

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
Rose Marie Davis
Keith Knight

Rectory Office Hours
Monday – 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)

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 24, 2017 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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 2018 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

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| SUNDAY 9:00am | December 24, 2017 (Fourth Sunday of Advent) Louis, Josephine & Vincent L. Buondonno r/b Daughter and Sister |
| 10:30am | Marian Pilla r/b Joe & Maria Haas |
| SUNDAY 5:00pm 10:00pm | December 24, 2017 (Christmas Eve) People of the Parish – Living & Deceased People of the Parish – Living & Deceased |
| MONDAY 10:30am | December 25, 2017 (Christmas Day) People of the Parish – Living & Deceased |
| TUESDAY 9:00am | December 26, 2017 (St. Stephen's Feast Day) Joseph Procacci r/b Anthony & Rosemarie Leone |
| WEDNESDAY 9:00am | December 27, 2017 Carrie & Ida Fanelle r/b Niece |
| THURSDAY 9:00am/Novena | December 28, 2017 Michael Procacci r/b Anthony & Rosemarie Leone |
| FRIDAY 9:00am | December 29, 2017 Michael Procacci r/b Frank Pigliacelli |
| SATURDAY 4:30pm | December 30, 2017 Parents & Grandparents r/b The Gentile and Zorio Families |
| SUNDAY 9:00am | December 31, 2017 (Feast of the Holy Family) Edward J. Reilly (99 th Birthday Remembrance) r/b Frank & Rita Miller |
| 10:30am | Louise Pigliacelli (8 th Anniversary) r/b Her Husband, Frank Joseph Catalani r/b Renee & Gina Gentile |



The Sanctuary Candle this week is
In Memory of
John J. Dodds

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.

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| December 16/17, 2017 Offertory Collection: | \$4,816 |
| 2017-2018 Weekly Offertory Collection Target: | \$4,600 |
| Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving: | \$4,347 |

Special Collections / Envelopes:

- December 25: "Christmas Offering" (St. Stephen)**
- January 1: "Solemnity of Mary" (St. Stephen)**
- January 21: "Parish Heating Fund" (St. Stephen)**
- January 28: "Church in Latin America" (Diocese)**

(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:

Joseph & Dolores Afilani, Raymond Amatrudo, Jr., Eleanor Becker, Barbie Brown, Anna Buono, Jackie Cardwell, Lina Ciarrocchi, Edmund Ciccarone, Jenny Cowan, John Coyle, Carol Cranmer, Joe DeLorenzo, Esther DeMarco, Fanny DiBenedetto, Fred Dickson, Joseph DiFrank, Biagio Dinoto, Michael DiVito, Patricia Domer, Bernice Evans, Joe Flacco, Joanna Galdo, Angela Gallecchio, Antonio Genovese, Richard Gentile, Jr., Joseph Gerst, Pat Gruber, Pricilla Handy, Gregory Hayes, Mary Ann Hoffacker, Thomas Holmes Sr., Debra Knapp, Donna Krawchuk, Janet LaFreda-Hopkins, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Rosemarie Leonardo, Sam Loperfido, Sr., Michael Lopez, Joann Lunsford, Ken Maminski, Harry, Mary Ellen & William Mayer, Stella McCarthy, Cecilia McGonigle, Dorothy McPeak, Rosemary Murray, Florence O'Connor, Margie Ogden, Jennifer Osborn, Savaelina Perez, Linda Petrilli, Rosemarie Rosolia, Patricia Ruhl, Dean & Mary Russell, John S., Helen Setzer, Joan Siperavage, Nancy Sonnie, Steven Stepanavage, Keri Ann Taxis, Rick Taylor, Mary Terzini, Shannon Teuber Myles, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Mary Vивиello, Frances Vocale, Doreen Warble, Lily Warble, Arlene Webb, Barbara Weingard.

Ministry Schedule for Dec. 24/25 - 30/31

CHRISTMAS EVE:

Sunday, 5:00pm

EM's: T. Angstman, L. Rosario, J. Rosario, Sr. Eleanora, J. Messina
Lectors: D. Steinmetz, R. Aleszczyk

Sunday, 10:00pm

EM's: T. Modzier, R. Davis, M. Conway
Lectors: M. Miller, M. Turan

CHRISTMAS DAY:

Monday, 10:30am

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

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY:

Saturday, 4:30pm

EM's: A. Cirullo, A. Knight, Sr. Eleanora, R. Davis, A. Rende
Lectors: J. Melfi, J. Gerst

Sunday, 9:00am

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

Sunday, 10:30am

EM's: K. Fagan, J. Fagan, J. Messina, W. Delfin, M. Conway
Lectors: W. McHugh, M. Miller

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

12/25-Monday-10:30am Christmas Mass, Rectory Closed
 12/26-Tuesday-9am Mass, Rectory Closed, 7pm Rosary
 12/27-Wednesday-9am Mass, 1:30pm Blood Drive, NO CCD
 12/28-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena
 12/29-Friday-9am Mass
 12/30-Saturday-3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
 12/31-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass,



We are all on a journey, and God's word is a light to our path. Stop in and join us at the St. Stephen Ladies' Bible Study for reflections in scripture, lively discussions and fun!

