

# St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

## *Pastoral Staff*

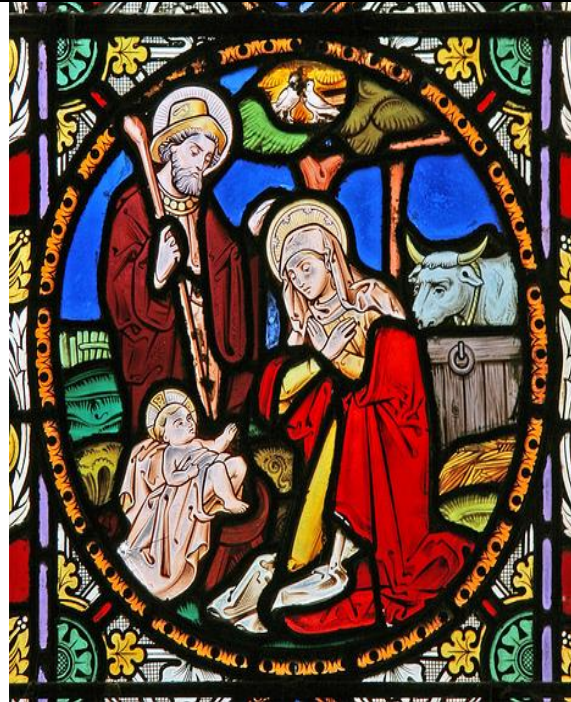
**Reverend Daniel M. Rocco**  
Pastor

**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 – 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](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.*

***December 25, 2016 – The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)***

**Communion Service:** Monday - 9:00am  
**Daily Mass:** Tuesday 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, 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 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. 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 2017 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

<b>SATURDAY</b> 4:30pm 10:00pm	<b>December 24, 2016 (Christmas Eve)</b> People of the Parish – Living & Deceased People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9:00am 10:30am	<b>December 25, 2016 (Christmas Day)</b> People of the Parish – Living & Deceased People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
<b>MONDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>December 26, 2016 (St. Stephen's Feast Day Mass)</b> Louis, Josephine, and Vincent L. Buondonno r/b Daughter & Sister
<b>TUESDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>December 27, 2016</b> People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>December 28, 2016</b> Olga Onaro r/b Sam & Nancy Loperfido
<b>THURSDAY</b> 9:00am/Novena	<b>December 29, 2016</b> Rev. Robert J. Dunphy r/b People of the Parish
<b>FRIDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>December 30, 2016</b> Salvatore & Julia DiPaolo r/b Daughter
<b>SATURDAY</b> 4:30pm	<b>December 31, 2016 (New Year's Eve)</b> Francis O'Donnell r/b Maria & John Fitzpatrick
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9:00am  10:30am	<b>January 1, 2017 (New Year's Day)</b> Pauline Fitzpatrick (Anniversary of Her Death) r/b John & Maria Fitzpatrick Louise Pigliacelli (7 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary) r/b Her Husband, Frank Joseph Fagan, Sr. r/b People of the Parish



The Sanctuary Candle this week is  
***In Memory of  
Joseph Carter***

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. 17/18 will be posted in next week's bulletin as this issue was submitted on Dec. 16th.**

**2016-2017 Weekly Offertory Collection Target: \$4,600**  
**Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving: \$4,591**

Special Collections/Envelopes:

**January 1<sup>st</sup>: "Solemnity of Mary" (St. Stephen)**  
**January 15<sup>th</sup>: "Parish Heating Fund" (St. Stephen)**  
(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:**

Dolores Afilani, Ray Amatrudo, Jr., Eleanor Becker, Anna Buono, Jackie Cardwell, Edmund Ciccarone, Yolanda Colafrancesco, Jenny Cowan, John Coyle, Joe DeLorenzo, Esther DeMarco, Doris Denuel, Fanny DiBenedetto, Fred Dickson, Joseph DiFrank, Michael DiVito, Patricia Domer, Joe Flacco, Joanna Galdo, 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, Darlene Marcinczyk, Harry, Mary Ellen & William Mayer, Cecilia McGonigle, Dorothy McPeak, Rosemary Murray, Florence O'Connor, Margie Ogden, Jennifer Osborn, Savaelina Perez, Rosemarie Rosolia, Dean & Mary Russell, Helen Setzer, Nancy Sonnie, Steven Stepanavage, Rick Taylor, Mary Terzini, Shannon Teuber Myles, Esther Tillinghast, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Mary Vivliello, Doreen Warble, Lily Warble, Barbara Weingard.

