

St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Pastoral Staff

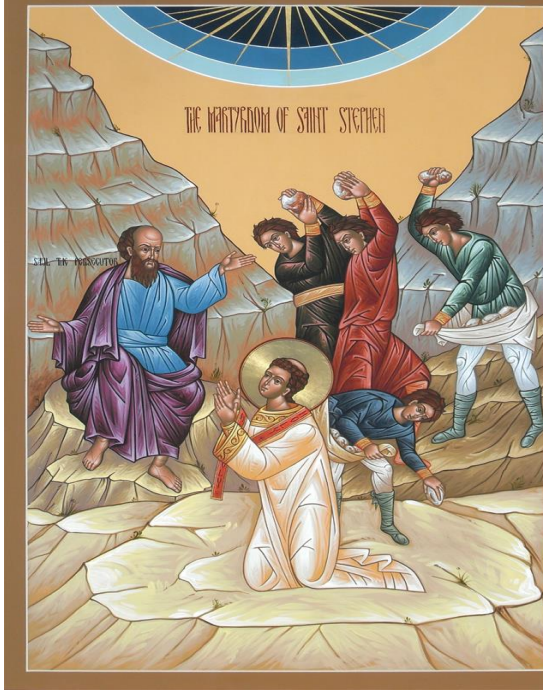
Reverend Daniel M. Rocco
Pastor

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
Parish Website:
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 20, 2015 – 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, 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 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 2016 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

SUNDAY 9:00am	December 20, 2015 Fermina & Nestor Nicdao r/b Efrén Nicdao
10:30am	John Kerwick r/b His Wife, Son and Family Mickie Fletcher r/b The Midili Family
MONDAY 9:00am	December 21, 2015 Communion Service
TUESDAY 9:00am	December 22, 2015 Marge Leone r/b Edith Alessi & Family
WEDNESDAY 9:00am	December 23, 2015 Joseph Petulla (Birthday Remembrance) r/b M/M Charles Gugliotta
THURSDAY 9:00am Daily 4:00pm Children 6:00pm Vigil 10:00pm Vigil	December 24, 2015 (Christmas Eve) People of the Parish – Living & Deceased People of the Parish – Living & Deceased People of the Parish – Living & Deceased People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
FRIDAY 10:30am	December 25, 2015 (Christmas Day) People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
SATURDAY 4:30pm	December 26, 2015 (St. Stephen's Feast Day) Joseph & Elena Melfi r/b Daughters Janis & Lynn
SUNDAY 9:00am	December 27, 2015 Louis, Josephine & Vincent L. Buondonno r/b Rose Davis
10:30am	William Sauer r/b Family Daniel Kirschner r/b Rosina & Susan Midili



The Sanctuary Candle this week is *In Memory of Carmen J. Rotondo.*

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 12/13 Offertory Figures will be posted in next week's bulletin as this issue was submitted on 12/11/15.

Upcoming Special Collections:

December 25, 2015: "Christmas Offering" (St. Stephen)

January 1, 2016: "Solemnity of Mary" (St. Stephen)

January 17, 2016: "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, Joy Bowman, Jackie Cardwell, Edmund Ciccarone, Yolanda Colafrancesco, John Coyle, Dot Corbett, Joe DeLorenzo, Esther DeMarco, Doris Denuel, Fanny DiBenedetto, Fred Dickson, Patricia Domer, Joseph Fagan, Joe Flacco, Joanna Galdo, Richard Gentile, Jr., Richard Gentile, Sr., Joseph Gerst, Nancy Gogel, Pat Gruber, Pricilla Handy, Gregory Hayes, Chuck Hillwig, Thomas Holmes Sr., John Howard, Debra Knapp, Donna Krawchuk, Janet LaFreda-Hopkins, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Wanda Loperfido, Joann Lunsford, Harry & Mary Ellen Mayer, Cecilia McGonigle, Denise McHugh, Dorothy McPeak, Esther Nunez, Florence O'Connor, Margie Ogden, Jennifer Osborn, Savaelina Perez, Frank Pigliacelli, Tanya Robinson & Son Joseph, Rosemarie Rosolia, Dean & Marie Russell, Nancy Sonnie, Steven Stepanavage, Joanne Szumowski, Mary Terzini, Shannon Teuber Myles, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Donna Jean Vinciquerro, Mary Vivillo, Doreen Warble, Barbara Weingard.

