

**St. Stephen Catholic Church**  
**7111 Lee Hwy. Chattanooga, TN 37421**  
**423-892-1261 Office**  
**www.ststephenchatt.org**  
**December 21, 2025**  
**4th Sunday of Advent**

**REV. MANUEL PÉREZ, PASTOR**

REV. ALEXANDER "A.J." HOUSTON, IN RESIDENCE

DEACON GARY BRINKWORTH

DEACON DAVE WAGUESPACK

Thank you for attending Mass with us today, we are glad you came! Fr. Pérez & Fr. Houston and the parish family of St. Stephen would like to welcome all of our visitors and new members.

Parish Goal

To establish an assembly of believers who remain in the Word.

Mission Statement

To Live and Proclaim the Good News of Jesus every day.

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR INFORMATION REGARDING:

- \* ANOINTING OF THE SICK
- \* HOMEBOUND VISITS
- \* MASS INTENTIONS
- \* ALTAR FLOWERS
- \* TRAVELING CHALICE
- \* BAPTISMS / PREPARATION
- \* MARRIAGES
- \* FUNERAL/MEMORIAL MASSES

Adore the Lord in Holy Attire

*What we wear says a great deal about what we value. As Catholics, going to Mass is the most important thing that we will do each week. The manner in which we dress is part of the reverence that is shown to the Lord present in the Eucharist as well as respect shown for God's holy people.*

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

8:30 A.M.

Wednesday

6:00 P.M.

1st Friday

8:30 A.M.

Other Fridays

Communion Service

8:30 A.M.

Saturday

5:00 P.M.

Sunday

8:30, 11:00 A.M.

1:00 P.M. ESPAÑOL

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY 4:00 - 4:50 P.M.

OR BY APPOINTMENT

PARISH OFFICE

MONDAY - THURSDAY

8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

FRIDAY

8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Today's Schedule

**First Reading**

**Isaiah 7:10-14**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6**

**"Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory."**

**Second Reading**

**Romans 1: 1-7**

**Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 1:18-24**

## THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Saturday, December 20

8:30A.M. - MEN'S BIBLE STUDY PT

4:00 P.M. - CONFESSIONS

5:00 P.M. - MASS

**6:00 P.M. - LADIES AUXILIARY COOKIE WALK IN ADMIN. BUILDING**

Sunday, December 21

**LADIES AUXILIARY COOKIE WALK AFTER ALL MASSES IN ADMIN. BUILDING**

8:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M. & ESPAÑOL 1:00 P.M. MASSES

9:40 A.M. - OCIA LIB

9:30 A.M. - BIBLE STUDY 4/5/6

2:00 P.M. - AD ED MR

Monday, December 22

8:30 A.M. - DAILY MASS

1:00 P.M. - GAME DAY IN THE MR

3 P.M. - DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

6:30 P.M. - AD ED IN MR

Tuesday, December 23

8:30 A.M. - DAILY MASS

9:30 A.M. - 9:30 A.M., 1 & 6:30 P.M. AD ED IN PT

7:00 P.M. - CHOIR

Wednesday, December 24

**OFFICE CLOSED**

5:00 P.M. - CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

8:00 P.M. - SPANISH CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

10:00 P.M. - CHRISTMAS EVE MASS



Thursday, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

**OFFICE CLOSED**

10:00 A.M. - CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Friday, December 26

9:00 A.M. - ST. STEPHEN MASS

Saturday, December 27

8:30A.M. - MEN'S BIBLE STUDY PT

4:00 P.M. - CONFESSIONS

5:00 P.M. - MASS

Sunday, December 28

8:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M. & ESPAÑOL 1:00 P.M. MASSES

9:30 A.M. - OCIA LIB

10:00 A.M. - BIBLE STUDY

2:00 P.M. - AD. ED PT

## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 20 - 5:00 P.M.

+Frank Overmeer By Laura Overmeer

+Frank & +Marie Ruggiero By Mary Pomerance

+Louise McAvoy By Don McAvoy

Sunday, December 21 - 8:30 A.M.

+Rusty Phillips By Liz Phillips & Family

+Beverly Hunter By Mike Hunter & Family

+Appachan & +Maria Joseph By Jessil Joseph

Sunday, December 21 - 11:00 A.M.

Respect Life from Conception to Natural Death

+Charles Lee Jonesca By Bruce & Sharyn Moreland

+Ed Merritt By Rob & Phyllis Chaousy

Sunday, December 21 - 1:00 P.M.

