

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 Third Sunday of Advent – December 15, 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 15, 2019
9:00am	Maria Calzonetti (Birthday Remembrance) r/b Family
10:30am	Peggy Driggers r/b Anthony & Susan Midili
MONDAY	December 16, 2019
9:00am	Bill McWilliams (2 nd Anniversary) r/b His Wife Betty and Family
TUESDAY	December 17, 2019
9:00am	Rev. John F. Bloh r/b People of the Parish
WEDNESDAY	December 18, 2019
9:00am	Bill Buffington r/b His Wife, Lucille
THURSDAY	December 19, 2019
9:00am/Novena	Rev. Patsy C. Amabile r/b People of the Parish
FRIDAY	December 20, 2019
9:00am	Salvatore & Julia DiPaolo r/b Daughter
SATURDAY	December 21, 2019
4:30pm	Michael Mattia r/b Bill & Suzanne Underwood
SUNDAY	December 22, 2019
9:00am	Sr. Christine Hartnett, O.P. r/b Liz McHugh
10:30am	Frank Pigliacelli (1 st Anniversary) r/b Donald Mignone Rosina Midili r/b The Midili Family Frank & Susie Furlano r/b The Midili 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.

December 7/8 Retired Religious Collection:	\$1,130
December 7/8 Regular Offertory Collection:	\$4,640
2019-2020 Weekly Offertory Target:	\$4,500
Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving:	\$3,878

Special Envelopes/Collections:
December 24/25: "Christmas Offering"
January 1: "Solemnity of Mary"

~~~~~  
**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 21/22

|                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday, 4:30pm</b>                                 |
| EM's: A. Knight, A. Cirullo, V. Thibault                |
| Lectors: J. Melfi, P. Nolte                             |
| <b>Sunday, 9:00am</b>                                   |
| EM's: E. Nolte, L. McHugh, R. Davis, L. D'Alessandro    |
| Lectors: D. Steinmetz, Joan Rivera                      |
| <b>Sunday, 10:30am</b>                                  |
| EM's: T. Scavuzzo, S. Underwood, T. Angstman, W. Delfin |
| Lectors: M. Turan, M. Miller                            |

## Blood Drive December 30th



The Knights of Columbus is again sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on **Monday, December 30, from 1:30-6:30pm** at **Stonegate, located behind our school.** Sign-up sheets are in the back of the church. Please call Lonnie at (856) 662-6049 if you have any questions.

# This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

- 12/16-Monday-9am Mass
- 12/17-Tues.-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7:30pm Penance Service
- 12/18-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD Classes
- 12/19-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Discussion Club
- 12/20-Friday--9am Mass
- 12/21-Saturday-3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
- 12/22-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 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm

## Thursday Night Discussion Club

Continues December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Rectory

We'll be discussing:

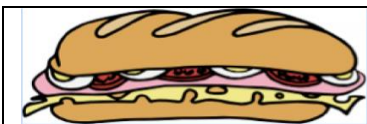


## First Friday Adoration

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be Friday, Jan. 3 - 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 **January 4 & 5**.  
 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**.

## **Christmas Concert Thank You**

Our heartfelt thanks to our **St. Stephen's Choir**, under the direction of **Nancy Werner Kaiser**, for a joyous Advent concert December 6<sup>th</sup> celebrating the coming of the Lord. The evening was both enjoyable and inspiring. The choir was accompanied by the virtuosity of **Glenn the Pianist**. A special thanks to **J.D. Hull** and his talented vocal group. They added an upbeat tempo to the festive celebration.

Following the concert, Hospitality was provided by **Liz & Tom McHugh, Joanne & Richard DiBraccio, Pat & Earl Nolte, Terry Modzier, Anna Cirullo, and Mary Sharon Monaco**.

The evening was topped off by the presence of **Santa Claus**, who on his feast day, spent time celebrating with all present, especially the little children. A special thanks to Santa for taking time out of his busy season.

~~~~~

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).

This weekend we welcome a representative, speaking on behalf of Good Counsel Homes mission at all Masses. Good Counsel operates Catholic homes for homeless pregnant women and their babies and a national toll-free help line (800-723-8331). There will be baby bottles handed out to be filled with monetary donations to assist their valuable pro-life ministry. Bottles will need to be returned to the parish by Sunday December 29th. For more information or to donate online please go to www.goodcounselhomes.org Also, to help spread the word LIKE Good Counsel Homes on Facebook or follow on Twitter, Pintrest or Instagram.

Good Counsel also offers hope and healing for those who are suffering after abortion. Lumina, which means light, offers help for men, women and siblings who are feeling pain because of an abortion in their life or family. Confidential, compassionate help may be found for anyone at 1.877.Lumina.1 (1.877.586.4621) or at www.LuminaHope.org or www.PostAbortionHelp.org

Reflection on Today's Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter 14:3-12. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

The 2019-2020 Liturgical Calendar at a Glance



PENITENTIAL SERVICE

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

CONFESSION

Saturday: December 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