

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 15, 2013 – 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

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 16, 2013 Josephine DiMatties r/b Anthony & Rosemarie Leone
TUESDAY 9:00am	December 17, 2013 Mary Gundersen r/b Anthony & Rosemarie Leone
WEDNESDAY 9:00am	December 18, 2013 Salvatore & Julia DiPaolo r/b Daughter
THURSDAY 9:00am+Novena	December 19, 2013 Judith Ann Gormley (1 st Anniversary) r/b Pam & Duane Heck
FRIDAY 9:00am	December 20, 2013 Joseph Petulla (Birthday Remembrance Dec. 23) r/b M/M Charles Gugliotta
SATURDAY 4:30pm	December 21, 2013 Donato Gallicchio r/b John Kappel
SUNDAY 9:00am	December 22, 2013 Marie Zinicola r/b Charlene Panzone & Joanne Gee
10:30am	Albert Weirman r/b Susan Newell Karl Stewart r/b Mom & Family Lillian Tomarchio r/b Marie & Joe Caruso

The Sanctuary Candle this week is In Memory of John O'Connor.

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.

Dec. 7/8, 2013 Attendance/Collection	483/	\$5,712
Dec. 8/9, 2012 Comparison	596/	\$5,952
2013-2014 Budgeted Weekly Collection:		\$5,588
Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average:		\$5,008

Diocesan Special Collection:

1/26/14: "Mission Membership Sunday"

Stewardship Reflection

Stewards are Blessed

"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised..."
MATTHEW 11:4B-5A

When Jesus cured the sick we called it a miracle. Yet God has blessed us with many good things – our eyesight, our hearing, our talents, our health and so much more – and we often take it all for granted. The good Steward recognizes every blessing in life as a miracle from God and strives to use those gifts for God's honor and glory.



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, Doris Denuel, Fanny DiBenedetto, Joe DiLorenzo, 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 Vивиello, Anthony Vocale.

Ministry Schedule for December 21/22

(Monthly Schedules are also posted on our website)

* Designates Alternate Server

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Servers: T. Mason, M. Conway

EM's: J. Heining, L. Heining, A. Knight, B. Taylor, *A. Cirullo

Lectors: J. Melfi, L. Peischl

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: B. McHugh, C. Hearn, Z. Marlin

EM's: S. Marano, L. D'Alessandro, N. Schmidt, J. Rosario, *L. Rosario

Lector: D. Steinmetz

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: K. Fagan, C. Aleszczyk, J. Mack

EM's: J. Bowman, D. Urgo, T. Urgo, J. Fagan

Lectors: C. Otto, L. Fagan

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

Many Thanks to the
Knight, Connor & Albert families
for lighting the Advent Candle last weekend.

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

12/16-Monday-9am Mass, 1pm Bible Study, 7pm Pastoral Council
12/17-Tuesday- 9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7:30pm Penitential Service
12/18-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD
12/19-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 6pm Children's Choir,
7pm Discussion Club
12/20-Friday-9am Mass, 5:30pm FOCCUS
12/21-Saturday-9am Men's Group, 3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
12/22-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass

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

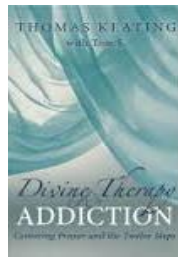
Continue this Wednesday, December 18th @ 6:15pm.

Thursday Night

Discussion Club

Continues December 19th 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, Jan. 3rd, 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.

CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS AND STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

The ministry of Art & Environment is seeking volunteers to help prepare our church for the Christmas Liturgical season. Kindly consider helping on the dates below. Students please bring your paperwork to document service hours.

- Dec. 21st 9:30 am
- Dec. 22nd 11:45 am (after the 10:30 mass)
- Dec. 23rd 9:30 am if needed
- Jan 12th 11:45 am (after the 10:30 am mass)

Look for sign-up sheets in the back of the church on Dec. 14th and 15th. Questions call Maria @ 665-8393.

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 16 Pastoral Council
- Monday, January 13 Finance 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.

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



Kindly place your gifts under the tree by Dec.15th
Script gift cards are available for purchases for age appropriate gifts.

