

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
Rose Marie Davis
Keith Knight

Rectory Office Hours
Monday – 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)

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.*

January 7, 2018 – The Epiphany of the Lord

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 2019 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

SUNDAY 9:00am	January 7, 2018 (The Epiphany of the Lord) Mark Springer r/b The McHugh Family
10:30am	Olga Mignone r/b Donald Mignone
MONDAY 9:00am	January 8, 2018 People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
TUESDAY 9:00am	January 9, 2018 Margaret Collar r/b Leanne Aaronson
WEDNESDAY 9:00am	January 10, 2018 Rev. Walter Smith r/b People of the Parish
THURSDAY 9:00am/Novena	January 11, 2018 Harry Mayer r/b Anthony & Rosemarie Leone
FRIDAY 9:00am	January 12, 2018 William McWilliams r/b Lucille Buffington
SATURDAY 4:30pm	January 13, 2018 Debbi Morrissey (3 rd Anniversary) r/b Her Husband
SUNDAY 9:00am	January 14, 2018 Carmel Naples r/b Tilda Lamaina
10:30am	Theobald M. Mignone r/b Donald Mignone Leonard Zinicola (20 th Anniversary) r/b Daughters Jennie & Arthur Catino r/b Sons Sigmund, Henry and Carl



**The Sanctuary Candle this week is
In Memory of
Bill & Helen Huhn**

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 30/31, 2017 Offertory Collection:	\$3,790
December 23/24, 2017 Offertory Collection:	\$4,860
Christmas 2017 Offertory Collection:	\$10,794

2017-2018 Weekly Offertory Collection Target:	\$4,600
Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving:	\$4,346

Special Collections / Envelopes:

January 21: "Parish Heating Fund" (St. Stephen)

January 28: "Church in Latin America" (Diocese)

(Posted as a courtesy to our 20+ E-Givers)



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:

Joseph & Dolores Afilani, Raymond Amatrudo, Jr., Eleanor Becker, Barbie Brown, Anna Buono, Jackie Cardwell, Lina Ciarrocchi, Edmund Ciccarone, Jenny Cowan, John Coyle, Carol Cranmer, Joe DeLorenzo, Esther DeMarco, Fanny DiBenedetto, Fred Dickson, Joseph DiFrank, Biagio Dinoto, Michael DiVito, Patricia Domer, Bernice Evans, Joe Flacco, Joanna Galdo, Angela Gallecchio, Antonio Genovese, Richard Gentile, Jr., Joseph Gerst, Pat Gruber, Pricilla Handy, Gregory Hayes, Mary Ann Hoffacker, Thomas Holmes Sr., Debra Knapp, Donna Krawchuk, Janet LaFreda-Hopkins, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Rosemarie Leonardo, Sam Loperfido, Sr., Michael Lopez, Joann Lunsford, Ken Maminski, Mary Ellen Mayer, William Mayer, Stella McCarthy, Cecilia McGonigle, Dorothy McPeak, Rosemary Murray, Florence O'Connor, Margie Ogden, Jennifer Osborn, Savaelina Perez, Linda Petrilli, Rosemarie Rosolia, Patricia Ruhl, Dean & Mary Russell, John S., Helen Setzer, Joan Siperavage, Nancy Sonnie, Steven Stepanavage, Keri Ann Taxis, Rick Taylor, Mary Terzini, Shannon Teuber Myles, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Mary Vivillo, Frances Vocale, Doreen Warble, Lily Warble, Arlene Webb, Barbara Weingard.

Ministry Schedule for January 13/14

Saturday, 4:30pm

EM's: A. Cirullo, Sr. Eleanora, A. Rende, A. Knight, R. Davis

Lectors: J. Gerst, J. Melfi

Sunday, 9:00am

EM's: E. Nolte, T. Modzier, R. Davis, M. Conway, R. Leone

Lectors: M. Miller, D. Heck

Sunday, 10:30am

EM's: W. Delfin, G. Tutwiler, T. Scavuzzo, J. Messina, L. D'Alessandro

Lector: R. Aleszczyk

Stewardship Reflection for the Epiphany of the Lord "Stewardship Prayer"

"..they fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh..." - MATTHEW 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, as Christian **Stewards** must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

1/8-Monday-9:00am Mass, 11am Ladies Bible Study
 1/9-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7pm Liturgy Board
 1/10-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD Classes
 1/11-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Discussion Club
 1/12-Friday-9am Mass
 1/13-Saturday-3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
 1/14-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass,



We are all on a journey, and God's word is a light to our path. Stop in and join us at the St. Stephen Ladies' Bible Study for reflections in scripture, lively discussions and fun!

When: Mondays from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Where: St. Stephen Parish Center (next to the church)

Please contact Eileen Heide with any questions.

Phone or text: 610-805-5363 email: heides@comcast.net

*The woman who walks with God
 Always reaches her destination!*

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 10th @ 6:15pm

Thursday Night Discussion Club

Continues Jan. 11th @ 7pm in the Parish Center.

We'll be discussing Prof. William R. Cook's

"The Catholic Church: A History"



All Are Welcome to Join Us!

Art & Environment Ministry

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.

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.

Parish Library

The Parish Library is now open in the Parish Center for all your Winter 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

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

Lois @ 856-665-1221.

First Friday Adoration

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be

Friday, February 2, 2018

from 9:45am-7:00pm.



**Catholics Fight Racism:
A Day of Prayer, Education, & Action**

Saturday, January 13, 2018 (NEW DATE)
10:00 am — 3:00 pm
St. Charles Borromeo Parish
176 Stagecoach Rd, Sicklerville | \$12

In the face of racism in this country, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. What can we do to promote racial justice in our own communities? This year's annual Diocese of Camden Life & Justice Gathering is designed to help Catholics throughout South Jersey reflect on how they can fight racism in their parishes, schools, homes, and hearts. Through a process of reflection, dialogue, prayer, and education, the day will begin to equip you to work for racial justice. Intended for clergy and lay leaders and volunteers with an interest in building a more just world. Buy tickets and get more information at www.camdendiocese.org/fightracism.

