

St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Pastoral Staff

Reverend Daniel M. Rocco

Pastor

Rev. Mr. Anthony R. Cioe

Permanent Deacon

Mrs. Suzanne Underwood

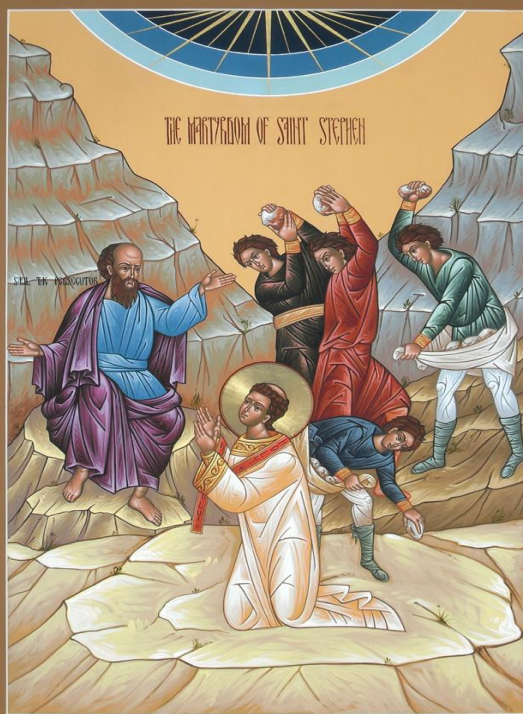
Coordinator of
Religious Education

Parish Trustees

Rose Marie Davis
Keith Knight

Rectory Office Hours

Monday thru 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)

Tribunal Parish Advocate

Deacon Anthony R. Cioe

(856) 227-2145

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 7, 2014 – The Second Sunday of Advent

Mass Schedule

Daily: 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.

Required Preparation is 1 class, 2nd Sunday @ Noon.

Baptism – 3rd Sunday of month @ Noon.

Anointing of the Sick/Eucharist –

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

Prior notification is necessary by calling the rectory Monday-Friday. Also call the Rectory if someone is sick or housebound.

Marriage – arrangements must be made with a priest 1 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. Further information is available by calling the Rectory.

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.

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 2015 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

MONDAY December 8, 2014 (Immaculate Conception)
9:00am Marie E. Cusack r/b People of the Parish
7:00pm People of the Parish – Living & Deceased

TUESDAY December 9, 2014
 9:00am Frank Ambrose r/b Dorothy Coyle

WEDNESDAY December 10, 2014
 9:00am Howard & Clara Buffington r/b Daughter-in-Law

THURSDAY December 11, 2014
 9:00am+Novena Catherine Hartson (Birthday Remembrance)
 r/b Tilda Lamaina

FRIDAY December 12, 2014
 9:00am Carrie & Ida Fanelle r/b Niece

SATURDAY December 13, 2014
 4:30pm Robert Noller, Sr. r/b Keith & Anne Knight

SUNDAY December 14, 2014
 9:00am Edward Joseph Reilly r/b Duane & Pam Heck
 10:30am Carmela & Michael Furlano
 r/b Roseann & Bob DiGiovanni
 Jack Alessandro r/b Joanne Sofia
 Dr. Albert Guerraty r/b Anthony Vendetti

The Sanctuary Candle this week is in Memory of Frank & Eleanor Marche

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 29/30, 2014 Attendance/Collection	471/	\$5,603
November 30/Dec. 1, 2013 Comparison	519/	\$5,958
November 22/23, 2014 Attendance/Collection	429/	\$4,956
November 24/25, 2013 Comparison	455/	\$4,260
Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average		\$4,845

Upcoming Special Collection Envelopes:

- December 14: "Retired Religious Fund" (Diocese)
- Dec. 14-21: "Christmas Flower Memorials" (St. Stephen)
- December 25: "Christmas Offering" (St. Stephen)
 (posted as a courtesy for our 20+ E-givers)

