

# 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 9am-4:30pm  
*Closed All Holy Days of Obligation  
and Holidays except Veterans Day*



## *Contact Info*

**Rectory Phone**  
(856) 662-9339

**Rectory Fax**  
(856) 662-4679

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

**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.*

## *The Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 23, 2018*

**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 2019 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>December 23, 2018</b>
9:00am	Anthony Scafidi r/b Rosina, Susan & Anthony Midili
10:30am	William Sauer r/b Family Emilie Nazarok r/b Bill & Suzanne Underwood Dorothy Tutwiler r/b Rick & Bernice Taylor
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>December 24, 2018 (9:00am Daily Mass)</b>
9:00am	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>December 24, 2018 (Christmas Eve Vigils)</b>
<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>People of the Parish – Living &amp; Deceased</b>
<b>10:00pm</b>	<b>People of the Parish – Living &amp; Deceased</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>December 25, 2018 (Christmas Day Mass)</b>
<b>10:30am</b>	<b>People of the Parish – Living &amp; Deceased</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>December 26, 2018 (St. Stephen's Feast Day)</b>
9:00am	Joseph Petulla r/b M/M Charles Gugliotta
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>December 27, 2018</b>
9:00am/Novena	Rev. Anthony Cataudo, OP r/b People of the Parish
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>December 28, 2018</b>
9:00am	Louis, Josephine, and Vincent L. Buondonno r/b Daughter & Sister
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>December 29, 2018</b>
4:30pm	Alice Jean Baylor r/b The McGrath Family
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>December 30, 2018 (Feast of the Holy Family)</b>
9:00am	Anna Puzzutiello r/b Joe & Bonny Genovese
10:30am	Mary Gilstrop r/b Bill & Suzanne Underwood Dorothy Tutwiler r/b The Knight Family Theresa Centanzo (40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary) r/b Family



**The Sanctuary Candle  
this week is in Memory of  
*The Unborn Children***

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 Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**2018-2019 Weekly Offertory Target: \$4,600**

**Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving: \$4,182**

Special Collections / Envelopes:

**Now thru Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>: "Christmas Flower Memorials"**

**December 25<sup>th</sup>: "Christmas Collection"**

**January 1<sup>st</sup>: "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:**

Raymond Amatrudo, Jr., Anna Buono, Edmund Ciccarone, Carol Cranmer, Fanny DiBenedetto, Joseph Gerst, Pat Gruber, Pricilla Handy, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Sandra Lippi, Katelyn Lum, Nancy Loperfido, Ken Maminski, Larry Miller, Joy and Ed Morrisson, Sue Ott, Rich Passaro, Nancy Sonnie, Callum Steinmetz, Rick Taylor, Frances Vocale, Barbara Weingard, Emily Wilson.

## Ministry Schedule for December 24-30

### CHRISTMAS EVE:

#### Monday, 5:00pm Children's Vigil

EM's: T. Scavuzzo, M. Meloni, V. Thibault, A. Cirullo  
Lectors: R. Aleszczyk, D. Heck

#### Monday, 10:00pm Vigil

EM's: R. Davis, M. Monaco, M. Conway, T. Modzier  
Lectors: M. Miller, B. Mattia

### CHRISTMAS DAY:

#### Tuesday, 10:30am

EM's: R. Leone, L. D'Alessandro, E. Nolte, R. Davis  
Lectors: M. Turan, P. Nolte

### Feast of the Holy Family - December 29/30

#### Saturday, 4:30pm

EM's: Sr. Eleanora, T. Scavuzzo, A. Cirullo, A. Knight  
Lectors: J. Gerst, J. Melfi

#### Sunday, 9:00am

EM's: E. Nolte, T. Modzier, R. Davis, L. D'Alessandro  
Lectors: Joan R., P. Nolte

#### Sunday, 10:30am

EM's: W. Delfin, T. Angstman, S. Underwood, M. Meloni  
Lectors: M. McHugh, M. Turan

## Blood Drive December 26th



The Knights of Columbus Council #3512 will be sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on **Wednesday, December 26th from 1:30pm until 6:30pm at St. Cecilia School.** 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***

**12/24-Mon.-9am Mass, 5pm & 10pm Christmas Vigils**  
 \*The Rectory and all Diocesan Offices  
 will be closed on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

**12/25-Tuesday-10:30am Christmas Day Mass**

**12/26-Wednesday-9am Mass, NO CCD**

**12/27-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena**

**12/28-Friday-9am Mass**

**12/29-Saturday-3:45pm Confessions, 4:30pm Mass**

**12/30-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass**

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

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

Come join us as we ask Our Lady to pray with us and for us. 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)

