

St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Pastoral Staff

Reverend Daniel M. Rocco
Pastor

Mrs. Suzanne Underwood
Coordinator of
Religious Education

Parish Trustees
Rose Marie Davis
Keith Knight

Rectory Office Hours

Monday – Friday
9:00am - 4:30pm



Contact Info

Rectory Phone
(856) 662-9339

Rectory Fax
(856) 662-4679

Emergencies
(856) 261-9336
(Accidents, Dying or Death)

Parish Email:
ecclesia@comcast.net

Parish Website:
www.StStephensPennsauken.com

Our Mission Statement

*Saint Stephen Parish is a Catholic Faith Community called by God through Baptism.
Our mission is to live the Gospel by loving and serving all our brothers and sisters.*

November 12, 2017 – The 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daily Mass: Monday thru Friday - 9:00am

Weekend Obligation:

Saturday – 4:30pm (*Reconciliation 3:45pm-4:15pm*)

Sunday – 9:00am & 10:30am

Holy Days: 9:00am & 7:00pm

Miraculous Medal Novena – Thursday after 9am Mass.

Eucharistic Exposition – First Friday from 9:30am-7pm.

Parish Membership – Moving INTO the parish all are asked to register as soon as possible.

Moving WITHIN or OUT – kindly notify rectory.

Baptism – Call the Rectory for arrangements.

Anointing of the Sick/Eucharist –

Upon request after the 4:30pm Mass in the Chapel.

Prior notification is necessary by calling the rectory.

Also call the rectory if someone is sick or housebound.

A Priest should be called if death is imminent.

Sponsors – Must be a Confirmed Catholic of at least 16 years of age in good standing and active. If married, must have been married in the Catholic Church.

Funerals – Arrangements must be made directly with a Funeral Home after notifying the Parish. All viewings should take place in the Funeral Home. Funeral planning brochures are available in the Rectory Office.

Marriage – arrangements must be made with a priest one year in advance. Only individually registered parishioners of one year or more are eligible to be married here and includes anyone still living at home with parents who should register individually.

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Anyone interested in becoming Catholic is invited to become part of the RCIA. This process begins with a journey of faith that culminates in full communion with the Church through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. This process is open to those who are not baptized, to those who have been baptized in other Christian denominations, or to baptized Catholics who have never received catechetical instruction or received Confirmation and First Communion.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Family or Friends having a weekend Mass celebrated for a loved one are encouraged to participate by bringing the gifts of bread and wine to the Priest at Mass. Please be in church 10 minutes prior to Saturday/Sunday Mass and identify yourselves to one of the Ushers.

Per Diocesan Policy: One (1) Mass Intention limit per Mass except for 10:30am on Sunday, which now has a maximum of four (4) intentions.

The 2018 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

SUNDAY	November 12, 2017
9:00am	Thomas W. Ash r/b Jim Pennestri
10:30am	William Sauer r/b Family Frances Mangano Parsons r/b Edith Alessi
MONDAY	November 13, 2017
9:00am	All Souls r/b People of the Parish
TUESDAY	November 14, 2017
9:00am	Jim Shanahan r/b Jack & Maryanne Merritt
WEDNESDAY	November 15, 2017
9:00am	All Souls r/b People of the Parish
THURSDAY	November 16, 2017
9:00am/Novena	Louise Cirullo r/b Her Daughter, Anna
FRIDAY	November 17, 2017
9:00am	All Souls r/b People of the Parish
SATURDAY	November 18, 2017
4:30pm	Joseph Allen r/b Joseph & Jeanne Gerst
SUNDAY	November 19, 2017
9:00am	Dominic Caruso r/b Jim Pennestri
10:30am	Deacon William Robinson r/b John & Colleen Messina Joseph Catalani r/b Jerry & Hilda Gentile



The Sanctuary Candle this week is In Memory of The Unborn Children

If you would like to contribute to the burning of a Sanctuary Candle in memory of a loved one, you may call the Rectory. Cost is \$10.

