

St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109



Different Histories...

One Faith...

Different Ages...

Pastoral Staff

Reverend Daniel M. Rocco, Pastor
Permanent Deacon Anthony Cioe
Mrs. Patricia Higgins, Principal
Mrs. Suzanne Underwood, CRE

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



Contact Information

Rectory: (856) 662-9338
Rectory Fax: (856) 662-4679
School: (856) 662-5935
School Fax: (856) 662-6128

Email: eccllesia@comcast.net
Web: www.StStephensPennsauken.com

February 2, 2014 – The Presentation of the Lord

Mass Schedule

Daily: Monday thru Friday – 9:00am

Weekend Obligation:

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

Sunday – 9:00am & 10:30am

Children's Liturgy: 3rd Sunday @ 9:00am

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

Miraculous Medal Novena – Every Thursday after 9am Mass.

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

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.

Tribunal Parish Advocate-Dc. Anthony Cioe- (856) 227-2145

Rectory Office Hours-Monday thru Friday 9am-4:30pm
(Closed all Holy Days of Obligation & National Holidays)

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.

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

Moving WITHIN or OUT – kindly notify rectory of changes.

Please consider remembering St. Stephen's in your Will or Estate Planning. There are financial benefits to do so while still alive and, in death, the spiritual reward of helping to continue the Church's mission of preaching Jesus Christ.

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.

Our Parish Family invites all of its members to participate fully in our spiritual and social life.

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 9:00am	February 3, 2014 Michael D. Piccolo r/b Joe & Maria Haas
TUESDAY 9:00am	February 4, 2014 A Special Intention r/b Family
WEDNESDAY 9:00am	February 5, 2014 Kathleen Shiflet r/b Lucille Buffington
THURSDAY 9:00am+Novena	February 6, 2014 Louis Buondonno r/b Daughter, Rose Marie
FRIDAY 9:00am	February 7, 2014 (First Friday Adoration) Olga Mignone r/b Edith Alessi
SATURDAY 4:30pm	February 8, 2014 Brunilda Rivera r/b Irene Picknally
SUNDAY 9:00am	February 9, 2014 Gloria Vendetti r/b Her Husband, Anthony
10:30am	Olga Mignone r/b Nicoletta & Wayne Jaroszewski

The Sanctuary Candle this week is In Memory of Richard Pacholski.

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.

Jan. 25/26, 2014 Attendance/Collection	508/	\$4,464
Jan. 26/27, 2013 Comparison	580/	\$4,934
2013-2014 Budgeted Weekly Collection:		\$5,588
Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average:		\$5,074

St. Stephen's Special Collection 2/2/14: "Heating Fuel Offering"
Diocesan Special Collection 3/5/14: "Church in Europe"

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People for the Poor Chances Feb. 8/9

As you may be aware, People for the Poor is a 100% Volunteer Organization that does nothing but fundraisers & EVERY PENNY goes to Homeless Shelters & Soup Kitchens throughout South Jersey.

We will be selling chances at St. Stephen's for a Time Share ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD the weekend of February 8 & 9th...the cost per chance is \$5 - the reason for the \$5 is because that will feed a person breakfast, lunch AND dinner for a day.



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:

- Mary Caruso, Yolanda Colafrancesco, Dot Corbett, Patricia DeLorenzo, Esther DeMarco, Doris Denuel, Fanny DiBenedetto, Fred Dickson, Joe DiLorenzo, Patricia Domer, Diane Fesko, Joe Flacco, 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, Maureen Lukasiak, Joann Lunsford, John Maggioncalda, Harry & Mary Ellen Mayer, Dorothy McPeak, Debbi Morrissey, Esther Nunez, Florence O'Connor, Jennifer Osborn, Betty Picciano, Frank Pigliacelli, Rosemarie Rosolia, Loretta Stayton, Kathleen Stehm, Steven Stepanavage, Mary Terzini, Shannon Teuber Myles, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, John Vindick, Mary Vivillo, Anthony Vocale, Dolores VonAlex.**

Ministry Schedule for February 8/9

(Monthly Schedules are also posted on our website)

* Designates Alternate Server

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Servers: J. Bui, T. Mason, S. Caban

