

THE HOLY FAMILY

DWELT IN A TOWN.

— MATTHEW 2:23 —



SAINT STEPHEN FIRST MARTYR



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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

©LPI

St Stephen First Martyr

Upcoming Events:

Office Open 9a-12p Dec 29/30 and Closed Dec 31-Jan 2.

Jan 1st – Holy Day of Obligation – Solemnity of Mary – English Mass at 10a, Spanish Mass at 12p.

Jan 3 & 4 – Building Fund Second Collection.

Jan 4th – Relay for Life interest meeting at 1:30pm in the Social Hall – If you want to join our team and find out more information on the Relay for Life please join us for a quick information meeting.

Jan 5th – Knights of Columbus General Meeting at 7pm in the Social Hall.

Jan 6th – Grief Support meeting at 7pm in the Social Hall.

Jan 8th – St. Vincent DePaul meeting at 1:30pm in the Social Hall.

Jan 10th – Crafts and Fellowship in the Social Hall 11am-2pm.

Jan 10th – 3 Kings Celebration in the Social Hall at 6pm.

DATE	MASS TIME	MASSt INTENTIONS
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
Mon 12/29	5:30PM	In Gratitude of Tom & Jeanine Wing ~Respect Life
Mon 12/29	7:00PM	Our Parish Community
Tues. 12/30	12:00PM	†Soul of Jose P. Cruz ~Carmen Cruz-Lanner
Weds. 12/31	12:00PM	Our Parish Community
Thurs. 1/1	10:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Father Adam ~Diana Young
Thurs. 1/1	12:00PM	Our Parish Community
Fri. 1/2	12:00PM	Our Parish Community
Fri. 1/2	7:00PM	Our Parish Community
Sat. 1/3	5:00PM	†Soul of Gerald Poertner ~Gudrun Poertner
Sun. 1/4	8:00AM	†Soul of Monica Gonzalez ~Irizarry Family
	10:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Renee Delzeith ~Pat Delzeith
	12:00PM	Pro Populo – For the Community



12/29- Ruth Chambers

12/30- Alexander Burgos, Hailey Ong

12/31- Ronald Farnsworth, Luis Rivera

1/1- Ricardo Baluyot, Eugenie Bougoulehi, Maico Chihuahua, Henry Davis, Elisabeth Jackson, Derel Vegailla Vazquez, Demetrius Young

1/2- Ivan Gonzalez, Bernadine Joseph

1/3- Walter Gilbert, Jerimar Torres

1/4- Renee Delzeith, Miranda Hanna



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 Bovingar, 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 Pecenek, Amy Smith.
(Names remain on the list for 30 days unless notified)

Holy Family: Saving the family

"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 An-gel 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 MARIA

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

Email: 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.

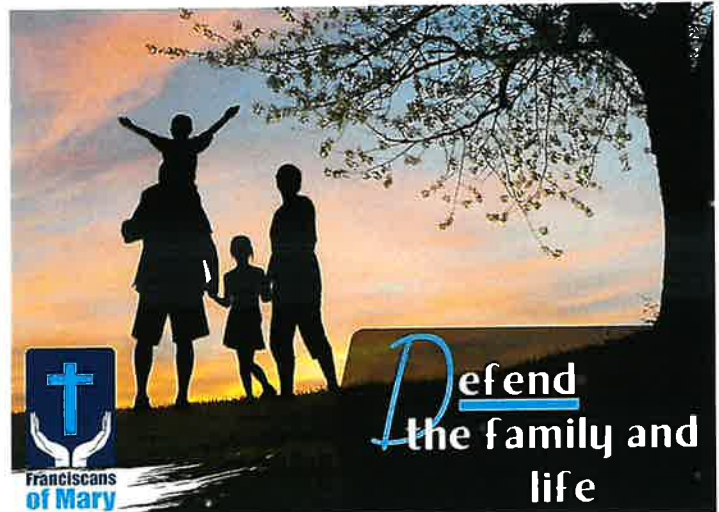
I ask for spiritual graces, such as the overcoming of my defects and for material help, for me, for others and for society.

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:

Whoever honors his father atones for sins,
and preserves himself from them. (Sir 3:3)

Psalm:

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.
(Ps 128)

Second Reading:

And whatever you do, in word or in deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col 3:17)

Gospel:

He rose, took the child and his mother,
and went to the land of Israel. (Mt 2:21)

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

God created the Holy Family with a great sense of purpose, because he knew that Jesus would be defined by the woman and man who raised him. Who is our "Holy Family" — the people who will define us? Who has God placed within our lives for a specific purpose?

Observances for the week of December 28, 2025

- Sunday:** The Holy Family
- Wednesday:** St. Sylvester I, Pope; *New Year's Eve*
- Thursday:** Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace
- Friday:** Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
- Saturday:** The Most Holy Name of Jesus
- Next Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord

Readings for the week of December 28, 2025

Sunday:

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

Monday:

1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/
Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday:

1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/
Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday:

1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

Thursday:

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/
Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Friday:

1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Jn 1:19-28

Saturday:

1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/
Jn 1:29-34

Next Sunday:

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



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.