Automatic E-Giving

St. Stephen Parish continues to provide **Electronic Giving, or e-Giving**, 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.**



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:

- Dolores Afilani, Joy Bowman, Mary Caruso, Yolanda Colafrancesco, Dot Corbett, Joe DeLorenzo, Esther DeMarco, Doris Denuel, Fanny DiBenedetto, Fred Dickson, Patricia Domer, Diane Fesko, Joe Flacco, Nicole Franklin-Sonnie, Joanna Galdo, Richard Gentile, Jr., Richard Gentile, Sr., Thomas Holmes Sr., Marie Kaminski, Debra Knapp, Donna Krawchuk, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Marge Leone, Wanda Loperfido, Joann Lunsford, Harry & Mary Ellen Mayer, Cecilia McGonigle, Dorothy McPeak, Ann Marie Meyer, Debbi Morrissey, Neal Norris, Esther Nunez, Florence O'Connor, Margie Ogden, Jennifer Osborn, Savaelina Perez, Frank Pigliacelli, Rosemarie Rosolia, Dean & Marie Russell, Kathleen Stehm, Steven Stepanavage, Mary Terzini, Shannon Teuber Myles, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, John Vindick, Mary Vivielo, Dolores VonAlex, Barbara Weingard.**

St. Stephen's Prayer Line Belongs to You



We are here to pray for you.

Prayer requests for the month of December, please contact Maryann @ 856-235-1423.

Saturday 9am Men's Prayer Group

Please join us for our **Men's Scripture/Prayer Group**. We meet every Saturday morning at **9am** for one-half hour in the **Parish Center Meeting Room**. **Info: Joe Fagan-662-5908.**

Ministry Schedule for December 8/13/14

* Designates Alternate Server

Monday, 7:00pm Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation

Altar Servers: TBD
 EM's: L. D'Alessandro, E. Nolte, R. Davis, B. Taylor
 Lector: J. Melfi

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Server: S. Surgner
 EM's: A. Knight, P. Antonelli, Sr. Eleanora, C. Pandola, *A. Cirullo
 Lectors: L. Heininger, J. Heininger

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: C. Hearn, B. McHugh, M. Conway
 EM's: S. Marano, E. Nolte, T. Modzier, L. Rosario, *J. Rosario
 Lectors: P. Nolte, J. Messina

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: K. Fagan, O. Albert
 EM's: P. Cioe, L. Solano, J. Messina, T. Link, *T. Mattera
 Lectors: P. Cioe, M. Miller

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

- 12/8-Monday-Immaculate Conception-9am Mass, 7pm Mass
- 12/9-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7pm Finance & Parish Councils
- 12/10-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD
- 12/11-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 6pm Choirs, 7pm Discussion Club
- 12/12-Friday-9am Mass
- 12/13-Saturday-9am Men's Group, 3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
- 12/14-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass, Giving Tree gifts are due.

Prayer for the 2nd Week of Advent

Lord, may we have the courage of John the Baptist. Bless us with his love of You and his perseverance as we prepare for Your coming. In this day and age, make ours the voice crying in the desert. We pray for strength and for grace as we light these candles this week. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Whose way we prepare, Amen.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Give Thanks for Religious. A parishioner writes, "We thank God today and every day for every religious Sister who taught us in school, not only our ABC's, but also to love God." Share your gratitude for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. **Please give generously to next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.**

THE COLLINGSWOOD COMMUNITY CHORUS

Directed By
DALE L. CAREY

Presents a **FREE** Concert

CHRISTMAS IS THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR!