## Ministry Schedule for Dec. 31 / Jan. 1

*\* Designates Alternate Server*

### Saturday, 4:30pm

**Altar Server:** S. Surgner  
**EM's:** A. Cirullo, R. Davis, Sr. Eleanora, A. Knight  
**Lectors:** B. Mattia, D. Heck

### Sunday, 9:00am

**Altar Servers:** Q. Nguyen, J. Vales  
**EM's:** R. Leone, L. D'Alessandro, E. Nolte, T. Modzier, L. Monaco  
**Lectors:** J. Melfi, J. Gerst

### Sunday, 10:30am

**Altar Servers:** M. Daniels, C. Nicdao, C. Gardner  
**EM's:** M. Meloni, M. Conway, K. Fagan, J. Fagan  
**Lectors:** D. Steinmetz, J. Messina

## ***Blood Drive December 27th***



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

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

12/26-Monday-9am Mass, Rectory & All Diocesan Offices Closed  
 12/27-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary  
 12/28-Wednesday-9am Mass, NO CCD  
 12/29-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Discussion Club  
 12/30-Friday-9am Mass,  
 12/31-Saturday-New Year's Eve - 3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass  
 1/1---Sunday-New Year's Day - 9am Mass, 10:30am Mass



Come and join the St. Stephen Ladies' Bible Study for reflections in God's word, 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*

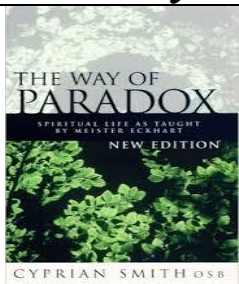
**To Jesus Through Mary - 7:00-7:30pm @ Church**

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 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm.

### *Thursday Night Discussion Club*



Will continue  
**December 29<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm** in the  
 Sr. Bernadette Parish Center  
 with Cyprian Smith's  
**The Way of Paradox,**  
 spiritual life as taught  
 by Meister Eckhart.

### *First Friday Adoration*

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be  
**Friday, January 6, 2017**  
**9:45am-7:00pm.**



### *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](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.

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



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

For Prayer Requests for the month of December contact  
**Diane @ 856-308-8224.**

### *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](mailto:Ciarrocca@juno.com).

### *FIRST MOTHER FAMILY OUTREACH*

Women from our diocese have formed a compassionate outreach for mothers who have not raised their firstborn children. We, as ordinary women, offer you our comfort and support because we understand that time does not erase the pain of adoption loss.

Contact us at: [FirstMotherFamily@gmail.com](mailto:FirstMotherFamily@gmail.com)

"This is my commandment:

Love one another as I have loved you." -John 15:12

<http://catholicstarherald.org/birth-mothers-find-support-in-shared-experience/>

## 10 Christmas Commandments

1. You shall not leave 'Christ' out of Christmas, making it 'Xmas.' To some, 'X' is unknown.
2. You shall prepare your soul for Christmas. Spend not so much on gifts that your soul is forgotten.
3. You shall not let Santa Claus replace Christ, thus robbing the day of its spiritual reality.
4. You shall not burden the shop girl, the mailman, and the merchant with complaints and demands.
5. You shall give yourself with your gift. This will increase its value a hundred fold, and the one who receives it shall treasure it forever.
6. You shall not value gifts received by their cost. Even the least expensive may signify love, and that is more priceless than silver and gold.
7. You shall not neglect the needy. Share your blessings with many who will go hungry and cold if you are generous.
8. You shall not neglect your church. Its services highlight the true meaning of the season.
9. You shall be as a little child. Not until you become in spirit as a little one are you ready to enter into the kingdom of Heaven.
10. You shall give your heart to Christ. Let Him be at the top of your Christmas list.

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### Health and Wellness Team News

Are you interested in learning CPR? Do you need to brush up on your skills? The Health and Wellness Team will be conducting a CPR class in February 2017, date to be determined. The class will be offered in the Parish Center and provided by a certified CPR instructor. Please note this class will not meet the requirements for CPR certification. It is only meant to teach basic skills. If there is a need for a certification class, we will explore that at another time. The class will be offered free of charge. **If you are interested, please send an email message to the rectory, at [ecclisia@comcast.net](mailto:ecclisia@comcast.net) with your name, telephone number and email address and a preferred day: Monday or Tuesday evening, or Saturday.** Someone will be in touch with you once the class is scheduled.