St. Stephen Church Members

Monday, December 22 - 8:30 A.M.

+Gail Nevins By Ellen Lennon

+Michael O'Hara By The Dominic Family

Tuesday, December 23 - 8:30 A.M.

+Theodore & +Mary Ann Statuto By Loving Family

+Janosh & +Danial Purackal By The Dominic Family

Wednesday, December 24 - 5:00 P.M.

No Intentions

Wednesday, December 24 - 8:00 P.M.

No Intentions

Wednesday, December 24 - 10:00 P.M.

No Intentions

Thursday, December 25 - 10:00 A.M.

No Intentions

Friday, December 26 - 9:00 A.M.

St. Stephen Church Members

Saturday, December 27 - 5:00 P.M.

+Jack & +Marjorie Hennessey By Laura Overmeer

+Louise McAvoy By Don McAvoy

Sunday, December 28 - 8:30 A.M.

+Beverly Hunter By Mike Hunter & Family

Sunday, December 28 - 11:00 A.M.

+Michael Love & +Miranda Godena By Pam Love

+Ed Merritt By Bonney Boydston Family

Sunday, December 28 - 1:00 P.M.

St. Stephen Church Members

# MINISTRIES & CONTACTS

**ADORATION** - First Friday of the month at 9 - 10 a.m., 2nd Thursday at 9 - 10 a.m., 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 - 7 p.m., 4th & if there is a 5th Thursday 9 - 10 a.m.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** - Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Call Joan Roueché at 423-635-0857.

**ADULT EDUCATION** - Please call the church office for more information about our Adult Education.

**AHG** - American Heritage Girls here at St. Stephen, For more information, please contact Kristen Connell 615-483-3944 in the Meeting Room.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK** - Please call Fr. Manuel Pérez at 423-892-1261 x2. Please have a family member call the office and request a visit from a Priest.

**BAPTISM** - Parents & Godparents who wish to have their child baptized are asked to register for the class by contacting the parish office at 423-892-1261 x4. Next class will TBD.

**BOOK CLUB** - Last Monday of the month 6:30 p.m. in the Primetimer's Room. Contact Debby Sopko at 423-463-1060. **Primetimer's Event**

**BUNCO** - 1st Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.. Contact Aimee Gloster 615-400-3743. **Primetimer's Event**

**CARING HEARTS & HANDS** - To comfort families of our parish in their time of need by providing a luncheon for their guests after a funeral or memorial Mass. Contact Elaine Williams at 423-645-5835.

**CASUAL COCKTAILS** - Contact Daniel & Jeannie Hixon at 423-280-9516 or Art & Dena Vonwerssowetz at 423-667-5550. **Primetimer's Event**

**CHATTANOOGA FOUNDATION** - 2nd Sunday of each month St. Stephen's helps the Community Kitchen serve lunch to their guests. We arrive at 11 a.m. & slice & butter the homemade bread baked by parishioners for this occasion. We also assist in other duties and serve lunch at 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Call Lori Fox at 423-314-2887.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** - Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Contact Betty Anne Neal at 423-488-6107.

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION** - For K through 12th grade. Classes meet during the school year. Families must be registered parishioners of St. Stephen Catholic Church. Contact Donna Snuggs at 423-892-2957.

**CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY** - Contact Sue Buske 423-320-9167

**DINING OUT EXPERIENCE**- Contact Cliff & Patti Crownover at 423-344-3575. **Primetimer's Event**

**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET** - Meets every Monday at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel to pray The Divine Mercy Chaplet. Contact: Debby Sopko 423-463-1060

**GAME DAY** - Contact Mary Hess at 423-255-4995. Meets Mondays at 1 - 3 p.m. in the Meeting Room. **Primetimer's Event**

**HEALING HEARTS** - Meets on the 3rd Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Primetimer's Room. Please call Priscilla McLean at 423-503-3665 or Liz Huntenburg 954-464-7372. **Primetimer's Event**

**HEALTH MINISTRY** - We will be taking Monthly Blood Pressure Checks the last weekend of the month after all masses. For more information contact Allison Runyon at 678-371-0677.

**LUNCH BUNCH** - Meets at 11 a.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at a different restaurant. Contact Priscilla McLean at 423-503-3665. RSVP **Primetimer's Event**

**MATRIMONY** - Four months notice required. You must be registered parishioners. Contact the Church Office.

**O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults)** Explore for yourself what Catholicism is about! O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) Join us in between the two Sunday Masses starting around 9:40 A.M. in the Library in the Administrative Building. For more information contact Tom Cain 423-718-0619 or Deacon Dave Waguespack.