EM's: C. Pandola, A. Pandola, A. Cirullo, A. Knight, *Sr. Eleanora

Lector: W. Mattia

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: M. Conway, C. Hearn, O. Graff

EM's: S. Marano, N. Schmidt, L. McHugh, T. Modzic

Lector: W. McHugh

Sunday, 10:30am

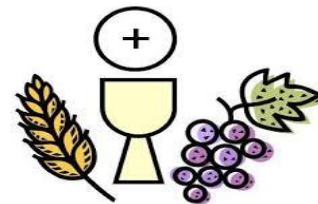
Altar Servers: The Hughes Family

EM's: P. Cioe, M. Miller, L. Solano, M. Meloni, *J. Messina

Lectors: J. Scavuzzo, E. Mattera

Continues This Wednesday

EUCCHARIST WORKSHOP



Explore the central mystery of our Faith by taking a deeper look at this most Holy Sacrament. This spiritual study program, presented by **Father Robert Barron** on DVD, will give us a deeper understanding of the precious gift of Christ's Divine Life that you can receive at every Mass. Please join us for one or all sessions, as we discover and celebrate what Vatican II called the "source and summit of the Christian life." **This is a five-session workshop offered on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Family Center being held until February 12th.**

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

2/3-Monday-9am Mass, 1pm Bible Study
2/4-Tuesday- 9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7:30pm RCIA
2/5-Wed-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD, 6:30pm Eucharist Workshop
2/6-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 6pm Choirs, 7pm Book Club
2/7-First Friday-9am Mass, Adoration until 7pm
2/8-Saturday-9am Men's Group, 3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
2/9-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass, 11:45am Baptismal Training

A Message for All the Ladies:



God values you, and _____ has a plan for your life!

Monday Ladies' Bible Study

1-2:30pm in the Stonegate Conference Room.

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

Wednesday Night CCD Classes

Continue Wednesday, February 5th @ 6:15pm.

Thursday Night

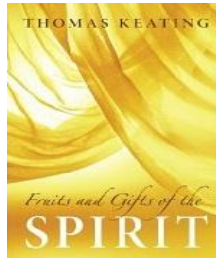
Discussion Club

Continues February 6th at 7pm in the Parish Center.

We are discussing

"Fruits & Gifts of the Spirit"

by Fr. Thomas Keating, OCSO



First Friday Adoration

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be

Friday, Feb. 7th, 9:45am-7:00pm.



"The worship given to the Trinity of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...must fill our churches also outside the timetable of Masses...Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Him in adoration and in contemplation that is full of faith and ready to make reparation of the great faults and crimes of the world. May our adoration never cease." -Blessed John Paul II

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.

Art & Environment Ministry

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

Bereavement Committee

The Bereavement Committee is seeking volunteers to help minister to those who've recently lost loved ones in our community of faith. To join this special ministry, please call Joy Bowman at 662-4803.

Council & Board Meetings

All at 7pm in the Parish Center unless otherwise noted.

Monday, February 10 Finance Council
Monday, February 17 Pastoral Council
Monday, February 24 Liturgy Board

Prayer Pavers to Our Lady

AN ONGOING MEMORIAL!

All pavers are now installed and many spaces still available!

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 in the school office, order forms are on our website and in the rectory office.

Info is available @ www.ststephenspennsauken.com or by calling Michael Ciarrocca at 856-425-4799.

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) 662-9338 or Loretta Steinmetz, RCIA Team Leader at (856) 227-4627 for more information about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.

Scrip Fundraising Program

Scrip is available for purchase at the Scrip Table after all weekend Masses and at the rectory during regular business office hours, Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm (excluding Holy Days & Holidays).

St. Stephen's Prayer Line

Belongs to You



We are here to pray for you. Prayer requests for the month of February, please contact Diane @ 308-8224.

