

St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Pastoral Staff

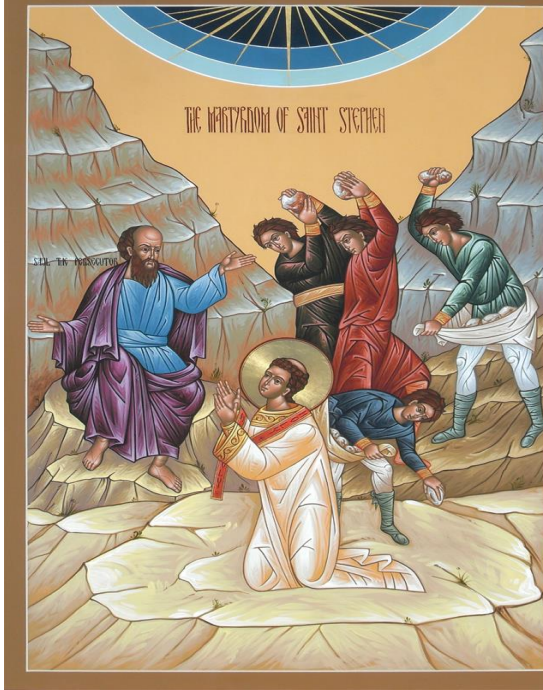
Reverend Daniel M. Rocco
Pastor

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 thru 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.*

November 29, 2015 – The First Sunday of Advent

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 2016 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

SUNDAY 9:00am	November 29, 2015 Elaine Truran r/b Joseph & Lisa Rosario
10:30am	Marlene Matteo r/b Her Family Vera Colangelo r/b Josephine Marzilli Stanley Booth r/b Diane DesRosiers & Family
MONDAY 9:00am	November 30, 2015 <i>Communion Service</i>
TUESDAY 9:00am	December 1, 2015 Louise Cirullo r/b Her Daughter, Anna
WEDNESDAY 9:00am	December 2, 2015 People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
THURSDAY 9:00am+Novena	December 3, 2015 James Holland r/b Mary Jane & Andy Salmonsens
FRIDAY 9:00am	December 4, 2015 (First Friday Adoration) Rev. Conrad H. Stoegbauer r/b People of the Parish
SATURDAY 4:30pm	December 5, 2015 Catherine Mauer r/b Family
SUNDAY 9:00am	December 6, 2015 Joseph Papiano r/b Jim Pennestri
10:30am	Stanley Booth r/b Josephine Marzilli



The Sanctuary Candle this week is for *The Healing of Trong Quang Huynh*

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.

November 21/22 Offertory Figures will be posted in next week's bulletin as this issue was submitted on 11/20/15.

Special Collections:

December 13, 2015: "Retired Religious Fund" (Diocese)

December 13-20, 2015: "Christmas Flowers" (Church)

(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, Eleanor Becker, Joy Bowman, Jackie Cardwell, Yolanda Colafrancesco, John Coyle, Dot Corbett, Joe DeLorenzo, Esther DeMarco, Doris Denuel, Fanny DiBenedetto, Fred Dickson, Patricia Domer, Joseph Fagan, Joe Flacco, Joanna Galdo, Richard Gentile, Jr., Richard Gentile, Sr., Joseph Gerst, Nancy Gogel, Pat Gruber, Pricilla Handy, Gregory Hayes, Chuck Hillwig, Thomas Holmes Sr., John Howard, Debra Knapp, Donna Krawchuk, Arlene LaFreda, Janet LaFreda-Hopkins, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Wanda Loperfido, Joann Lunsford, Harry & Mary Ellen Mayer, Cecilia McGonigle, Denise McHugh, Dorothy McPeak, Neal Norris, Esther Nunez, Florence O'Connor, Margie Ogden, Jennifer Osborn, Savaelina Perez, Frank Pigliacelli, Tanya Robinson & Son Joseph, Rosemarie Rosolia, Dean & Marie Russell, Nancy Sonnie, Steven Stepanavage, Mary Terzini, Shannon Teuber Myles, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Donna Jean Vinciquerro, Mary Vivliello, Doreen Warble, Barbara Weingard.

Ministry Schedule for December 5/6

Monthly schedules are also available on our website.

