

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



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 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – December 29, 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 2021 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

SUNDAY 9:00am	December 29, 2019 Sam Loperfido r/b The Loperfido Family
10:30am	William Tuttle r/b His Wife, Ethel
MONDAY 9:00am	December 30, 2019 For the Healing of Joseph Thurston
TUESDAY 9:00am Daily	December 31, 2019 Victoria Norris r/b People of the Parish
TUESDAY 5:00pm	December 31, 2019 (Solemnity of Mary Vigil) Msgr. Thomas J. McIntyre r/b People of the Parish
WEDNESDAY 9:00am	January 1, 2020 (Solemnity of Mary) Mary V. Sonnie r/b Her Daughter
THURSDAY 9:00am/Novena	January 2, 2020 People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
FRIDAY 9:00am	January 3, 2020 (First Friday Adoration) Joe Maccherone r/b Nick Picciano
SATURDAY 4:30pm	January 4, 2020 Victoria Norris r/b Mary Davis
SUNDAY 9:00am	January 5, 2020 Gennaro & Regina Leone r/b Nancy Loperfido
10:30am	Olga V. Mignone r/b Donald Mignone



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 21/22/25 will be posted in next week's bulletin as this issue was submitted on Dec. 19.

December 14/15, 2019 Offertory Collection:	\$4,244
2019-2020 Weekly Offertory Target:	\$4,500
Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving:	\$3,893

Special Envelopes/Collections:

January 1: Solemnity of Mary
February 26: Ash Wednesday/Church in Europe



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,
Louise Siciliano, Nancy Sonnie, Bill Spicher, Rick Taylor,
Peggy Pepper, Adelaide Travia, Rita Vogt,
Barbara Weingard, Tom Weingard, Emily Wilson.

Ministry Schedule – Dec. 31, Jan. 1,4,5

Tuesday, 5:00pm (Solemnity of Mary Vigil)

EM's: A. Cirullo, Sr. Eleanora
Lectors: B. Mattia, W. McHugh

Wednesday, 9:00am (Solemnity of Mary)

EM's: L. D'Alessandro, R. Leone, E. Nolte
Lectors: M. Miller, J. Melfi

Saturday, 4:30pm

EM's: A. Knight, A. Cirullo, Sr. Eleanora, L. D'Alessandro
Lectors: B. Mattia, J. Melfi

Sunday, 9:00am

EM's: L. Monaco, M. Monaco, R. Davis, R. Leone, T. Modzier
Lectors: W. McHugh, Joan Rivera

Sunday, 10:30am

EM's: G. Tutwiler, W. Delfin, M. Meloni, S. Underwood, T. Scavuzzo
Lectors: J. Messina, D. Steinmetz



The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Mass times for this
Holy Day of Obligation:
December 31st: 5:00pm
January 1st: 9:00am

**The Rectory and all Diocesan Offices
will be closed on Wednesday January 1st.**

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

- 12/30-Monday-9am Mass
- 12/31-Tues.-9am Daily Mass, 5pm Solemnity of Mary Vigil
- 1/1-Wednesday-9:00am Mass - Solemnity of Mary
- 1/2-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena
- 1/3-First Friday--9am Mass, Adoration until 7:00pm
- 1/4-Saturday-3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
- 1/5-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

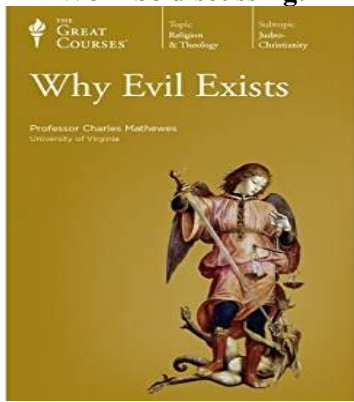
Wednesday Night CCD Classes

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 January contact **Maryann @ 856-333-6525**.

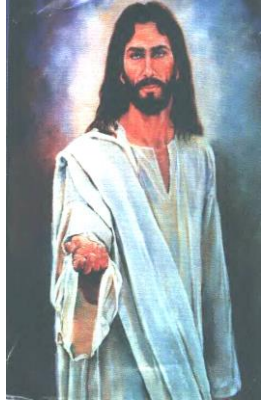


Rides to Church

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**.

First Friday Adoration



January 3, 2020
9:30am – 7:00pm

*“Come to beauty,
silence, prayer.
Come to Me.”*

RSVP to Rosemarie Leone
@ 856-662-0035.

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## 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 18th.

