

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS.

— MATTHEW 3:3 —



SAINT STEPHEN FIRST MARTYR



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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

OLPI

St Stephen First Martyr

Upcoming Events:

December 8th – Holy Day of Obligation – Immaculate Conception of Mary Mass at 5p in English and 7p in Spanish.

December 11th – 1:30p - St. Vincent DePaul meeting – Join us for our monthly meeting to discuss the upcoming Holiday's and our pantries goals to help the community.

December 14th – 12p Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass, Procession and Celebration

December 14th – Angel Tree Gifts due by today!!!! Please return Unwrapped gifts no later than today.

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

December 23-26 – Offices Closed for the Christmas Holiday

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

DATE	MASS TIME	MASS+ INTENTIONS
Sat. 12/6	5:00PM	†Souls of Peter & Yvonne Johanson ~Eric & Rita Johanson
Sun. 12/7	8:00AM	†Soul of Ambrosine Phillips ~Henry & Ione Phillips
	10:00AM	†Soul of Magdalena Ramirez ~Leticia Gentile
	12:00PM	Pro Populo – For the Community
Mon 12/8	5:00PM	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Mon 12/8	7:00PM	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tues. 12/9	12:00PM	Our Parish Community
Weds. 12/10	12:00PM	Our Parish Community
Thurs. 12/11	12:00PM	Our Parish Community
Thurs. 12/11	7:00PM	Our Parish Community
Sat. 12/13	5:00PM	†Soul of Kathryn Johanson ~Eric & Rita Johanson
Sun. 12/14	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



12/8- Nicole Jenkins, Summer Ortiz

12/9- Victoria Bosch

12/11- Kristen Hoffman, Christopher Jimenez

12/13- Jonathan D'Anna

12/14- Scott Blair, Josiah Smith, Shania Wildman



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)

2nd Sunday of Advent: Preach in the Desert

"It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: 'A voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" (Mt 3:3).

WORD OF LIFE

They say that some people are friends for only a season. And that is true. It is during difficult times that we can see authentic friendship. The more difficult John the Baptist's preaching was, the more merit and value it had as he announced the coming of Jesus, the Messiah and Savior. To openly confess faith in Christ and fidelity to the Pope has much more merit and is more necessary today than 50 years ago, when doing the opposite was strange and frowned upon. Now is when it is most needed, when the Lord needs it the most. The same can be said, for example, about vocations to the religious life and the priesthood. In the past, when there were not many alternatives for young people, the seminaries and novitiates were full; now, they are almost empty. However, it is now that Christ has the most need of young men and women willing to dedicate their lives to evangelization and to the service of those who suffer.

Each one of us frequently feels surrounded by a desert even within our souls. Criticisms of the Church and her moral teachings surround us in abundance. Interiorly, we might even doubt that it is possible to live the Gospel faithfully, or that it is even worth doing so. The desert is both inside and outside and threatens to devour everything, to dry the springs of living water that come to us through the sacraments and that produce fruits of love in our hands. We must do like John: confront the desert with the water of God's grace to make it subside and produce fruitful results where there was once nothing but dryness and aridity. In order to do this, we must have courage and accept the fatigue of hard work; we must be provided with the necessary help through prayer, the sacraments, and trust in the grace of God.

Purpose: Do not be ashamed of Christ or of the Church. Defend them intelligently and without violence. Abound in works of love in order to bear witness to what faith and grace can do in man.

Domingo II Adviento: Predicar en el desierto

"Estad 'Una voz grita en el desierto: Preparad el camino del Señor, allanad sus senderos'". (Mt 3, 3).

PALABRA DE VIDA

Dicen que los amigos son para las ocasiones. Y es verdad. Es en los momentos difíciles cuando se nota la autenticidad de la amistad. La predicación del Bautista, anunciando la llegada de Jesús, del Mesías Salvador, tenía tanto más mérito y valor cuanto más difícil era. Confesar abiertamente la fe en Cristo y la fidelidad al Papa es mucho más meritorio y necesario hoy que en los años 50, cuando lo extraño y mal visto era lo contrario. Pero es ahora cuando más falta hace, cuando el Señor más lo necesita. Lo mismo se puede decir, por ejemplo, de la vocación a la consagración y al sacerdocio; antes, cuando no había muchas alternativas para los jóvenes, los seminarios y noviciados estaban llenos; ahora, están casi vacíos. Y, sin embargo, es ahora cuando más necesita Cristo a muchachos y muchachas que quieran dedicarse a tiempo pleno a la evangelización y al servicio de los que sufren.

