

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

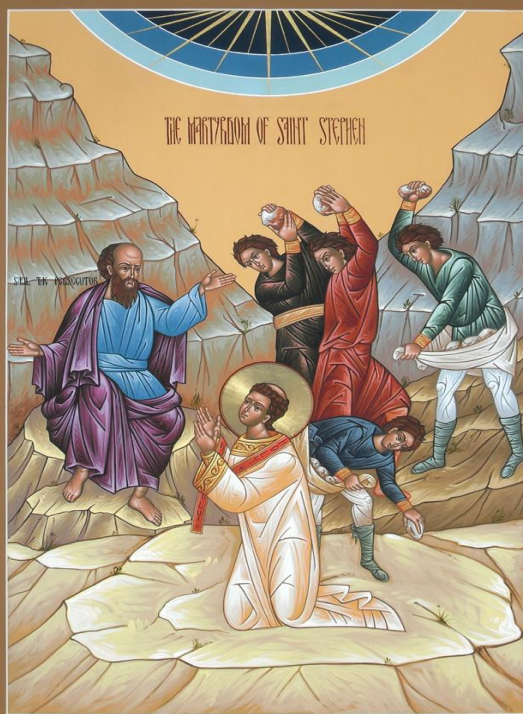
Coordinator of
Religious Education

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 21, 2014 – The Fourth 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

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 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.

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 2015 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

MONDAY 9:00am	December 22, 2014 A Special Intention r/b Family
TUESDAY 9:00am	December 23, 2014 Joseph Petulla r/b M/M Charles Gugliotta
WEDNESDAY 9:00am Daily 4:00pm Children 6:00pm Vigil 10:00pm Vigil	December 24, 2014 (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
THURSDAY 10:30am	December 25, 2014 (Christmas Day) People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
FRIDAY 9:00am	December 26, 2014 (St. Stephen's Feast Day) Norma Camden r/b The Camden Family
SATURDAY 4:30pm	December 27, 2014 Mary Ann Palmieri and Mary, Joseph & Jennine Nicodemo r/b Lisa & Robert Giannone
SUNDAY 9:00am 10:30am	December 28, 2014 Louis, Josephine & Vincent L. Buondonno r/b Daughter & Sister The Deceased Members of the Rocks & Magee Family r/b Family

The Sanctuary Candle this week is In Memory of Bill Buffington.

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.

Offertory Figures for December 13/14 will be posted in next week's bulletin as this issue was submitted on 12/12/14.

Special Collections:

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

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

(posted as a courtesy for our 20+ E-givers)

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Automatic E-Giving

St. Stephen Parish continues to provide **Electronic Giving, or e-Giving**, 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 to set up your account.**



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, Joy Bowman, Mary Caruso, Yolanda Colafrancesco, Dot Corbett, Joe DeLorenzo, Esther DeMarco, Doris Denuel, Fanny DiBenedetto, Fred Dickson, Patricia Domer, Diane Fesko, Joe Flacco, Nicole Franklin-Sonnie, Joanna Galdo, Richard Gentile, Jr., Richard Gentile, Sr., Thomas Holmes Sr., Marie Kaminski, Debra Knapp, Donna Krawchuk, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Marge Leone, Wanda Loperfido, Joann Lunsford, Harry & Mary Ellen Mayer, Cecilia McGonigle, Dorothy McPeak, Ann Marie Meyer, Debbi Morrissey, Neal Norris, Esther Nunez, Florence O'Connor, Margie Ogden, Jennifer Osborn, Savaelina Perez, Frank Pigliacelli, Rosemarie Rosolia, Dean & Marie Russell, Kathleen Stehm, Steven Stepanavage, Mary Terzini, Shannon Teuber Myles, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, John Vindick, Mary Vivliello, Dolores VonAlex, Barbara Weingard.**

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Ministry Schedule for December 24/25/27/28

* Designates Alternate Server

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 4pm Children's Mass

Altar Servers: B. McHugh, S. Surgner
EM's: M. Meloni, T. Link, T. Scavuzzo, V. Thibault, J. Messina
Lectors: Rh. Aleszczyk, C. Aleszczyk

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 6pm Vigil

Altar Server: K. Fagan
EM's: A. Cirullo, N. Schmidt, K. Fagan, J. Fagan, B. Taylor
Lectors: R. Taylor, L. Fagan

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 10pm Vigil

Altar Servers: M. Conway, J. Bui
EM's: M. Bufanio, P. Cioe, R. Davis, T. Modzier
Lector: D. Heck, M. Miller

Christmas Day, Thursday 10:30am

Altar Server: Q. Nguyen
EM's: R. Leone, L. D'Alessandro, E. Nolte, R. Davis
Lectors: P. Cioe, P. Nolte

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Server: S. Surgner
EM's: C. Pandola, A. Knight, L. Heining, Sr. Eleanora
Lector: J. Melfi

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: M. Conway, Q. Nguyen
EM's: S. Marano, R. Davis, R. Leone, E. Nolte, *T. Modzier
Lectors: J. Gerst, P. Nolte

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: K. Fagan, O. Albert
EM's: M. Meloni, Geo. Tutwiler, T. Mattera, T. Link, *T. Scavuzzo
Lectors: J. Messina, L. Fagan

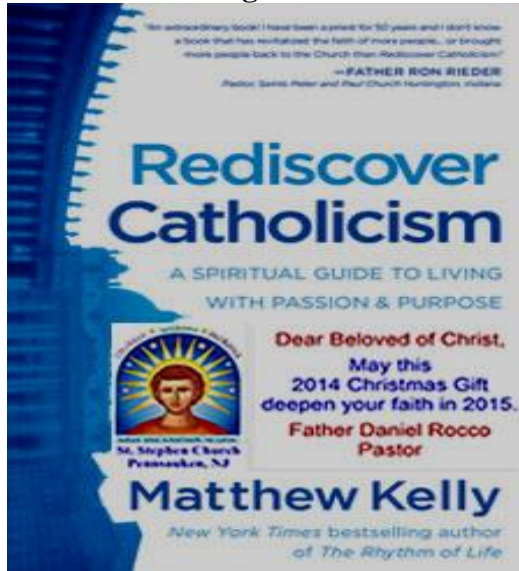
This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

