

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
Keith Knight
Earl Nolte

Rectory Office Hours
Monday - Friday
9:00am - 4:30pm



Contact Info

Rectory Phone
(856) 662-9338

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

Parish Email
ecclesia@comcast.net

Parish Website
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.*

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord – January 12, 2020

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 2021 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

SUNDAY	January 12, 2020
9:00am	Victoria Norris r/b The Marinelli Family
10:30am	Theobald M. Mignone r/b Donald Mignone Rosina Midili r/b The Midili Family Arthur & Jennie Catino r/b Loving Sons Sigmund, Henry and Carl
MONDAY	January 13, 2020
9:00am	Msgr. Thomas J. McIntyre r/b People of the Parish
TUESDAY	January 14, 2020
9:00am	Rosina Midili (1 st Anniversary) r/b Rose Davis
WEDNESDAY	January 15, 2020
9:00am	Rev. James Dabrowski r/b People of the Parish
THURSDAY	January 16, 2020
9:00am/Novena	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
FRIDAY	January 17, 2020
9:00am	Clara & Howard Buffington r/b Daughter-in-Law
SATURDAY	January 18, 2020
4:30pm	For All Victims of Natural Disasters
SUNDAY	January 19, 2020
9:00am	Rosana Martino r/b Louise & Leni D'Alessandro
10:30am	Joseph Raab r/b Rita Vogt and Family Rose LaPorta r/b George & Gail Tutwiler



**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.

January 4/5, 2020 Offertory Collection:	\$3,906
December 28/29, 2019 Offertory Collection:	\$3,946
2019-2020 Weekly Offertory Target:	\$4,500
Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving:	\$3,941

Next Special Envelope / Collection:

**February 26:
Ash Wednesday/Church in Europe**

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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:

- Ted Anderson, Ralph Baylor, Grace Becker,
- Mary Bumbalow, Anna Buono, Patrick Carr, John Christy,
- Melissa Connelly, Athan Criaris, Fanny DiBenedetto,
- Joseph Gerst, Pat Gruber, Priscilla Handy, Ronald Heck,
- Wayne Hocking, Donna Kane, James Kelly,
- Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Rosemarie Leonardo,
- Sandra Lippi, Katelyn Lum, Nancy Loperfido,
- Ken Maminski, Tom McFadden, Larry Miller, John Moffett,
- Joy and Ed Morrisson, Yvonne Mulhern, Rich Passaro,
- Dean & Mary Russell, Louise Siciliano, Nancy Sonnie,
- Bill Spicher, Rick Taylor, Peggy Tepper, Adelaide Travia,
- Rita Vogt, Barbara Weingard, Tom Weingard,
- Emily Wilson.

Ministry Schedule – January 18/19

Saturday, 4:30pm

EM's: A. Knight, A. Cirullo, Sr. Eleanora, L. McHugh
Lectors: B. Mattia, P. Nolte

Sunday, 9:00am

EM's: M. Miller, R. Davis, E. Nolte, L. D'Alessandro
Lectors: D. Steinmetz, Joan Rivera

Sunday, 10:30am

EM's: T. Scavuzzo, M. Conway, M. Meloni, G. Tutwiler, S. Underwood
Lectors: M. Turan, J. Messina

Stewardship Reflection for the Baptism of the Lord "Stewards Serve"

"And a voice came from the heavens, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'" *-Matthew 3:17*

Two thoughts come to mind when reading this. First, God, Our Father, is so generous, that he gave his only son, whom he really loves, to us so that we can have eternal life with him in heaven. God, Our Creator, really loves us, too! Second, Jesus was obedient to his Father's will, even to the point of death. This is a reminder that our own lives are pure gifts from God and, as His Stewards, we are meant to serve God and others.

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

- 1/13-Monday-9am Mass
- 1/14-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7pm 3x Joint Councils
- 1/15-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD Classes
- 1/16-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Discussion Club
- 1/17-Friday--9am Mass
- 1/18-Saturday-3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
- 1/19-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass

Tuesday Night Rosary

To Jesus through Mary 7:00-7:30pm @ Church
 "Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother. Love the rosary, for the rosary is a weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother."
 -St. Padre Pio

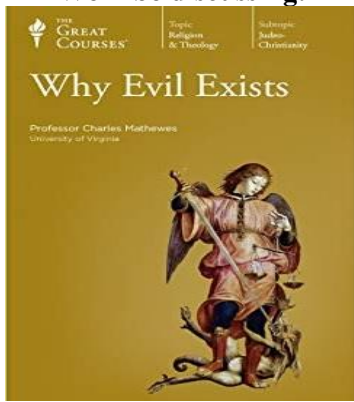
Wednesday Night CCD Classes

Continue January 15th at 6:15pm

Thursday Night Discussion Club

Continues January 16th at 7pm in the Rectory

We'll be discussing:



First Friday Adoration

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



Knights of Columbus, Council 3512



Hoagie Sale!