** Designates Alternate Server*

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Server: J. Bui

EM's: A. Knight, C. Pandola, A. Cirullo, L. Heininger, **J. Heininger*

Lector: R. Taylor

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Server: M. Conway

EM's: M. Conway, L. D'Alessandro, M. Miller, L. Monaco, **M. Monaco*

Lectors: D. Steinmetz, J. Scavuzzo

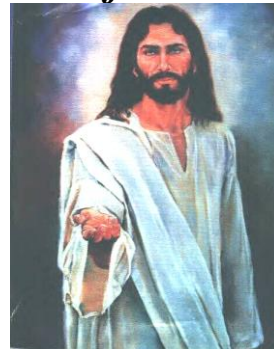
Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Server: K. Fagan

EM's: J. Fagan, K. Fagan, T. Link, T. Angstman, **T. Mattered*

Lector: M. Turan

A SPECIAL INVITATION Just for You!



You are cordially invited to come into the silence and spend one hour with Our Lord during our **First Friday Adoration December 4, 2015.**

Jesus said to His Apostles, "Could you not watch one hour with me? "

He is asking us the same question today.

Won't you say "YES" to His invitation?

RSVP to Rosemarie Leone @ 856-662-0035.

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

11/30-Monday-9am Communion Service, 1pm Bible Study
 12/1-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7pm Medicare 101
 12/2-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD Classes
 12/3-Thurs.-9am Mass/Novena, 6pm Choirs, 7pm Discussion
 12/4-First Friday-9am Mass, Adoration until 7pm
 12/5-Saturday-3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
 12/6-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass

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 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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

Please contact Eileen Heide with any questions.
 Phone: 662-8046 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

"You will find Mary within the whole of the Christian Mystery, for devotion to her is not an end in itself, but the main road leading to Christ, to the glory of God, and to love of the Church."-Pope Paul VI

Wednesday Night CCD Classes

Continue December 2nd at 6:15pm.

Thursday Night Discussion Club

Continues this Thursday, December 3rd @ 7pm
 in the Sr. Bernadette Parish Center



We are discussing:
***Galileo:
 Science, Faith,
 and the
 Catholic Church***
 by Dr. Guy Consolmagno,
 S.J., Ph.D.

First Friday Adoration

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be
**Friday, December 4, 2015,
 9:45am-7:00pm.**



Art & Environment

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.

St. Stephen's Prayer Line Belongs to You



We are here to pray for you.
 For Prayer Requests for the month of December, please contact Betty @ 856-662-6928.

Parish Library

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

If you would like to donate spiritual and religious books to the collection, please drop them off at the Parish center in the Library. If you would like to volunteer in the library, please contact Gail Tutwiler (gtutg@aol.com), Beth Picknally Camden (bethcorkabi@gmail.com) or Mary Sharon Monaco (monacofamily4@comcast.net; 609-238-1968).



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.

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.

“Loss of a Loved One”

This is the 18th in an 18-week series dedicated to you who have felt the grief and loss of a Loved One:*

The End? *

Not quite!
A new beginning?
Yes!

As one door closes,
Another one opens
To another room,

It is time
To carry on.

There is more
To be done
On pages
Not yet written.

May Peace Be with you.
And
With Your Loved One.

* This is the last excerpt from the book “Pour Your Heart Out,” by David L; Steinberg, © Copyright, April, 2015. All rights reserved under the copyright laws of the United States. Permission is granted to Saint Stephen Church, Pennsauken, NJ to use this in their weekly bulletin. Your comments are most welcome: 856-547-3860 or 856-383-5325 or steinberg.david07@comcast.net.

“MEDICARE 101”

- *Should you have a Medicare Supplement?
- *Or a different Medicare Advantage Plan?
- *Do you need help with your Medicare Part D Drug Plan?

If you need answers, please join us for our last South Jersey Medicare Information Session:
This Tuesday, December 1st at 7pm
in the Sr. Bernadette Parish Center.

For further information, feel free to call
Joe Fagan at (609) 471-0753.



Good Counsel
Homes & Hope for Babies & Mothers

WILL YOU TAKE A BABY BOTTLE...

And help the homeless, pregnant
Mothers of Good Counsel Homes?

This weekend, November 28/29, Good Counsel Homes will be sharing their mission story at our parish and will be asking for your support for the mothers that have chosen to give their baby life despite what life dictates. The Riverside home, for homeless, pregnant mothers, is the first home to open in the Southern New Jersey area and has given birth to 49 babies!! You will simply be asked to take a baby bottle home with you, fill it with spare change, dollars, checks, or whatever your means allow, and return it within the next two weeks.

