

St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Pastoral Staff

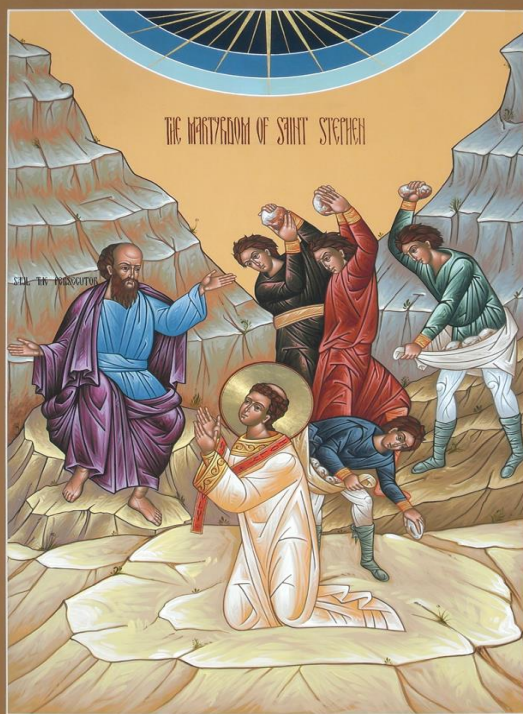
Reverend Daniel M. Rocco
Pastor

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.*

May 10, 2015 – The Sixth Sunday of Easter

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 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. 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 2016 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

MONDAY 9:00am	May 11, 2015 A Special Intention r/b Family
TUESDAY 9:00am	May 12, 2015 Madeline Tryson (Birthday Remembrance) r/b The Tryson Family
WEDNESDAY 9:00am	May 13, 2015 Frank Rocks r/b The Rocco Family
THURSDAY 9:00am+Novena 7:00pm	May 14, 2015 (Ascension Thursday) Louise Cirullo r/b Her Daughter, Anna Msgr. Joseph G. Stoerlein r/b People of the Parish
FRIDAY 9:00am	May 15, 2015 John Hoffacker (4 th Anniversary) r/b His Wife, Mary Ann
SATURDAY 4:30pm	May 16, 2015 Mass of Thanksgiving to St. Anthony of Padua r/b Gerry Kozempel
SUNDAY 9:00am 10:30am	May 17, 2015 Angelina Pennestri r/b Jim Pennestri Thomas McGraw r/b Duane & Pam Heck Tondra Lawson r/b Michelle Morales

The Sanctuary Candle this week is In Memory of John Hoffacker.

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.

May 2/3, 2015 Collection:	\$4,788
2014-2015 Weekly Collection Target:	\$5,000
Actual Y-T-D Weekly Collection Average:	\$4,973

Special Collections:

- May 10, 2015: "Nepal Earthquake Victims" (Diocese)
 - May 17, 2015: "Catholic Communications" (Diocese)
- (Posted as a courtesy to our 20+ E-Givers)

2015 House of Charity Appeal

2015 House of Charity y-t-d	\$22,175 (42%)
2015 House of Charity Goal	\$53,295

Let a gift to the House of Charity allow the fire of love to grow in you. Your donation helps ensure that vital programs continue, which not only give financial support but also teaches others how to improve their difficult situations and become more independent.

Thank you to the 95 families that have given generously thus far.

If you have not pledged as yet, extra pledge cards are available in the lobby of our church outside the Sacristy.

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:

- Dolores Afilani, Eleanor Becker, Joy Bowman,
- Yolanda Colafrancesco, John Coyle, Dot Corbett, Joe DeLorenzo,
- Esther DeMarco, Doris Denuel, Fanny DiBenedetto, Fred Dickson,
- Patricia Domer, Joseph Fagan, Joe Flacco, Nicole Franklin-Sonnie,
- Joanna Galdo, Richard Gentile, Jr., Richard Gentile, Sr.,
- Joseph Gerst, Gregory Hayes, Thomas Holmes Sr., John Howard,
- Marie Kaminski, Debra Knapp, Donna Krawchuk,
- Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Marge Leone, Wanda Loperfido,
- Joann Lunsford, Harry & Mary Ellen Mayer, Cecilia McGonigle,
- Denise McHugh, Dorothy McPeak, Neal Norris, Esther Nunez,
- Florence O'Connor, Margie Ogden, Jennifer Osborn,
- Savaelina Perez, Frank Pigliacelli, Tanya Robinson & Son Joseph,
- Rosemarie Rosolia, Dean & Marie Russell, Steven Stepanavage,
- Mary Terzini, Shannon Teuber Myles, Daniel Topper,
- Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Mary Viviello,
- Dolores VonAlex, Doreen Warble, Barbara Weingard.

Ministry Schedule for May 16/17

Monthly schedules are also available on our website.