Prayer for Families

Loving God,
During this holy season of Christmas,
we ask for your blessing on all
families.

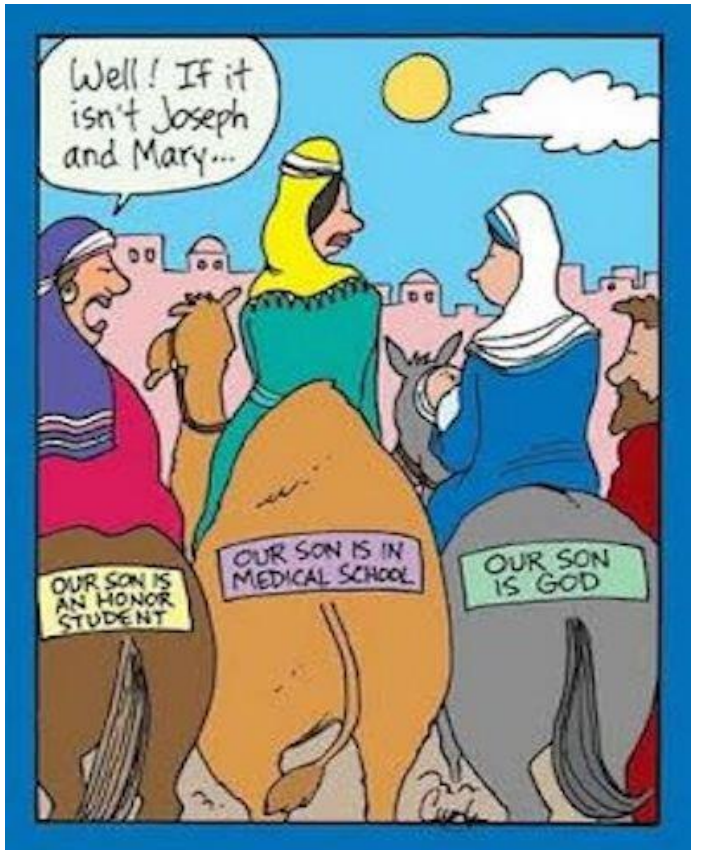
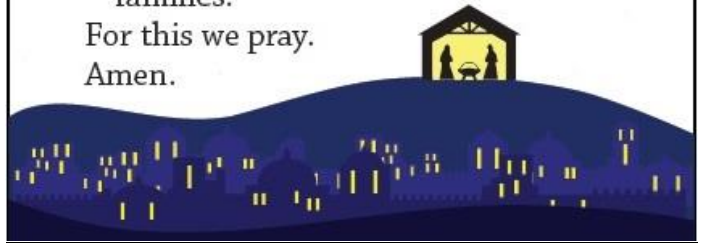
Let Mary’s openness to your
wondrous ways be an inspiration
to place all trust in you.

Let Joseph’s courage provide hope
during times of anxiety and
uncertainty.

Let Jesus’ life ignite all families with
a spirit of light and love.

May the grace that encircled the
Holy Family widen to embrace all
families.

For this we pray.
Amen.



Reflection on Today's Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

In a dream, God tells Joseph to flee to Egypt to protect Jesus from King Herod.

Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. As we do so, our Gospel invites us to consider Joseph's protection of Jesus in the face of danger. Just as in the announcement of Jesus' birth, an angel appears to Joseph in a dream. The angel warns him of Herod's plans to harm Jesus. Joseph follows the command of the angel and takes Joseph and Mary to Egypt, returning only after receiving word in another dream that it was safe to do so.

This feast is part of the Christmas season, so we should look at today's Gospel in the context of what Scripture tells us about Jesus' birth. Today's reading is found in the Gospel of Matthew, following the story of the visit of the Magi. Recall that Matthew's story about the birth of Jesus makes Joseph the primary character. Among Matthew's themes in this infancy narrative is Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about the messiah. Indeed, the story of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt recalls the story of Moses in the Book of Exodus.

It should also be noted that today's reading omits the verses that recount Herod's order of the massacre of the infant boys in and around Bethlehem. We mark this event on the Feast of the Holy Innocents on December 28.

These events remind us of the difficult reality of Jesus' birth. While the story of the Magi's visit will be recalled in our liturgy on the Feast of the Epiphany, our Christmas celebration is made more sober by the recollection that not everyone received Christ's birth with joy or obedience. Herod's jealousy and malice contrast with Joseph's obedience to the words of the angel. The Holy Family's escape to Egypt and the massacre that Jesus is saved from remind us of the struggles and sacrifices that are required as preparation for God's salvation.