**O.C.I.A. For Families. NEW** - Join us in the every Thursday in Counters Room at 6 p.m. Contact Zach Germann at 678-571-6521.

**RESPECT LIFE** - For more information contact Theresa Cole 423-432-7007 or Pat Bodnar 423-855-4717.

**ROSARY** - Prayed daily after 8:30 a.m. Mass by The Rosary Group following Mass in the Church.

**SACRED HEART OF JESUS & IMMACULATE MARY PRAYER GROUP:** Meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesday from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

**SEWING GROUP** - The Sewing Group meets on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. to make items needed by Ladies of Charity, Hospice, and the homeless. Call Mary Hess at 423-255-4995. **Primetimer's Event** Not meeting during our renovation of the halls.

**SPANISH WEDDING & BAPTISM PREPARATION** - Meets on Sunday's in the Primetimer's Room when needed. Call Manuel & Elizabeth Colmenares at 305-342-4741 for more information. Next **Baptism Class is on January 4, 2026** at 11 a.m. in the Administration building. \*Solo para feligreses de San Esteban.

**SPORTING EVENTS - Primetimer's Event** - Contact Larry Skelly at 703-624-0498.

**SUNSHINE BASKET MINISTRY** - Contact Myrtle Englert at 812-449-6104.

# CHURCH INFORMATION

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Sharon Vannucci, Chair Person

Priscilla McLean, Secretary  
Communication

Donna Snuggs, Education

## PARISH FINANCE BOARD

Trina Hicks, Chair Person

John DiPrima      Lorrie Levitt-Haufe      Ron Schleifer

Robert Sullivan      Tom Smith      Al Henry

## VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Sharon Vannucci

## LECTORS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS & ALTAR SERVERS

Deacon Dave Waguespack

### Parish Staff

Rev. Manuel Pérez, Pastor      [pastor@ststephenchatt.org](mailto:pastor@ststephenchatt.org)

423-892-1261 X2

Rev. Alexander "A.J." Houston, In residence

Gary Brinkworth, Deacon      [deacon@ststephenchatt.org](mailto:deacon@ststephenchatt.org)

423-855-7993

David Waguespack, Deacon      [deacondavewaqs@gmail.com](mailto:deacondavewaqs@gmail.com)

Betty Anne Neal, Director of Music      [betty.anne.neal@gmail.com](mailto:betty.anne.neal@gmail.com)

Sherry Ferguson, Church Secretary      [secretary@ststephenchatt.org](mailto:secretary@ststephenchatt.org)

423-892-1261 X4

Sharon Vannucci, Bookkeeper      [bookkeeper@ststephenchatt.org](mailto:bookkeeper@ststephenchatt.org)

423-486-9909

Donna Snuggs,

Christian Formation Coordinator      [cre@ststephenchatt.org](mailto:cre@ststephenchatt.org)

423-892-2957

Crystal Marchand, Youth Coordinator      [stsyouth@ststephenchatt.org](mailto:stsyouth@ststephenchatt.org)

423-892-2957

Robert M. Sullivan, Contract Administrator

[sullivanrobertm@gmail.com](mailto:sullivanrobertm@gmail.com)

## ANNIVERSARY

*Congratulations to the  
following on their  
Wedding Anniversary*



*Larry Skelly & Marylynn Casula  
1st  
George & Maggie Bercaw - 39th*

# OFFERTORY

12/7/2025

Offertory Collection - Envelopes	\$ 7,332.00
Offertory Collection YTD - Envelopes	\$ 215,270.47
Offertory - Parish Soft	\$11,685.00
Offertory - Parish Soft YTD	\$133,115.00
Offertory - Loose	\$1,556.00
Offertory - Loose YTD	\$ 44,474.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 20,573.00</b>
<b>Total YTD</b>	<b>\$410,494.52</b>
Renovation & Repair	\$5,211.00
Renovation & Repair YTD	\$ 93,895.08
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 25,784.00</b>
<b>Grand Total YTD</b>	<b>\$504,389.60</b>

12/07/2025

Mass Attendance: 1,193

Number of Families: 1,328

### **CUT-OFF FOR YEAR END DONATIONS**

In order for a gift to be included in the current year for income tax purposes, the check must be dated in the current year and it must be either

- 1) in the possession of the parish/ parish bookkeeper no later than December 31<sup>st</sup> or
- 2) the envelope must be postmarked no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>. Cash or a check received after 12/31 or in an envelope postmarked after 12/31 should be recorded in the following year for income tax purposes, even if the date on the check is prior to 12/31.

