

# St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

## *Pastoral Staff*

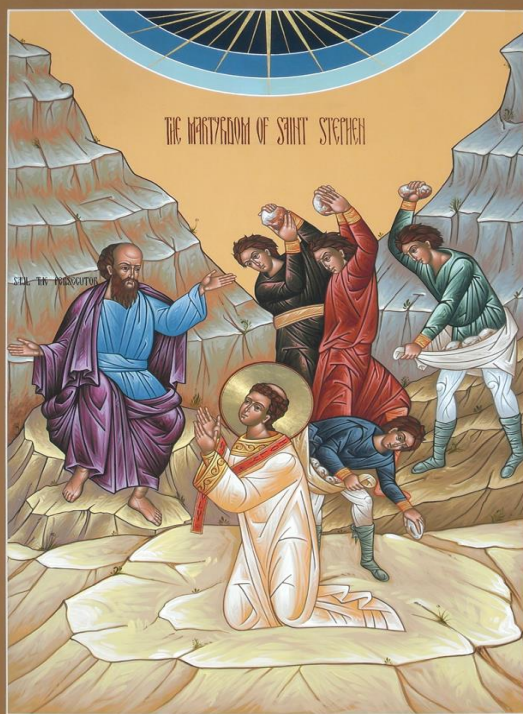
**Reverend Daniel M. Rocco**  
Pastor

**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](mailto:ecclesia@comcast.net)

**Parish Website:**  
[www.StStephensPennsauken.com](http://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.*

***December 14, 2014 – The Third 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday @ Noon.

Baptism – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**            **December 15, 2014**  
9:00am                A Special Intention r/b Family
- TUESDAY**         **December 16, 2014**  
9:00am                Jean Caruso r/b Dr. Jim Canalichio
- WEDNESDAY**     **December 17, 2014**  
9:00am                The Buffington Siblings r/b Sister-in-Law
- THURSDAY**       **December 18, 2014**  
9:00am+Novena     People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
- FRIDAY**            **December 19, 2014**  
9:00am                Mary Louise Hanlin r/b The McHugh Family
- SATURDAY**        **December 20, 2014**  
4:30pm                The Deceased Members of the Burns & Weingard Families r/b Ed & Barbara
- SUNDAY**            **December 21, 2014**  
9:00am                Edward Reilly r/b Roseann & Bob DiGiovanni  
10:30am                Maria Ida Fanelle r/b Rosina Midili & Family  
                              Robert Biehler r/b The Haas Family

## The Sanctuary Candle this week is "In Thanksgiving".

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.

<b>December 6/7, 2014 Attendance/Collection</b>	<b>467/</b>	<b>\$6,414</b>
<b>December 7/8, 2013 Comparison</b>	<b>483/</b>	<b>\$5,712</b>
<b>Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average</b>		<b>\$4,913</b>

### Special Collections:

- 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)

## 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 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](http://www.StStephensPennsauken.com) to set up your account.



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, Ann Marie Meyer, Debbi Morrissey, Neal Norris, Esther Nunez, Florence O'Connor, Margie Ogden, 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 Viviello, 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 20/21

\* Designates Alternate Server

### Saturday, 4:30pm

**Altar Server:** M. Conway

**EM's:** J. Heininger, A. Cirullo, V. Thibault, B. Taylor, \*L. Heininger

**Lector:** W. Mattia

### Sunday, 9:00am

**Altar Servers:** T. Albert, C. Hearn, Q. Nguyen

**EM's:** L. McHugh, N. Schmidt, L. D'Alessandro, M. Bufanio, \*S. Marano

**Lectors:** D. Heck, W. McHugh

### Sunday, 10:30am

**Altar Servers:** K. Fagan, C. Aleszczyk

**EM's:** T. Urgo, T. Angstman, J. Fagan, K. Fagan, \*D. Urgo

**Lectors:** C. Aleszczyk, Rh. Aleszczyk

## This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

**12/15-Monday-9am Mass, 10am Calvary Mass, 11am Bible Study**

**12/16-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7:30pm Penance Service**

**12/17-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD**

**12/18-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 6pm Choirs, 7pm Discussion Club**

**12/19-Friday-9am Mass, 7pm "The Story of Joseph"**

**12/20-Saturday-9am Men's Group, 3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass**

**12/21-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass**

Art & Environment Ministry

Volunteers Needed!

Dec. 20th (Saturday) move items from the rectory basement to the church. Fluff and assemble trees and wreaths in the church and vestibule.

Dec. 21st (Sunday) Poinsettia arrive @ 2pm. Will need 2 extra volunteers.

Dec. 22 (Monday) after the 9:30 am daily Mass. Begin transition and assemble Nativity. 7:00 pm if needed continue transition

Dec. 23rd (Tuesday) 9:30 am finish our preparation. (IF NECESSARY)

Jan. 11th (Sunday) Transition our church to Ordinary Time

Retirement Fund for Religious

Support religious communities. "Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry", writes a religious sister. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital support for the retirement needs of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure that younger members can continue the good works of their elders!

MAUSOLEUM MASSES FOR ADVENT

THE DIOCESE OF CAMDEN CEMETERY DEPARTMENT

would like to invite you to celebrate Advent with us in the Mausoleum Chapels.

MASSES WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2014 AT 10:00 AM AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- All Saints Cemetery, Newfield
Holy Cross Cemetery, Mays Landing
Calvary Cemetery, Cherry Hill
New St. Mary Cemetery, Bellmawr

AND AT 10:30 AM AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION:

Sacred Heart Cemetery, Vineland

For more information go to www.SouthJerseyCatholicCemeteries.org

THE DIOCESE OF CAMDEN WISHES YOU MANY BLESSINGS DURING THIS MOST HOLY SEASON

Diaconate News

Congratulations to John Messina, our candidate in the Diaconate formation program, who will receive the Rite of Institution to the Ministry of Reader on Wednesday, December 17th at Holy Angels Parish in Woodbury.