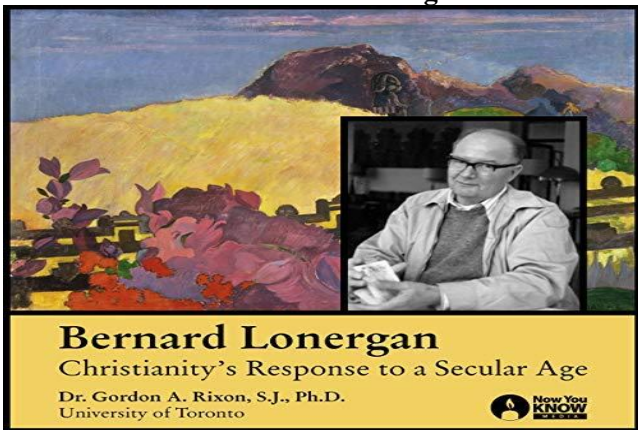
### ***Wednesday Night CCD Classes***

**Continue January 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:15pm.**

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

**Continues January 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 7:00pm.**

**We'll be discussing:**



### ***STONEGATE II Hotline***

If you are interested in filling out an application for the new Stonegate II apartments, you may call **(856) 342-4187** and leave your NAME, ADDRESS and PHONE NUMBER. A Diocesan Housing representative will then return your call with additional instructions & information.

### ***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](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.

### ***Choir – New Members Welcome!***

St. Stephen's Music Ministry cordially invites you to consider joining our Music Ministry family. Choir gathers in the church 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](mailto:Ciarrocca@juno.com).

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



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

For Prayer Requests in the month of **December** contact **Bernadette @ 609-220-6359.**

## Works of Mercy – Items Needed

**Our Religious Formation Students**, who meet at St. Stephen on Wednesday nights, are always looking to perform the Works of Mercy, as Jesus calls us to in the Gospel of Matthew 25. We were contacted by a woman, Carole B., living in our area, who requested us to help those people in her native country of TOGO, who live in poverty and lack many basic needs of life. So, for the next few weeks, we are requesting **used clothes and shoes, especially for children, as well as toothpaste, toothbrushes, and soap.** These items may be placed in the rear of Church by the Food Baskets during weekend Masses. Thank you for your generosity and for helping our Students learn the importance of Giving and Sharing.

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## Joy of the Gospel Convocation

At this moment in time, when our hearts are burdened with so many difficult issues, the Holy Spirit is guiding the Diocese of Camden on a mission. This mission, *The Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in South Jersey*, will give lay leaders from throughout the diocese the opportunity to reflect on the reality that the Catholic Church finds herself in today. In March 2019, participants will gather for workshops, reflection, prayer and discussion. These 650+ lay leaders, chosen from each of the parishes in the diocese, will take what they have learned back to their parishes and communities and address today's challenges as a diverse community of missionary disciples.

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Our Lady of Perpetual Help School encourages you to consider our school for your child's education. Registration is now open for September 2019. We also welcome mid-year transfers. Pennsauken residents qualify for transportation to and from school.

Please contact Mrs. Cynthia Smith, Principal to schedule a tour or for more information. (856) 779-7526 or [principal@OLPHparish.com](mailto:principal@OLPHparish.com).

## Reflection on Today's Gospel Reading

*Luke 1:39-45*

**Mary visits Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and her child.**

On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

# The 2018-2019 Liturgical Calendar at a Glance



## CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

Monday, December 24, 2018  
5:00 PM Children's Mass  
10:00 PM Vigil

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS  
Tuesday, December 25, 2018  
10:30 AM

ST. STEPHEN'S FEAST DAY MASS  
Wednesday, December 26, 2018  
9:00 AM



NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS  
Monday, December 31, 2018  
9:00AM

Mary the Mother of God  
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION  
Tuesday, January 1, 2019  
9:00 AM

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES  
March 6, 2019 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

LENTEN FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12 at 7pm

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE  
To Be Determined

## 2019 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 14: Palm Sunday Masses-9am & 10:30am  
April 18: Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper-7pm  
April 19: Good Friday Liturgical Service – 3pm  
April 20: Holy Saturday Easter Vigil – 8pm  
April 21: Easter Sunday Masses – 9am & 10:30am

FIRST PENANCE  
To Be Determined

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION  
May 5, 2019 at the 9:00am Mass

CONFIRMATION  
To Be Determined by the Bishop

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD  
Thursday, May 30, 2019 – 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION  
Thursday, August 15, 2019 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

FALL HARVEST MASS  
Saturday, October 26, 2019 – 4:30 PM

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS DAY  
Friday, November 1, 2019 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE  
Sunday, November 3, 2019 – 10:30 AM

THANKSGIVING VIGIL MASS  
Wednesday, November 27, 2019 - 7:00 PM