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**“Cross & Light” Production**

Join us at the church of St. Andrew The Apostle, Gibbsboro, NJ to enjoy this once in a lifetime, only performance in all of New Jersey. Cross & Light is the only Broadway-quality production of Christ’s Passion through Pentecost performing in the Catholic Church today.

Because the performance offers a multi-sensory experience, audiences become deeply engaged in the Passion of our Lord and often come to recognize more fully the heart of the Passion experience, the joy of the Resurrection, and the love and mercy of Christ for them personally. An experience with Cross & Light can be transformative for audiences of all ages.

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish is bringing this production to Gibbsboro from **March 1, 2018 to March 4, 2018**, after which it will go across the River to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Tickets on sale now at [www.CrossAndLight.org/StAndrew](http://www.CrossAndLight.org/StAndrew).

Catholics always look for something spiritual to do to heighten their spiritual lives, and Cross and Light offers the perfect Lenten Experience."

**The Seven Principles  
of Catholic Social Teaching**

Do you know what these principles are and what they ask of us? What principle of Catholic Social Teaching stirs the most passion in you? Sr. Diane will engage participants as we study together all Seven Justice Principles.

**Sister Diane Guerin, RSM**  
**Social Justice Minister and Consultant**  
**Monday January 8, 22, 29, 2018**

**9:45AM Parish Hall**  
Call the Parish Office to Register (424-3212)

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Paul VI Slam Dunk Tours

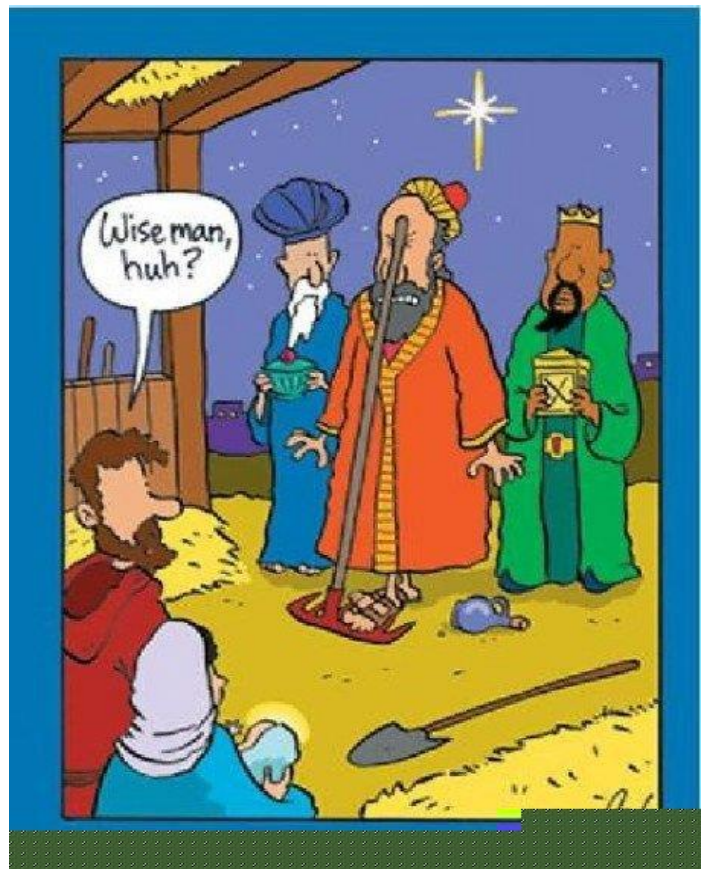
The Paul VI Eagles are ready to soar! Please join us for a special pre-game tour of our beautiful school, followed by an exciting Paul VI home basketball game:

Paul VI Boys vs. Lenape, Saturday, January 13, 2018,
Tours at noon, Game at 1 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 a complimentary game passes.

Questions? Please email Mrs. Kathleen Stewart, Director of Admissions at kstewart@pvihs.org.

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**Dear Parishioners,**

It is with heartfelt gratitude, that I, on behalf of the Parish of St. Stephen, thank you for your kind and generous Christmas offering. It is because of your steadfast support and the sale of our school that we were able to completely pay off our school's debt and fulfill our commitments this past year.

In the first half of the New Year of 2018, we hope to see the groundbreaking of Stonegate II at the location of our former convent/parish center. The building will consist of 68 new senior apartments which will complement the 75-unit Stonegate I complex. We still await the plans for the SunSeng Supermarket expansion which will increase the available access to approximately 10-12 new stores. These developments 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's. 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 2018.

With a promise of prayer for your intentions, I am

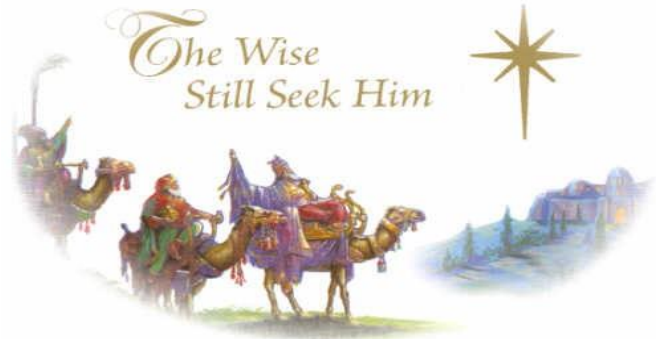
Sincerely Yours in Christ,

**Reverend Daniel M. Rocco**

Pastor

*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.