

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.*

December 17, 2017 – The Third Sunday of Advent

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 9:00am	December 17, 2017 (Third Sunday of Advent) Maria Calzonetti (Birthday Remembrance) r/b Family
10:30am	William Sauer r/b Family Louise Pigliacelli r/b Her Husband, Frank Joe Catalani, Sr. r/b Theresa Vergulti John & Anne Sentman r/b Family
MONDAY 9:00am	December 18, 2017 People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
TUESDAY 9:00am	December 19, 2017 Mary K. Colangelo r/b Anthony & Rosemarie Leone
WEDNESDAY 9:00am	December 20, 2017 For the Good Intentions of Fr. Joseph Byerley r/b A Friend
THURSDAY 9:00am/Novena	December 21, 2017 Louis Marucci, Sr. r/b People of the Parish
FRIDAY 9:00am	December 22, 2017 Joseph Petulla r/b M/M Charles Gugliotta
SATURDAY 4:30pm	December 23, 2017 Richard Gentile r/b His Wife and Son
SUNDAY 9:00am	December 24, 2017 (Fourth Sunday of Advent) Louis, Josephine & Vincent L. Buondonno r/b Daughter and Sister
10:30am	Marian Pilla r/b Joe & Maria Haas
SUNDAY 5:00pm	December 24, 2017 (Christmas Eve) People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
10:00pm	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
MONDAY 10:30am	December 25, 2017 (Christmas Day) People of the Parish – Living & Deceased



The Sanctuary Candle this week is
In Memory of
Gertrude Cavallo

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.

December 9/10, 2017 Offertory Collection: \$3,793
2017-2018 Weekly Offertory Collection Target: \$4,600
Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving: \$4,328

Special Collections / Envelopes:

December 17-25: Christmas Flower Memorials (St. Stephen)
December 25: "Christmas Offering" (St. Stephen)
January 1: "Solemnity of Mary" (St. Stephen)



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, Jenny Cowan, John Coyle, Carol Cranmer, 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 McPeak, Rosemary Murray, Florence O'Connor, Margie Ogen, Jennifer Osborn, Savaelina Perez, Linda Petrilli, Rosemarie Rosolia, Patricia Ruhl, Dean & Mary Russell, John S., Helen Setzer, Joan Siperavage, Nancy Sonnie, Steven Stepanavage, Keri Ann Taxis, Rick Taylor, Mary Terzini, Shannon Teuber Myles, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Mary Vивиello, Frances Vocale, Doreen Warble, Lily Warble, Arlene Webb, Barbara Weingard.

Ministry Schedule for December 23/24/25

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Saturday, 4:30pm

EM's: A. Cirullo, A. Knight, Sr. Eleanora, J. Fagan, K. Fagan
Lectors: J. Melfi, J. Gerst

Sunday, 9:00am

EM's: R. Davis, E. Nolte, R. Leone, L. D'Alessandro
Lectors: P. Nolte, Joan Rivera

Sunday, 10:30am

EM's: J. Fagan, K. Fagan, T. Scavuzzo, M. Meloni, J. Messina
Lectors: D. Heck, Jared Rivera

CHRISTMAS EVE:

Sunday, 5:00pm

EM's: T. Angstman, L. Rosario, J. Rosario, Sr. Eleanora, J. Messina
Lectors: D. Steinmetz, R. Aleszczyk

Sunday, 10:00pm

EM's: T. Modzier, R. Davis, M. Conway
Lectors: M. Miller, M. Turan

CHRISTMAS DAY:

Monday, 10:30am

EM's: R. Leone, L. D'Alessandro, E. Nolte, R. Davis
Lectors: W. McHugh, P. Nolte

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

12/18-Monday-9am Mass, 11am Ladies Bible Study
 12/19-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7:30pm Penance Svc.
 12/20-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD Classes & Play
 12/21-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Discussion Club
 12/22-Friday-9am Mass
 12/23-Saturday-3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
 12/24-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass,
 5pm Christmas Vigil, 10pm Christmas Vigil
 12/25-Monday-10:30am Christmas Day 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 December 20th @ 6:15pm

