



St. Stephen Catholic Church
7111 Lee Hwy. Chattanooga, TN 37421
423-892-1261 Office
www.ststephenchatt.org
December 28, 2025

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

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

Luke 2:16

Responsorial Psalm

128:1-2, 3, 4-5

"Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways."

Second Reading

Colossians 3:15a , 16 a

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCHSaturday, 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

9:40 A.M. - OCIA LIB

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

2:00 P.M. - AD ED MR

Monday, December 29

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 30

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 31

OFFICE OPEN 9 A.M. -12:00 P.M.

ADORATION 1 - 5 P.M.

6:00 P.M. - MASS

Thursday, January 1 New Year's Day

OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 A.M. - MASS

Friday, January 2

OFFICE CLOSED

8:30 A.M. - Mass & 1st Friday Adoration

6:30 P.M. - Men's Welcome

Saturday, January 3

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

4:00 P.M. - CONFESSIONS

5:00 P.M. - MASS

Sunday, January 4

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

11:00 A.M. - SPANISH BAPTISM CLASS PT

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

MASS SCHEDULESaturday, December 27 - 5:00 P.M.

+Frank & +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

Monday, December 29 - 8:30 A.M.

Bob & Cathy Quick 13th Anniversary By Sylvia Scaruffi

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

+James & +Corinne Swanson By The Von Peters Family

In Thanksgiving for the Alexander Family

By Akash Alexander

Wednesday, December 31 - 6:00 P.M.

St. Stephen Parish

Thursday, January 1 - 10:00 A.M.

+Ed Merritt By Judie Merritt

Friday, January 2 - 8:30 A.M.

Akash Alexander By Joe & Susie Alexander

+Verna Law Leckinger & W. Marvin Law

By Mike & Wanda Williams

Saturday, January 3 - 5:00 P.M.

+Frank Overmeer By Laura Overmeer

+Louise McAvoy By Don McAvoy

+Irene Bucci By Don Bucci

+Phil & +Doreen Wirchansky By Cliff & Patti Crownover

Sunday, January 4 - 8:30 A.M.

Peggy Conway By Steve & Peggy Sorrells

Sunday, January 4 - 11:00 A.M.

+Ed Merritt By Tues. Adult Ed

+Walter Vamprine By The Ladies Auxiliary

+Gail Nevins By Patti Dungan

+Michael Love & +Miranda Godena By Pam Love

Sunday, January 4 - 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 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

423-892-1261 X2

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

Gary Brinkworth, Deacon deacon@ststephenchatt.org

423-855-7993

David Waguespack, Deacon deacondavewaqs@gmail.com

Betty Anne Neal, Director of Music betty.anne.neal@gmail.com

Sherry Ferguson, Church Secretary secretary@ststephenchatt.org

423-892-1261 X4

Renee Treadway, Sharon Vannucci, Bookkeeper

bookkeeper@ststephenchatt.org

423-486-9909

Donna Snuggs,

Christian Formation Coordinator cre@ststephenchatt.org

423-892-2957

Crystal Marchand, Youth Coordinator stsyouth@ststephenchatt.org

423-892-2957

Robert M. Sullivan, Contract Administrator

sullivanrobertm@gmail.com

ANNIVERSARY



*Congratulations to the following on
their Wedding Anniversary*

Kiran & Roshney Prince - 6th

Robert & Cathy Quick - 13th

Zane & Lori Fox - 41st

Jack & Mary Malek - 45th

Edwin & Patricia Bowmer - 52nd

Norman & Joyce Shelton - 65th

Ronald & Marjorie Bogart - 67th

OFFERTORY

12/14/2025

<i>Offertory Collection - Envelopes</i>	\$ 13,453.00
<i>Offertory Collection YTD - Envelopes</i>	\$ 246,123.47
<i>Offertory - Parish Soft</i>	\$11,685.00
<i>Offertory - Parish Soft YTD</i>	\$154,630.00
<i>Offertory - Loose</i>	\$1,556.00
<i>Offertory - Loose YTD</i>	\$ 46,030.05
Total	\$ 26,694.00
Total YTD	\$437,188.52
<i>Renovation & Repair</i>	\$5,211.00
<i>Renovation & Repair YTD</i>	\$ 99,106.08
Grand Total	\$ 31,905.00
Grand Total YTD	\$536,294.60

12/14/2025

Mass Attendance: 1,225

Number of Families: 1,324

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 31st or
- 2) the envelope must be postmarked no later than December 31st. 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 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 24th & 31st - Christmas Break - NO CLASS

January 3, 2026—Classes & First Communion attends Mass at 6 p.m.

For more information, please contact: Donna Snuggs at 423-892-2957 or 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.

HEALING HEARTS



St. Stephen Healing Hearts Ministry

The St. Stephen Healing Hearts Ministry is a support group for the widowed of our parish. We offer a supportive, understanding and prayerful environment as we walk through the grieving journey. Please consider joining us for our first meeting of the New Year on Wednesday,

January 21st, in the Prime Timers Room, from 10am – 11:15am. The book, No Regrets, has been such a wonderful resource!! If you have any questions, please contact Liz Huntenburg at 954-464-7372.

ADULT EDUCATION

St Stephen Catholic Church Winter-Spring 2026

- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** ~ Joan Roueché An Ongoing Study of Scripture in a Lively and Engaging Discussion Environment 9:45 a.m.
Sundays MR
- **Walking with Purpose: Grounded in Hope** ~ Kristen Calloway, Sundays 2 - 4 p.m. PT Room
- **Biblical Hebrew for Beginners** ~ George Bercau An Ongoing Study of the Biblical Hebrew Language. 1st & 3rd Sundays, 2 p.m. Library
- **33 Days to Morning Glory** ~ Matt Lubaway, Mondays 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the MR
- **Tuesday Morning with the Trinity Faith Study** ~ Liz Huntenburg, Tuesdays, 9:30 - 11 a.m. PT Room
- **Gospel Readings & Proclaiming of the Words** ~ Mary Hess Tuesdays, 1 - 3 p.m. PT Room
- **Walking with Purpose: Grounded in Hope** ~ Kathy Hotton, Tuesdays 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. PT Room
- **Jesus the Way the Truth and the Life** ~ Donna Pugh, Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Library

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. 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.

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.

Mon. Jan. 5. 6099 Membership meeting @ Knights Hall 6:30 p.m., Rosary @ 6 p.m.

Why become a Knight? The Knights are Miliites Christi, solders of Christ. Join the Knights of Columbus today! Call 423-899-9989 or go to website kofc.org/joinus.



Fourth Degree Assembly #3250

The Fourth Principles in the Knights of Columbus is Patriotism, with all Assembles 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.



Ladies Auxiliary

Thank you for all your support for Our Annual Cookie Walk Sale. Our next Ladies Auxiliary meeting will be on Jan. 8th at 6:30 p.m. Call Laurene Hirko to get info about the Ladies Auxiliary @ 508-446-4529.

FLOCKNOTE

FLOCKNOTE FOR PARISHIONERS ONLY

We will be sending information to our parishioners by Flocknote. If you are not signed up for Flocknote, please call 423-892-1261 x 4 and let us know that you would like to receive information this way. We will need your name, email address and your cell number to set you up.

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:
Resort Lifestyle Communities Ashwood Square

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.