

# St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109



*Different Histories...*

*One Faith...*

*Different Ages...*

## *Pastoral Staff*

Reverend Daniel M. Rocco, Pastor  
Permanent Deacon Ernest Picknally  
Permanent Deacon Anthony Cioe  
Mrs. Patricia Higgins, Principal

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



## *Contact Information*

Rectory: (856) 662-9338  
Rectory Fax: (856) 662-4679  
School: (856) 662-5935  
School Fax: (856) 662-6128

Email: [eccllesia@comcast.net](mailto:eccllesia@comcast.net)  
Web: [www.StStephensPennsauken.com](http://www.StStephensPennsauken.com)

## *December 23, 2012 – 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

**Children's Liturgy:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday @ 9:00am

**Holy Days:** 9:00am & 7:00pm – 7:00pm Vigil

**Miraculous Medal Novena** – Every Thursday after 9am Mass.

**Eucharistic Exposition** – First Friday from 9:30am-7pm.

**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 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.

**Tribunal Parish Advocate**-Dc. Anthony Cioe- (856) 227-2145

**Rectory Office Hours**-Monday thru Friday 9am-4:30pm  
*(Closed all Holy Days of Obligation & National Holidays)*

### 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.*

**Parish Membership** – Moving INTO the parish all are asked to register as soon as possible.

Moving WITHIN or OUT – kindly notify rectory of changes.

**Please consider remembering St. Stephen's in your Will or Estate Planning.** There are financial benefits to do so while still alive and, in death, the spiritual reward of helping to continue the Church's mission of preaching Jesus Christ.

**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.

**Our Parish Family invites all of its members to participate fully in our spiritual and social life.**

# 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 2013 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

<b>MONDAY</b> 9:00am Daily	<b>December 24, 2012 (Christmas Eve)</b> Louis, Josephine, & Vincent L. Buondonno r/b Daughter & Sister
<b>4:00pm Children</b> <b>6:00pm Vigil</b> <b>10:00pm Vigil</b>	<b>People of the Parish – Living &amp; Deceased</b> <b>People of the Parish – Living &amp; Deceased</b> <b>People of the Parish – Living &amp; Deceased</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b> 9:00am 10:30am	<b>December 25, 2012 (Christmas Day)</b> <b>People of the Parish – Living &amp; Deceased</b> <b>People of the Parish – Living &amp; Deceased</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>December 26, 2012 (St. Stephen's Feast Day)</b> Joseph Angelastro r/b Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ
<b>THURSDAY</b> 9:00am+Novena	<b>December 27, 2012</b> Albert Glander r/b Joyce Schmidt
<b>FRIDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>December 28, 2012</b> Sr. Ann Thomas Sullivan, SSJ r/b Lucille Buffington
<b>SATURDAY</b> 4:30pm	<b>December 29, 2012</b> Robert W. Kozempel r/b His Wife, Gerry
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9:00am 10:30am	<b>December 30, 2012</b> Pauline Fitzpatrick r/b John & Maria Fitzpatrick Joseph Kuczborski r/b Family Marie Zinicola r/b Dc. Anthony & Phyl Cioe Veronica A. Chwastyk r/b Tony & Denise Prudente

## The Sanctuary Candle this week is In Memory of Dorothy Marchisello.

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 15/16 will be posted in next week's bulletin as this issue was submitted on 12/14/12.**

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## Fourth Sunday of Advent Reflection

As we anticipate the birth of Jesus and light the remaining candle, we think about Elizabeth, mother of John and cousin of Mary. Before Jesus was born, Mary went to visit Elizabeth. She was filled with the Holy Spirit and cried out: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Many Thanks to the  
**Stone, Nolte & Girardi Families**  
for lighting the Advent Candle last weekend.



