

St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

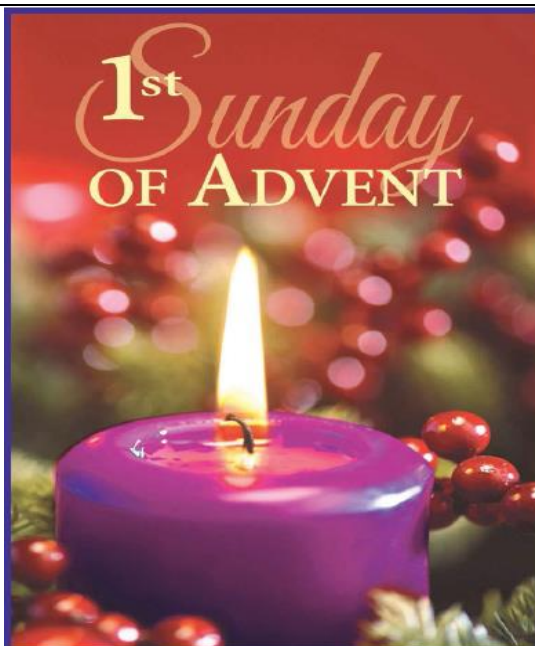
Pastoral Staff

Reverend Daniel M. Rocco
Pastor

Mrs. Suzanne Underwood
Coordinator of
Religious Education

Parish Trustees
Keith Knight
Earl Nolte

Rectory Office Hours
Monday - Friday
9:00am - 4:30pm



Contact Info

Rectory Phone
(856) 662-9338

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

Parish Email
ecclesia@comcast.net

Parish Website
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.*

The First Sunday of Advent – December 1, 2019

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 2020 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

SUNDAY	December 1, 2019
9:00am	Andrew Salmonsens r/b His Wife, Mary Jane
10:30am	Rosina Midili r/b Fini Mann & Neighbor Sharon Raymond Steele r/b His Wife, Theresa Joseph R. Maccherone r/b Macy's Handbag Team
MONDAY	December 2, 2019
9:00am	Rev. John F. Bloh r/b People of the Parish
TUESDAY	December 3, 2019
9:00am	The Souls in My Family r/b Anna Nga
WEDNESDAY	December 4, 2019
9:00am	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
THURSDAY	December 5, 2019
9:00am/Novena	The Souls in My Family r/b Anna Nga
FRIDAY	December 6, 2019 (First Friday Adoration)
9:00am	A. "Dolly" Gloway r/b Nick Picciano
SATURDAY	December 7, 2019
4:30pm	Michael Mattia r/b Earl & Pat Nolte
SUNDAY	December 8, 2019
9:00am	Joseph & Viola Papiano r/b Jim Pennestri
10:30am	William Sauer r/b His Family



**The Sanctuary Candle
this week is in memory of
*The Unborn Children***

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 Nov. 22.

2019-2020 Weekly Offertory Target:	\$4,500
Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving:	\$3,827

Special Envelopes/Collections:

December 8th: "Retired Religious Fund"

Now thru December 25th: "Christmas Flower Memorials"

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**Stonegate II Applications** are still available for **weekday pickup from 9am-3pm** at the Diocesan Housing Building at 1845 Haddon Avenue in Camden. Interested parties may also call **(856) 342-4187** to request applications by mail. The Diocese began accepting applications on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

## 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:**

- Ted Anderson, Ralph Baylor, Grace Becker,  
 Mary Bumbalow, Anna Buono, Patrick Carr, John Christy,  
 Edmund Ciccarone, Melissa Connelly, Athan Criaris,  
 Fanny DiBenedetto, Joseph Gerst, Pat Gruber,  
 Priscilla Handy, Ronald Heck, Wayne Hocking,  
 Donna Kane, James Kelly, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ,  
 Rosemarie Leonardo, Sandra Lippi, Katelyn Lum,  
 Nancy Loperfido, Ken Maminski, Tom McFadden,  
 Larry Miller, John Moffett, Joy and Ed Morrisson,  
 Yvonne Mulhern, Rich Passaro, Dean & Mary Russell,  
 Nancy Sonnie, Bill Spicher, Rick Taylor, Peggy Tepper,  
 Adelaide Travia, Rita Vogt, Barbara Weingard,  
 Tom Weingard, Emily Wilson.

