

St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Pastoral Staff

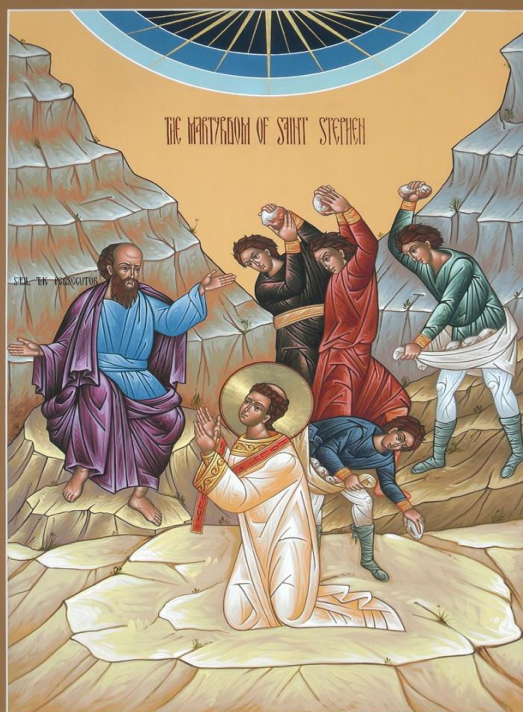
Reverend Daniel M. Rocco
Pastor

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 30, 2014 – The First Sunday of Advent

Mass Schedule

Daily: 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.

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 1 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 2015 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

MONDAY 9:00am	December 1, 2014 Louise Cirullo r/b Her Daughter, Anna
TUESDAY 9:00am	December 2, 2014 Ninetta Giunta r/b M/M Charles Gugliotta
WEDNESDAY 9:00am	December 3, 2014 Bill Buffington r/b His Wife, Lucille
THURSDAY 9:00am+Novena	December 4, 2014 Jean Caruso r/b Dan & Loretta Steinmetz
FRIDAY 9:00am	December 5, 2014 (First Friday Adoration) Salvatore & Julia DiPaolo r/b Daughter
SATURDAY 4:30pm	December 6, 2014 T-Roy Collins r/b Joseph Randisi
SUNDAY 9:00am	December 7, 2014 Joseph Papiano r/b Jim Pennestri
10:30am	William Sauer r/b His Wife, Theresa Catherine Hartson r/b Tilda Lamaina Frank & Susie Furlano r/b Rosina & Susan Midili

The Sanctuary Candle this week is In Memory of R. Douglas Holmes, Retired Chief of Police, Camden, NJ

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.

Offertory Figures for November 22/23 will be posted in next week's bulletin as this issue was submitted on November 21st.

Upcoming Special Collection Envelopes:

- December 14: "Retired Religious Fund" (Diocese)
- Dec. 14-21: "Christmas Flower Memorials" (St. Stephen)
- December 25: "Christmas Offering" (St. Stephen)
(posted as a courtesy for our 20+ E-givers)

Automatic E-Giving

St. Stephen Parish continues to provide **Electronic Giving, or e-Giving**, 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.**

First Friday Adoration

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be **Friday, December 5th 9:45am-7:00pm.**



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:

- Dolores Afilani, Joy Bowman, Mary Caruso, Yolanda Colafrancesco, Dot Corbett, Joe DeLorenzo, Esther DeMarco, Doris Denuel, Fanny DiBenedetto, Fred Dickson, Patricia Domer, Diane Fesko, Joe Flacco, Nicole Franklin-Sonnie, Joanna Galdo, Richard Gentile, Jr., Richard Gentile, Sr., Thomas Holmes Sr., Marie Kaminski, Debra Knapp, Donna Krawchuk, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Marge Leone, Wanda Loperfido, Joann Lunsford, Harry & Mary Ellen Mayer, Cecilia McGonigle, Dorothy McPeak, Debbi Morrissey, Neal Norris, Esther Nunez, Florence O'Connor, Margie Ogen, Jennifer Osborn, Savaelina Perez, Frank Pigliacelli, Rosemarie Rosolia, Dean & Marie Russell, Kathleen Stehm, Steven Stepanavage, Mary Terzini, Shannon Teuber Myles, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, John Vindick, Mary Vivello, Anthony Vocale, Dolores VonAlex, Barbara Weingard.

St. Stephen's Prayer Line Belongs to You



We are here to pray for you.

Prayer requests for the month of December, please contact Maryann @ 856-235-1423.

Saturday 9am Men's Prayer Group

Please join us for our **Men's Scripture/Prayer Group**. We meet every Saturday morning at **9am** for one-half hour in the **Parish Center Meeting Room**. Info: **Joe Fagan-662-5908**.