November 4/5, 2017 Offertory Collection: \$4,557
 2017-2018 Weekly Offertory Collection Target: \$4,600
 Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving: \$4,285

Next Special Collection:

November 19th: "Human Development" (Diocese)

A Monumental Thank You

Many thanks to all who helped place the monument dedicated to the Sisters of St. Joseph for their service to St. Stephen's: **Earl Nolte, Sean Nolte, Bill Mattia and Knights of Columbus Lou Esola, Alan Mancao, Melvin Figueroa, Dan Steinmetz, and Lonnie Monaco.**

Remember Our Sick

Please call the Rectory to let us know if your family member is in the hospital or homebound so that we may bring them Communion. This week remember to pray for:

Joseph & Dolores Afilani, Raymond Amatrudo, Jr., Eleanor Becker, Barbie Brown, Anna Buono, Jackie Cardwell, Lina Ciarrocchi, Edmund Ciccarone, Yolanda Colafrancesco, Jenny Cowan, John Coyle, Carol Crammer, Joe DeLorenzo, Esther DeMarco, Fanny DiBenedetto, Fred Dickson, Joseph DiFrank, Biagio Dinoto, Michael DiVito, Patricia Domer, Joe Flacco, Joanna Galdo, Angela Gallecchio, Antonio Genovese, Richard Gentile, Jr., Joseph Gerst, Pat Gruber, Pricilla Handy, Gregory Hayes, Mary Ann Hoffacker, Thomas Holmes Sr., Debra Knapp, Donna Krawchuk, Janet LaFreda-Hopkins, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Rosemarie Leonardo, Sam Loperfido, Sr., Michael Lopez, Joann Lunsford, Ken Maminski, Harry, Mary Ellen & William Mayer, Stella McCarthy, Cecilia McGonigle, Dorothy McPeck, Rosemary Murray, Florence O'Connor, Margie Ogden, Jennifer Osborn, Savaelina Perez, Linda Petrilli, Rosemarie Rosolia, Patricia Ruhl, Dean & Mary Russell, John S., Helen Setzer, Nancy Sonnie, Steven Stepanavage, Keri Ann Taxis, Rick Taylor, Mary Terzini, Shannon Teuber Myles, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Mary Viviello, Frances Vocale, Doreen Warble, Lily Warble, Arlene Webb, Barbara Weingard.

Ministry Schedule for November 18/19

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Server: TBD

EM's: V. Thibault, C. Pandola, A. Cirullo, Sr. Eleanora, A. Rende

Lectors: Joan Rivera, Jared Rivera

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: TBD

EM's: J. Rosario, L. Rosario, M. Bufanio, E. Nolte, L. D'Alessandro

Lectors: M. Miller, P. Nolte

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: TBD

EM's: J. Fagan, K. Fagan, T. Angstman, T. Mattera

Lectors: J. Messina, R. Aleszczyk

Hear Ye, Hear Ye,
 Come One, Come All
 To Coffee and Pastries,
 At the Parish Hall!

Sunday, November 19th
 After the
 9:00am & 10:30am Masses



This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

- 11/13-Monday-9am Mass, 11am Ladies Bible Study
- 11/14-Tuesday-9am Mass, 6:30pm Joint Mtg., 7pm Rosary
- 11/15-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD
- 11/16-Thurs.-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Choir, 7pm Discussion
- 11/17-Friday-9am Mass
- 11/18-Saturday-3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
- 11/19-Sunday-9am Mass, Coffee/Pastries, 10:30am Mass



We are all on a journey, and God's word is a light to our path. Stop in and join us at the St. Stephen Ladies' Bible Study for reflections in scripture, lively discussions and fun!

When: Mondays from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Where: St. Stephen Parish Center (next to the church)

Please contact Eileen Heide with any questions.

Phone or text: 610-805-5363 email: heides@comcast.net

*The woman who walks with God
Always reaches her destination!*

Tuesday Night Rosary

To Jesus Through Mary - 7:00-7:30pm @ Church

Come join us as we ask Our Lady to pray with us and for us. The tradition of the Church and the teachings of the Magisterium urge us to frequent recitation of the Hail Mary and the rosary. By keeping the name of Mary on our lips, we show our devotion to her. Mary's mantle is always present to protect those who are her own. The Blessed Virgin Mary is the pinnacle of God's creation. She is the most perfect, the greatest, the holiest human being ever to live. When we repeat her name, we greatly honor God her Creator. Mary never keeps any glory for herself. Her soul magnifies the Lord. (Lk 1:46)

Wednesday Night CCD Classes

Continue November 15th @ 6:15pm

Thursday Night Discussion Club

Continues Nov. 16th @ 7pm in the Parish Center.