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:

- Dolly Angelastro, Edith Bielinski, Mary Caruso,**
- Yolanda Colafrancesco, Dot Corbett, Patricia DeLorenzo,**
- Esther DeMarco, Fanny DiBenedetto, Marie DiFrank,**
- Patricia Domer, Diane Fesko, Joe Flacco, Joanna Galdo,**
- Donato Gallicchio, Richard Gentile, Jr., Richard Gentile, Sr.,**
- Judith Gormley, Thomas Holmes Sr., Rita Insley, Rev. David Klein,**
- Donna Krawchuk, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Wanda Loperfido,**
- Maur Lukasiak, Joann Lunsford, Harry & Mary Ellen Mayer,**
- Dorothy McPeak, Marie Melchiorre, Debbi Morrissey,**
- Freda Novak, Jennifer Osborn, Frank Pigliacelli,**
- Rosemarie Rosolia, William Sauer, Carmella Scrivani,**
- Kathleen Stehm, Steven Stepanavage, Mary Terzini,**
- Shannon Teuber Myles, Lillian Tomarchio, Daniel Topper,**
- Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Gloria Vendetti, John Vindick,**
- Mary Viviello, Anthony Vocale, Ronald Wybranski.**

## Ministry Schedule for Dec. 24-25/29-30

(Monthly Schedules are also posted on our website)

### Christmas Eve, Monday 4pm Children's Mass:

**Altar Servers:** T. Mason, E. Mattered, C. Aleszczyk  
**EM's:** M. Meloni, T. Link, T. Mattered, Sr. Eleanora  
**Lectors:** J. Bowman, J. Messina

### Christmas Eve, Monday 6pm Vigil:

**Altar Servers:** S. Surgner, K. Fagan, B. McHugh  
**EM's:** A. Cirullo, J. Fagan, K. Fagan, N. Schmidt  
**Lectors:** D. Heck, L. Fagan

### Christmas Eve, Monday 10pm Vigil:

**Altar Servers:** The Coar Family  
**EM's:** T. Modzier, P. Antonelli, R. Davis  
**Lectors:** M. Miller, P. Cioe

### Christmas Day, Tuesday 9:00am:

**Altar Servers:** O. Graff, M. Conway, S. Caban  
**EM's:** S. Marano, R. Davis, R. Leone, E. Nolte  
**Lectors:** J. Melfi, W. McHugh

### Christmas Day, Tuesday 10:30am:

**Altar Servers:** J. Bui, Ma. Ciarrocca, Mi. Ciarrocca  
**EM's:** L. D'Alessandro, R. Davis, P. Cioe  
**Lectors:** D. Steinmetz, E. Mattered

### Weekend of December 29/30:

#### Saturday, 4:30pm

**Altar Servers:** C. Padua, H. Atchison, Z. Marlin  
**EM's:** B. Taylor, A. Cirullo, L. Heining, \*alternate J. Heining  
**Lectors:** W. Mattia, R. Taylor

#### Sunday, 9:00am

**Altar Servers:** S. Caban, C. Hearn, T. Albert  
**EM's:** S. Marano, E. Nolte, L. D'Alessandro, T. Modzier  
**Lectors:** D. Steinmetz, J. Messina

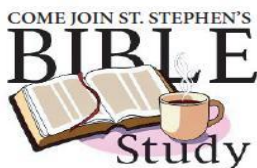
#### Sunday, 10:30am

**Altar Servers:** Katie Coar, Kelly Coar, L. Fagan  
**EM's:** L. Solano, M. Miller, M. Meloni, C. Otto  
**Lectors:** P. Cioe, J. Bowman

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

12/24-Monday-9am Daily Mass,  
 Christmas Eve: 4pm Children, 6pm & 10pm Vigil  
 12/25-Tuesday-Christmas Day: 9am Mass, 10:30am Mass  
 12/26-Wednesday-9am Mass, NO CCD  
 12/27-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, NO Choir, NO Discussion Club  
 12/28-Friday-9am Mass  
 12/29-Saturday-9am Men's Group, 3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass  
 12/30-Sunday-9am Mass & 10:30am Mass

### ***Monday Afternoon Bible Study***



1:00-2:30pm - Stonegate  
 Any questions, please call  
 Eileen at (856) 662-8046  
 or email me at  
[heides@comcast.net](mailto:heides@comcast.net).  
 Please feel free to join us!

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

Please join us every **Tuesday at 7:00pm** in the church in response to Our Lady of Fatima's request to pray the rosary for peace in the world.

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

Will resume January 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:15PM

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

Will resume January 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 7pm in the Parish Center.



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

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be **Friday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am-6:45pm.**



"The worship given to the Trinity of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...must fill our churches also outside the timetable of Masses...Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Him in adoration and in contemplation that is full of faith and ready to make reparation of the great faults and crimes of the world. May our adoration never cease." -**Blessed John Paul II**

### ***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 Rectory Basement Meeting Room. **Info: Joe Fagan-662-5908.**

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

If you need someone to pray for you, you are at the right place.