Tuesday, December 9

Before 7:28 PM

**Scottish Rite Auditorium
315 White Horse Pike
Collingswood**

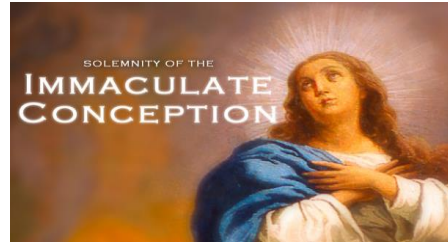


For more information : 856.854.6024

Music Ministry Notes



The Adult and Children's Choirs of St. Stephen, as well as the Liturgical/Select Choirs of Camden Catholic High School, will be participating in a "Top Secret" event at the Cherry Hill Mall Macy's on December 14th at 12:30. Please join us as we celebrate, in song, the preparation for the birth of baby Jesus. Remember, it's a secret, so "Don't tell EVERYONE!!!"



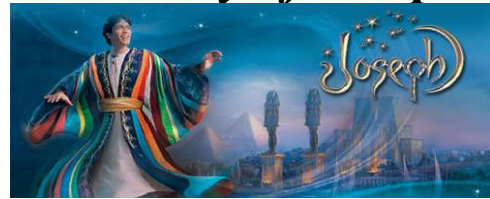
Immaculate Conception Mass Times

On Monday, December 8th, we will celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation.

Mass times on Monday December 8th: 9am & 7pm

The Rectory & all Diocesan Offices will be closed December 8th.

"The Story of Joseph"



**Sr. Bernadette Parish Center
Friday Dec. 12 & 19 @ 7pm**

The Spiritual Life Committee will be presenting 2 video presentations of the Biblical story of "JOSEPH", filmed before a live audience at the Sight & Sound Theatre.

These showings will take place in the St. Stephen's Parish Center, on **Fri. evening, Dec.12th**, and again on **Fri. evening, Dec. 19th**. All screenings begin at 7:00 P.M. and the video runs for approximately 2 hours.

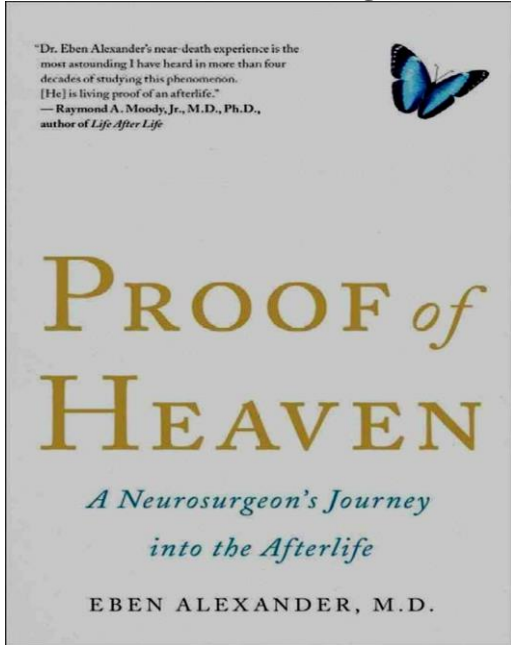
Our hope is that this will generate an interest among our parishioners, to attend one of these live performances by the Sight & Sound Theatrical Company. in Lancaster, Pa., as a Parish function, sometime in the near future.

For information regarding the showings in the Parish Center, and so we can get a head count of those who will be coming, please call Dennis Rooney at 856- 745- 3162.

Thursday Night Discussion Club

Will continue Thursday, December 11th.

We are discussing:



ALL ARE WELCOME TO CONTINUE OUR PARISH DISCUSSION IN PLANNING THE FUTURE OF ST. STEPHEN PARISH.

First Friday Adoration

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be **Friday, January 2nd 9:45am-7:00pm.**



The Second Week of Advent The Bethlehem Candle



The second candle is a symbol of the preparations being made to receive and cradle the Christ Child in Bethlehem.

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from old, from ancient days." -Micah 5:2

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.



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 rejoin their parents. We hope that you will allow your children to participate in this religious education experience.

To Jesus Through Mary Tuesday Night

Rosary 7:00-7:30pm @ Church

Your devotion to the Blessed Mother was expressed by the response to the Knights' "Prayer Pavers to Our Lady".