Advent/Christmas Schedule



PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Tuesday, December 17, 2013, 7:30pm
(After the Rosary)

CONFESSION

Saturday, December 21, 2013, 3:45-4:15pm

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

Tuesday, December 24, 2013
4:00 PM Children's Mass, 6:00 PM & 10:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Wednesday, December 25, 2013
10:30 AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

Tuesday, December 31, 2013
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, 2014
9:00 AM Mass

Thank You from Fr. Sullivan

Dear Dan (Fr. Rocco),

Thank you for having me at St. Stephen's for the Advent Retreat. On behalf of all the Augustinians, please thank all who gave to the "love offering" which amounted to \$1,401. My personal thanks for your kindness to me.

A Blessed Christmas to you and your Mom.

God Bless,

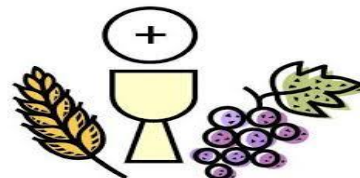
Michael (Fr. Sullivan)

Blood Drive December 30th



The **Knights of Columbus, Council #3512** is sponsoring the Annual Red Cross Blood Drive at St Stephen's School on **Monday, December 30, from 1:30 pm to 6:30 pm.** All presenting donors will receive a long sleeve T-shirt. There will be sign-up sheets at the back of church after Mass, or you can call Lonnie Monaco at 856 662-6049 to set up an appointment. Please make every effort to support this most worthwhile drive.

EUCCHARIST WORKSHOP



Explore the central mystery of our Faith by taking a deeper look at this most Holy Sacrament. This spiritual study program, presented by **Father Robert Barron** on DVD, will give us a deeper understanding of the precious gift of Christ's Divine Life that you can receive at every Mass. Please join us for one or all sessions, as we discover and celebrate what Vatican II called the "source and summit of the Christian life." **This will be a five-session workshop offered on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Family Center, beginning on January 8, 2014.**

iRace4Vocations



Save the Date: On **Sunday, April 27, 2014**, join Bishop Sullivan along with priests, religious, our seminarians and many other people from throughout the diocese at Rowan University (201 Mullica Hill Road, Glassboro) for our 3rd annual iRace4Vocations. Bishop Sullivan will celebrate a Mass for Vocations at 1:00 pm followed by our 5k run/1 mile family stroll. Come out to pray and race! The day will end with some family fun. Help us enjoy the day as we raise awareness and offer prayers for an increase in priestly vocations for our diocese. We hope that parishioners of all ages will say yes to this intergenerational day. For more information, contact Fr. Romano at michael.romano@camdendiocese.org or 856-583-2858.

“Mother of the Living Gospel” - A Prayer of Pope Francis

Mary, Virgin and Mother,
you who, moved by the Holy Spirit,
welcomed the word of life
in the depths of your humble faith:
as you gave yourself completely to the Eternal One,
help us to say our own “yes”
to the urgent call, as pressing as ever,
to proclaim the good news of Jesus.
Filled with Christ’s presence,
you brought joy to John the Baptist,
making him exult in the womb of his mother.
Brimming over with joy,
you sang of the great things done by God.
Standing at the foot of the cross
with unyielding faith,
you received the joyful comfort of the resurrection,
and joined the disciples in awaiting the Spirit
so that the evangelizing Church might be born.
Obtain for us now a new ardour born of the resurrection,
that we may bring to all the Gospel of life
which triumphs over death.
Give us a holy courage to seek new paths,
that the gift of unfading beauty
may reach every man and woman.
Virgin of listening and contemplation,
Mother of love, Bride of the eternal wedding feast,
pray for the Church, whose pure icon you are,
that she may never be closed in on herself
or lose her passion for establishing God’s kingdom.
Star of the new evangelization,
help us to bear radiant witness to communion,
service, ardent and generous faith,
justice and love of the poor,
that the joy of the Gospel
may reach to the ends of the earth,
illuminating even the fringes of our world.
Mother of the living Gospel,
wellspring of happiness for God’s little ones,
pray for us.
Amen. Alleluia!

*From the conclusion of Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation,
“Evangelii Gaudium” (“The Joy of the Gospel”)*

