

St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109



Different Histories...

One Faith...

Different Ages...

Pastoral Staff

Reverend Daniel M. Rocco, Pastor
Permanent Deacon Anthony Cioe
Mrs. Patricia Higgins, Principal
Mrs. Suzanne Underwood, CRE

Emergencies: (856) 261-9336
(Accidents, Dying or Death)



Contact Information

Rectory: (856) 662-9338
Rectory Fax: (856) 662-4679
School: (856) 662-5935
School Fax: (856) 662-6128

Email: eccllesia@comcast.net
Web: www.StStephensPennsauken.com

December 1, 2013 – 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

Children's Liturgy: 3rd Sunday @ 9:00am

Holy Days: 9:00am & 7:00pm

Miraculous Medal Novena – Every Thursday after 9am Mass.

Eucharistic Exposition – First Friday from 9:30am-7pm.

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.

Tribunal Parish Advocate-Dc. Anthony Cioe- (856) 227-2145

Rectory Office Hours-Monday thru Friday 9am-4:30pm
(Closed all Holy Days of Obligation & National Holidays)

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.

Parish Membership – Moving INTO the parish all are asked to register as soon as possible.

Moving WITHIN or OUT – kindly notify rectory of changes.

Please consider remembering St. Stephen's in your Will or Estate Planning. There are financial benefits to do so while still alive and, in death, the spiritual reward of helping to continue the Church's mission of preaching Jesus Christ.

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.

Our Parish Family invites all of its members to participate fully in our spiritual and social life.

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 2014 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

MONDAY 9:00am	December 2, 2013 Gertrude Tillinghast r/b Stonegate Apartment Residents Joanne Tierney & Cecelia Powell
TUESDAY 9:00am	December 3, 2013 People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
WEDNESDAY 9:00am	December 4, 2013 People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
THURSDAY 9:00am+Novena	December 5, 2013 People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
FRIDAY 9:00am	December 6, 2013 (First Friday Adoration) People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
SATURDAY 4:30pm	December 7, 2013 Deacon Ernest Picknally r/b Barb & Ed Weingard
SUNDAY 9:00am	December 8, 2013 Karl Stewart r/b Mom & Family
10:30am	Lillian Tomarchio r/b David & Myra Peard and Daughters Rev. William F. Collins r/b People of the Parish Mary Gundersen r/b Jack & Maryanne Merritt

The Sanctuary Candle this week is in Memory of the Philippines' Typhoon Victims

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 23/24 will be posted in next week's bulletin as this issue was submitted on 11/22/13.

2013-2014 Budgeted Weekly Collection:	\$5,588
Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average:	\$4,963

Next Diocesan Special Collection:
12/8/13: "Religious Retirement Fund"

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## Support Elderly Religious

A parishioner writes, "As a Catholic school student from grades K-12, I was formed to be the person I am by many religious brothers and sisters, and I am forever grateful." Show your appreciation for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week's collection for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**.



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:

- Dolly Angelastro, Mary Caruso, Yolanda Colafrancesco, Dot Corbett, Patricia DeLorenzo, Esther DeMarco, Fanny DiBenedetto, Patricia Domer, Diane Fesko, Joe Flacco, Joanna Galdo, Richard Gentile, Jr., Richard Gentile, Sr., Thomas Holmes Sr., Donna Krawchuk, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Marge Leone, Wanda Loperfido, Maureen Lukasiak, Joann Lunsford, John Maggioncalda, Harry & Mary Ellen Mayer, Dorothy McPeak, Marie Melchiorre, Debbi Morrissey, Freda Novak, Esther Nunez, Jennifer Osborn, Betty Picciano, Frank Pigliacelli, Rosemarie Rosolia, Theresa Sauer, Loretta Stayton, Kathleen Stehm, Steven Stepanavage, Mary Terzini, Shannon Teuber Myles, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, John Vindick, Mary Viviello, Anthony Vocale.**

## Ministry Schedule for December 7/8

(Monthly Schedules are also posted on our website)

\* Designates Alternate Server

### Saturday, 4:30pm

**Altar Servers:** T. Mason, S. Caban, Z. Marlin

**EM's:** T. Angstman, J. Heiningner, L. Heiningner, A. Knight, \*P. Petronis

**Lector:** D. Heck

### Sunday, 9:00am

**Altar Servers:** C. Hearn, M. Conway, B. McHugh

**EM's:** S. Marano, L. Monaco, R. Davis, R. Leone, \*L. D'Alessandro

**Lector:** M. Miller

### Sunday, 10:30am

**Altar Servers:** T. Albert, L. Fagan, C. Aleszczyk

**EM's:** P. Cioe, D. Urgo, T. Urgo, J. Fagan, \*T. Scavuzzo

**Lector:** J. Bowman

## 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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Elderly Assistance Available

Parishioner Seeking PT employment assisting the elderly. Drive to appointments, shopping, light housekeeping or any other needs. Contact Maryann Costner at (856) 665-8627. Reasonable hourly rate.