Ministry Schedule for December 6/7/8

* Designates Alternate Server

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Server: J. Bui

EM's: V. Thibault, B. Taylor, A. Cirullo, C. Pandola

Lector: R. Taylor

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: B. McHugh, C. Aleszczyk, Q. Nguyen

EM's: S. Marano, L. Monaco, R. Leone, M. Miller, *R. Davis

Lector: D. Steinmetz

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: The Hughes Boys

EM's: D. Urgo, T. Urgo, T. Angstman, T. Scavuzzo, *M. Meloni

Lectors: M. Turan, E. Mattered

Monday, 7:00pm Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation

Altar Servers: TBD

EM's: L. D'Alessandro, E. Nolte, R. Davis, B. Taylor

Lector: J. Melfi

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

12/1-Monday-9am Mass, 1pm Bible Study, 6pm Dc. Anthony Meeting

12/2-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7pm Liturgy Board

12/3-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD

12/4-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Discussion Club

12/5-First Friday-9am Mass, Adoration until 7pm

12/6-Saturday-9am Men's Group, 3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass

12/7-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass

Oh Come All Ye Faithful!

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



Our Angel Tree now has Angel tags on it. This year YOU will choose the gender, size and age of your child recipient. Please specify these details on the back of the Angel Tag. Kindly place your gifts under the tree by Dec. 14th. Thank You!

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## Advent / Christmas Schedule



### Immaculate Conception Holy Day

Monday, December 8, 2014, 9am & 7pm Mass

### PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Tuesday, December 16, 2014, 7:30pm  
(After the Rosary)

### CONFESSION

Saturdays: December 6, 13, 20, 3:45-4:15pm

### CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

Wednesday, December 24, 2014

4:00 PM Children's Mass, 6:00 PM & 10:00 PM

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Thursday, December 25, 2014  
10:30 AM

### NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

Wednesday, December 31, 2014  
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  
Wednesday, January 1, 2015, 9:00 AM Mass

## Grow in Holiness this Advent Season with the **Deacon Ernie Library Challenge**

Jesus challenged the world view of every person he encountered: the woman at the well, the rich young man... Jesus came, among other things, to bring us to a new world view. It is a very simple idea. God calls you to holiness and everything that happens in your life, every triumph, trial, and tragedy is an opportunity to grow in holiness. It is crucial that we make the connection between the ordinary activities of life and the dream God has for each person.

Whether you want to use the phrase "growing in holiness" or "becoming a "better - version - of yourself" is up to you.

Each day we need to develop our store of knowledge about the Catholic faith, so we can live it more deeply with every passing day and so we can answer more and more questions other people have about the faith.

If you read five pages of a great Catholic book every day you will be amazed how your knowledge and enthusiasm for the faith will begin to grow. Just five pages a day. We can do that. Continuous improvement - it makes incredible things possible. The Deacon Ernie Picknally Memorial Library located in the Sister Bernadette Parish Center will be open after all Masses beginning on the first weekend of Advent. *Excerpts taken from The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic by Matthew Kelly.*

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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

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## **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 Story of Joseph"



**Sr. Bernadette Parish Center  
Friday Dec. 12 & 19 @ 7pm**

The Spiritual Life Committee will be presenting 2 video presentations of the Biblical story of "JOSEPH", filmed before a live audience at the Sight & Sound Theatre.

These showings will take place in the St. Stephen's Parish Center, on **Fri. evening, Dec. 12th**, and again on **Fri. evening, Dec. 19th**. All screenings begin at **7:00 P.M.** and the video runs for approximately 2 hours.

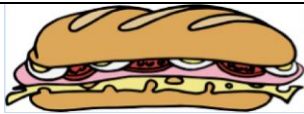
Our hope is that this will generate an interest among our parishioners, to attend one of these live performances by the Sight & Sound Theatrical Company. in Lancaster, Pa., as a Parish function, sometime in the near future.

**For information regarding the showings in the Parish Center, and so we can get a head count of those who will be coming, please call Dennis Rooney at 856- 745- 3162.**

## Emotions Anonymous

**Emotions Anonymous (EA) Thursday night meetings will be moving.** Beginning Thursday, December 4, 2014, EA will meet from 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM in the chapel of St. Vincent Pallotti Church at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Hopkins Avenue, Haddon Township, NJ. For more information call Dave at 856-701-7805.

**Knights of Columbus,  
Council 3512  
Hoagie Sale**

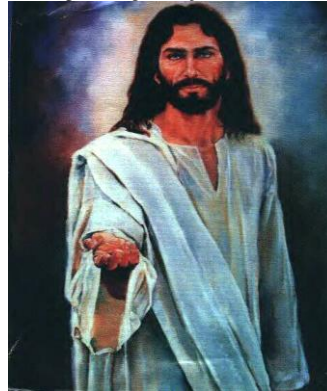


As a charity fundraiser, our Knights of Columbus council will be selling fresh hoagies @ \$5.00 each after all Masses the weekend of **December 6 & 7**. For info call 856-227-4980.