Thursday Night Discussion Club

Continues Dec. 21st @ 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 Winter 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 **December**, contact **Maryann @ 856-333-6525.**

First Friday Adoration

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be **Friday, January 5, 2018 from 9:45am-7:00pm.**



591-StStephen

Blood Drive December 27th



The Knights of Columbus Council #3512 will be sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on **Wednesday, December 27th from 1:30pm until 6:30pm at the Sister Bernadette Parish Center.** Sign-up sheets will be available in the back of the church after all Masses. Call Lonnie at 856-662-6049 for more information.



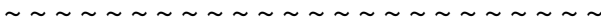
Advent Cemetery Masses

During this time of Advent in preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, we will hold special masses at the diocesan managed cemeteries in our mausoleum chapels. Masses will be held:

- Monday, December 18th at 10 AM**
- Calvary Cemetery in Cherry Hill**
- All Saints Cemetery in Newfield**
- Holy Cross Cemetery in Mays Landing**
- Sacred Heart Cemetery in Vineland**

We encourage our families to visit our cemeteries and mausoleums and pray for their dearly departed loved ones. We, the staff of your South Jersey Catholic Cemeteries, wish you a joyous Advent Season and a Merry Christmas.

For more information on these masses and locations, please visit SouthJerseyCatholicCemeteries.org.



Paul VI High School Events

Paul VI Slam Dunk Tours: The Paul VI Eagles are ready to soar! Please join us for a special pre-game tour of our beautiful school, followed by an exciting Paul VI home basketball game:

Paul VI Boys vs. Cherry Hill East, Tuesday, December 19, 2017, Tours at 6 PM, Game at 7 PM

Paul VI Boys vs. Lenape, Saturday, January 13, 2018, Tours at noon, Game at 1 PM

Reservations are appreciated.

Please visit www.pvihs.org for more information or to make a reservation. Students must be accompanied by an adult. Please come to the gym entrance at tour time; students and an accompanying adult will receive a complimentary game passes. Questions? Please email Mrs. Kathleen Stewart, Director of Admissions atkstewart@pvihs.org.

Reflection on Today's Gospel Reading

John 1:6-8,19-28

John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of another.

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete*, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

The 2017-2018 Liturgical Calendar at a Glance



PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Tuesday, December 19, 2017, 7:30pm
(After the Rosary)

CONFESSION

Saturday: December 23, 3:45-4:15pm

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

Sunday, December 24, 2017
5:00 PM Children's Mass & 10:00 PM Vigil

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Monday, December 25, 2017
10:30 AM

ST. STEPHEN'S FEAST DAY MASS

Tuesday, December 26, 2017
9:00 AM



NEW YEAR'S EVE MASSES

Sunday, December 31, 2017
Feast of the Holy Family
9:00AM & 10:30AM

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

Monday, January 1, 2018
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
9:00 AM

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

February 14, 2018 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

LENTEN FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23 at 7pm

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

To Be Determined

2018 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 25th: Palm Sunday Masses-9am & 10:30am
Mar. 29: Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper-7pm
March 30: Good Friday Liturgical Service – 3pm
March 31: Holy Saturday Easter Vigil – 8pm
April 1: Easter Sunday Masses – 9am & 10:30am

FIRST PENANCE

To Be Determined

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

To Be Determined

CONFIRMATION

To Be Determined by the Bishop

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Thursday, May 10, 2018 – 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

Wednesday, August 15, 2018 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

FALL HARVEST MASS

Saturday, October 27, 2018 – 4:30 PM

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS DAY

Thursday, November 1, 2018 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday, November 4, 2018 – 10:30 AM

THANKSGIVING VIGIL MASS

Wednesday, November 21, 2018 - 7:00 PM