

# 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 9am-4:30pm  
*Closed All Holy Days of Obligation  
and Holidays except Veterans Day*



## Contact Info

Rectory Phone  
(856) 662-9339

Rectory Fax  
(856) 662-4679

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

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.*

## *The Third Sunday of Advent – December 16, 2018*

**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 2019 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>December 16, 2018</b>
9:00am	Maria Calzonetti (Birthday Remembrance) r/b Family
10:30am	Charles Kaston r/b The Midili Family Bill McWilliams (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary) r/b Family Sam Loperfido, Sr. r/b The Zinicola Family
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>December 17, 2018</b>
9:00am	In Loving Memory of The Honorable Theodore H. Davis
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>December 18, 2018</b>
9:00am	Rev. Anthony Cataudo, O.P. r/b People of the Parish
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>December 19, 2018</b>
9:00am	Salvatore & Julia DiPaolo r/b Daughter
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>December 20, 2018</b>
9:00am/Novena	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>December 21, 2018</b>
9:00am	Carrie & Ida Fanelle r/b Niece
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>December 22, 2018</b>
4:30pm	Sam Loperfido, Sr. r/b St. Stephen's 4:30pm Mass Ushers
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>December 23, 2018</b>
9:00am	Anthony Scafidi r/b Rosina, Susan & Anthony Midili
10:30am	William Sauer r/b Family Emilie Nazarok r/b Bill & Suzanne Underwood Dorothy Tutwiler r/b Rick & Bernice Taylor



**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.

<b>December 8/9 Religious Retirement Fund:</b>	<b>\$933</b>
<b>December 8/9, 2018 Offertory Collection:</b>	<b>\$5,043</b>
<b>2018-2019 Weekly Offertory Target:</b>	<b>\$4,600</b>
<b>Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving:</b>	<b>\$4,182</b>

Special Collections / Envelopes:

Now thru Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>: "Christmas Flower Memorials"  
December 25<sup>th</sup>: "Christmas Collection"  
January 1<sup>st</sup>: "Solemnity of Mary"



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:**

Raymond Amatrudo, Jr., Anna Buono, Edmund Ciccarone, Carol Cranmer, Fanny DiBenedetto, Joseph Gerst, Pat Gruber, Pricilla Handy, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Sandra Lippi, Katelyn Lum, Nancy Loperfido, Ken Maminski, Larry Miller, Joy and Ed Morrisson, Sue Ott, Rich Passaro, Nancy Sonnie, Callum Steinmetz, Rick Taylor, Frances Vocale, Barbara Weingard, Emily Wilson.

## Ministry Schedule for December 18-25

**Tuesday, 7:30pm Penance Service Lectors:** B. Mattia, Joan R.

**Saturday, 4:30pm**

**EM's:** A. Cirullo, Sr. Eleanora, T. Scavuzzo, A. Knight  
**Lectors:** J. Melfi, B. Mattia

**Sunday, 9:00am**

**EM's:** T. Modzier, J. Rosario, L. Rosario, R. Leone, L. D'Alessandro  
**Lectors:** M. McHugh, Joan R.

**Sunday, 10:30am**

**EM's:** D. Urgo, T. Urgo, M. Miller, G. Tutwiler  
**Lectors:** D. Steinmetz, J. Messina

**CHRISTMAS EVE:**

**Monday, 5:00pm Children's Vigil**

**EM's:** T. Scavuzzo, M. Meloni, V. Thibault, A. Cirullo  
**Lectors:** R. Aleszczyk, D. Heck

**Monday, 10:00pm Vigil**

**EM's:** R. Davis, M. Monaco, M. Conway, T. Modzier  
**Lectors:** M. Miller, B. Mattia

**CHRISTMAS DAY:**

**Tuesday, 10:30am**

**EM's:** R. Leone, L. D'Alessandro, E. Nolte, R. Davis  
**Lectors:** M. Turan, P. Nolte

## Blood Drive December 26th



The Knights of Columbus Council #3512 will be sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on **Wednesday, December 26th from 1:30pm until 6:30pm at St. Cecilia School.** Sign-up sheets will be available in the back of the church after all Masses. Call Lonnie at 856-662-6049 for more information.

### ***This Week @ St. Stephen Parish***

- 12/17-Monday-9am Mass
- 12/18-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7:30pm Penance
- 12/19-Wed.-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD Classes & Play
- 12/20-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Discussion
- 12/21-Friday-9am Mass
- 12/22-Saturday-3:45pm Confessions, 4:30pm Mass
- 12/23-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass

### ***Tuesday Night Rosary***

**To Jesus through Mary 7:00-7:30pm @ Church**

Come join us as we ask Our Lady to pray with us and for us. The tradition of the Church and the teachings of the Magisterium urge us to frequent recitation of the Hail Mary and the rosary. By keeping the name of Mary on our lips, we show our devotion to her. Mary's mantle is always present to protect those who are her own. The Blessed Virgin Mary is the pinnacle of God's creation. She is the most perfect, the greatest, the holiest human being ever to live. When we repeat her name, we greatly honor God her Creator. Mary never keeps any glory for herself. Her soul magnifies the Lord. (Lk 1:46)

