

St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

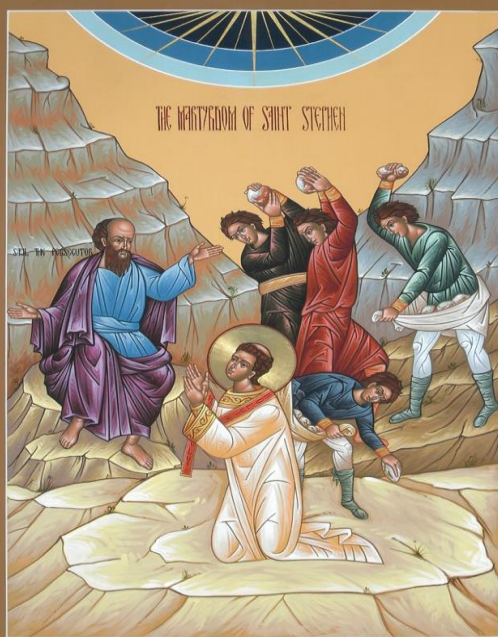
Pastoral Staff

Reverend Daniel M. Rocco
Pastor

Mrs. Suzanne Underwood
Coordinator of
Religious Education

Parish Trustees
Keith Knight
Earl Nolte

Rectory Office Hours
Monday–Friday 9am-4:30pm
*Closed All Holy Days of Obligation
and Holidays except Veterans Day*



Contact Info

Rectory Phone
(856) 662-9339

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.*

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 20, 2019

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 2020 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

SUNDAY	January 20, 2019
9:00am	Sam Loperfido, Sr. r/b Tilda Lamaina
10:30am	Dorothy Tutwiler r/b The Piarulli Family Richard C. Ferber r/b John & Colleen Messina
MONDAY	January 21, 2019
9:00am	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
TUESDAY	January 22, 2019
9:00am	Mary Rose r/b The Rocco Family
WEDNESDAY	January 23, 2019
9:00am	Nicholas DePaul r/b James Gaffney
THURSDAY	January 24, 2019
9:00am/Novena	Wanda Lynch r/b CCHS Class of 1957
FRIDAY	January 25, 2019
9:00am	In Honor of Georgette Rocco's 93 rd Birthday
SATURDAY	January 26, 2019
4:30pm	Alice Jean Baylor r/b St. Stephen's 4:30pm Mass Eucharistic Ministers
SUNDAY	January 27, 2019
9:00am	The Deceased Members of the Marano Family r/b Sal Marano
10:30am	William Sauer r/b His Family Frank Pigliacelli r/b Terry Carr



**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 12/13, 2019 Offertory Collection:	\$3,662
2018-2019 Weekly Offertory Target:	\$4,600
Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving:	\$4,286

Next Special Collection / Envelope:
March 6th: "Ash Wednesday/Church in Eastern Europe"

Website Alert

Our beloved website has been down the past week or so due to technical difficulties among 3 companies: **the Registrar, our Host Company, and Domain Company.** We are working feverishly to have this corrected as soon as possible.



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:

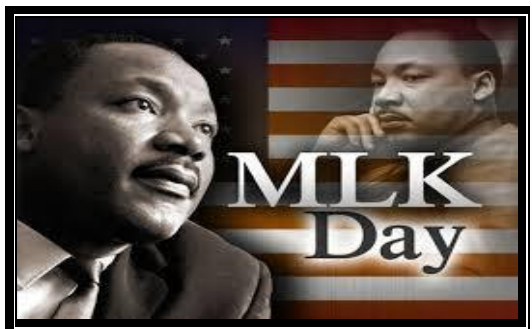
- Raymond Amatrudo, Jr., Ted Anderson, Anna Buono, Edmund Ciccarrone, Carol Cranmer, Fanny DiBenedetto, Joseph Gerst, Pat Gruber, Pricilla Handy, Donna Kane, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSSJ, Sandra Lippi, Katelyn Lum, Nancy Loperfido, Ken Maminski, Larry Miller, Joy and Ed Morrisson, Sue Ott, Rich Passaro, Nancy Sonnie, Callum Steinmetz, Rick Taylor, Frances Vocale, Barbara Weingard, Emily Wilson.

