

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

Rectory Fax
(856) 662-4679

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 Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord – January 6, 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 6, 2019 (The Feast of the Epiphany)
9:00am Robert LaPata r/b Nick Picciano

10:30am Louise Pigliacelli r/b Her Husband, Frank
Olga V. Mignone r/b Donald Mignone

MONDAY January 7, 2019
9:00am People of the Parish – Living & Deceased

TUESDAY January 8, 2019
9:00am Richard Pothier r/b Nancy Vales

WEDNESDAY January 9, 2019
9:00am Buffington Siblings r/b Sister-in-Law

THURSDAY January 10, 2019
9:00am/Novena Norman A. Goyette, Jr. r/b People of the Parish

FRIDAY January 11, 2019
9:00am Deborah Ferrari r/b Bill & Suzanne Underwood

SATURDAY January 12, 2019
4:30pm Jean Baylor r/b Mary & Fred Persechino

SUNDAY January 13, 2019 (The Baptism of the Lord)
9:00am Debbi Morrissey (4th Anniversary)
r/b Her Husband, Tom

10:30am Theobald M. Mignone r/b Donald Mignone
In Thanksgiving r/b Theresa Sauer



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.

December 22/23, 2018 Offertory Collection:	\$5,085
Christmas 2018 Offertory Collection:	\$10,570
2018-2019 Weekly Offertory Target:	\$4,600
Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving:	\$4,247

December 29/30 Offertory Figures will be posted in next week's bulletin as this issue was submitted on Dec. 27.

Next Special Collection / Envelope:

March 6, 2019:

"Ash Wednesday/Church in Eastern Europe"



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:

Raymond Amatrudo, Jr., Anna Buono, Edmund Ciccarone, Carol Cranmer, Fanny DiBenedetto, Joseph Gerst, Pat Gruber, Pricilla Handy, Donna Kane, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, 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 12/13

Saturday, 4:30pm

EM's: A. Cirullo, Sr. Eleanora, A. Knight, V. Thibault, C. Pandola
Lectors: J. Gerst, R. Taylor

Sunday, 9:00am

EM's: J. Rosario, L. Rosario, E. Nolte, L. D'Alessandro, M. Conway
Lectors: D. Steinmetz, P. Nolte

Sunday, 10:30am

EM's: G. Tutwiler, J. Messina, T. Angstman, W. Delfin
Lectors: R. Aleszczyk, M. Miller

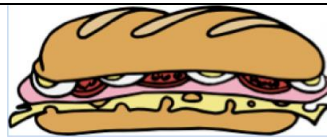
Stewardship Reflection

"Stewardship Unity"

"...the Gentiles are co-heirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel." (EPHESIANS 3:6)

Today we celebrate that Christ came to all of us, not just the Hebrews. He has given each of us unique gifts. We all have different yet equally valuable roles to play in the Body of Christ. Pray daily and ask God how He wants you to use your *Stewardship* so that we may all "be one".

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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 **January 12 & 13**.

For info call 856-227-4980.

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

- 1/7-Monday-9am Mass
- 1/8-Tue.-9:00am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7pm Liturgy Board
- 1/9-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD Classes
- 1/10-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Discussion
- 1/11-Friday-9am Mass
- 1/12-Saturday-3:45pm Confessions, 4:30pm Mass
- 1/13-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass

Tuesday Night Rosary

To Jesus through Mary 7:00-7:30pm @ Church

Come join us as we ask Our Lady to pray with us and for us. The tradition of the Church and the teachings of the Magisterium urge us to frequent recitation of the Hail Mary and the rosary. By keeping the name of Mary on our lips, we show our devotion to her. Mary's mantle is always present to protect those who are her own. The Blessed Virgin Mary is the pinnacle of God's creation. She is the most perfect, the greatest, the holiest human being ever to live. When we repeat her name, we greatly honor God her Creator. Mary never keeps any glory for herself. Her soul magnifies the Lord. (Lk 1:46)

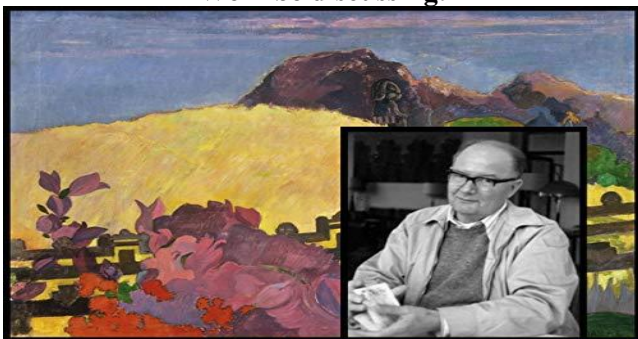
Wednesday Night CCD Classes

Continue January 9th @ 6:15pm.

Thursday Night Discussion Club

Continues January 10th @ 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.

