

FINAL 7-22-26

**St. Frederick and Stephen Catholic Church
Parish Welcome Packet and Visitor Manual**

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston

A Letter from Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome to **St. Frederick and St. Stephen Catholic Church (SFSS)**.

Whether you are visiting Edisto Island for a brief stay or returning year after year, I am grateful that you have chosen to worship with us. Our parish is blessed by the presence of those who call this island home, as well as those who come seeking rest, renewal and the peace that flows from time spent with God.

St. Frederick and St. Stephen is a parish rooted deeply in faith and history. From the first celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Edisto Island in the 1560s to the dedication of our first permanent sanctuary in 2019 and our Columbarium in 2025, the Catholic faith has been lived, prayed, and cherished here for generations. Today, the same faith continues to unite us as one parish family.

As an island parish, we are uniquely called to be a place of welcome. We strive to receive every person with dignity, respect, and warmth, reflecting the hospitality of Christ Himself. Whether you join us for a single Mass or for many seasons of worship, please know that you are not a stranger here – you are part of our community.

I invite you to participate fully in the life of the parish during your time on Edisto Island: to pray with us, to receive the Sacraments and to share in the fellowship of this faith community. May your time here be one of spiritual renewal, strengthened hope and deeper trust in God's providence.

May your time at St. Frederick and St. Stephen Catholic Church be a source of peace, renewal, and grace, and may you encounter Christ in Word, Sacrament, community, and the beauty of Edisto Island.

Welcome home.

With every good wish and blessing,

Rev. Jesuprathap (Father JP) Narichetti

Pastor, St. Frederick and St. Stephen Catholic Church

Welcome to Our Parish

Whether you are visiting Edisto Island for a weekend, a season, or many years, we joyfully receive you as part of our parish family. Many visitors lovingly treat this parish as their spiritual home away from home, and we are deeply grateful.

Our Mission and Parish Identity

Rooted in Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the teachings of the Catholic Church. **St. Frederick and St. Stephen exists to:**

- Worship God reverently through the Sacred Liturgy.
- Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Faithfully celebrate the Sacraments.
- Foster spiritual growth and lifelong formation.
- Serve others with compassion and charity.
- Welcome all as members of the Body of Christ.

As an island parish, we are uniquely blessed to be a place of **prayer, rest and renewal** amid the beauty of God's creation.

Parish History: Faith Rooted Deeply in Time

Catholic presence on Edisto Island extends back more than four centuries. **The first Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on the island was celebrated in the 1560s**, making Edisto Island one of the earliest places of Catholic worship in the United States.

For generations, the faithful gathered wherever possible to celebrate the Eucharist. Over time, Mass was offered **in parishioners' homes, the Lions Club Hall, and later the Parish Hall** reflecting a steadfast devotion to the faith even in the absence of a permanent sanctuary.

A historic milestone was reached in 2019 with the construction **of the first permanent Catholic Sanctuary on Edisto Island**, providing a sacred and enduring home for worship.

In **2025**, the parish Columbarium was dedicated, offering a reverent resting place for the faithful departed and serving as a visible sign of the Church's belief in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

Worship and Sacramental Life (Please consult the weekly bulletin for current and seasonal schedules;)

Mass Schedule

- Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m.
- Sunday Mass: 11:30 a.m.
- Holy Rosary on Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.
- Weekday Masses are at 9 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays except during Lent.
- During Lent, Mass is at 5 p.m. (not 9 a.m.) on Thursdays followed by Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper. Visitors and Parishioners are welcome to attend the Soup Supper held in the Parish Hall.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

8:30 a.m. Tuesday

4:15 - 5 p.m. Saturday

Holy Days of Obligation

Mass times are announced in advance.

Other Sacraments

Baptism, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick, and the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) are celebrated according to parish and diocesan guidelines. Please contact Alice Briese, office manager, at edistocatholic@charlestandiocese.org.

Parish Life: Councils, Ministries and Committees

Visitors and seasonal parishioners are warmly encouraged to participate in parish life. SFSS has two councils. One is Pastoral and the other is Finance. Parishioners serve three years.

If you're interested in joining one of these councils **or the ministries below**, please Alice Briese, office manager, at edistocatholic@charlestandiocese.org.

Liturgical Ministries

Sacristans.(contact.Dolores.via.email)

- Lectors (Ministers of the Word of God)
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC)
- Music, Cantors and Bells Ministry

Altar.Guild.(contact.Charleen.Baxter.via.email)

- Linens
- Care of Sacred Vessels, Candles and Holy Water
- Flowers and Missalettes

Altar Servers (contact.Father.JP)

Committees

- Campus Committee
- Columbarium Committee
- Parish Hall Committee
- Maintenance Committee
- Ushers/Greeters Committee

Faith Formation, Fellowship and Outreach

- Adult Faith Formation (RCIA, OCIA)
- Sacramental Preparation
- Seasonal Bible Studies
- Social Outreach (Edisto Ministerial Alliance)

- The Women's Guild
- The Fredistonians

Meditative Garden and Columbarium

The Prayer Garden and Columbarium, located to the side of and behind our church, offers peaceful settings to meditate and pray. Parishioners and visitors can enjoy peace and quiet, walk along paths flanked by flower beds and enjoy the presence of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, the Blessed Mother and Sacred Heart statues.

It's also a place to experience the sounds of nature including the spray of the fountain, singing birds - especially cheerful in late Spring as chicks chirp for their mothers - and marvel at the majesty of its surrounding Live Oaks.

Staying in Touch with the Parish

Visitors who worship regularly with us are invited to remain connected through prayer, participation, and support, such as:

- Read the weekly parish bulletin (also on website).
- Listen to announcements before Mass.
- Subscribe to Flocknotes (contact Alice Brieze, office manager, edistocatholic@charlestondiocese.org).
- Sign the Church Registry in the Narthex.