When: Mondays from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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

Please contact Eileen Heide with any questions.

Phone or text: 610-805-5363 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

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 3rd @ 6:15pm

Thursday Night Discussion Club

Continues Jan. 4th @ 7pm in the Parish Center.

We'll be discussing Prof. William R. Cook's

"The Catholic Church: A History"



All Are Welcome to Join Us!

Art & Environment Ministry

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.

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.

Parish Library

The Parish Library is now open in the Parish Center for all your Winter 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

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 the month of December, contact Maryann @ 856-333-6525.

First Friday Adoration

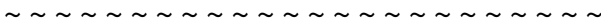
The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be **Friday, January 5, 2018 from 9:45am-7:00pm.**



Blood Drive December 27th



The Knights of Columbus Council #3512 will be sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on **Wednesday, December 27th 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.



Catholics Fight Racism:

A Day of Prayer, Education, & Action

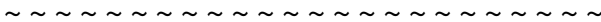
Saturday, January 13, 2018 (NEW DATE)

10:00 am — 3:00 pm

St. Charles Borromeo Parish

176 Stagecoach Rd, Sicklerville | \$12

In the face of racism in this country, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. What can we do to promote racial justice in our own communities? This year's annual Diocese of Camden Life & Justice Gathering is designed to help Catholics throughout South Jersey reflect on how they can fight racism in their parishes, schools, homes, and hearts. Through a process of reflection, dialogue, prayer, and education, the day will begin to equip you to work for racial justice. Intended for clergy and lay leaders and volunteers with an interest in building a more just world. Buy tickets and get more information at www.camdendiocese.org/fightracism.



Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage!

Is your marriage going down the right road . . . or is it a little off track? Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage. Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way? **Retrouvaille** can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you to learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track. **The next program begins on the weekend of February 16 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA.** Additional weekends will be held in April and August. For more information, or to register for one of our weekends, visit our web site at: www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 1-800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

GOOD COUNSEL IS MORE THAN GRATEFUL...AGAIN....

Once again the parishioners of St. Stephen's Parish welcomed Good Counsel into their parish and their hearts. The wonderful kind and supportive words from so many people reaffirmed that we are all doing what God wants us to do. **Despite the snowy weather, over 150 bottles were cheerfully taken!** Thank you to the many parishioners who contributed immediately following the Masses and those who expressed an interest to volunteer! **All you need to do is to return the baby bottles in the plastic bins that have been placed in the church by December 23rd.** Just look for the picture of our Good Counsel baby! In a time when so many have so little, your giving spirits to help those less fortunate, inspire us as we continue to do God's work on earth. Thank you for your continual support and I hope to see you soon. JoAnn DiNoia, Good Counsel Homes, 609-387-2928 joann_dinoia@goodcounselhomes.org—follow us on FB and Twitter☺



Today's Gospel Reading Reflection

Luke 1:26-38 - The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her *fiat*, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God. The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.

The 2017-2018 Liturgical Calendar at a Glance



CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

Sunday, December 24, 2017
5:00 PM Children's Mass & 10:00 PM Vigil

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Monday, December 25, 2017
10:30 AM

ST. STEPHEN'S FEAST DAY MASS

Tuesday, December 26, 2017
9:00 AM



NEW YEAR'S EVE MASSES

Sunday, December 31, 2017
Feast of the Holy Family
9:00AM & 10:30AM

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

Monday, January 1, 2018
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
9:00 AM

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

February 14, 2018 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

LENTEN FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23 at 7pm

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

To Be Determined

2018 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 25th: Palm Sunday Masses-9am & 10:30am
Mar. 29: Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper-7pm
March 30: Good Friday Liturgical Service – 3pm
March 31: Holy Saturday Easter Vigil – 8pm
April 1: Easter Sunday Masses – 9am & 10:30am

FIRST PENANCE

To Be Determined

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

To Be Determined

CONFIRMATION

To Be Determined by the Bishop

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Thursday, May 10, 2018 – 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

Wednesday, August 15, 2018 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

FALL HARVEST MASS

Saturday, October 27, 2018 – 4:30 PM

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS DAY

Thursday, November 1, 2018 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday, November 4, 2018 – 10:30 AM

THANKSGIVING VIGIL MASS

Wednesday, November 21, 2018 - 7:00 PM