Ministry Schedule for December 24/25/26/27

Monthly schedules are also available on our website.

** Designates Alternate Server*

Christmas Eve, Thursday 4pm Children's Mass

Altar Servers: B. McHugh, M. Conway

EM's: M. Meloni, T. Scavuzzo, V. Thibault, J. Messina

Lectors: R. Aleszczyk, C. Alexzczyk

Christmas Eve, Thursday 6pm Vigil

Altar Server: TBD

EM's: A. Cirullo, B. Taylor, E. Nolte

Lectors: R. Taylor, B. Mattia

Christmas Eve, Thursday 10pm Vigil

Altar Servers: M. Conway, K. Fagan

EM's: M. Miller, R. Davis, J. Fagan, K. Fagan

Lectors: Joan Rivera, Jared Rivera

Christmas Day, Friday 10:30am

Altar Server: Q. Nguyen

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

Lector: P. Nolte

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Server: S. Surgner

EM's: J. Heininger, L. Heininger, A. Knight, C. Pandola, *V. Thibault

Lector: J. Melfi

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: M. Conway

EM's: R. Leone, L. D'Alessandro, R. Davis, M. Conway, *M. Miller

Lectors: D. Heck, Joan Rivera

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: K. Fagan

EM's: T. Mattered, M. Meloni, J. Messina, D. Urgo, *T. Urgo

Lector: P. Cioe

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

- 12/21-Monday-9am Communion Service, 1pm Bible Study
- 12/22-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary
- 12/23-Wednesday-9am Mass, NO CCD
- 12/24-Thursday-Christmas Eve - 9am Daily Mass/Novena, 4pm Children's Mass, 6pm & 10pm Vigils
- 12/25-Friday-10:30am Christmas Day Mass
- 12/26-Saturday-3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
- 12/27-Sunday-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 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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

Please contact Eileen Heide with any questions.
Phone: 662-8046 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

Will resume January 6th at 6:15pm.

Thursday Night Discussion Club

Will resume Thursday January 7th @ 7pm
in the Sr. Bernadette Parish Center.

In 2016 we will be discussing the following areas of concern to our parishioners:

Abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, human cloning and other topics.

First Friday Adoration

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be

**Friday, February 5, 2016,
9:45am-7:00pm.**



Christmas Helpers Needed!

The Art & Environment Ministry is requesting your assistance in the beautification of our church for the Christmas Season:

Dec 23rd: Transition the church for the Christmas Season 9:30am

Men and students are needed.

Service hours are available to students.

Sign-up sheets will be in the back of the church.

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.

St. Stephen's Prayer Line Belongs to You



We are here to pray for you.

For Prayer Requests for the month of December, please contact **Betty @ 856-662-6928.**

Parish Library

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



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.

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.

Reading Reflections for the 4th Sunday of Advent

Reading 1 Reflection - Micah 5:1-4a

When the prophet Micah proclaimed the coming of a shepherd-king, the Israelites in Jerusalem were under attack. Their enemies, the Assyrians, were ready to "wipe them out." So the good news that God would send them a strong and just ruler was music to their ears. Their king would be born in Bethlehem—a small, unimportant town—of the royal family of David. And he would bring lasting peace. After the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community recognized that these words of Micah were a wonderful description of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Reading 2 Reflection - Hebrews 10:5-10

One of the messages in today's second reading is that we should recognize how the perfect sacrifice of Jesus differs from the sacrifices of the Old Testament. Those sacrifices were often offerings of animals. Jesus' sacrifice was the offering of himself.

Giving yourself—your time, talents, and love—is the greatest gift you can offer to others. Reflect for a moment on how willing you are to give this gift. Ask Jesus to help you to follow his example.

Gospel Reflection - Luke 1:39-45

Many artists have painted this moving scene described by Luke in today's gospel. Mary has made a difficult journey through the hill country to be with her relative Elizabeth, who is several months pregnant. The young woman, bearing in her body the Savior, and the older woman, carrying John the Baptist, embrace each other with tears and laughter. Elizabeth recognizes Mary's true identity as "the mother of my Lord." She calls Mary "blessed" three times. Mary is blessed because she trusted that the Lord's words to her would come true.