* Designates Alternate Server

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Server: J. Bui

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

Lectors: L. Heininger, J. Heininger

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: B. McHugh, M. Conway

EM's: M. Miller, M. Bufanio, J. Rosario, L. Rosario, *S. Marano

Lector: D. Heck

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: K. Fagan, L. Fagan

EM's: J. Fagan, K. Fagan, T. Link, J. Messina, *M. Meloni

Lectors: C. Aleszczyk, Rh. Aleszczyk

Ascension Thursday May 14th



Mass times for this Holy Day of Obligation are:

Thursday, May 14th
9am Mass & 7pm Mass

The Rectory and all Diocesan Offices will be closed

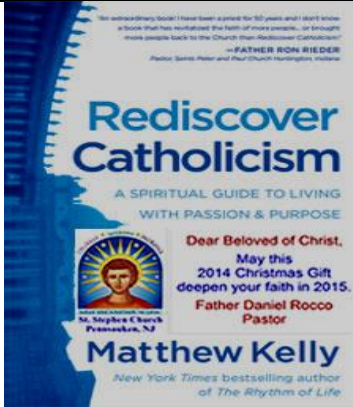
Ascension Thursday & Friday May 15th.

A Special Thank You to Larry Gatti
for donating trees and bushes
to beautify St. Stephen's grounds
In Memory of Osea and Lawrence Sr.
In Honor of Dennis, Gary & Lawrence Jr.

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

5/11-Monday-9am Mass, 11am Bible Study
 5/12-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary
 5/13-Wednesday-9am Mass, CCD Classes will resume in September
 5/14-Ascension Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Mass
 5/15-Friday-9am Mass, Rectory Closed Ascension Thursday & Friday
 5/16-Saturday-3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
 5/17-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass, Noon Baptism

Thursday Night Discussion Club Continues May 21, 2015 @ 7pm.



Please join us as we continue to discuss "Rediscover Catholicism" by Matthew Kelly, the book we were generously gifted with this Christmas. Let's start the new year learning more about God's love and the gift of our Catholic faith. A good resolution for 2015 can be "to become a better version of myself" and help others as they journey to become all God calls us to be. The discussion club needs your voice, see you Thursday, May 21st in the Sr. Bernadette Parish Center. **Extra copies** of "Rediscover Catholicism" are available in the Rectory. They are free to all Parishioners and \$5 if you'd like to purchase one for a friend.

Parish Library

The Parish Library is now open in the Parish Center for all your Spring 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).

First Friday Adoration

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be **Friday, June 5, 2015, 9:45am-7:00pm.**



Art & Environment

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**.



Come and join the St. Stephen Ladies' Bible Study for reflections in God's word, lively discussions, and fun!

**When: Mondays from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
 Where: Stonegate Main Conference Room**

Please contact Eileen Heide with any questions.
 Phone: 662-8046 email: heides@comcast.net

"The woman who walks with God always reaches her destination"

St. Stephen's Prayer Line Belongs to You



We are here to pray for you.
 Prayer requests for the month of May, contact **Betty @ 856-662-6928**.

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."

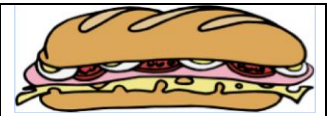
Blessed John Paul II, Apostolic Letter on the Rosary



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.

**Knights of Columbus,
 Council 3512
 Hoagie Sale**



As a charity fundraiser, our Knights of Columbus council will be selling fresh hoagies @ \$5.00 each after all Masses the weekend of **May 16 & 17**. For info call 856-227-4980.

WHY DO WE ... Receive Communion?

As Saint Pius X told us, "Holy Communion is the shortest and safest way to heaven." As Catholics we are encouraged to receive the Eucharist as often as daily, but required to receive at least once each year. In order to receive, one must be a member of the Church in good standing. This means that not only having been baptized, but educated in the Catholic faith and fully accepting all of the Church's teachings and free of Mortal Sins.

As we prepare our hearts to receive the Lord, the celebrant will break the large host to remind us that Jesus's Body was broken and He died for us. He will then place a small piece of the Host into the Chalice to demonstrate that Christ's Body and Blood, separated in death were brought together in life through the Resurrection, allowing us to receive the living Body and Blood. While this "Fraction Rite" takes place, we join him in singing or praying "The Lamb of God" asking for God's mercy and peace. As he raises the Host and Chalice we are invited to Communion with the statement "This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, happy are we that are called to His supper." Our response, "Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and I shall be healed," echoes the words of humility and honor offered by the Roman Centurion when Jesus came to heal his paralyzed son. We also offer our humble wish to be healed and united with God.

