

# 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:  
[eccllesia@comcast.net](mailto:eccllesia@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 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – December 30, 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 2020 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

<b>SUNDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>December 30, 2018 (Feast of the Holy Family)</b> 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
<b>MONDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>December 31, 2018</b> Edward J. Reilly (100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Remembrance) r/b Frank & Rita Miller
<b>TUESDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>January 1, 2019 (Mother of God Holy Day)</b> Dorothy Tutwiler r/b People of the Parish
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>January 2, 2019</b> John Manjakunnel r/b People of the Parish
<b>THURSDAY</b> 9:00am/Novena	<b>January 3, 2019</b> Andy Salmonsens r/b People of the Parish
<b>FRIDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>January 4, 2019 (First Friday Adoration)</b> Howard & Clara Buffington r/b Daughter-in-Law
<b>SATURDAY</b> 4:30pm	<b>January 5, 2019</b> Jean Baylor r/b Bob & Donna Menta
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>January 6, 2019 (Feast of the Epiphany)</b> Robert LaPata r/b Nick Picciano
10:30am	Louise Pigliacelli r/b Her Husband, Frank 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 22/23 and Christmas will be posted in next week's bulletin as this issue was submitted on December 20<sup>th</sup>.**

<b>December 15/16, 2018 Offertory Collection:</b>	<b>\$4,949</b>
<b>2018-2019 Weekly Offertory Target:</b>	<b>\$4,600</b>
<b>Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving:</b>	<b>\$4,213</b>

Next Special Collection / Envelope:  
January 1<sup>st</sup>: "Solemnity of Mary" (St. Stephen)



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, Donna Kane, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSSJ, 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 January 5/6

### Saturday, 4:30pm

EM's: A. Knight, V. Thibault, C. Pandola, A. Cirullo, Sr. Eleanora  
Lectors: B. Mattia, J. Melfi

### Sunday, 9:00am

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

### Sunday, 10:30am

EM's: T. Urgo, D. Urgo, M. Meloni, S. Underwood, T. Scavuzzo  
Lectors: M. Turan, J. Messina

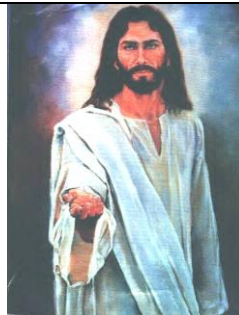


## *The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God*

Mass time for this  
**Holy Day of Obligation:**  
**January 1<sup>st</sup>: 9:00am Mass**

**The Rectory and all Diocesan Offices will be closed on Monday December 31<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

## *A SPECIAL INVITATION*



"O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine."

### **First Friday Adoration January 4, 2019**

"A Genius conceives a masterpiece... He is delighted with it; he will realize it by every possible means and at the cost of any sacrifice.

He is dominated by his masterpiece; he sees it continually.

Well, ( in like manner) fix your mind on our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament and ponder on his love."

*Saint Peter Julian Eymard*

**RSVP to Rosemarie Leone  
@ 856-662-0035.**

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

12/31-Monday-9am Mass. The Rectory and all Diocesan Offices will be closed on New Year's Eve and Day.  
 1/1-Tuesday-9:00am **Mary Mother of God Mass**  
 1/2-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD Classes  
 1/3-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Discussion  
 1/4-First Friday-9am Mass, **Adoration until 7pm**  
 1/5-Saturday-3:45pm Confessions, 4:30pm Mass  
 1/6-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)

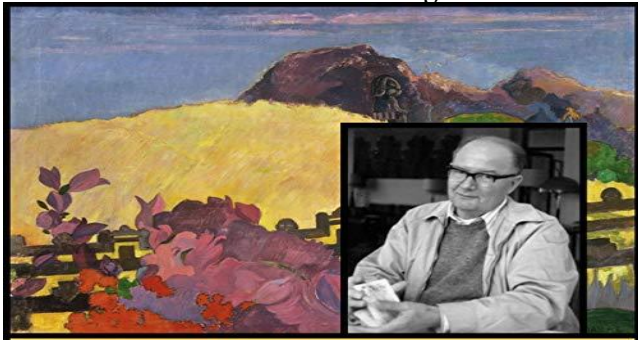
### ***Wednesday Night CCD Classes***

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

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

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

**We'll be discussing:**



**Bernard Lonergan**  
 Christianity's Response to a Secular Age  
 Dr. Gordon A. Rixon, S.J., Ph.D.  
 University of Toronto

### ***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 & info.

### ***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 **January** contact **Diane @ 856-308-8224.**



### 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.



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.