As a charity fundraiser, our Knights of Columbus council will be selling fresh hoagies @ \$5.00 & \$6.00 each after all Masses the weekend of **February 8 & 9.**
 For info call 856-227-4980.

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 (856) 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.

Choir – New Members Welcome!

St. Stephen's Music Ministry cordially invites you to consider joining our Music Ministry family. Our Choir meets on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm, with rehearsals lasting 60-90 minutes. If you want to share your talents, please contact Mrs. Nancy Werner-Kaiser through the Rectory Office.

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 January contact **Maryann @ 856-333-6525.**



Rides to Church

Need a Ride to Church?

The **Missionary Discipleship Committee** is sponsoring a volunteer program to give people who need it a free ride to church as often as needed. If interested, please call **(856) 662-9339, Ext. 6, Monday-Friday 9am-4pm.**

Township of Pennsauken

Dear Parishioners,

Once again Pennsauken was able to assist local families in need during the holiday season. We couldn't offer this wonderful program to our community without the support from our great residents and business community.

Because of your very generous donation, we were able to help **over 60 families** experience the magic of Christmas and show the true meaning of the Holiday Season. So on behalf of Pennsauken Township, I would like to thank you for sharing and caring for these families in Pennsauken/Merchantville and want to wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Thank you.

Betsy McBride, Mayor

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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO GOOD COUNSEL HOMES....

Good Counsel Homes staff, volunteers, mothers and babies thank you for all your kindness and support during our return visit to St Stephen's Parish. **We have collected \$2,899.63!** We are truly humbled by your generosity and commitment to the unborn and the willingness to help those less fortunate. There were several bottles taken, please return the bottles to the parish if you haven't already, even empty bottles are a donation as it is one less bottle we have to purchase. Your continued support and prayers for our mothers who have chosen to give their baby life offers a future of hope because of your selfless giving. May God continue to bless you.

**Tara Ingebritsen,**  
**[tara\\_ingebritsen@goodcounselhomes.org](mailto:tara_ingebritsen@goodcounselhomes.org)**  
**609.387.2928**

St. Peter's Development Team invites you to attend the showing of

## "Where There is Darkness"

A film that follows the nationwide manhunt for Fr. Rene Robert amid a series of shocking revelations and the discovery of a 20-year-old letter in which Fr. Rene seemed to foretell his own fate.

**Date: Thursday, January 16, 2020**

**Time: 7 PM**

**Place: Regal Moorestown Mall & RPX Theater**

**Location: 400 NJ-38, Moorestown, NJ 08057**

**Ticket Cost: \$20/Person**

This event will support St. Peter Parish. Tickets will be sold after all weekend Masses up to and including Sunday, January 12, 2020. **For further information or questions, please contact Bobbie @ (856) 662-7577.**

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Paul VI High School News

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 Girls v. Bishop Eustace, Tuesday, Feb. 11,
Tours at 6 PM, Game at 7 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 complimentary game passes. Questions? Please email Mrs. Kathleen Stewart, Director of Admissions atkstewart@pvihs.org

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## World Marriage Encounter

**WHEN ALL THE HUSTLE-BUSTLE OF THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER...** Don't you and your spouse deserve a beautiful, romantic weekend away together? If you agree then you'll want to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next weekend date is **March 6-8.**

**Call 609-741-8012 for information or email [applications@wwme-southjersey.org](mailto:applications@wwme-southjersey.org). Visit our website: [wwme-southjersey.org](http://wwme-southjersey.org).**

# Reflection on Today's Gospel Reading

*Matthew 3:13-17*

**The Spirit of God comes upon Jesus as he is baptized by John.**

The baptism of Jesus is attested to in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The account that appears in Matthew is the only one to include the dialogue between Jesus and John, however. Another difference in Matthew's presentation of this event is the announcement made by the voice from heaven, which says, "This is my beloved son..." In Mark and Luke, this voice addresses itself to Jesus: "You are my beloved son..."

The baptisms that John performs prefigure Christian Baptism. John baptizes for repentance from sin. In accepting this baptism, Jesus unites himself with all sinners even though he is sinless. In Matthew's Gospel, John the Baptist distinguishes his practice of baptism from the Baptism that the Messiah brings: "I am baptizing you with water . . . He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11).

The baptism of Jesus is another manifestation of Christ, another epiphany. Christ's baptism inaugurates his mission. In an analogous way, our Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians.

This Sunday marks a transition from the Christmas season to Ordinary Time. In a way, today's feast is the high point of the Christmas season. Before Jesus' birth, angels announced to Mary and to Joseph who Jesus would be. At his birth, the shepherds and the Magi recognize Jesus as the Messiah. At his baptism, Jesus accepts that he is God's son and inaugurates that mission.