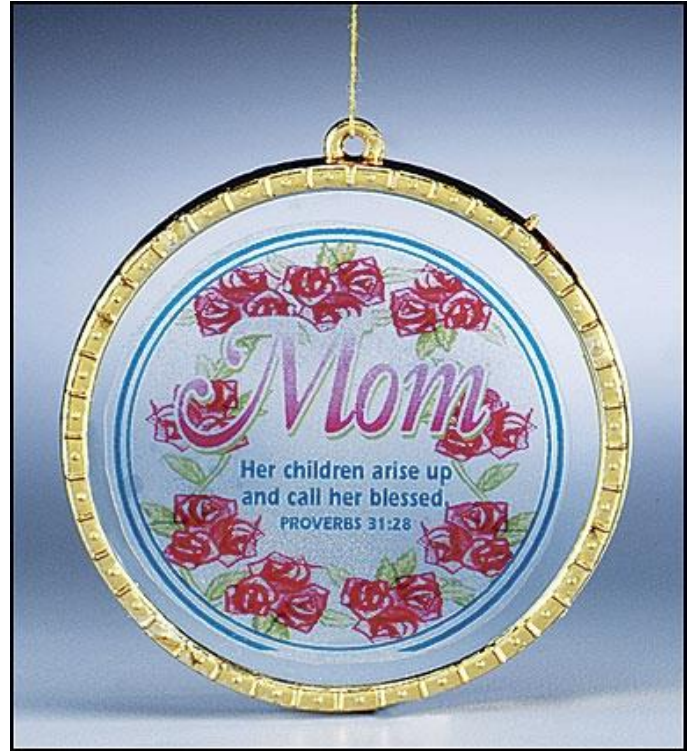
Receive the Host, do not take it. As one approaches for Communion, a small bow of the head is done as a sign of reverence and adoration for our Lord. To receive in the hands, Saint Justin the Martyr tells us to form a throne for our Lord, by holding the hands extended palms upward, with the right hand cradling the left. To receive on the tongue, the hands should be folded together. The same protocol is followed if one chooses to receive the Precious Blood. Receiving of the Blood is not necessary, but a reverent bow should be made to the Chalice upon passing it. The response of "Amen" to "The Body or Blood of Christ" is our statement of faith in Transubstantiation.

After Communion, the priest or deacon will purify the vessels. This is a ritual which insures that every particle of the Body and Blood has been consumed, before the vessels are washed. The prayer after Communion is not the conclusion, but a prayer offered on our behalf, asking that this Communion will bring us spiritual strength and growth in Holiness.

Become Engaged

This portion of the Mass demands our full attention and participation, as we are approaching our Lord. Humbly ask Him to forgive and makes us worthy of this incredible gift. Having received the Body and Blood of our Savior, contemplate the uniqueness of this honor and take a few minutes to offer your thanks for all God's many gifts. As you feel the strength of Jesus within, focus on something you can do in the coming week to help you to be the person God calls you to be, and ask Jesus to guide the way.

Happy Mother's Day!



We're pleased to present the "Mom's Sun Catcher" to all Mothers and Mothers-to-be this year.

Gracious God,

We thank you for adopting us into your family through the miracle of your grace, and for calling us to be brothers and sisters to each other.

Today, loving God, we pray for our Mothers:

- who cared for us when we were helpless.
- who comforted us when we were hurt.
- whose love and care we often took for granted.

Today we pray for:

- those who are grieving the loss of their mother.
- those who never knew their biological mother, and now yearn for her.
- those who have experienced the wonder of an adopted mother's love.
- those families separated by war or conflict.

Lord, give them special blessings.

Keep us united with you and with each other, so that we can be and become all that we are meant to be. **Amen.**

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

April 22, 2015

Council Members Present:

Joseph Haas, Terry Modzier, Earl Nolte, Melanie Lopez, Rich Cesta, Janis Melfi, Deacon Cioe and Father Rocco

Finance Committee Members Present:

Keith Knight, Lonnie Monaco, Rose Davis, and Rick Taylor

Opening Prayer by Father Rocco at 7PM

Joint Meeting of the Pastoral & Finance Councils took place in St. Stephen School's former faculty lounge.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fate of school building and land.

NEW BUSINESS

A joint meeting of the finance committee and parish council was held to discuss the potential sale of the school building and adjacent land. In the spirit of transparency Father Rocco will be presenting a letter at the upcoming Masses which will outline the church's current financial responsibility and potential monetary gain from any sale of the school building and land.

An overview of anticipated timeline events are as follows:

- A contract for the sale of building and land
- An agreement of sale
- Appraisal of school building and land (hopefully by May 15)
- Negotiations with a finality of the sale. (hopefully by September)

We anticipate church parking will be maintained. Presently the land is being negotiated to be sold separately from the school building. One of the possible uses being discussed for the school building is a Child Day Care Center.

Finances of parish:

Father indicated we are doing well as we have not incurred any additional debt. In fact we had a monetary gain of approximately \$20,000 for sale of school furnishings. We owe this to the efforts of John Fitzpatrick.

Minor Repairs etc:

Needed is some electrical work to the parish grounds, lighting to front driveway. Also needed is topsoil to fill in areas of need. We also expect to create a storage area for equipment somewhere on church property to hold landscaping equipment currently stored in the school's garage.

Parishioners Recognition:

Looking to acknowledge John Fitzpatrick and members of Parish Council

Final thoughts, we are hopeful with the upcoming events and are very optimistic for the future of St Stephen Parish.

- ❖ Meeting Adjourned @ 8:19 PM

- ❖ Closing prayer by Father Rocco

- ❖ Next PPC meeting is tentative

Respectfully submitted,

Janis Melfi, Secretary of St Stephen's PPC