Cada uno de nosotros, cada día y con frecuencia varias veces al día, se siente rodeado de desierto e incluso con el desierto en el alma. A tu alrededor abundan las críticas a la Iglesia y a la moral católica. En tu propio interior, llegas incluso a dudar que sea posible vivir fielmente el Evangelio o que merezca la pena hacerlo. El desierto está dentro y está fuera, y amenaza con devorarlo todo, con secar los manantiales de agua viva que nos llegan a través de los sacramentos y que producen frutos de amor en nuestras manos. Hay que hacer como Juan: enfrentarse al desierto con el agua de la gracia de Dios, para hacerlo retroceder, para que se produzcan frutos donde antes no había nada más que aridez y sequía. Y para eso hay que tener valor y aceptar el cansancio del trabajo duro, hay que proveerse bien de los materiales necesarios mediante la oración y los sacramentos, hay que confiar en la gracia. Cristo necesita que le quieras por él mismo y está esperando que le acojas como el mejor invitado.

Propósito: No avergonzarnos de Cristo ni de la Iglesia. Defenderlos con inteligencia, sin violencia. Abundar en obras de amor para dar testimonio de lo que la fe y la gracia hacen en el hombre.



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.

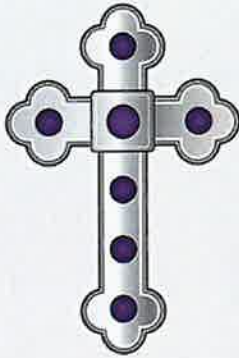
*Second Sunday of Advent:
Preaching even in the desert*

Bring up the theme of Christmas in conversations and make people see what is to be celebrated: the birth of Christ, the love of God, and not the feast of consumption. Pray before preaching.



FRANCISCANS
OF MARY





**HARVEST
of HOPE**
COSECHA de ESPERANZA

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.

*Planting seeds for the future of
the Diocese of Savannah*



*Our Campaign has reached
35% of the goal!*

**WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO
REACH OUR GOAL?**

150 families at \$30 a month=GOAL*
100 families at \$43 a month=GOAL*
50 families at \$89 a month=GOAL*

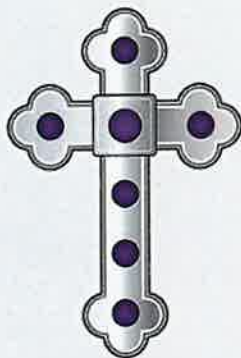
Can YOUR family be one?

** based on a 36 month pledge*

Thank You

Scan the QR code with your cell phone to make your gift today or mail in your pledge card soon. Additional pledge cards are available in the rear of the church.





HARVEST
of HOPE
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.



**¿QUÉ SE NECESITA PARA
ALCANZAR NUESTRA META?**

150 familias a \$30 al mes=META*

100 familias a \$43 al mes=META*

50 familias a \$89 al mes=META*

¿Puede tu familia ser uno?

**basado en compromiso de 36 meses*

GRACIAS

Escanee el código QR con su teléfono móvil para hacer su donación hoy o envíe por correo su tarjeta de compromiso pronto. Tarjetas de compromiso adicionales están disponibles en la parte trasera de la iglesia.



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
a spirit of counsel and of strength,
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD. (Isa 11:2)

Psalm:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.
(Ps 72)

Second Reading:

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,
for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)

Gospel:

"I am baptizing you with water, for repentance,
but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I." (Mt 3:11)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The story of Advent is a story of repentance. John the Baptist held up a mirror to the chosen people. He urged them to look at what they saw there. This Advent, will we look in the mirror? Will we choose repentance?

Observances for the week of December 7, 2025

Sunday:	2nd Sunday of Advent
Monday:	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday:	St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin
Wednesday:	Our Lady of Loreto
Thursday:	St. Damasus I, Pope
Friday:	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Saturday:	St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Next Sunday:	3rd Sunday of Advent

Readings for the week of December 7, 2025

Sunday:

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/
Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Monday:

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday:

Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/
Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday:

Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/
Mt 11:28-30

Thursday:

Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/
Mt 11:11-15

Friday:

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Saturday:

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16,
18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next 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



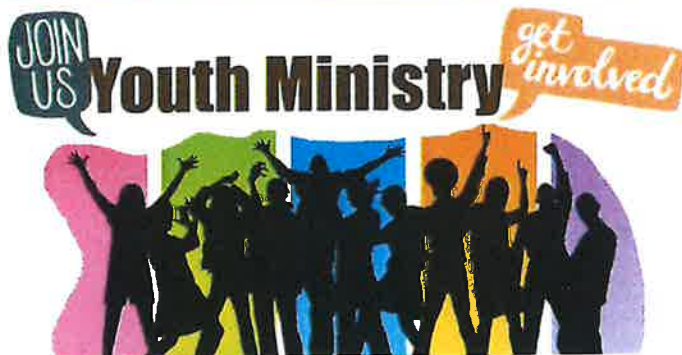
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School of Gratitude