Blood Drive December 29th



The Knights of Columbus Council #3512 will be sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on **Tuesday, December 29th 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.

Full-Time Maintenance Position

Christ the King Parish in Haddonfield is seeking a full-time maintenance worker. This position maintains the school and parish buildings, ensuring that all buildings and grounds are safe, clean, and appealing. We are looking for an energetic independent worker with experience in minor carpentry, electrical, and plumbing repair work, as well as, custodial work. This position requires a valid driver's license and the ability to obtain boiler inspection certification. Position reports directly to the Pastor. For your convenience there is a link to the full job description on our website: www.ctkhaddonfield.org.

Submit resume electronically to pastor@ctkhaddonfield.org or by mail to: Christ the King Parish, 200 Windsor Ave., Haddonfield, NJ 08033 ATTN: Pastor (No phone calls, please).

#Know Mercy
Gay & Catholic:
Accepting My Sexuality, Finding Community, Living My Faith

DATE: Tues., Jan. 12, 2016
TIME: 7:00 p.m. - Doors Open
7:30 p.m. - Presentation Begins
LOCATION: Tir Na Nog
482 E. Evesham Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

PRESENTED BY:
Eve Tushnet
Author of "Gay & Catholic"

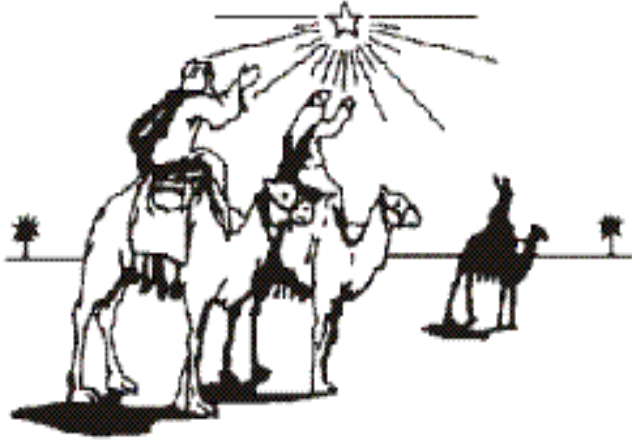
Future Theology on Tap Events
Mar. 15, 2016
Tir Na Nog, Cherry Hill, NJ
Topic: Encounter Mercy

Theology on Tap is a discussion series for Catholic young adults and their friends, married and single, in their late teens (18-19), 20s & 30s.

Dioecesis of Camden - Young Adult and Campus Ministries 856.583.2908 • 809.804.0200 • theologyontap@camdenjdioecesis.org
Join "Theology on Tap - South Jersey" on Facebook. Twitter feed: "TheologyonTapSJ"

591-StStephen

Christmas Mass Schedule



CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

Thursday, December 24, 2015

4:00 PM Children's Mass, 6:00 PM & 10:00 PM

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

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Friday, December 25, 2015

10:30 AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

Thursday, December 31, 2015

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

Friday, January 1, 2016, 9:00 AM Mass

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## **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

# Christmas Prayers

**The day of joy returns**, Father in Heaven, and crowns another year with peace and good will.

**Help us** rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

**Close the doors** of hate and open the doors of love all over the world.

**Let kindness** come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

**Deliver us** from evil, by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.

**May the Christmas morning** make us happy to be thy children,

**And the Christmas evening** bring us to our bed with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus sake. **Amen.**

**Jesus, the Light of the World**, as we celebrate your birth, may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart.

May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving. **Amen.**

**Lord Jesus,**

Please forgive me for being so grumpy as I trudge through the never-ending tasks set before me this Christmas season.

My to-do list seems to keep growing with shopping, church services, and family gatherings--- and I'm running short of time!

Restore the joy of Christmas to my heart and help me to relax each day and make time for **YOU--** my one true Source of Joy. **Amen.**

## **A CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

May God grant you the light of Christmas,  
which is faith;  
the warmth of Christmas,  
which is purity;  
the righteousness of Christmas,  
which is justice;  
the belief in Christmas,  
which is truth;  
the all of Christmas,  
which is Christ.