

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



4th Sunday of Advent

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 22, 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 9:00am	December 22, 2019 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
MONDAY 9:00am	December 23, 2019 Rev. Patsy C. Amabile r/b People of the Parish
TUESDAY 9:00am	December 24, 2019 (9am Daily Mass) People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
TUESDAY 5:00pm 10:00pm	December 24, 2019 (Christmas Eve Vigils) People of the Parish – Living & Deceased People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
WEDNESDAY 10:30am	December 25, 2019 (Christmas Day Mass) People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
THURSDAY 9:00am/Novena	December 26, 2019 (St. Stephen's Feast Day) Peter Tepper, Sr. r/b Terry Modzier
FRIDAY 9:00am	December 27, 2019 Louis, Josephine, and Vincent L. Buondonno r/b Daughter/Sister
SATURDAY 4:30pm	December 28, 2019 Booker T. McKenney r/b The Knight Family
SUNDAY 9:00am	December 29, 2019 Sam Loperfido r/b The Loperfido Family
10:30am	William Tuttle r/b His Wife, Ethel



**The Sanctuary Candle
this week is in memory of
*Frank Pigliacelli***

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 Dec. 14/15 will be posted in next week's bulletin as this issue was submitted on Dec. 13.

Special Envelopes/Collections:

December 24/25: "Christmas Offering"
January 1: "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:

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 24-29

CHRISTMAS EVE:

Tuesday, 5:00pm Children's Vigil

EM's: A. Cirullo, M. Meloni, E. Nolte, R. Davis

Lectors: R. Aleszczyk, J. Messina

Tuesday, 10:00pm Vigil

EM's: M. Monaco, R. Davis, M. Miller, A. Knight

Lectors: B. Mattia, D. Steinmetz

CHRISTMAS DAY:

Wednesday, 10:30am

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

Lectors: Joan Rivera, P. Nolte

Feast of the Holy Family - December 28/29

Saturday, 4:30pm

EM's: A. Knight, L. D'Alessandro, A. Cirullo, V. Thibault

Lectors: B. Mattia, D. Steinmetz

Sunday, 9:00am

EM's: E. Nolte, L. McHugh, R. Davis, R. Leone

Lectors: Jared Rivera, Joan Rivera

Sunday, 10:30am

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

Lectors: R. Aleszczyk, M. Turan

Congratulations Knights!

Congratulations to **George Tutwiler, Bill Rosen and Lonnie Monaco** on receiving Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Knights of Columbus. Together they have served over 100 years!!

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

12/23-Monday-9am Mass
 12/24-Tues.-9am Daily Mass, 5pm & 10pm Christmas Vigils
 *The Rectory and all Diocesan Offices will be closed on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
 12/25-Wednesday-10:30am Christmas Day Mass, No CCD
 12/26-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena
 12/27-Friday--9am Mass
 12/28-Saturday-3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
 12/29-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

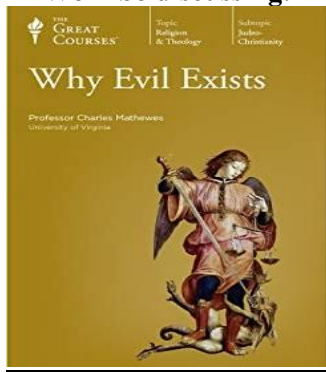
Wednesday Night CCD Classes

Continue January 8th at 6:15pm

Thursday Night Discussion Club

Continues January 9th at 7pm in the Rectory

We'll be discussing:

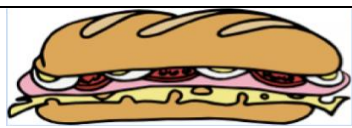


First Friday Adoration

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 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.

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.**

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.

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**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>.



***Rediscover the Love  
in Your Marriage!***

**The next program in our area begins on the weekend of February 21-23 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA.**

For more information, or to register for one of our weekends, visit our website at: [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

# Reflection on Today's 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.**

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 2019-2020 Liturgical Calendar at a Glance



## 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