## Christmas Prayers

**The day of joy returns,** Father in Heaven, and crowns another year with peace and good will.

**Help us** rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

**Close the doors** of hate and open the doors of love all over the world.

**Let kindness** come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

**Deliver us** from evil, by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.

**May the Christmas morning** make us happy to be thy children,

**And the Christmas evening** bring us to our bed with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus sake.

**Amen.**

**Jesus, the Light of the World,** as we celebrate your birth, may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart.

May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving. **Amen.**

**Lord Jesus,**

Please forgive me for being so grumpy as I trudge through the never-ending tasks set before me this Christmas season.

My to-do list seems to keep growing with shopping, church services, and family gatherings--- and I'm running short of time!

Restore the joy of Christmas to my heart and help me to relax each day and make time for **YOU**-- my one true Source of Joy. **Amen.**

## A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May God grant you the light of Christmas,  
 which is faith;  
 the warmth of Christmas,  
 which is purity;  
 the righteousness of Christmas,  
 which is justice;  
 the belief in Christmas,  
 which is truth;  
 the all of Christmas,  
 which is Christ.

## Christmas Reflections

### The Joy of Christmas

"The joy of Christmas is contagious—but not primarily because of our gifts of dolls and trucks, bikes and pretty dresses, sweaters and ties...The joy of Christmas is contagious because of the spirit behind the gifts. The glory of Christmas is that a gracious God became one of us to tell us that He loves us. And, in his or her Christmas giving, the genuine believer symbolizes his or her inner desire to spread this Good News.

Today we celebrate Incarnation! Today we rejoice! The eternal God comes into the flesh and blood of humanity. Christmas cards portray the little Babe, the Manger, the Magi, the shepherds. Little children learn that today is Jesus' birthday. But these pieces of the story only touch the edge of the mysterious event which brings us together. The Good News is that the God of Mercy has come into the history of humanity to bring us perfect peace. For the peace of mind and heart and soul that the world cannot give, follow Jesus. And when you follow Jesus, do not be surprised to see others following you. After all, the spirit of Christmas is contagious."

### Meister Eckhart once said:

'What good is it that Christ was born 2,000 years ago if he is not born now in your heart?'

"Lord, we do far too much celebrating your actual coming in our hearts. I believe in God, but do I believe in God-in-me? I believe in God in heaven, but do I believe in God-on-earth? I believe in God out there, but do I believe in God-with-us?

"Lord, be born in my heart. Come alive in me this Christmas! Amen."

### Christmas Thoughts

"It's sharing your gifts, not purchasing gifts; It's not wrapping presents, its being present and wrapping your arms around the ones you love; It's not getting Christmas cards out on time, It's sending any card, anytime, at the right time; It's not having the biggest and best Christmas light display, It's displaying the Christ light that comes from your heart; It's not Santa coming down the chimney, It's Jesus coming down from heaven, and giving us the gift of eternal life."

## The Night Before Christmas

by Sister St. Thomas, B.N.D. de N

### *A more spiritual version of the famous Christmas story*

Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the town,  
St. Joseph was searching, walking up roads and down;  
Our Lady was waiting, so meek and so mild,  
While Joseph was seeking a place for the Child;

The children were nestled, each snug in their beds,  
The grown-ups wouldn't bother, there's no room they said;  
When even the innkeeper sent them away,  
Joseph was wondering, where they would stay;

He thought of the caves in the side of the hills,  
Lets go there said Mary, it's silent and still;  
The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,  
Made pathways of light for their tired feet to go;

And there in a cave, in a cradle of hay,  
Our Savior was born on that first Christmas Day!  
The Father was watching in heaven above,  
He sent for His angels, His couriers of love;

More rapid than eagles God's bright angels came;  
Rejoicing and eager as each heard his name;  
Come Power, Come Cherubs, Come Virtues, Come Raphael,  
Come Thrones and Dominions, come Michael and Gabriel;

Now fly to the Earth, where My poor people live,  
Announce the glad tiding My Son comes to give;  
The Shepherds were watching their flocks on this night,  
And saw in the heavens and unearthly light;

The Angels assured them, they'd nothing to fear,  
It's Christmas they said, the Savior is here!  
They hastened to find Him, and stood at the door,  
Till Mary invited them in to adore;

He was swaddled in bands from His head to His feet,  
Never did the Shepherds see a baby so sweet!  
He spoke not a word, but the shepherds all knew,  
He was telling them secrets and blessing them too;

Then softly they left Him, The Babe in the hay,  
And rejoiced with great joy on that first Christmas Day;  
Mary heard them exclaim as they walked up the hill,  
Glory to God in the Highest, Peace to men of good will!