Continue your devotion – Come pray with us!

"To recite the Rosary is nothing other than to contemplate with Mary the face of Jesus."

Blessed John Paul II, Apostolic Letter on the Rosary

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.

RCIA Ministry

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

- Have you been worshipping with us, but never officially took the step to become Catholic?
- Have you been away from the church...and have now returned, but want to know more?
- Have you been a Catholic all your life, but never celebrated all the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism; Confirmation; and Eucharist?
- Have you joined us from a different background and would now like to find out more about the Catholic Church.

Please contact Father Daniel Rocco at (856) 662-9339 or Loretta Steinmetz, RCIA Team Leader at (856) 227-4980 for more information about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.

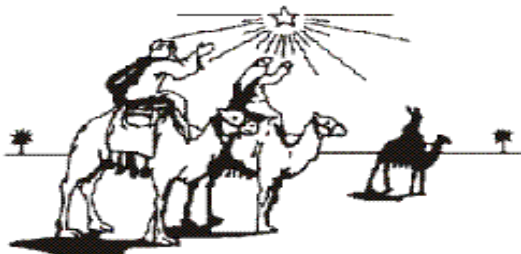
Oh Come All Ye Faithful!

Please join us
this year to celebrate
the Christmas Season
ANGEL TREE



Our Angel Tree now has Angel tags on it. This year YOU will choose the gender, size (if clothes) and age of your child recipient. Please specify these details on the back of the Angel Tag. Kindly place your gifts under the tree by next **Sunday Dec. 14th**. **All TOYS are acceptable also.** Thank You!

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**Advent / Christmas Schedule**



**Immaculate Conception Holy Day**  
Monday, December 8, 2014, 9am & 7pm Mass

**PENITENTIAL SERVICE**  
Tuesday, December 16, 2014, 7:30pm  
(After the Rosary)

**CONFESSION**  
Saturdays: December 13, 20, 3:45-4:15pm

**CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES**  
Wednesday, December 24, 2014  
4:00 PM Children's Mass, 6:00 PM & 10:00 PM

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASS**  
Thursday, December 25, 2014  
10:30 AM

**NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS**  
Wednesday, December 31, 2014  
9:00AM regular Mass  
4:30PM Vigil for Mother of God Holy Day

**NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS**  
Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God Holy Day  
Wednesday, January 1, 2015, 9:00 AM Mass

# Parish Library

The Parish Library is now open in the Parish Center for your Advent and Christmas 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**

If you would like to donate spiritual and religious books to the collection, please drop them off at the Parish center in the Library. If you would like to volunteer in the library, please contact Gail Tutwiler (gtutg@aol.com), Beth Picknally Camden (bethcorkabi@gmail.com) or Mary Sharon Monaco (monacofamily4@comcast.net; 609-238-1968).

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**Grow in Holiness this Advent Season with the
*Deacon Ernie Library Challenge***

Jesus challenged the world view of every person he encountered: the woman at the well, the rich young man... Jesus came, among other things, to bring us to a new world view. It is a very simple idea. God calls you to holiness and everything that happens in your life, every triumph, trial, and tragedy is an opportunity to grow in holiness. It is crucial that we make the connection between the ordinary activities of life and the dream God has for each person.

Whether you want to use the phrase "growing in holiness" or "becoming a "better - version - of yourself" is up to you.

Each day we need to develop our store of knowledge about the Catholic faith, so we can live it more deeply with every passing day and so we can answer more and more questions other people have about the faith.

If you read five pages of a great Catholic book every day you will be amazed how your knowledge and enthusiasm for the faith will begin to grow. Just five pages a day. We can do that. Continuous improvement - it makes incredible things possible.

The Deacon Ernie Picknally Memorial Library located in the Sister Bernadette Parish Center will be open after all Masses beginning on the first weekend of Advent. *Excerpts taken from The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic by Matthew Kelly.*