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

12/2-Monday-9am Mass, 1pm Bible Study, 7pm Advent Retreat
12/3-Tuesday- 9am Mass, 7pm Advent Retreat, 7:30pm RCIA
12/4-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD, 7pm Advent Retreat
12/5-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Discussion Club
12/6-First Friday-9am Mass, Adoration until 7pm
12/7-Saturday-9am Men's Group, 3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
12/8-Sunday-9am & 10:30am Mass, Noon Baptismal Training

A Message for All the Ladies:



God values you, and  has a plan for your life!

Monday Ladies' Bible Study

1-2:30pm in the Stonegate Conference Room.

To Jesus Through Mary Tuesday Night

Rosary 7:00-7:30pm @ Church

Your devotion to the Blessed Mother was expressed by the response to the Knights' "Prayer Pavers to Our Lady".

Continue your devotion – Come pray with us!

"To recite the Rosary is nothing other than to contemplate with Mary the face of Jesus."

Blessed John Paul II, Apostolic Letter on the Rosary

Wednesday Night CCD Classes

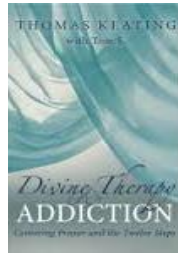
Continue this Wednesday, December 4th @ 6:15pm.

Thursday Night

Discussion Club

Continues December 5th
at 7pm in the Parish Center.

We are discussing
"Divine Therapy & Addiction"
by Fr. Thomas Keating, OCSO



First Friday Adoration

The next Exposition & Adoration
of the Blessed Sacrament will be
Friday, Dec. 6th, 9:45am-7:00pm.



"The worship given to the Trinity of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...must fill our churches also outside the timetable of Masses...Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Him in adoration and in contemplation that is full of faith and ready to make reparation of the great faults and crimes of the world. May our adoration never cease." -Blessed John Paul II

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.

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 **665-8393**. Anyone who would like to make a donation for a tree to honor a deceased loved one or would like to join the A & E Ministry may call Maria at the number above.

Bereavement Committee

The Bereavement Committee is seeking volunteers to help minister to those who've recently lost loved ones in our community of faith. To join this special ministry, please call **Joy Bowman** at **662-4803**.

Council & Board Meetings

All at 7pm in the Parish Center unless otherwise noted.

Monday, December 9 Finance Council
Monday, December 16 Pastoral Council

Prayer Pavers to Our Lady

AN ONGOING MEMORIAL!

All pavers are now installed and many spaces still available!
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 in the school office, order forms are on our website and in the rectory office.

Info is available @ www.ststephenspennsauken.com
or by calling Michael Ciarrocca at 856-425-4799.

RCIA Ministry

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

- Have you been worshipping with us, but never officially took the step to become Catholic?
- Have you been away from the church...and have now returned, but want to know more?
- Have you been a Catholic all your life, but never celebrated all the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism; Confirmation; and Eucharist?
- Have you joined us from a different background and would now like to find out more about the Catholic Church.

Please contact **Father Daniel Rocco** at (856) 662-9338 or **Loretta Steinmetz**, RCIA Team Leader at (856) 227-4627 for more information about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.

Scrip Fundraising Program

Scrip is available for purchase at the Scrip Table after all weekend Masses and at the rectory during regular business office hours, **Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm** (excluding Holy Days & Holidays).

St. Stephen's Prayer Line

Belongs to You



We are here to pray for you.

Prayer requests for the month of December, please contact **Bernadette @ 854-2928**.

Oh Come All Ye Faithful!

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



Our St. Stephen's School Community
Angel's were tagged on the tree Nov. 30th.
Kindly place your gifts under the tree by Dec.15th
Script gift cards are available for purchases for age appropriate gifts.

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*From the Office of the Bishop*  
November 20, 2013

Dear Parishioners,

On December 7-8, each parish in the Diocese of Camden will be conducting the appeal for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**, an annual collection that benefits some 34,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests. As I reflect on the service of our women and men religious, I recall the words of Jesus in John's Gospel: "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be" (Jn 12:26). Through their prayer and ministries, religious can be found following Christ and serving the People of God.


In the past, Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests served for small stipends that did not include retirement benefits. Of the 548 communities submitting data in 2012 to the National Retirement for Religious Office, only eight percent were fully funded for retirement.

Our Diocese has always been very generous in response to this appeal. Last year, the Diocese of Camden contributed **\$130,024.79** to this collection. In 2013, the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy, Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus, Hospitaller Order of St. John of God, and the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception received financial support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. Additionally, women and men religious whose communities are based elsewhere, for example, the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Sisters of Mercy, the Franciscan Sisters and the Sister, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, benefit from this annual appeal.

The annual collection is an opportunity for each of us to be the presence of Jesus to our senior religious. I ask simply that you give what you can. Please join me in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious and in praying for God's continued blessing on our nation's elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests.