Diocese of Camden

FAITHfull Food Drive

In the next few weeks more information will be made available to you regarding an initiative to raise awareness about hunger here in South Jersey and to put our faith into practice in meeting the needs of so many. On a single day, **Sunday, February 23rd**, the Diocese of Camden hopes to collect nearly 600,000 lbs of canned foods at all parishes across the six county South Jersey area. **Proteins like canned tuna, chicken, soup, beans, beef stew, etc...and all other canned items such as vegetables, fruits, spaghetti sauce and juices are needed.** An extra can or two purchased each week over the next month will go a long way in helping your parish to raise its quota and in turn feed a hungry neighbor.

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St. Joseph's In the Hills Men's Retreat March 7-9, 2014

- Some men come to relax, Some visit with friends
- Some are in crisis and need answers -All are welcome
- 18 men joined us last year from South Jersey
- You are invited March 7-9

More information at www.malvernretreat.com
or call Joe Fagan at (609) 471-0753.

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A Closer Walk with God

Desiring a closer walk with God? Join us as we ask for the infusion of Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Presence of Jesus Christ. Silent Meditation, Reflection & Adoration. All are warmly welcome to attend!

St. Rose of Lima Church ~ Main Church
300 Kings Highway, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035
Sunday March 16, 2014 from 2-3:30 pm
Presenter: Fr. Joseph Byerley
Silent Spiritual Meditation, Reflection & Adoration

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Faith, Women & the New Feminism: A Catholic Women's Event

Don't miss this special opportunity! Women of all ages are invited to this spiritually uplifting event sponsored by Mary, Queen of All Saints Parish in Pennsauken. **Saturday, April 5th** women will gather joyfully to celebrate their feminine genius from 9am-3pm. Cost is \$15. For information about our engaging speakers, event details, and registration form contact Cheryl at eventforwomen@gmail.com or call (513) 515-6697. We welcome you to visit our website at www.maryqueenofallsaints.org.

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Paul VI High School ANNUAL 8th GRADE WINTER DANCE. Eighth grade students are invited to Paul VI High School for the annual 8th Grade Winter Dance on Friday, February 7th from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 for students who make reservations prior to the 7th; reservations are available by visiting the ADMISSIONS EVENTS page of the Paul VI website, www.pvihs.org. Each student must present a completed, signed permission form to be admitted. Permission forms are available on the school website, www.pvihs.org.

Paul VI PROSPECTIVE PARENTS' WINE & CHEESE will be held on Friday, February 7th from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Paul VI media center. Parents interested in learning more about Paul VI High School are invited to meet current PVI parents and staff at this annual, informal information night. For reservations, please visit the ADMISSIONS EVENTS page of the Paul VI website, www.pvihs.org.

February CAP Schedule

The Office of Child and Youth Protection is announcing CAP (Child Assault Prevention) sessions. CAP is the safe environment training program for adults who have regular contact with minors. Attendance is required in order to comply with the USCCB's *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. The policy of the Diocese of Camden is that adults will attend CAP once every five years.

CAP 1 teaches attendees to recognize child abuse and neglect and how to report to the proper authorities. Adults are taught that children have the right to be safe, strong and free. CAP 1 is for new volunteers and employees.

CAP 2 is called *No More Bullies, No More Victims* and is a workshop addressing bullying awareness and bullying prevention. Cyber-bullying is also presented.

CAP 3 is called *Cyber-Empowerment* and is a workshop which promotes adults understanding of cyber activity of youth while teaching them realistic ways to help children keep their own rights and guard the rights of others in the cyber-sphere.

Each presentation is 90 minutes.

Adults who are new employees or volunteers should attend CAP 1 before attending CAP 2 or CAP 3. After five years, adults have the option of attending CAP 1 or 2 again if they prefer.

The following sessions will be offered in February:

CAP Phase 1
Tuesday, February 18, 2014, 5:00pm, The Bridge, 1499 Vesper Blvd., Camden (corner of Ormond Ave.) (856-757-3080)

Monday, February 24, 2014, 7:00pm, Guardian Angels School, Paulsboro Site, Gym (856-423-9440)

CAP Phase 2 – Bullying Prevention
No Phase 2

CAP Phase 3 – Cyber Empowerment
No Phase 3

To attend one of these classes, please call the CAP registration line in the Office of Child and Youth Protection at (856) 583-6165 or email Diane.Diggons@camdendiocese.org to register. **Please register at least five days before the session you would like to attend.**

The CAP schedule, location, phone numbers and directions may be found on the diocesan website @ www.camdendiocese.org

**IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER
PLEASE CALL THE LOCATION DIRECTLY.**

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes
JANUARY 20, 2014

Council Members Present:

Joseph Haas, Liz Mc Hugh, Terry Modzier, , Earl Nolte, Melanie Lopez, Dennis Rooney, Chris Hearn, Rich Cesta, Anthony Cioe, Janis Melfi, and Father Rocco.