St. Stephen's Alumni News

Our parish recently received notification of the performance of our high school students on the 1st Quarter Report. We are particularly proud of those who demonstrated academic excellence.

John Robert Kueny, '18 achieved second honors at Roman Catholic High School in Philadelphia.

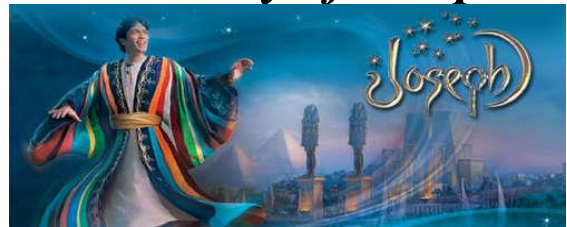
Congratulations to the St. Stephen alumni who were named to the First Quarter Honor Roll at Camden Catholic High School:

Madison Miller (Distinguished Honors)

Taylor Holmes (Distinguished Honors)

- Victoria Flacco, Owen Gerold, Graziana Gladden, Olivia Graff, Nathan Hobbs, Nicholas Hughes, David Nguyen, Kevin Nguyen, Frank Schlegel, Nolan Gerold, Jose Nunez, Joseph Palumbo, Ashley Surgner, Gianna Flacco, Caroline Hearn, Amanda Morrison, and Danielle Saranchak.

The Story of Joseph



Sr. Bernadette Parish Center Friday Dec. 19 @ 7pm

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

This showing will take place in the St. Stephen's Parish Center, on Fri. evening, Dec. 19th. The screening begins 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.

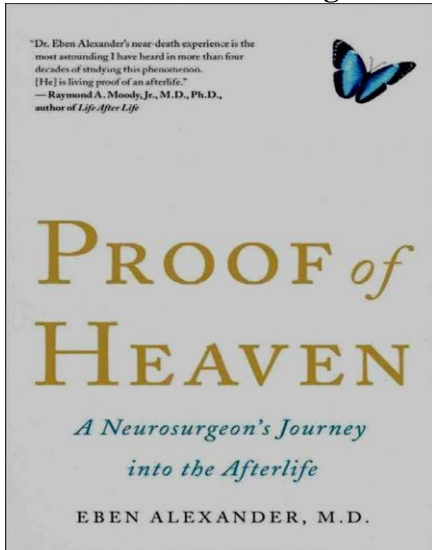
For information regarding the showings in the Parish Center, and so we can get a head count of those who will be coming, please call Dennis Rooney at 856- 745-3162.



# Thursday Night Discussion Club

Will continue Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

We are discussing:



**ALL ARE WELCOME TO CONTINUE OUR PARISH DISCUSSION IN PLANNING THE FUTURE OF ST. STEPHEN PARISH.**

## First Friday Adoration

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be **Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:45am-7:00pm.**



## Expecting a Miracle:

### “Advent by the Nativity scene”

A Christmas tradition started by St. Francis may help us keep our focus more on the coming miracle than the latest sales. By choosing the name of Francis, our Holy Father has called the world to pay more attention to the beloved saint from Assisi, who taught us to live simply and care for the poor. One way St. Francis reminded us of our Lord’s kinship with the poor was through the Nativity scene. We may think the Nativity scene is as ancient as the celebration of Christmas itself. Yet, Nativity scenes were unheard of until St. Francis set up the first one in a cave outside of Greccio, Italy, in 1223.

We may be able to keep our balance a little better this Advent by focusing on the rich symbolism of the Nativity scene. Inspiring words from Pope Francis, weekly Scripture readings and simple prayers can also help us find new ways to make this season of Advent a time of prayerful preparation, mercy, joy and expectation.



## 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.



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

**When: Mondays from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Where: Stonegate Main Conference Room**

Please contact Eileen Heide with any questions.  
Phone: 662-8046 email: heides@comcast.net

*“The woman who walks with God always reaches her destination”*

## 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**

## Prayer Pavers to Our Lady

Congratulations and thank you to **Marie Hanna for purchasing her paver.**

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).

## 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.

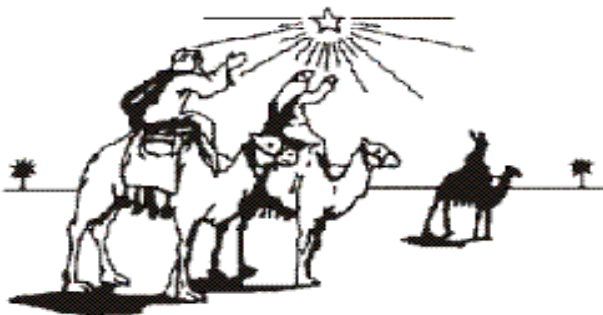
**Please contact Father Daniel Rocco at (856) 662-9339 or Loretta Steinmetz, RCIA Team Leader at (856) 227-4980 for more information about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.**

The Third Week of Advent  
*The Shepherds' Candle*



The third candle honors those who were first to share the good news. "When the shepherds saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them." -Luke 2:17-18

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*Advent / Christmas Schedule*



PENITENTIAL SERVICE

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

CONFESSION

Saturday: December 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  
(Adult Choir Prelude & Carols @ 9:30pm)

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

# Parish Library

The Parish Library is now open in the Parish Center for your Advent and Christmas 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).

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**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.