

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 – 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.*

January 8, 2017 – The Epiphany of the Lord

Communion Service: Monday - 9:00am
Daily Mass: Tuesday 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 2018 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

SUNDAY	January 8, 2017
9:00am	Leo Aloysius Holland r/b Rita Vogt & Family
10:30am	Vincenza Faiola r/b Sr. Eleanora Peng Ung r/b George, Gail & Valerie Tutwiler Jim Nettleton r/b Dean Russell
MONDAY	January 9, 2017
9:00am	<i>Communion Service</i>
TUESDAY	January 10, 2017
9:00am	Anne McAdams r/b Anthony & Rosemarie Leone
WEDNESDAY	January 11, 2017
9:00am	Howard & Clara Buffington r/b Daughter-in-Law
THURSDAY	January 12, 2017
9:00am/Novena	Rev. Robert J. Dunphy r/b People of the Parish
FRIDAY	January 13, 2017
9:00am	The Buffington Siblings r/b Sister-in-Law
SATURDAY	January 14, 2017
4:30pm	Debbi Morrissey (2 nd Anniversary) r/b Her Husband
SUNDAY	January 15, 2017
9:00am	Helen Huhn r/b Joseph & Jeanne Gerst
10:30am	Anne McAdams r/b People of the Parish Healing of Jim DeShields r/b Dean & Mary Russell Spiritual Healing of Dean Russell r/b Friends



The Sanctuary Candle this week is
***In Memory of
The Burns Family***

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.

Dec. 24/25 Christmas 2016 Offertory Collection: \$15,865
Dec. 31/January 1, 2017 Offertory Collection: \$7,348
2016-2017 Weekly Offertory Collection Target: \$4,600
Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving: \$4,719

Upcoming Special Collections:
January 15th: "Parish Heating Fund" (St. Stephen)
January 29th: "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:

Dolores Afilani, Ray Amatrudo, Jr., Eleanor Becker, Anna Buono, Jackie Cardwell, Edmund Ciccarone, Yolanda Colafrancesco, Jenny Cowan, John Coyle, Joe DeLorenzo, Esther DeMarco, Doris Denuel, Fanny DiBenedetto, Fred Dickson, Joseph DiFrank, Michael DiVito, Patricia Domer, Joe Flacco, Joanna Galdo, 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, Harry, Mary Ellen & William Mayer, Cecilia McGonigle, Dorothy McPeak, Rosemary Murray, Florence O'Connor, Margie Ogden, Jennifer Osborn, Savaelina Perez, Rosemarie Rosolia, Dean & Mary Russell, Helen Setzer, Nancy Sonnie, Steven Stepanavage, Rick Taylor, Mary Terzini, Shannon Teuber Myles, Esther Tillinghast, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Mary Vivliello, Doreen Warble, Lily Warble, Barbara Weingard.

Ministry Schedule for January 14/15

* Designates Alternate Server

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Server: S. Surgner

EM's: Sr. Eleanora, A. Rende, A. Knight, V. Thibault, *A. Cirullo

Lectors: J. Melfi, J. Gerst

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: Q. Nguyen, J. Vales, M. Conway

EM's: E. Nolte, L. D'Alessandro, M. Conway, R. Leone, *T. Modzier

Lectors: D. Heck, P. Nolte

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: K. Fagan, M. Daniels

EM's: W. Delfin, T. Mattera, G. Tutwiler, D. Urgo, *T. Urgo

Lectors: M. Miller, M. Turan

Hear Ye, Hear Ye,
 Come One, Come All
 To Coffee and Pastries,
 At the Parish Hall!

Sunday, January 15th
 After the

9:00am & 10:30am Masses



This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

1/9-Monday-9am Communion Service, 11am Ladies Bible Study
 1/10-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary
 1/11-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD Classes
 1/12-Thurs.-9am Mass/Novena, 6:15pm Choirs,7pm Discussion Club
 1/13-Friday-9am Mass
 1/14-Saturday - 3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
 1/15-Sunday - 9am Mass, 10:30am Mass, Coffee & Pastries

Ladies Bible Study

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

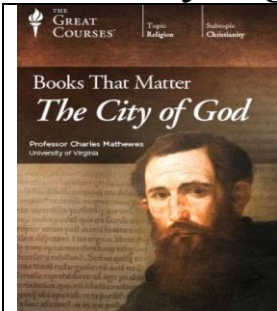
To Jesus Through Mary - 7:00-7:30pm @ Church

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 11th at 6:15pm.