### Ministry Schedule – December 7/8

**Saturday, 4:30pm**

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

**Lector:** J. Melfi

**Sunday, 9:00am**

**EM's:** L. Monaco, M. Monaco, E. Nolte, L. McHugh


**Lectors:** W. McHugh, P. Nolte

**Sunday, 10:30am**

**EM's:** J. Messina, M. Meloni, G. Tutwilier, T. Angstman

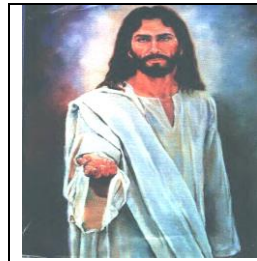
**Lectors:** R. Aleszczyk, M. McHugh

## Advent Week 1



As you light the first candle in the Advent wreath, take a slow deep breath. Remember that achieving the perfectly orchestrated holiday doesn't matter. What matters is watching for God in every situation.

## *First Friday Adoration*



**December 6, 2019**

**9:30am – 7:00pm**

*"Come to beauty,  
silence, prayer.  
Come to Me."*

**RSVP to Rosemarie Leone  
@ 856-662-0035.**

# This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

- 12/2-Monday-9am Mass
- 12/3-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7pm Liturgy Board
- 12/4-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD Classes
- 12/5-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Discussion Club
- 12/6-First Friday--9am Mass, Adoration until 7pm
- 12/7--Saturday-3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
- 12/8--Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass

## Tuesday Night Rosary

**To Jesus through Mary 7:00-7:30pm @ Church**  
 "Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother. Love the rosary, for the rosary is a weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother."  
 -St. Padre Pio

## Wednesday Night CCD Classes

Continue December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm

## Thursday Night Discussion Club

Continues December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Rectory

We'll be discussing:

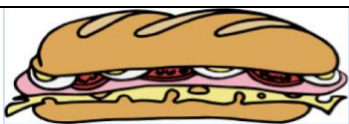


## First Friday Adoration

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



## Knights of Columbus, Council 3512



### Hoagie Sale!

As a charity fundraiser, our Knights of Columbus council will be selling fresh hoagies @ \$5.00 & \$6.00 each after all Masses the weekend of **December 7 & 8.**  
 For info call 856-227-4980.

## 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 (856) 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](http://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.

## Choir – New Members Welcome!

St. Stephen's Music Ministry cordially invites you to consider joining our Music Ministry family. Our Choir meets on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm, with rehearsals lasting 60-90 minutes. If you want to share your talents, please contact Mrs. Nancy Werner-Kaiser through the Rectory Office.

## 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).

## St. Stephen's Prayer Line Belongs to You



**We are here to pray for you.**  
 For Prayer Requests in December contact **Betty @ 856-662-6928.**



### Rides to Church

### Need a Ride to Church?

The Missionary Discipleship Committee is sponsoring a volunteer program to give people who need it a free ride to church as often as needed. If interested, please call **(856) 662-9339, Ext. 6, Monday-Friday 9am-4pm.**



*Saint Stephen's Music  
Ministry Presents:*

## *An Evening of Christmas Music*

**Friday, December 6, 2019  
7:30 pm**

***Come one, come all! Bring the kids!  
Meet Santa and get your photo taken with him!***

*Refreshments will be served, after the show.*

## **WILL YOU TAKE A BABY BOTTLE.....AGAIN???**



### **And help the homeless, pregnant mothers of Good Counsel Homes?**

In the gospel of Mathew Jesus calls a little child to him and proclaims "...whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me" (Mathew 18:5).

**A representative will be speaking on behalf of Good Counsel Homes at all Masses during the weekend of December 14-15.** Good Counsel Homes is a mission helping homeless pregnant and parenting mothers and babies. Good Counsel operates 5 Catholic homes for pregnant women and their children as well as a national toll-free crisis pregnancy help line (800-723-8331).

We will be handing out baby bottles to be filled with monetary donations, that will help assist with their lifesaving work. We welcome you with an open heart to learn more about what we, the Catholic community, can do to help homeless mothers and babies in need through crisis to careers. Please visit [www.GoodCounselHomes.org](http://www.GoodCounselHomes.org) or LIKE Good Counsel Homes on Facebook. The more you know, the more mothers and babies will be helped.

## **Appeal Helps Religious Communities Care for Aging Members**

**The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will be held December 7-8 in the Diocese of Camden.** The parish-based appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), and proceeds help hundreds of U.S. religious communities to care for aging members. Some 30,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests benefit.