If you would like to volunteer at our home,
please call JoAnn DiNoia-(609-387-2928)
or email joann_dinoia@goodcounselhomes.org.
Thank you for your prayers and support.

Camden Catholic High School News

Irish Experience Guest Days for 8th grade students are being scheduled throughout the fall at Camden Catholic High School. 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. Contact Janet Indelicato to schedule: janet.indelicato@camdenccatholic.org or 856-663-2247 ext. 136.

Class of 2020 Freshman Admissions Deadline and Registration

To qualify for Merit Scholarships or Performing Arts Scholarships, the Camden Catholic High School Application must be received by **December 8, 2015**. Students who are eligible for a Merit Scholarship will be contacted by the Admissions Department regarding an interview held at Camden Catholic in December. All other applicants may submit an application after December 8 and acceptances will be based on rolling admissions.

Class of 2020 Freshman Registration: Save the date!
Saturday, February 20 at 8am,
Pisa Dining Hall at Camden Catholic.

Knights' Christmas Festival Dec. 5th

The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a Christmas Festival on **Saturday, December 5, 2015 from 10:00 am until 8:00 pm at St Cecilia's school auditorium**. Vendors will have crafts, Christmas items, jewelry, and many other fine gifts for your shopping selection. Food and drinks will also be available, and maybe a surprise visit by Santa. Please come out with your family, friends, and neighbors to support the knights while picking up a few items on your Christmas list.

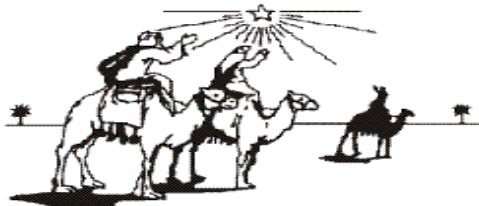
Oh Come All Ye Faithful!

Please join us
this year to celebrate
the Christmas Season
ANGEL TREE



This year our Angel Tree Gifts will benefit the Needy Residents of our Pennsauken community and YOU will choose the gender, size (if clothes) and age (Newborn-15yrs.) of your child recipient. Please specify these details on the back of the Angel Tag. Kindly place your UNWRAPPED gifts under the tree by **Sunday December 13th**. All NEW TOYS are acceptable and GIFT CARDS are suitable for older children. Thank You!

Advent / Christmas Schedule



St. Stephen's Choir @ St. Mary's Nursing Home
Sunday, December 6, 2015, 2:00pm

Immaculate Conception Holy Day
Tuesday, December 8, 2015, 9:00am & 7:00pm Mass

St. Stephen's Choir Christmas Concert
Friday, December 11, 2015, 7:00pm

PENITENTIAL SERVICE
Tuesday, December 15, 2015, 7:30pm
(After the Rosary)

CONFESSION
Saturdays: December 5, 12, 19, 3:45-4:15pm

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES
Thursday, December 24, 2015
4:00 PM Children's Mass, 6:00 PM & 10:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
Friday, December 25, 2015
10:30 AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS
Thursday, December 31, 2015
9:00AM regular Mass
4:30PM Vigil for Mother of God Holy Day

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS
Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God Holy Day
Friday, January 1, 2016, 9:00 AM Mass

First Week of Advent

The Prophecy Candle

The first candle announces the waiting period that anticipates Christmas and honors those who first spoke of the promise of the coming of the Christ Child.

"Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son." -Hebrews 1: 1-2

A Prayer for Advent

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit
upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces
to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things look
forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for
the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy
seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness,
yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen.
-Henri Nouwen

The Origins of Advent

Advent began sometime after the 4th century as a time of preparation for Epiphany—not in anticipation of Christmas. Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ by remembering the visit of the Magi and the baptism of Jesus. At this time new Christians were baptized and received into the faith, and so the early church instituted a 40-day period of fasting and repentance.

Later, in the 6th century, Pope St. Gregory was the first to associate this season of Advent with the coming of Christ. Originally it was not the coming of the Christ-Child that was anticipated, but rather, the second coming of Christ.

By the Middle Ages the church had extended the celebration of Advent to the familiar format we know today. The early weeks are rich with the prophecies of Isaiah, reminding us to wait and prepare for the coming Messiah. Later, the pace quickens and we focus more directly on the events leading up to Jesus' birth.