**Contact Diane @ 308-8224 for December requests**

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to GOD."

-Philippians 4:6

### ***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 665-8393**. Anyone who would like to make a donation for a tree to honor a deceased loved one or would like to join the A & E Ministry may call Maria at the number above.

### ***Bereavement Committee***

The Bereavement Committee is seeking volunteers to help minister to those who've recently lost loved ones in our community of faith. To join this special ministry, please call **Joy Bowman at 662-4803**.

### ***Council, Board & Ministry Meetings***

(All Mondays @ 7pm in the Parish Center)

|            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| January 14 | Finance Council  |
| January 21 | Pastoral Council |
| January 28 | Liturgy Board    |

### ***Knights' Winter Clothing Drive***

The Knights of Columbus once again wish to thank you all for your generous donations of winter clothing. This week you've made a difference in the lives of families of Holy Name Catholic School in North Camden and also needy families of the Pyne Pointe area in North Camden. Thank you and may God Bless you all. **Our last collection will be Sunday, December 23rd.**

### ***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 in the school office, order forms are on our website and in the rectory office.

Info is available @ [www.ststephenspennsauken.com](http://www.ststephenspennsauken.com) or by calling Michael Ciarrocca at 856-425-4799.

### ***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) 662-9338** or **Loretta Steinmetz, RCIA Team Leader at (856) 227-4627** for more information about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.

### ***Scrip Fundraising Program***

Scrip is available for purchase at the Scrip Table after all weekend Masses and at the rectory during regular business hours, Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm (excluding Holy Days & Holidays). Scrip orders may also be submitted to the school and will then be processed via the rectory for later delivery.





**Sr. Bernadette Mary Leahy, SSJ**  
**c/o Saint Joseph Villa (Room 409)**  
**110 W. Wissahickon Ave.**  
**Flourtown, PA 19031-1898**

**Sister can be reached at (215) 836-4182.**

Sister Bernadette said that it's best to call her in the early evening and she sends her best to all our parishioners.

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***Blood Drive December 27<sup>th</sup>***



The Knights of Columbus, Council #3512 is sponsoring the Annual Red Cross Blood Drive at St Stephen's School on **Thursday, December 27, from 1:30 pm to 6:30 pm.** There will be sign-up sheets at the back of church after Mass, or you can call Lonnie Monaco at 856 662-6049 to set up an appointment. Please make every effort to support this most worthwhile drive.

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***Marriage Help***

**Retrouvaille** is a Catholic based program to help marriages that are stressed or in trouble. Retrouvaille has helped countless married couples in all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. Retrouvaille can help your marriage too. The next 2 programs will be held at St. Joseph in the Hills Malvern Retreat Center, Malvern, PA.

There will be a program **February 8-10, 2013**, and another program **April 12-14, 2013**. All calls are confidential. For more information, call 1-800-470-2230 or 302-832-8044 or visit the web site at [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com).

***Mass of Remembrance & Healing***  
***for those who have lost a child.***

January 16, 2013

The holidays can be especially difficult for those who have suffered the lost of a child, no matter the age of the child or the circumstance of the child's death. If you have experienced this type of loss, would you like to remember that child in a special way and experience some hope and healing?

A Mass of Remembrance and Healing for those who have suffered the loss of a child due to any circumstance will be celebrated on Wednesday evening, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish/St. Luke Church (55 Warwick Road, Stratford, NJ 08084). Those attending are asked to bring a photo or remembrance of their child.

**For more information about the Mass please call Mary Ann Chezik at 609-707-1725. The Mass is sponsored by Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish.**

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***Catholic Young Adults Today:***  
**Seeking, Searching, Serving**  
**and Striving to be Disciples**  
**Tuesday, January 15, 2013, 7 – 9:15 PM**

Welcoming Young Adults,  
single or married, in their 20s and 30s!  
**Dubh Linn Square,**  
**482 East Evesham Road,**  
**Cherry Hill, NJ**

Guest Presenter: Fr. Rocco Danzi SJ, from St. Peter's University, Jersey City, NJ  
**Cost: No cost to attend.**

Participants are welcome to purchase food and beverages.  
**For more info: (856) 583-6122,**  
[gregory.coogan@camdendiocese.org](mailto:gregory.coogan@camdendiocese.org), or join  
"Theology on Tap – South Jersey" on Facebook  
or follow "Theology on Tap SJ" on Twitter.