### **TAX STATEMENT**

For 2025 will be mailed out **UPON REQUEST** by January 31, 2026 by emailing or calling [bookkeeper@ststephenchatt.org](mailto:bookkeeper@ststephenchatt.org) 423-486-9909.

*Would you like to invest or  
donate to St. Stephen Catholic Church? Please  
contact*

*Fr. Manuel Pérez.*

If you would like your Wedding Anniversary in the bulletin, please call the Church Office Three (3) weeks before your special day. 423-892-1261x4

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

### 2025-2026 Christian Formation

Classes are from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. on Wednesdays.

December 17 - Christian Formation & Youth Ministry

December 24th & 31st - Christmas Break - NO CLASS

For more information, please contact: Donna Snuggs at 423-892-2957 or [cre@ststephenchatt.org](mailto:cre@ststephenchatt.org).



### OCIA ADULTS & NOW FAMILIES



Are you wondering what Catholicism is and want to explore joining? Find out for yourself! O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) Join us after the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday in the Library/Administrative Building. Please tell anyone you know who would like to explore the Catholic Church. For more information contact Tom Cain 423.718.0619 or Sherry at the Parish Office 423-892-1261 ext. 4 or chat with one of the Deacons after Mass.



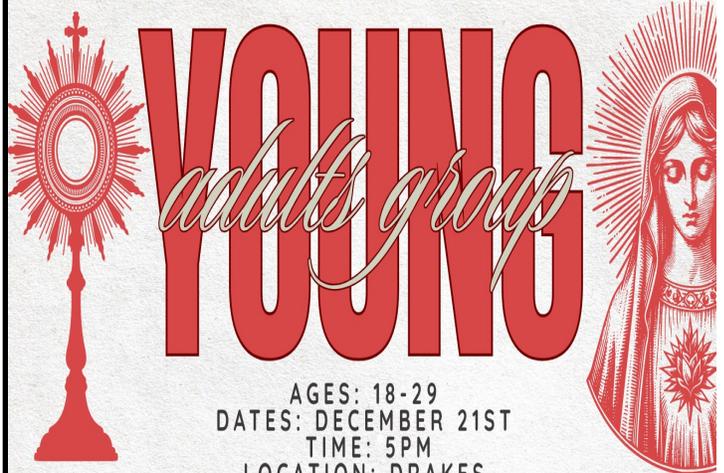
O.C.I.A. for Families  
Meets on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. CR  
call Zach Germann 678-431-6147.

### ALTAR SERVERS, EMHC, USHERS & GREETERS



If you are interested in becoming an Usher or Greeter, WE NEED YOU! Please contact Mike Durr at [Mjdurr65@gmail.com](mailto:Mjdurr65@gmail.com). We are a very limited number of individuals available for Saturday 5 pm and Sunday 11 a.m. Masses. We also need Altar Servers & EMHC for the Saturday 5 p.m. Mass.

St. Stephen's Catholic Church



AGES: 18-29  
DATES: DECEMBER 21ST  
TIME: 5PM  
LOCATION: DRAKES  
7338 MCCUTCHEON RD  
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37421  
UNITED STATES

Are you searching for something more? A deeper faith, real friendships, and a place to truly belong? Our Catholic Young Adult Small Group will be a space for young adults who want to deepen their relationship with God and with one another. We will gather to pray, share, and talk about how faith fits into real life. The struggles, the questions, and the everyday moments where God is at work. Together, we're building a Christ-centered community that's genuine, uplifting, and rooted in love. Whether you're just starting to explore your faith or already deeply involved in the Church, you'll find a place here. Come as you are. grow in faith, build meaningful friendships, and experience what it truly means to walk with Christ together. Allow yourself to listen to the nudges of the Holy Spirit!