Thursday Night Discussion Club



Will continue
January 12th @ 7pm in the
 Sr. Bernadette Parish Center
 with
 Prof. Charles Mathewes'
**"Books That Matter
 The City of God"**

First Friday Adoration

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be
Friday, February 3, 2017
9:45am-7:00pm.



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 rejoin their parents. We hope that you will allow your children to participate in this religious education experience.

St. Stephen's Prayer Line Belongs to You



We are here to pray for you.

For Prayer Requests for the month of January contact **Betty @ 856-662-6928.**

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.

FIRST MOTHER FAMILY OUTREACH

Women from our diocese have formed a compassionate outreach for mothers who have not raised their firstborn children. We, as ordinary women, offer you our comfort and support because we understand that time does not erase the pain of adoption loss.

Contact us at: FirstMotherFamily@gmail.com

"This is my commandment:

Love one another as I have loved you." -John 15:12

<http://catholicstarherald.org/birth-mothers-find-support-in-shared-experience/>

Township of Pennsauken

December 29, 2016

St. Stephen's Church
6306 Browning Road
Pennsauken, NJ 08109

To Whom It May Concern:

For over twenty years the Pennsauken Angel Tree Program has assisted Pennsauken and Merchantville families who have struggled financially during the holiday season. This program is funded 100% by toy and cash donations from local businesses, community organizations, residents and Township employees. Volunteers spend many hours delivering the toys to less fortunate families in our community.

Because of your very generous donation we were able to help 50 families experience the magic of Christmas. So on behalf of Pennsauken Township I would like to thank you for caring for the children of Pennsauken/Merchantville and want to wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Thank you,

John Kneib
Mayor

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**Health and Wellness Team News**

Are you interested in learning CPR? Do you need to brush up on your skills? The Health and Wellness Team will be conducting a CPR class in February 2017, date to be determined. The class will be offered in the Parish Center and provided by a certified CPR instructor. Please note this class will not meet the requirements for CPR certification. It is only meant to teach basic skills. If there is a need for a certification class, we will explore that at another time. The class will be offered free of charge. **If you are interested, please send an email message to the rectory, at [ecclisia@comcast.net](mailto:ecclisia@comcast.net) with your name, telephone number and email address and a preferred day: Monday or Tuesday evening, or Saturday.** Someone will be in touch with you once the class is scheduled.



**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 that we were able to fulfill our commitments. Thanks to your generosity, the parish has been able to meet its financial and physical responsibilities this past year.

In this New Year, we as a parish will continue to face the **ongoing** challenge of finalizing the sale of our school building. This negotiation, which began in December of 2013, will hopefully be concluded before the **Second Coming of Christ**. Once this chapter is **finally completed**, we look forward to the many blessings God holds for us in the future.

I am personally blessed to have your assistance in striving to live our Gospel values here at St. Stephen's.

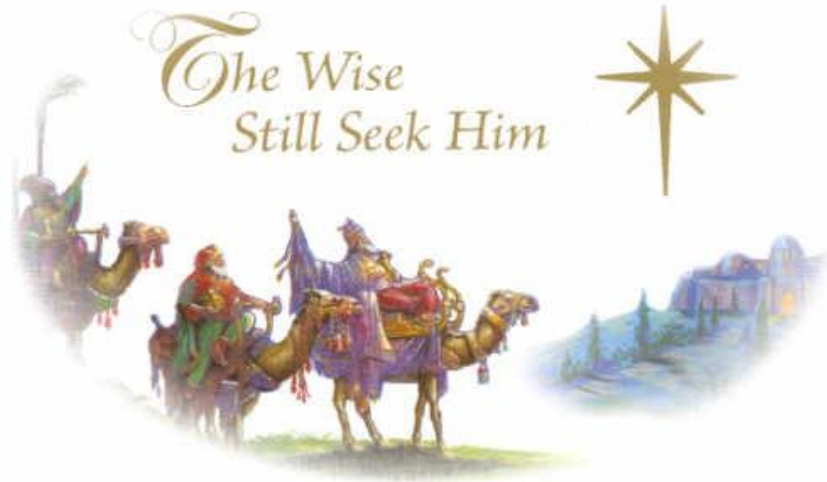
May you be blessed with good health, enjoy the company of your loved ones, and continue to experience the love of God during this New Year of 2017.

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.