

# 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 – 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 18, 2016 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent***

**Communion Service:** Monday - 9:00am

**Daily Mass:** Tuesday 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 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. 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 2017 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>December 18, 2016</b>
9:00am	Marie C. Miller r/b Joseph & Jeanne Gerst
10:30am	Maria Calzonetti (Birthday Remembrance) r/b Family William Sauer r/b Family Frank & Susie Furlano r/b The Midili Family Joseph Fagan, Sr. r/b The Piarulli Family
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>December 19, 2016</b>
9:00am	Communion Service
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>December 20, 2016</b>
9:00am	Rita Vitacolonna r/b Friends from Stonegate Apts.
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>December 21, 2016</b>
9:00am	Olga Onaro r/b Anthony & Rosemarie Leone
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>December 22, 2016</b>
9:00am/Novena	Joseph Petulla r/b M/M Charles Gugliotta
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>December 23, 2016</b>
9:00am	Rosemarie Eddleman r/b William Eddleman
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>December 24, 2016 (Christmas Eve)</b>
4:30pm	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
10:00pm	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>December 25, 2016 (Christmas Day)</b>
9:00am	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
10:30am	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased



The Sanctuary Candle this week is  
**In Memory of**  
**Angie Arcari**

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 8<sup>th</sup> Immaculate Conception Collection: \$1,042
- December 10/11 Religious Retirement Collection: \$1,293
- December 10/11, 2016 Offertory Collection: \$4,602
- 2016-2017 Weekly Offertory Collection Target: \$4,600
- Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving: \$4,591

Special Collections/Envelopes:

- Dec. 18-25: Christmas Flower Memorials (St. Stephen)
  - January 1<sup>st</sup>: "Solemnity of Mary" (St. Stephen)
  - January 15<sup>th</sup>: "Parish Heating Fund" (St. Stephen)
- (Posted as a courtesy to our 20+ E-Givers)



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, Ray Amatrudo, Jr., Eleanor Becker, Anna Buono, Jackie Cardwell, Edmund Ciccarone, Yolanda Colafrancesco, Jenny Cowan, John Coyle, Joe DeLorenzo, Esther DeMarco, Doris Denuel, Fanny DiBenedetto, Fred Dickson, Joseph DiFrank, Michael DiVito, Patricia Domer, Joe Flacco, Joanna Galdo, Richard Gentile, Jr., Joseph Gerst, Pat Gruber, Pricilla Handy, Gregory Hayes, Mary Ann Hoffacker, Thomas Holmes Sr., Debra Knapp, Donna Krawchuk, Janet LaFreda-Hopkins, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Rosemarie Leonardo, Sam Loperfido, Sr., Michael Lopez, Joann Lunsford, Ken Maminski, Darlene Marcinczyk, Harry, Mary Ellen & William Mayer, Cecilia McGonigle, Dorothy McPeak, Rosemary Murray, Florence O'Connor, Margie Ogden, Jennifer Osborn, Savaelina Perez, Rosemarie Rosolia, Dean & Mary Russell, Helen Setzer, Nancy Sonnie, Steven Stepanavage, Rick Taylor, Mary Terzini, Shannon Teuber Myles, Esther Tillinghast, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Mary Viviello, Doreen Warble, Lily Warble, Barbara Weingard.

## Ministry Schedule for December 24/25

\* Designates Alternate Server

### Saturday, 4:30pm Children's Christmas Vigil

Altar Servers: TBD

EM's: V. Thibault, M. Meloni, C. Pandola, Sr. Eleanora

Lectors: D. Heck, B. Mattia

### Saturday, 10:00pm Christmas Vigil

Altar Servers: TBD

EM's: M. Miller, K. Fagan, R. Davis, P. Cioe, T. Modzier

Lectors: Joan Rivera, Jared Rivera

### Sunday, 9:00am Christmas Day

Altar Servers: TBD

EM's: R. Leone, L. D'Alessandro, E. Nolte, L. McHugh, M. Monaco

Lectors: J. Gerst, P. Nolte

### Sunday, 10:30am Christmas Day

Altar Servers: TBD

EM's: T. Mattered, G. Tutwiler, T. Angstman, M. Conway, J. Fagan

Lector: D. Steinmetz

## **Blood Drive December 27th**



The Knights of Columbus Council #3512 will be sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on **Tuesday, December 27th from 1:30pm until 6:30pm at the Sister Bernadette Parish Center.** 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***

12/19-Monday-9am Communion Service, 11am Ladies Bible Study  
 12/20-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7:30pm Penance Service  
 12/21-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD Class & Christmas Play  
 12/22-Thur.-9am Mass/Novena, 6pm Choirs, 7pm Discussion Club  
 12/23-Friday-9am Mass, **Rectory & All Diocesan Offices Closed**  
 12/24-Saturday-Christmas Eve - 4:30pm Vigil, 10:00pm Vigil  
 12/25-Sunday-Christmas Day - 9am Mass, 10:30am Mass



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

**When:** Mondays from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Where:** St. Stephen Parish Center (next to the church)

Please contact Eileen Heide with any questions.  
 Phone or text: 610-805-5363 email: heides@comcast.net

*The woman who walks with God  
 Always reaches her destination*

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

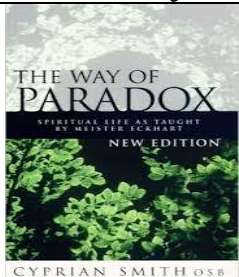
#### **To Jesus Through Mary - 7:00-7:30pm @ Church**

The Holy Name of Mary is powerful. 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 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:15pm.