We'll be discussing Prof. William R. Cook's

"The Catholic Church: A History"



All Are Welcome to Join Us!

Art & Environment Ministry

Anyone interested in donating flowers for the altar to mark an Anniversary, Christening or Memorial Mass or would like to make a donation for a tree to honor a deceased loved one is asked to contact our A&E Chairperson Maria Haas at 665-8393.

Automatic E-Giving

St. Stephen Parish continues to provide Electronic Giving, or eGiving, as a simple, secure & convenient method for making contributions. E-Giving is being used by churches throughout the country and works similar to online bill paying. You may logon to www.StStephensPennsauken.com to set up your account.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

During the 10:30 AM Mass, children between the ages of 4 and 7 are invited to participate in the Liturgy of the Word for Children. Before the 1st Reading, children will be called forward. Led by adults they will process to the Parish Center where they will hear the readings and participate in activities that will help them to begin to better understand the meaning of God's Word. At the Offertory Procession, the children will be led back to Mass where they will rejoice their parents. We hope that you will allow your children to participate in this religious education experience.

Parish Library

The Parish Library is now open in the Parish Center for all your Fall reading needs! We have a wide variety of books and CDs for all ages, which are available to be borrowed. Please stop by after Masses.

Hours:

Saturday, 5:30-6:00pm

Sunday, 10:00-10:30; 11:30-12:00

Prayer Pavers to Our Lady

Pavers to form a concrete path from our church to the Blessed Mother are available in 3 sizes: 4"x8" \$100, 8"x8" \$175, and 12"x12" \$500. Samples are available after weekend Masses and order forms are on our website and in the rectory office. If there is a particular place, possibly near a loved one already on the walkway that you'd like a paver to be placed, please contact Michael Ciarrocca at 856-425-4799 or Ciarrocca@juno.com.

St. Stephen's Prayer Line Belongs to You



We are here to pray for you.

For Prayer Requests in the month of November contact Betty @ 856-662-6928.

First Friday Adoration

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be

**Friday, December 1, 2017
from 9:45am-7:00pm.**





Thanksgiving Liturgy Nov. 22nd

On Wednesday, November 22rd @ 7:00pm, we will celebrate our annual Thanksgiving Liturgy. This regular event in our parish over many years is a wonderful experience of prayer, singing and celebrating all for which we have to thank Almighty God. Loaves of bread will be blessed as a way of extending the blessing of the Eucharist to your Thanksgiving tables.

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### Christmas Wreath Sale!



Boy Scout Troop 118 will be having a Christmas Wreath Sale after all weekend Masses on November 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds directly support the Scouts and Troop with their activities. All wreaths are fresh 22-inch Noble Fir with pine cones and bright red bow which makes the perfect Christmas decoration. Each wreath is \$25.00 (Cash or Check) and will be immediately available to take with you. If you wish to purchase a wreath and are unable to attend Mass, please contact Elaine Connor for information at [emc08109@yahoo.com](mailto:emc08109@yahoo.com).

## WILL YOU TAKE A BABY BOTTLE.....AGAIN???



### And help the homeless, pregnant mothers of Good Counsel Homes?

The weekend of December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, Good Counsel Homes will be sharing the story of what your ongoing support financial support has allowed us to do in our Good Counsel Home. The Riverside home, opened for over 5 years now, has witnessed the birth to 59 babies!! You will simply be asked to take a baby bottle home with you, fill it with spare change, dollars, checks, or whatever your means allow, and return it within the next two weeks.

If you would like to volunteer at our home, please call JoAnn DiNoia-(609-387-2928) or email [joann\\_dinoia@goodcounselhomes.org](mailto:joann_dinoia@goodcounselhomes.org). Thank you for your prayers and support.

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A History of Black Catholics in the United States

All are welcome to this presentation by Rev. Msgr. Leonard G. Scott, on Wed., Nov. 15, 2017, at Holy Angels Parish from 7- 9 p.m. in the basement of St. Patrick Church, 64 Cooper Street, Woodbury, New Jersey. This is a Black Catholic History Month event co-sponsored by Diocese of Camden Black Catholic Ministries and Cultural Diversity, and the Life and Justice Ministry of Holy Angels Parish. Light refreshments will be served.