12/22-Monday-9am Mass, 11am Bible Study, 7pm Choir
12/23-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary
12/24-Wednesday-Christmas Eve-4pm Children, 6pm & 10pm Vigils
12/25-Thursday-10:30am Christmas Day Mass
12/26-Friday-9am Mass, Rectory Closed December 24-26.
12/27-Saturday-9am Men's Group, 3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
12/28-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass

Thursday Night Discussion Club

Will resume Thursday, January 8, 2015.

We will begin to discuss:



ALL ARE WELCOME TO CONTINUE OUR PARISH DISCUSSION IN PLANNING THE FUTURE OF ST. STEPHEN PARISH.

First Friday Adoration

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be **Friday, January 2nd 9:45am-7:00pm.**



St. Stephen's Prayer Line Belongs to You



We are here to pray for you.

Prayer requests for the month of December, please contact **Maryann @ 856-235-1423.**

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.**

Art & Environment Ministry

Volunteers Needed!

Dec. 21st (Sunday) Poinsettia arrive @ 2pm.
Will need 2 extra volunteers.

Dec. 22 (Monday) after the 9:30 am daily Mass.
Begin transition and assemble Nativity.
7:00 pm if needed continue transition

Dec. 23rd (Tuesday)
9:30 am finish our preparation. (IF NECESSARY)

Jan. 11th (Sunday)
Transition our church to Ordinary Time



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

When: Mondays from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Where: Stonegate Main Conference Room

Please contact Eileen Heide with any questions.
Phone: 662-8046 email: heides@comcast.net

"The woman who walks with God always reaches her destination"

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



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.

Blood Drive December 30th



The Knights of Columbus Council #3512 will be sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on **Tuesday, December 30 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.

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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.

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RCIA Ministry

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

- Have you been worshipping with us, but never officially took the step to become Catholic?
- Have you been away from the church...and have now returned, but want to know more?
- Have you been a Catholic all your life, but never celebrated all the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism; Confirmation; and Eucharist?
- Have you joined us from a different background and would now like to find out more about the Catholic Church.

Please contact **Father Daniel Rocco at (856) 662-9339 or Loretta Steinmetz, RCIA Team Leader at (856) 227-4980** for more information about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.

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WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a weekend full of fresh love, rebirth, and new beginnings. Your marriage deserves it, and so does your home life. The next weekends are **Feb 6-8 and April 17-19.** For more information call 609-742-4035 or email applications@wwme-southjersey.org
Visit our website wwme-southjersey.org

Christmas Prayers

*Let your goodness, Lord, appear to us,
that we, made in your image,
conform ourselves to it.*

*In our own strength
we cannot imitate your majesty,
power and wonder;
nor is it fitting for us to try.*

*But your mercy reaches from the heavens,
through the clouds, to the earth below.*

*You have come to us as a small child,
but you have brought us
the greatest of all gifts,
the gift of eternal love.*

*Caress us with your tiny hands,
embrace us with your tiny arms,
and pierce our hearts*

with your soft, sweet cries. Amen.

-St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Dear Lord,

*I'm walking on the busy road to Christmas.
My mind is filled with plans;
by my heart is somewhat torn.*

*I know that on Christmas Day
there will be inner peace and joy
for us who know Your story of salvation.*

*I also know there will be
the every-day cares and burdens
for those who never heard the News
that Christ is born and lives among us.*

*Slow me down on the way to Christmas.
Help me make room in the Inn of my heart
for the poor and lonely.*

*Help me to think first of those
who need the greatest gift of all,
the peace that comes from faith in Jesus.*

*I ask this through Your Son,
the Child of Bethlehem,
the only reason for our Christmas.*

Amen.

Christmas Mass Schedule



CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

Wednesday, December 24, 2014
4:00 PM Children’s Mass, 6:00 PM & 10:00 PM
(Adult Choir Prelude & Carols @ 9:30pm)

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Thursday, December 25, 2014
10:30 AM

NEW YEAR’S EVE MASS

Wednesday, December 31, 2014
9:00AM regular daily 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, 2015, 9:00 AM Mass

The 4th 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

Parish Library

The Parish Library is now open in the Parish Center for your Advent and Christmas 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).

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**Grow in Holiness this Advent Season with the  
Deacon Ernie Library Challenge**

Jesus challenged the world view of every person he encountered: the woman at the well, the rich young man... Jesus came, among other things, to bring us to a new world view. It is a very simple idea. God calls you to holiness and everything that happens in your life, every triumph, trial, and tragedy is an opportunity to grow in holiness. It is crucial that we make the connection between the ordinary activities of life and the dream God has for each person.

Whether you want to use the phrase “growing in holiness” or “becoming a “better - version - of yourself” is up to you.

Each day we need to develop our store of knowledge about the Catholic faith, so we can live it more deeply with every passing day and so we can answer more and more questions other people have about the faith.

If you read five pages of a great Catholic book every day you will be amazed how your knowledge and enthusiasm for the faith will begin to grow. Just five pages a day. We can do that. Continuous improvement - it makes incredible things possible.

The Deacon Ernie Picknally Memorial Library located in the Sister Bernadette Parish Center will be open after all Masses beginning on the first weekend of Advent. Excerpts taken from The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic by Matthew Kelly.