## JOIN BISHOP SULLIVAN in IRELAND July 18 through 29, 2015

Bishop Sullivan is hosting a tour of Ireland departing Philadelphia on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> and returning to Philadelphia on Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. Visit Dublin, Cavan, Armagh, Knock, Galway, the Cliffs of Mohrer, Limerick and much more. Tour includes 11 days/10 nights; ten full Irish breakfasts; ten dinners (one with Irish storytelling and entertainment); gratuities to driver/guide; portorage of one piece of luggage; four star hotels; air conditioned motor coach; and a few Irish ballads sung by the Bishop along the way. The **land cost** of this tour is \$2209 p/p double with a \$479 single supplement; space is limited. Airfare costs are based on availability at the time of booking (current estimates are roughly \$1300/non-stop). For more information or to register – please contact [anna.summers@camdendiocese.org](mailto:anna.summers@camdendiocese.org) or [Robert.hughes@camdendiocese.org](mailto:Robert.hughes@camdendiocese.org) or call 856-583-2807. A non-refundable deposit of \$500 p/p is due with registration.

## 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 5, 2014.**

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.

## 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](mailto:Ciarrocca@juno.com).

# THE COLLINGSWOOD COMMUNITY CHORUS

Directed By  
**DALE L. CAREY**

Presents a **FREE** Concert

# CHRISTMAS IS THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR!

**Tuesday, December 9**

**Before 7:28 PM**



**Scottish Rite Auditorium  
315 White Horse Pike  
Collingswood**



**For more information : 856.854.6024**

## *State of the Parish Report to Parishioners of St. Stephen*

Continuing in the spirit of transparency, the 2014 Finance Board would like to present a state of the parish report while also taking this opportunity to thank all parishioners for their prayers and support during a very difficult year.

The closing of St. Stephen School has left the parish with many challenges and as the 1<sup>st</sup> week of Advent approaches we feel it appropriate to present an accounting of the Parish's financial situation along with an explanation of how we came to find ourselves in this position.

St. Stephen has incurred a debt with the Diocese in the amount of **\$503,208.11**, as a result of the operation of the school. A breakdown of outstanding debt is as follows:

|                                   |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>School Health Insurance:</b>   | <b>\$176,661.61</b> |
| <b>School DISIP total:</b>        | <b>\$161,095.00</b> |
| <b>School Pension (past):</b>     | <b>\$106,975.50</b> |
| <b>School Assess. By Diocese:</b> | <b>\$31,476.00</b>  |
| <b>School Pension 2014:</b>       | <b>\$27,000.00</b>  |

We would like to provide a brief explanation of the above categories: all outstanding amounts are related directly to the operation of St. Stephen School, with the past pension amount accruing over several years when St. Stephen was suddenly assessed by the Diocese for a larger amount than had been budgeted that year. The Health Insurance and DSIP are also a result of the school's inability to keep pace with assessments, due to dropping enrollment and increasing operational expenses over which the parish had no control. The School Assessment by the Diocese speaks for itself while the 2014 School Pension is the current amount owed.

In addition to the above, the Diocese has decreed that St. Stephen is to pay \$1,000 voucher per student, to be applied toward their tuition when transferring from St. Stephen to another Catholic school in the area, at a cost to our parish of **\$90,000.00**, thereby increasing the total debt to **\$593,208.11**.

**There is some good news however: During the past six months, we have been able to put aside some savings and with a healthy Christmas collection, we will be able to pay off the \$90,000.00 voucher debt. Aside from the school, the parish is debt free and current in all bills and obligations, again due to the wonderful generosity of the parishioners.**

Each year our pastor and the Board has kept parishioners apprised of the school's precarious financial situation, and although the parish and the school made every effort to balance the school's annual budget through various fund raisers and PTO functions, the truth of the matter is there was no way we could anticipate those increased assessments in a declining economy.

We continue to pursue other alternatives for the school building itself. We have had several parties express a desire to rent the property and it would be in our best interests if a tenant or purchaser could be located, as just maintaining the vacant building will cost the parish approximately \$3,000 a month. Father Daniel has recently executed a listing agreement with Budd Realty and the property is now available on multiple listing sites for commercial buildings. In addition we have been able to generate some local interest in a possible lease through the efforts of a few of our own parishioners. We want you to know that your parish Finance Board will continue to work with Fr. Daniel to find ways in which to reduce any further responsibility for the building by locating a tenant or purchaser for the property.

Lastly, the Finance Board wants to thank each and every parishioner who has so loyally supported efforts to maintain our school in the past and please know that we share your sadness in witnessing its closing. We thank Fr. Daniel for his hard work and guidance in keeping all of us focused on our goal. We ask that you continue to pray for our parish and its future and that you remain constant, to the best of your ability, in your financial support of St. Stephen.