If you have any questions feel free to call or text me  
Vanessa Lara-Sanchez - 423.803.7203

## PRAYERS FOR HEALING

*Greg Amico, Ronnie Barnes, Dale Carney, April Chapman, Theresa Cole, Chad Clark, Peggy Conway, Jeanette Craig, Mia Crownover, Rita Dalton, Mary Ann Decker, Mark Andrew Germaine, Sandra Goettl, Pat Halenar, Rick & Elle Hamdy, Jesse Hurst & Family, Lorrie Levitt-Haufe, John Holland, Jr., Margaret Horten, Rick Hunter, Juliet Lowell, Missy & Robin Locklear, Aaron Love, Dennis Lowe, Angie McManus, Don Meagher, Donald & Beverly Milewski, Sam Nechvatal, Marjorie Nelowet, Mary Ann Norman, Carmelita Ordonez, Mitch Parker, Glenn Perry, Sr., Wendy Quick, Ethan Reed, Danielle Riecke, Craig & Gloria Robinson, Richard Runyon, Ron Schleifer, Sandy Schnur, Marybeth Shirley, Peggy Ann Sorrells, Sarah Ryan Sawyers, Bob & Pat Smelas, Katie Smith, Gary Swager, Cindy VanDuyne, Dee Vaughan, Pat von Clef, Jill Walsh, Ann & Thomas Wheeler, Audrey Wiemer, Lynn Williams, & Maggie Williams.*

### Praying for the Sick List

**If you would like St. Stephen Catholic Church to pray for you or your family member, please call the office at 423-892-1261 X4 & we will gladly put them on our prayer list. We will keep them on the list for 4 weeks and you will need to call us to put them back on.**

**Due to the Privacy (HIPAA) Laws hospitals will not notify us if you or your loved one is admitted. A family member must notify us if you wish for one of the Priests to visit the hospital.**

## KNIGHT'S & LADIES AUXILIARY



### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE, IN SERVICE TO ALL.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR PARISH FAMILIES! SAVE THE DATE: KOC Valentine's Dinner & Dance with the Beater @ St. Stephen's on Feb. 14th.

Why become a Knight? A Knight is connected to over 2 million men around the world who are striving to make their families & communities better. Join the Knights of Columbus today! Call 423-899-9989 or go to website [kofc.org/joinus](http://kofc.org/joinus).



### Fourth Degree Assembly #3250

The Fourth Principles in the Knights of Columbus is Patriotism, with all Assemblies having a focus on Patriotism and serve to God & Country. Assembly 3250 invites all 4th degree members to our next business meeting on Monday, Jan. 12th at 6 p.m. Located at the Brainerd Building Association (Knights of Columbus Hall) 7615 Lee Hwy. For those Knights of the 3rd degree desiring to advance to the highest level in our organization of the 4th degree, Chattanooga will be having an exemplification on Feb. 21, 2026. Faithful Navigator Mike Williams can be called or texted at 404-909-6151 for more information.



### Ladies Auxiliary

Our Annual Cookie Walk Sale is on Dec. 20th & 21st in the Admin Building Lobby. We bake everything from scratch. Call Laurene Hirko to get info about the Ladies Auxiliary @ 508-446-4529.



**Ladies Auxiliary Annual Christmas Cookie Bake Sale Walk is waiting for you.**

**Where: St. Stephen Administration Building**

**When: December 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> after all the masses.**

**Why: To help support St. Stephen Catholic Church, The Maclellan Shelter, Ladies of Charity and other organizations in Chattanooga all year long.**

**Thank you for all your support!**

## **BULLETIN INFORMATION**

### **Church Bulletin Advertising**

Kevin McCollum, representing our Bulletin Publisher, Diocesan, is currently seeking new advertisements. Support our parish while you promote your business in print and digitally through social media. If interested, please contact Kevin directly or call the parish office. Only a third down payment is required to reserve an ad.

#### **Contact**

**Kevin McCollum**  
kmcollum@diocesan.com  
**614-980-9196**



**DIOCESAN**  
Catholic Life Every Day

*Thanks to you and Diocesan, the bulletin is published weekly at no cost to the parish!*

***Sponsor of the Week:***  
***Independent Retirement Living***

### **CMG Connect Safe Haven is an online program that Requires ALL employees and ALL volunteers**

to watch videos and answer accountability questions at the end of each segment, submit to a background check through CMG Connect initially and then re-certify in 5 years. The training can be done on a person's own schedule and no in-person training is required which is a time-saving effort by not having to wait for a *VIRTUS* class in your area. The CMG Connect Safe Haven videos are available in English and Spanish. Background checks are done through the CMG Connect portal with a company named Selection. Users will complete their own personal information which eliminates any paper forms and ensures the security of individual's personal information. The background check is processed after meeting all of the requirements with the curriculum and the "meets criteria or does not meet criteria" results will be ready to review from the administrator dashboard. This process ensures user's data cannot be compromised since the background check cannot be edited. Background checks will be required every 5 years. Please go to our website and scroll down on the right side, you will see CMG Connect. Click on CMG Connect and you will be able to complete your information there. You will need to complete the safe environment section and then complete the background and then submit it. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office.