You Are Invited

Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience®

Saturday, January 31st

**St. Stephen First Martyr
Catholic Church**

**399 Woodland Drive
Hinesville, GA 31313**

2:00 pm

- Touch the Grotto Rock
- Experience Lourdes Water
- Adoration & Benediction
- Rosary Procession

For more information
call (912) 876-4364

Free Will Offering Graciously Accepted!

***A Plenary Indulgence Granted
by Papal Decree***





Les invitamos

Peregrinaje Virtual al Santuario de Lourdes®

Domingo, 1 de Febrero, 2026

**St. Stephen First Martyr
Catholic Church
399 Woodland Drive
Hinesville GA 31313
a las 2:00pm**

- Roca de la Gruta
- Agua de Lourdes
- Adoración & Bendición Eucarística
- Rosario completo en la iglesia

Para mayor información
llamar (912) 876-4364

¡Ofrenda de libre voluntad aceptada con gracia!



**Indulgencia Plenaria Otorgada
por Decreto Papal**

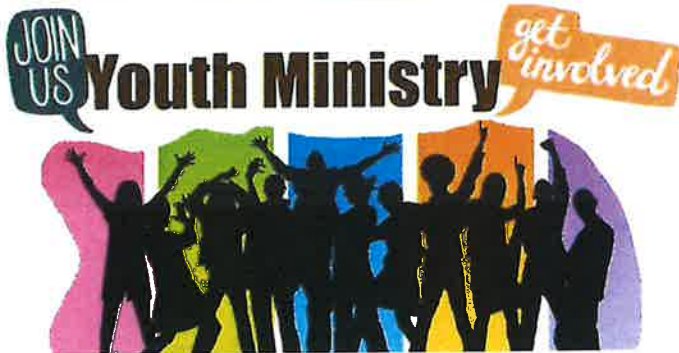


School of Gratitude

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 Gratiitud

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



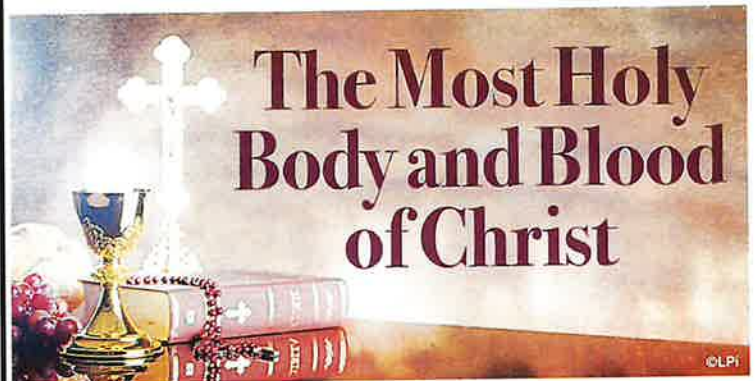
Thursdays 6-8:30pm
Saint Stephen Social Hall



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.

Linen Ministry

The Linen Ministry is looking for a few more parishioners to join the current members in washing the altar linen for a month-long period. With the current number of members, you would only have to wash the linen one to two times each year. We could really use some help. The new schedule will be published in January 2026. If you would like to join this group, please contact the Parish Office or Wendy Farace (912-271-2051) to sign up.



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

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



St Stephen St Vincent de Paul Holiday Season Outreach Generosity of Our Parishioners

Through the remarkable generosity shown by our parishioners during this holiday season, the St Stephen St Vincent de Paul Food Pantry was able to make a significant impact in our parish and community.

Thanksgiving Food Assistance

In November, the Food Pantry provided Thanksgiving food boxes to 51 families, reaching a total of 111 adults and 97 children. These efforts ensured that many families in need were able to celebrate Thanksgiving with a nutritious meal.

Christmas Food Distribution

On December 18th, Christmas food boxes were distributed to 47 families, supporting 101 adults and 86 children. This continued outreach brought comfort and joy to many households during the festive season.

Angel Tree Gift Program

The Angel Tree program provided Christmas gifts for each of the 86 children from the participating families. Additionally, the Angel Tree supplied gifts for Father Eder to distribute to children at St. Joseph in Jesup further extending the spirit of giving beyond our immediate parish community. Gifts were also donated for St. Stephen's Three Kings Celebration in January,

Our St Vincent de Paul's ministry of giving would not have been successful without your wonderful generosity. Thank you!!!

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and many blessings in the new year.

PARISH SUPPORT

DONATIONS

Weekly Offertory – Dec 14th

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

Offertory	\$4,662
Building Fund	\$471
Online Giving	\$1,154
Total	\$6,287

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.



HARVEST
of HOPE
COSECHA de ESPERANZA

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
eedstrada@diosav.org

Parochial Vicar:

Fr. Modeste Seloukou, FM

Deacon:

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

Sacristan:

Sam Beiter
beiterl@yahoo.com

Office Manager:

Annette Miller

Office Assistant:

Diana Young

Parish Catechetical Leader:

Berta Ganaway
saintstephenfaithformation@gmail.com

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 weekly at 12pm and First Friday's at 12pm.
(Exposition and Holy Hour start at 10:30am followed by Rosary at 11:20am)

Spanish Weekday Masses- Monday and Thursday weekly at 7pm and First Friday's 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 at 9a 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.