Ministry Schedule for January 26/27

Saturday, 4:30pm
EM's: A. Knight, V. Thibault, C. Pandola, A. Cirullo, Sr. Eleanora
Lectors: J. Gerst, B. Mattia
Sunday, 9:00am
EM's: T. Modzier, J. Rosario, L. Rosario, M. Conway, L. D'Alessandro
Lectors: M. McHugh, P. Nolte
Sunday, 10:30am
EM's: J. Messina, T. Angstman, W. Delfin, T. Scavuzzo
Lectors: W. McHugh, Jared R.

GOOD COUNSEL CONTINUES TO THANK YOU...

Good Counsel Homes is so very grateful and humbled by the faithful and generous support of the parishioner of St. Stephen Parish. **The final total donated is \$2,813.01!** The parishioners of St Stephen's will continue to be in our daily prayers. God bless you and thank you from all of us at Good Counsel. Tara Ingebritsen, 609-387-2928; tara_ingebritsen@goodcounselhomes.org (If you took a bottle and were not able to participate, for whatever the reason, that's okay—you can still help. The return of the bottle will still be a donation as this is one less bottle we have to purchase. ☺ Thank you and God bless you.)



On Monday January 21st we will observe the Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a national holiday. The Rectory and all Diocesan offices will be closed.

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

- 1/21-Monday-9am Mass, **Rectory Closed MLK Day**
- 1/22-Tuesday-9:00am Mass, 7pm Rosary
- 1/23-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD Classes
- 1/24-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Discussion
- 1/25-Friday-9am Mass
- 1/26-Saturday-3:45pm Confessions, 4:30pm Mass
- 1/27-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

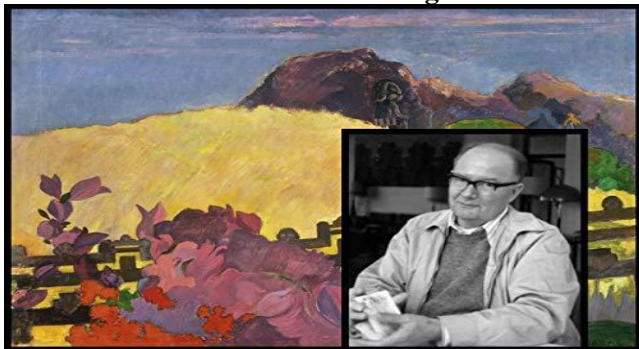
Wednesday Night CCD Classes

Continue January 23rd @ 6:15pm.

Thursday Night Discussion Club

Continues January 24th @ 7:00pm.

We'll be discussing:



Bernard Lonergan
 Christianity's Response to a Secular Age
 Dr. Gordon A. Rixon, S.J., Ph.D.
 University of Toronto

STONEGATE II Hotline

If you are interested in filling out an application for the new Stonegate II apartments, you may call (856) 342-4187 and leave your NAME, ADDRESS and PHONE NUMBER. A Diocesan Housing representative will then return your call with additional instructions & info.

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 rejoin 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. Choir gathers in the church 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 the month of **January** contact **Diane @ 856-308-8224.**

Paul VI High School News

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 1st** from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 for students who make reservations prior to Feb. 1st, \$8 at the door. 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 1st from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Paul VI Dining Hall. Parents are invited to meet current PVI parents and staff at this annual, informal event. For reservations, please visit the **ADMISSIONS EVENTS** page of the Paul VI website, www.pvihs.org.

Paul VI High School REGISTRATION FOR ACCEPTED STUDENTS. Paul VI High School congratulates those students accepted into the Class of 2023! Registration will take place at the school on Saturday, **February 23rd**, between 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Questions about registration, or inquiries to apply to Paul VI, may be directed to Mrs. Kathleen Stewart, (856) 858-4900 ext. 336, or kstewart@pvihs.org.

Gloucester Catholic High School News

Become a "Ram for the Day". Schedule a shadow day be visiting www.gchsrms.org and click on the Ram for a day link. You can also email Mr. Tom Flynn in the Admissions office tflynn@gchsrms.org.

Save the Date" **Gloucester Catholic High School's Registration Day**-Saturday, February 23, 2019 from 9:00am until 12:00pm. Gloucester Catholic's Main Building Cafeteria. For more info email Mr. Tom Flynn in the Admissions office tflynn@gchsrms.org

MARRIED COUPLES

Worn out from the Holidays? Are you looking for a way to avoid the January blahs? How about a special weekend, just for the 2 of you? Register for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend today! The next weekend dates are **Apr 5-7 and Oct 25-27, 2019**. Call 609-741-8012 for information or email applications@wwme-southjersey.org. Visit our website: wwme-southjersey.org.