Sincerely in Christ,  
**Reverend Dennis J. Sullivan, D.D.**  
Bishop of Camden

# LifeTouch Portrait Make-up Date!

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Be a part of our family album<br><b>PORTRAIT SIGN-UP</b> | <b>Saturday, Dec. 7, 2013</b><br><b>11:30am-6:30pm</b><br>St. Stephen School<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Floor |
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For those who missed appointments in October and also for those who are now interested in being a part of our Parish Directory! **To make an appointment (you must have one), please call Kelly at 856-397-7578.**

## Camden Catholic News

### Holiday Ladies Night Out Featuring "Designer Handbag Bingo"

**Friday, December 6** at 6:30 p.m. in the CCHS Cafeteria (300 Cuthbert Road, Cherry Hill). \$25/person advance tickets (21 and over only) featuring "Designer Handbag Bingo," 50/50, raffle baskets, and vendor tables. Tickets include hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and 10 rounds of bingo. Tables of 8-10 can be reserved. Visit [www.camdenatholic.org](http://www.camdenatholic.org) or email [nmerenyi@camdenatholic.org](mailto:nmerenyi@camdenatholic.org).

### Magical Morning with Santa at Camden Catholic High School,

*Presented by the National Honor Society*  
**Saturday, December 14**, 9-11:30 a.m. for ages 10 and younger (and parents) in the CCHS Cafeteria (300 Cuthbert Road, Cherry Hill). \$5.00 per child includes full breakfast, magic show, Christmas crafts and games, carols and music, face painting, prizes and raffles. And of course, a visit from Santa Claus! For questions or to reserve tickets, email Mr. Jeff Cordner at [jcordner@camdenatholic.org](mailto:jcordner@camdenatholic.org).

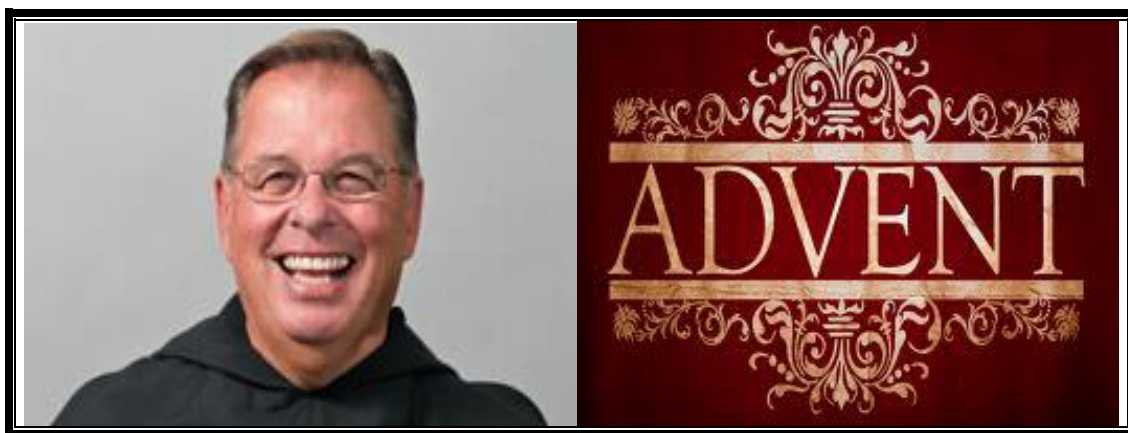
## Gloucester Catholic News

**December 7** is the Gloucester Catholic HS Scholarship and Placement Exams for all prospective 8th students. It starts promptly at 8 a.m. and finishes at 12 noon at our high school. Contact Patti Gilliard at [guidance@gchsrams.org](mailto:guidance@gchsrams.org) to register for the December 7th GCHS Placement exam.

### Need the perfect gift for your spouse this Christmas?

Give your spouse the gift of your time and love by taking your spouse on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Upcoming weekend dates: Dec. 6-8, 2013; Jan. 24-26, 2014. Call: 1-609-827-7117. Email: [mesjdooley@gmail.com](mailto:mesjdooley@gmail.com). Visit: [www.mesj.net](http://www.mesj.net).

Saint Stephen Parish is proud to present  
***Father Michael P. Sullivan, O.S.A.***  
as he facilitates our 2013 Advent Retreat  
December 1, 2, 3 & 4 @ 7pm each night.



The themes for each night are:

**Sunday: “To Be Born Again”**

**Monday: “The Healing Love of Jesus”**

**Tuesday: “The Call to be Church”**

**Wednesday: Our Response to the Call”**

Father Michael P. Sullivan, O.S.A., was born in New York City in March, 1940. He received a bachelor's degree from Villanova University and his master's in theology from Augustinian College. Father Sullivan did graduate work at the Catholic University of America and also received a master's degree in counseling from St. John's University. Ordained in 1967, he spent eight years in parish ministry. Father Sullivan served as pastor in the Albany Diocese and as pastor of Saint Nicholas of Tolentine, the parish of his youth in N.Y.C. He has been a member of the executive board of Worldwide Marriage Encounter, and in this capacity he has traveled extensively throughout the United States, Canada, and Australia. In 1980 he was appointed to full-time retreat work and parish renewal preaching.

*(Free-Will Offering Accepted)*