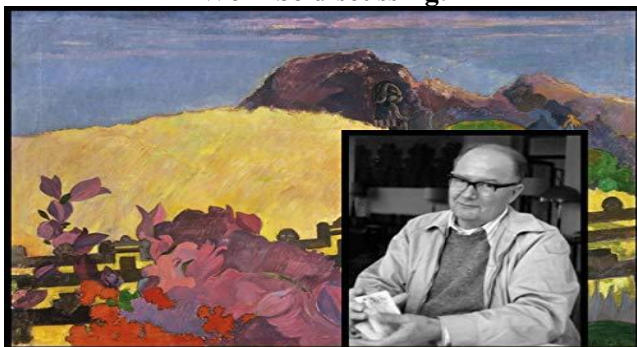
### ***Wednesday Night CCD Classes***

**Continue December 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6:15pm.**

### ***Thursday Night Discussion Club***

**Continues December 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm.**

**We'll be discussing:**



**Bernard Lonergan**  
 Christianity's Response to a Secular Age

Dr. Gordon A. Rixon, S.J., Ph.D.  
 University of Toronto



### **STONEGATE II Hotline**

If you are interested in filling out an application for the new Stonegate II apartments, you may call **(856) 342-4187** and leave your NAME, ADDRESS and PHONE NUMBER. A Diocesan Housing representative will then return your call with additional instructions & information.

### ***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 rejoin 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. Choir gathers in the church 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 the month of **December** contact **Bernadette @ 609-220-6359.**

## **Works of Mercy – Items Needed**

**Our Religious Formation Students**, who meet at St. Stephen on Wednesday nights, are always looking to perform the Works of Mercy, as Jesus calls us to in the Gospel of Matthew 25. We were contacted by a woman, Carole B., living in our area, who requested us to help those people in her native country of TOGO, who live in poverty and lack many basic needs of life. So, for the next few weeks, we are requesting **used clothes and shoes, especially for children, as well as toothpaste, toothbrushes, and soap.** These items may be placed in the rear of Church by the Food Baskets during weekend Masses. Thank you for your generosity and for helping our Students learn the importance of Giving and Sharing.

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## **Joy of the Gospel Convocation**

At this moment in time, when our hearts are burdened with so many difficult issues, the Holy Spirit is guiding the Diocese of Camden on a mission. This mission, *The Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in South Jersey*, will give lay leaders from throughout the diocese the opportunity to reflect on the reality that the Catholic Church finds herself in today. In March 2019, participants will gather for workshops, reflection, prayer and discussion. These 650+ lay leaders, chosen from each of the parishes in the diocese, will take what they have learned back to their parishes and communities and address today’s challenges as a diverse community of missionary disciples.

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## **This Notice can now be Found in all French Churches:**

*It is possible that on entering this church you may hear the Call of God.*

*On the other hand, it is not likely that He will contact you by phone.*

*Thank you for turning off your phone.*

*If you would like to talk to God, come in, choose a quiet place, and talk to Him.*

*If you would like to see Him, send Him a text while driving.*

# **Reflection on Today’s Gospel Reading**

*Luke 3:10-18*

## **John the Baptist teaches the path of repentance and announces Christ.**

This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Recall that last week's reading described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we were to read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and calling upon them to show evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites because children of Abraham can be raised up from stones. Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles.

In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel.

When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John interprets his baptism and makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means “rejoice.” This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. Some people mark this Sunday by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on their Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand



# The 2018-2019 Liturgical Calendar at a Glance



**PENITENTIAL SERVICE**

**Tuesday, December 18, 2018, 7:30pm**  
*(After the Rosary)*

**CONFESSION**

**Saturday, December 22, 3:45-4:15pm**

**CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES**

**Monday, December 24, 2018**  
**5:00 PM Children's Mass & 10:00 PM Vigil**

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASS**

**Tuesday, December 25, 2018**  
**10:30 AM**

**ST. STEPHEN'S FEAST DAY MASS**

**Wednesday, December 26, 2018 - 9:00 AM**



**NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS**

**Monday, December 31, 2018**  
**9:00AM**

Mary the Mother of God

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

**Tuesday, January 1, 2019**  
**9:00 AM**

**ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES**

**March 6, 2019 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM**

**LENTEN FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12 at 7pm**

**LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE**

**To Be Determined**

**2019 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

**April 14: Palm Sunday Masses-9am & 10:30am**

**April 18: Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper-7pm**

**April 19: Good Friday Liturgical Service – 3pm**

**April 20: Holy Saturday Easter Vigil – 8pm**

**April 21: Easter Sunday Masses – 9am & 10:30am**

**FIRST PENANCE**

**To Be Determined**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

**May 5, 2019 at the 9:00am Mass**

**CONFIRMATION**

**To Be Determined by the Bishop**

**FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

**Thursday, May 30, 2019 – 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM**

**FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION**

**Thursday, August 15, 2019 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM**

**FALL HARVEST MASS**

**Saturday, October 26, 2019 – 4:30 PM**

**FEAST OF ALL SAINTS DAY**

**Friday, November 1, 2019 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM**

**MASS OF REMEMBRANCE**

**Sunday, November 3, 2019 – 10:30 AM**

**THANKSGIVING VIGIL MASS**

**Wednesday, November 27, 2019 - 7:00 PM**