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***Trip to Ireland May 6-17, 2013***

You are invited to come on a jaunt through Ireland from May 6-17, 2013 with folks from **St. Mary Parish in Cherry Hill.** Land price is \$2,398 per person. For info call Barbara Dollarton at 856-424-2739 ASAP. Limited to 40 travelers.

# The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

It is the eve of the eve and this is no time for double talk. Language is beside itself today and wants us to shout the news out: Jesus Christ is born! But wait! The Church first wants to remind us that the God of surprises never runs out of them. The prophet Micah tells us that the little town of Bethlehem will produce the "ruler in Israel." Then we learn along with the Hebrew nation that "holocausts and sin offerings" do not delight God any longer. The doing of God's will is the new offering, perfectly made by Jesus. As for doing God's will, which is another way of saying "being a loving person", our Blessed Mother does exactly that by visiting her elderly cousin Elizabeth to help her.

Of course, with the Holy Spirit's influence, Elizabeth humbly praises Mary as someone who took the Lord at His Word. So while we are anxious to start our celebration of Christ's birth, we need to pause and think. We are all "Elizabeths." By that I mean, first, that we need to praise Mary our Lady every day for consenting to let happen to her the mysterious honor of mothering God. In so doing, she made it possible for us and all mankind to step back from the brink of self-destruction. Second, that we remain receptive to all the visitations Our Lord makes into our lives.

So we come today to this "eleventh hour" of preparation for Christmas, and the Church also wants us to recall some salient facts lest they get lost in the big day's festivities.

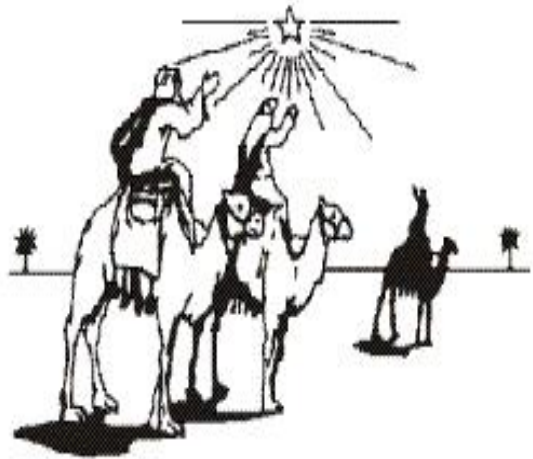
There is the fact that neither Herod in his Palestine palace nor Caesar in his Roman domains had any idea that a revolution was on its way with the first Christmas. Not one that would directly threaten them with swords and clubs but one that would from now on define the limits of power and preclude injustice or dictatorship over minds and hearts.

Paradox abounds here, with the realization that the Prince of Paradise is born in a stable to warn men about the distractions of wealth. Both individuals and nations would from this time forward need to accept the principle that the sharing of goods is essential.

But there is more. The God Man would be born in obscurity to teach us that fame is fleeting. This Babe of Bethlehem would grow up to show us that life is not for tampering and that all of it is too precious for cheap manipulation. This greatest of all Teachers would testify to the power of example over words.

Finally, this Savior of the world, whose life was stalked by darkness, would dispel any notion that evil conquers the light. It may appear triumphant at certain low points in human history, but such appearances are deceiving. That light, He would tell us, is nothing less than "love." Years later, when St. John would declare in one of his letters that God is love, then it follows that what lives inside each of us is a spark of the divine. A Blessed Christmas to you and yours.

# Christmas Mass Schedule



### CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

**Monday, December 24, 2012**

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

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

**Tuesday, December 25, 2012:**

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

### NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

**Monday, December 31, 2012**

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**

**Tuesday, January 1, 2013**

9:00 AM Mass

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## COME ALL YE FAITHFUL! & DECK THE HALLS!

Parishioners are welcomed to join with the transition of our church for the **Christmas Liturgy after the 10:30am Mass on December 23rd.**

**For details and sign-up sheet please visit the message center in the back of the church.**