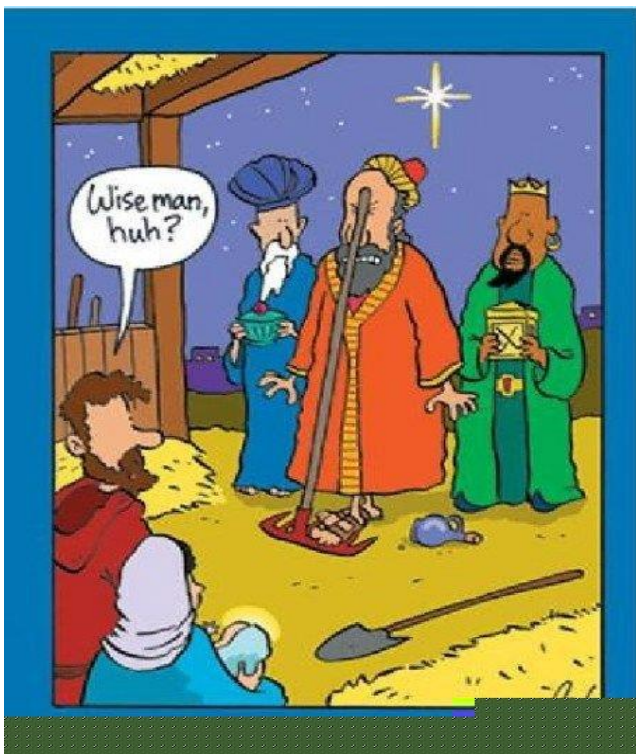
For Prayer Requests in the month of **January** contact **Diane @ 856-308-8224.**



Joy of the Gospel Convocation

At this moment in time, when our hearts are burdened with so many difficult issues, the Holy Spirit is guiding the Diocese of Camden on a mission. This mission, *The Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in South Jersey*, will give lay leaders from throughout the diocese the opportunity to reflect on the reality that the Catholic Church finds herself in today. In March 2019, participants will gather for workshops, reflection, prayer and discussion. These 650+ lay leaders, chosen from each of the parishes in the diocese, will take what they have learned back to their parishes and communities and address today's challenges as a diverse community of missionary disciples.

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Why the Catholic Strong Campaign?

Since the arrival of Bishop Dennis Sullivan, a great deal of emphasis has been placed on the restructure and stability of the financial statement of the diocese. Under the guidance of William Murray, diocesan Chief Financial Officer, and the accounting staff, and with the mutual assistance of the Financial Council, the balance sheet of the diocese has improved dramatically.

In an effort to structure our Finance Council in a manner consistent with USCCB Guidelines, we choose to create an Institutional Advancement subcommittee for the purpose of exploring a capital campaign.

Our committee was formed in the last quarter of 2016. With the permission of Bishop Sullivan, we solicited proposals from five national recognized firms, each of whom had extensive experience in diocesan-wide campaigns.

With further permission from Bishop Sullivan, we hired fundraising firm Changing Our World to conduct a feasibility and planning study in the early part of 2017. The study took six months to complete. Pastors and clergy of each parish were interviewed, as well as most department heads within the diocese. The outcome of the study was very positive. In particular, the pastors were very pleased about the revenue sharing provided by the campaign.

Each parish will receive 70 percent of the funds raised in their parish. This would allow them to consider paying down debt, making capital improvements, and focus on the critical needs of their parish. Those needs might also include resources to strengthen their local ministries.

In addition to the study, we believe success will come from a good economic environment that will likely continue.

We pray you will join us in this very important endeavor and make a generous pledge to your parish community and support the spirit of stewardship for our diocese.

Joseph DiFilippo is a member of the Institutional Advancement Committee, Diocese of Camden Finance Council.



Dear Parishioners,

It is with heartfelt gratitude, that I, on behalf of the Parish of St. Stephen, thank you for your kind and generous 2018 Christmas Offering. It is because of your steadfast support that we were able to fulfill our commitments this past year, even in the midst of new construction, muddied roads, and being surrounded by very large Tonka Toys.

In the first half of the New Year of 2019, we hope to see the raising of the new Stonegate II building. The building will consist of 68 new senior apartments which will complement the 75-unit Stonegate I complex. This development will be a blessing to the Pennsauken community as well as our parish family.

I am personally blessed to have your assistance in striving to live our Gospel values here at St. Stephen. May you be blessed with good health, enjoy the company of your loved ones, and continue to experience the love of God during this New Year of 2019.

With a promise of prayer for your intentions, I am

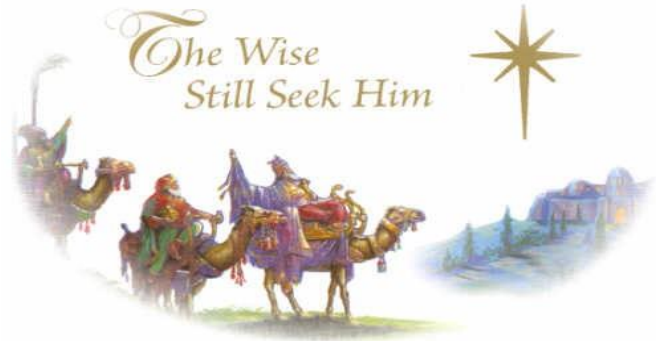
Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Reverend Daniel M. Rocco

PS. This year Santa fulfilled my foremost wish:
A new working sewer line for our church!

*Thank
you*

The Epiphany of the Lord



The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.