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### Festival of Lessons and Carols

Saint Thomas More Church, Cherry Hill  
Sunday December 3, 2017 — 3:00PM

#### Area Choirs:

- Merion Mercy Academy Chorus
- Camden Catholic HS Choir
- Saint Thomas More Choir
- Quinton Boys' Ensemble
- Diocese of Wilmington Gospel Choir

Free Will Offering---Reception to Follow

## 13 Saint Quotes that Reveal the Mystical Nature of the Mass

- 1) "When Mass is being celebrated, the sanctuary is filled with countless angels who adore the Divine Victim immolated on the altar." – St. John Chrysostom
- 2) "If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy." – St. Jean Vianney
- 3) "The angels surround and help the priest when he is celebrating Mass." – St. Augustine
- 4) "It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do without Holy Mass." – St. Padre Pio
- 5) "The Holy Mass would be of greater profit if people had it offered in their lifetime, rather than having it celebrated for the relief of their souls after death." – Pope Benedict XV
- 6) "Put all the good works in the world against one Holy Mass; they will be as a grain of sand beside a mountain." – St. John Vianney
- 7) "Let the entire man be seized with fear; let the whole world tremble; let heaven exult when Christ, the Son of the Living God, is on the altar in the hands of the priest. O admirable height and stupendous condescension! O humble sublimity! O sublime humility! that the Lord of the universe, God and the Son of God, so humbles Himself that for our salvation He hides Himself under a morsel of bread." – St. Francis of Assisi
- 8) "No human tongue can enumerate the favors that trace back to the Sacrifice of the Mass. The sinner is reconciled with God; the just man becomes more upright; sins are wiped away; vices are uprooted; virtue and merit increases; and the devil's schemes are frustrated." – St. Lawrence Justinian
- 9) "Know, O Christian, that the Mass is the holiest act of religion. You cannot do anything to glorify God more, nor profit your soul more, than by devoutly assisting at it, and assisting as often as possible." – St. Peter Julian Eymard
- 10) "The heavens open and multitudes of angels come to assist in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass." – St. Gregory the Great

11) "How happy is that guardian angel who accompanies a soul to Holy Mass!" – St. John Vianney

12) "When we receive Holy Communion, we experience something extraordinary – a joy, a fragrance, a well being that thrills the whole body and causes it to exalt." – St. John Vianney

13) "I believe that were it not for the Holy Mass, as of this moment the world would be in the abyss." – St. Leonard of Port Maurice

### Thank God for the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist!

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### Reflection on Today's Gospel Reading

*Matthew 25:1-13*

**Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, teaching his disciples the importance of being prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven.**

In this week's Gospel, Jesus talks about what it means to be prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. This week's reading follows a series of warnings and predictions by Jesus about the coming of the Son of Man. Jesus wants his disciples to understand that the exact day and time cannot be predicted. He teaches the disciples that they must remain vigilant so that they will not be caught unprepared.

When thinking about the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, it is important to consider the first-century wedding traditions of Palestine. Scholars tell us that it was the custom of the day for young maidens—friends and family members of the bride—to meet the bridegroom when he came to bring his bride to her new home.

As with many of Jesus' parables, several levels of interpretation are possible. In last week's Gospel, we heard Jesus warn against following the example of the Pharisees and scribes. If read in the context of early Christianity's struggle to define itself against Pharisaic Judaism, this parable is a continuing critique of Judaism. It suggests that the Jewish leaders were like the foolish virgins, unprepared to meet Jesus, the bridegroom of Israel.

In the chapter preceding this parable, however, Jesus warns about the destruction of Jerusalem, the tribulation of the end times, and the coming of the Son of Man. When read in this context, today's parable is a warning to the Christian community to remain vigilant and prepared to receive Jesus, the Son of Man who will return at the end of time. This interpretation is supported by the reference to the delay of the bridegroom. The Christian community for whom Matthew wrote this Gospel was coming to terms with the realization that the promise of Jesus' return would not be fulfilled within their lifetimes. The question remains for us to ask ourselves, Are we ready to receive Jesus? Will we be prepared to receive him?