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



Will continue  
**December 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 7pm** in the  
 Sr. Bernadette Parish Center  
 with Cyprian Smith's  
**The Way of Paradox,**  
 spiritual life as taught  
 by Meister Eckhart.

### ***First Friday Adoration***

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be  
**Friday, January 6, 2017**  
**9:45am-7:00pm.**



### ***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 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.

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



**We are here to pray for you.**

For Prayer Requests for the month of December contact  
**Diane @ 856-308-8224.**

### ***Parish Library***

**Our Cup Runneth Over!**

**Until further notice, we can't accept any more books!**

The Parish Library is now open in the Parish Center for all your Summer 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 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).

### ***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).



# The 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent: “The Angels’ Candle”

The fourth candle is a reminder of joy and love—the grace given to all that accept the Christ Child.

“Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.’” -Luke 2:13-14

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**Art & Environment** is seeking volunteers to help prepare the church for the Christmas Liturgical Season.

**Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>** (Thursday)

7 pm to begin preparation of the church

**Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>** (Friday)

9:30am to finish preparation of the church  
(if needed)

Please indicate your availability on the signup sheets in the back of the church. Thank you in advance,  
**Maria Haas, Art & Environment Ministry**

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## **Health and Wellness Team News**

Are you interested in learning CPR? Do you need to brush up on your skills? The Health and Wellness Team will be conducting a CPR class in February 2017, date to be determined. The class will be offered in the Parish Center and provided by a certified CPR instructor. Please note this class will not meet the requirements for CPR certification. It is only meant to teach basic skills. If there is a need for a certification class, we will explore that at another time. The class will be offered free of charge.

If you are interested, please send an email message to the rectory, at [ecclisia@comcast.net](mailto:ecclisia@comcast.net) with your name, telephone number and email address and a preferred day: Monday or Tuesday evening, or Saturday.

Someone will be in touch with you once the class is scheduled.

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## **Knights Hospitality Night Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>**

The Knights of Columbus, Council #3512, Pennsauken, will be hosting a hospitality night on Monday, December 19th, beginning at 7:30 pm at Mary Queen of All Saints (formerly St Cecilia's) rectory basement, located on Camden Avenue between 48th and 49th Streets. This is a perfect opportunity for all men, ages 18 and older, who have ever thought of becoming a knight, or were interested in finding out more about the knights, to learn what we're all about. For more information, please call Alan Mancao at (856) 366-0117.

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Readings

**First Reading - Isaiah 7:10-14**

Ahaz proclaims the sign that the Lord will give: a virgin shall give birth to a son, Emmanuel.

**Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 24:1-2,3-4,5-6**

The Lord is the King of Glory who established the earth.

**Second Reading - Romans 1:1-7**

Paul greets the community at Rome and declares himself a servant of Christ Jesus.

**Gospel Reading - Matthew 1:18-24**

An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.

### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: “Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means “Yahweh saves.” He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: “. . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us].”

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

## The 2016-2017 Liturgical Calendar at a Glance



### PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Tuesday, December 20, 2016, 7:30pm  
*(After the Rosary)*

### CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

Saturday, December 24, 2016  
4:30 PM Children's Mass  
& 10:00 PM Vigil

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Sunday, December 25, 2016  
9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

### ST. STEPHEN'S FEAST DAY MASS

Monday, December 26, 2016  
9:00 AM



NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS  
Saturday, December 31, 2016  
4:30PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES  
Sunday, January 1, 2017  
9:00 AM & 10:30AM

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES  
March 1, 2017 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

LENTEN FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & April 7 at 7pm

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE  
To Be Determined

### 2017 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 9: Palm Sunday Masses-9am & 10:30am  
April 13: Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper-7pm  
April 14: Good Friday Liturgical Service - 3pm  
April 15: Holy Saturday Easter Vigil - 8pm  
April 16: Easter Sunday Masses - 9am & 10:30am

FIRST PENANCE  
Wednesday, March 8, 2017

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION  
Sunday, May 7, 2017

CONFIRMATION  
To Be Determined by the Bishop

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD  
Thursday, May 25, 2017 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION  
Tuesday, August 15, 2017 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

FALL HARVEST MASS  
Saturday, October 28, 2017 - 4:30 PM

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS DAY  
Wednesday, November 1, 2017 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE  
Sunday, November 5, 2017 - 10:30 AM

THANKSGIVING VIGIL MASS  
Wednesday, November 22, 2017 - 7:00 PM