❖ **Opening prayer by Father Rocco at 7PM.**

OLD BUSINESS:

School Closing:

The PPC discussed the overall sadness at the upcoming closing of the school on June 30, 2014. Father read the letter that was sent by Bishop Sullivan acknowledging the request by our parish to close the school. The Bishop shared our disappointment citing the “principle factor” in the cause of the closure to be “under enrollment”; currently there are 159 students. St Stephen parish is now responsible for \$1,000 voucher for each student whose tuition is paid and who enrolls in a Catholic school by February 27th of this year. The letter concluded thanking our parish and the various councils for all their assistance and collaborations.

NEW BUSINESS:

Potential Uses for school building:

PPC considered some uses for the building and those would hopefully be in keeping with the St Stephen communal atmosphere. As those possible uses become more concrete the council will advise the parish members.

Spring Social:

On a happier note a social gathering is in the process of being planned. This is to join our parish members and the past and present school community, to reminisce and give tribute to those who were part of the St Stephen school family. A date certain has yet to be determined; we are looking at April 26 or early May, 2014.

Parishioner recognition:

PPC wishes to honor members of our parish/school at the upcoming social. Those to be honored are Jack and Tery Mattered, Pat Higgins, Dennis Rooney, and Sister Eleanora. Meeting Adjourned @ 9PM. Closing prayer by Father Rocco
Next PPC meeting at the **Sr. Bernadette Parish** Center on: **February 17, 2014@7PM**

Respectfully submitted,
Janis Melfi, Secretary of St Stephen’s PPC

Fr. Rocco’s State of the Parish Address
January 25 & 26, 2014

Do you remember some 6 years ago when the future of St. Stephen Parish was questionable and a merger was probable? We have survived as a parish by God’s grace and through the determination and commitment of you, the parishioners.

Because of your sacrifices and financial support, we have been able to maintain the parish and make major improvements these past 4 years. My question for you today is:

“Are you still committed to keeping this parish alive, even with the closing of our school?”

What does our financial crisis look like?

1. The closing of the school means that the parish will incur the school’s financial debt. It is important to remember that money flows to the Diocese, not from the Diocese. We can borrow, but we must repay.

a. When I arrived here in January of 2010, the school debt was \$385,000. At the beginning of this 2013-2014 school year, the debt had not increased due to the sound budgeting and fiscal policy of our School Finance Board.

b. As of 2013-2014 school year and to-date, we have accrued an additional debt to the Diocese of \$68,000 for unpaid health insurance, etc., for a total of \$453,000.

c. The best estimate as to our total debt, after the closing of the school on June 30, 2014 and after funding the \$1,000 per student voucher, will be approximately \$600,000.

2. How can you help?

a. We must support the school community during these difficult times, especially by participating in all PTO fundraising activities, such as Coach Bingo next Saturday night and Monte Carlo Night March 1st. Our PTO must make its goal in order that each student going to a Catholic School may receive their \$1,000 voucher.

b. Continue to be generous to St. Stephen’s Offertory Collection and, if you are able to make the sacrifice, increase your giving as the Spirit leads you.

-Is there a reason to be hopeful given the financial situation in which we find ourselves?

Yes. If we are able to lease or sell the building, we will be able to pay off our debt and end up with a “nest egg” for the future of our parish.

-Consequences of Our Actions

1. If you decide not to support the parish, then the parish cannot survive.

2. If you make a commitment to support the parish as you have in the past, we can survive AND prosper, but it will take at least a 3-year commitment to “biting the bullet”.

Each of you will make the difference!

3. As your Pastor, I am willing to “fight the good fight”—ARE YOU?