Last year, the Diocese of Camden donated \$167,494.08 to the collection. In 2019, the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy, Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus and the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception received financial support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious.

The 2018 appeal raised \$27.7 million, and 360 religious congregations across the nation received funding. Distributions are sent to each eligible congregation's central house. Communities combine this assistance with their own income and savings and apply it toward various retirement expenses, such as medications and nursing care.

"We are humbled and profoundly grateful for the countless Catholics who honor the service and witness of senior religious through their prayers and generosity," said Presentation Sister Stephanie Still, the NRRO's executive director.

Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the Retirement Fund for Religious in 1988 to help address the profound lack of retirement savings among U.S. religious communities. Since the collection's launch, U.S. Catholics have donated \$872 million to the annual appeal.

Despite this generosity, many congregations still struggle to provide for aging members. Most older religious served for low wages that did not include retirement benefits. Today, numerous communities face a critical shortage in retirement savings. Moreover, retired religious now outnumber wage-earning members, resulting in declining income and a rising cost of care.

Proceeds from the annual collection allow the NRRO to offer assessment tools, educational programming, services and resources that enable communities to evaluate and prepare for long-term retirement needs. The NRRO also coordinates an extensive network of volunteer consultants, including experts in eldercare and financial planning, to help congregations lower costs while enhancing care.

"Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious enable our office to provide financial assistance for an array of direct needs," said Sister Still. "They also underwrite education and resources that help religious communities stretch retirement dollars and plan for the future." **Please give to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection.**

# The 2019-2020 Liturgical Calendar at a Glance

## Oh Come All Ye Faithful!

Beginning December 1,  
join us to celebrate  
the Christmas Season

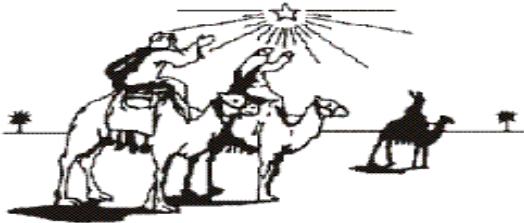


## ANGEL TREE

Once again this year, you will choose the gender and age (Newborn-15yrs.) of your child recipient. The color of the angel tag does not indicate gender.

Kindly place your UNWRAPPED gifts under the tree by Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. All NEW TOYS are acceptable and GIFT CARDS are suitable for older children. Destination of the gifts will once again benefit the Needy Families of Pennsauken Township.

## Advent / Christmas Schedule



1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – Beginning of Liturgical Year  
December 1, 2019

CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
Friday December 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
Monday, December 9, 2019  
9:00am Mass  
(Not a Holy Day of Obligation)

PENITENTIAL SERVICE  
Tuesday, December 17, 2019, 7:30pm  
(After the Rosary)

CONFESSION  
Saturdays: December 7, 14, 21, 3:45-4:15pm

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES  
Tuesday, December 24, 2019  
5:00 PM Children's Mass & 10:00 PM Vigil

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS  
Wednesday, December 25, 2019  
10:30 AM

ST. STEPHEN'S FEAST DAY MASS  
Thursday, December 26, 2019 - 9:00 AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL  
Mary the Mother of God  
Tuesday, December 31, 2019  
5:00PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS  
Mary the Mother of God  
Wednesday, January 1, 2020  
9:00 AM

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES  
February 26 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

LENTEN FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
February 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3 at 7pm

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE  
To Be Determined

### 2020 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- April 5: Palm Sunday Masses-9am & 10:30am
- April 9: Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper-7pm
- April 10: Good Friday Liturgical Service – 3pm
- April 11: Holy Saturday Easter Vigil – 8pm
- April 12: Easter Sunday Masses – 9am & 10:30am

FIRST PENANCE  
To Be Determined

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION  
To Be Determined

CONFIRMATION  
To Be Determined

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD  
Thursday, May 21, 2020 – 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION  
Saturday, August 15, 2020 – 4:30 PM

FALL HARVEST MASS  
Saturday, October 24, 2020 – 4:30 PM

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS DAY  
Sunday, November 1, 2020 - 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE  
Sunday, November 1, 2020 – 10:30 AM

THANKSGIVING VIGIL MASS  
Wednesday, November 25, 2020 - 7:00 PM