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 Gratiud

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



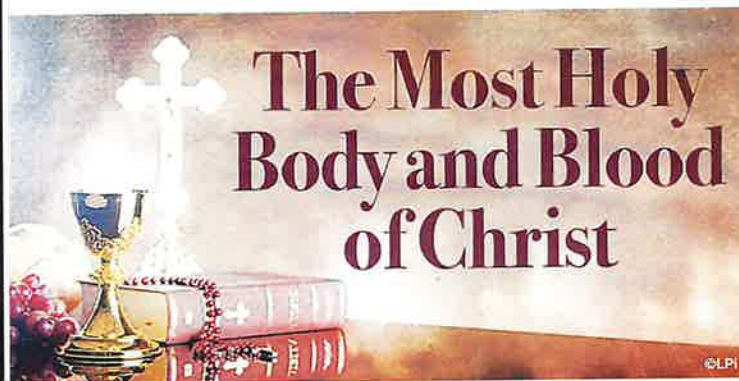
Thursdays 6-8:30pm
Saint Stephen Social Hall



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 27th thru December 14th.



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/ststephenhinesville>



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
912-137-1344 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 1st, you still
have plenty of time to
use these great
discounts at local
businesses around town!

They make great
Stocking Stuffers!!!!!!

<p>*13498893* FOR FUNDRAISING INFO: 866-543-5413 FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE: 866-701-3473</p>				
<p>1800 flowers</p> <p>20% OFF W/ PROMO CODE: WINNERS WWW.1800FLOWERS.COM</p>	<p>Platter</p> <p>\$1 OFF ANY DINNER PLATTER 157 W GENERAL, SCHEVEN HWY</p>	<p>Checkers</p> <p>FREE SM FRY W/ PUR 147 GENERAL, SCHEVEN HWY</p>	<p>McDonald's</p> <p>FREE APP W/ PUR 1076 S MCCONALD ST</p>	<p>FIREHOUSE SUBS</p> <p>FREE KID MEAL W/ PUR OF COMBO MEAL 304 W OGLETHORPE HWY</p>
<p>maggoos</p> <p>10% OFF ANY REG MENU PRICED ITEMS 367 OGLETHORPE HWY</p>	<p>Mascos</p> <p>LG PIZZA FOR \$11.99 758 E OGLETHORPE</p>	<p>Panda Express</p> <p>20% OFF TOTAL BILL 367 W OGLETHORPE HWY</p>	<p>POPEYES</p> <p>FREE TWO PIECE DINNER W/ PUR OF 3 PIECE DINNER AND 2 BEV DRINKS 918 E OGLETHORPE AVE STATE RD 84</p>	<p>Wendy's</p> <p>10% OFF TOTAL BILL "EXCL ALCOHOL AND OTHER OFFERS" 304 W OGLETHORPE HWY</p>
<p>SONIC</p> <p>FREE SINGLE PATTY BONGIE CHEESEBURGER W/ PUR OF THE SAME 725 W OGLETHORPE HWY</p>	<p>SURCHEROS</p> <p>PUR OF ENTREE, GET REG SIZED DRK FOR FREE 758 W OGLETHORPE HWY STE 115</p>	<p>Wendy's</p> <p>10% OFF TOTAL BILL 367 W OGLETHORPE HWY</p>	<p>WAYBACK</p> <p>10% OFF TOTAL PUR 843 W OGLETHORPE HWY #200</p>	<p>ZAXBY'S</p> <p>10% OFF TOTAL BILL 843 E OGLETHORPE HWY</p>

DISCOUNTS AND GOOD FOR PERSONAL USE ONLY. NOT VALID FOR CASH. PRICES VARY. OFFERS NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER COUPON OR DISCOUNT. ALL DISCOUNTS OFFERED WHILE ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND TOBACCO ARE NOT INCLUDED. LOCATIONS AND OFFERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. THESE WINNERS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR CLOSURE OF ANY BUSINESS OR CARS. WINNERS LISTED MAY RESULT IN CARD SEIZURE. OFFERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. THESE WINNERS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR CLOSURE OF ANY BUSINESS OR CARS. WWW.ELITEFUNDRAISING.COM

PARISH SUPPORT

DONATIONS

Weekly Offertory – NOV 23

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

Offertory	\$4,700
Building Fund	\$4
Online Giving	\$743
Total	\$5,447

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 \$12,815.74 towards our Harvest of Hope goal, with an additional \$21,000 pledged to be paid to our goal. This has us at just under 20% 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
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.