASED ITEMS ONE OFFER NOT GOOD WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNT OR COMBO DEALS. ALL DISCOUNTS ARE SUBJECT TO EXPIRATION DATES. GOOD AT PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS ONLY. USES DISCOUNTS TO PURCHASE OTHER ITEMS WILL NOT BE COMBINED. NO RULES STATED MAY RETAIN IN LAW. SECURE OFFERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. THESE WINNERS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR FUGLURE OF ANY BUSINESS OR CARD. WWW.ELITEFUNDRAISING.COM			



PARISH SUPPORT



DONATIONS

Weekly Offertory – Dec 7th

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

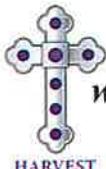
Offertory	\$7,348
Building Fund	\$1,544
Online Giving	\$929
Total	\$9,821

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.



So far we have been given \$29,627 towards our Harvest of Hope goal, with an additional \$67,000 pledged to be paid to our goal. This has us at 40% 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 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
estrada@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:

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- 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 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 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

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.