Camden Catholic High School News

Admissions Information Session

Thursday, **January 31** at 7 p.m. Whether you are an 8th grader still making your decision about high school, or a 6th or 7th grader planning for your future, please join us to learn more about the admissions process, curriculum, arts and athletics at Camden Catholic High School. This is a general information session in which you will have the opportunity to meet our students, faculty and administration, tour our campus, and have your questions answered.

RSVP www.camdenatholic.org/admissionsevents
or call **856-663-2247 ext. 136**.

The Arts at CCHS Presents the 2019 Spring Musical: Guys and Dolls March 8, 9, 15 & 16 at 7:30PM and March 10 and 17 at 2PM

"Luck be a lady" at this fantastic production featuring one of Broadway's most beloved shows presented by over 100 CCHS students. Sing, dance and laugh from the bustle of Times Square to the dance clubs of Havana in this show. Alumni Night is March 15 with a complimentary Wine & Cheese Reception at 6PM for all alumni (RSVP kate.bieg@camdenatholic.org).

Tickets (\$12/person) and Ad & Patrons available online:
www.cchperformingarts.com
or call 856-663-2247 ext. 120.



Irish Experience Guest Days for 8th grade students are being scheduled at Camden Catholic High School. Limited dates remain in 2019 (February 5 and 14 and March 14 and 19). Experience the tradition, feel the passion, catch the spirit of being a student at CCHS, the only school in South Jersey with a Leadership Academy.

Select your day at
www.camdenatholic.org/admissionsevents
or contact **Janet Indelicato to schedule:**
janet.indelicato@camdenatholic.org
or **856-663-2247 ext. 136**.

CCHS Class of 2023: Admissions Applications
The Camden Catholic Admissions Office will review applications for admission for the 2019-20 school year on a rolling basis. Apply online today:
www.camdenatholic.org/admissions.

Reflection on Today's Gospel Reading

John 2:1-11

Jesus performs his first sign at a wedding feast in Cana.

This Sunday we begin the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. For many Sundays in this lectionary cycle (Cycle C), our readings will be taken from the Gospel of Luke. Occasionally, however, we will read from John's Gospel. This is true of today's Gospel reading, which describes the beginning of Jesus' ministry and his first miracle.

To situate today's reading within the context of John's Gospel, we note that John's report of this event follows Jesus' call of his first disciples. John tells us that Jesus and his disciples were invited to this wedding at Cana, as was Jesus' mother, Mary. There is no parallel report of this miracle at Cana in the Synoptic Gospels.

In the Church's liturgical history, the wedding feast of Cana is closely associated with the baptism of the Lord and the adoration of the infant Jesus by the Wise Men. In this context, the sign Jesus performs at the wedding feast is celebrated as an epiphany or a manifestation of Jesus' divinity.

Yet awareness of Jesus' impending passion and death is ever present in John's Gospel. Even in this report of Jesus' first sign, the language used anticipates Jesus' passion. When Jesus says to his mother that his hour has not yet come, he protests against her wishes in language that John will use again when reporting Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. When introducing the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet, John writes that Jesus knew that his hour had come. In John's Gospel, Jesus is very much in command and aware of all that is to happen to him.

Here, as elsewhere in John's Gospel, Mary is not mentioned by name, but is referred to instead as the mother of Jesus. Mary is influential in Jesus' first sign. She will also be present at his Crucifixion, a witness to the final manifestation of his divinity.

John's Gospel describes seven signs that indicate Jesus' identity to his disciples. John never speaks of these signs as miracles because their importance is not in the deed that Jesus performs but in what these deeds indicate about Jesus' identity. Here, as when John describes the other signs, the disciples are said to begin to believe, but no mention is made as to whether the other wedding guests are even aware of what has happened.

Marriage and wedding feasts are metaphors used in Scripture to describe God's salvation and the Kingdom of God. Here at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, John's Gospel seeks to establish that Jesus is going to re-interpret and fulfill Yahweh's promise to Israel. Jesus establishes the New Covenant. A hint about what this New Covenant will be like is made evident in the deed that Jesus performs. Asked to do something to address the awkward situation that the absence of wine at a wedding feast would create, Jesus' miracle produces vast quantities of wine—six jars holding thirty gallons each are filled to overflowing with choice wine.

This lavish response to a simple human need is a vision for us of the abundance of God's kingdom. It challenges us to respond generously when confronted with human need today. We respond as best we can, fully confident that God can transform our efforts, bringing the Kingdom of God to fulfillment among us.