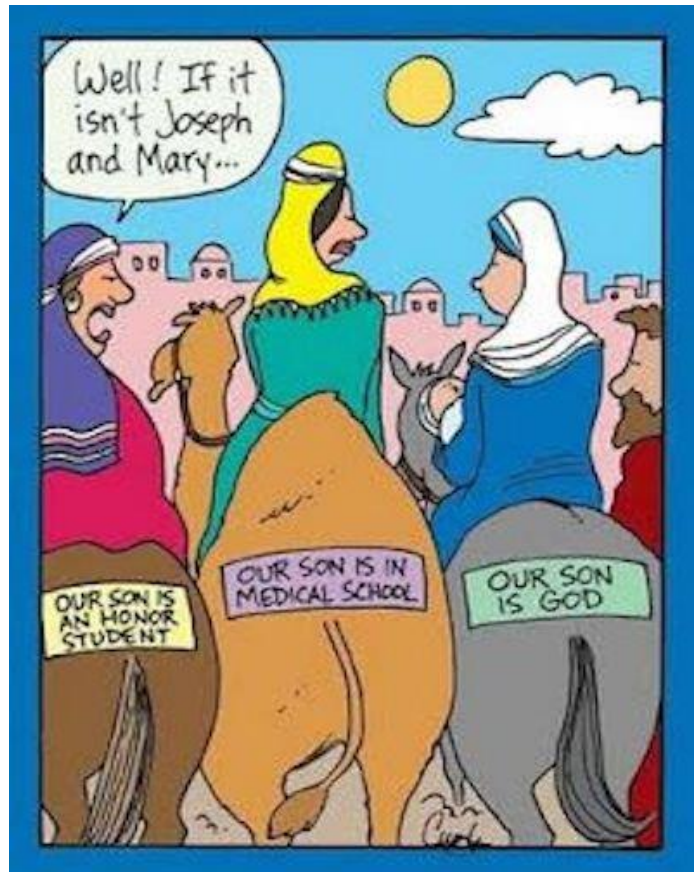
### Works of Mercy – Thank You

Our heartfelt thanks to all the parishioners and families of our Religious Education students for all their very generous gifts of clothing and soap and dental items; Carole from TOGO, who requested the collection and is sending these items back to her homeland, sends "a huge thank you for all the collections at the Church. I am very grateful and May the Lord continue to bless you."

### Email Communications from Parish Staff

Please know that your parish priest and parish staff members will never contact you via email to ask that you provide them with gift cards or assist them financially in a crisis situation. If you receive an email which is seemingly being sent by a priest or staff member requesting financial assistance of any kind, please report it to the parish office immediately.

We use the following email address for official email correspondence: [eccllesia@comcast.net](mailto:eccllesia@comcast.net)



## Did You Receive the Perfect Christmas Gift Last Week?

Jesus is the only perfect Christmas present you will ever receive. His birth is the true meaning of Christmas and the gifts He brings will never disappoint...

### 11 GIFTS THAT JESUS BRINGS

- 1. **The gift of a Savior:** “And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” – Matthew 1:21
- 2. **The gift of Love:** “I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself.” - Jer. 31:3
- 3. **The gift of Grace:** “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” – Ephesians 2:8
- 4. **The gift of Peace:** “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.” – John 14:27
- 5. **The gift of God’s Holy Spirit:** “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you...” – Acts 1:8
- 6. **The gift of a brand new life:** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” – 2 Corinthians 5:17
- 7. **The gift of Freedom from bondage and sin:** “So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.” – Romans 8:1-2
- 8. **The gift of supernatural strength:** “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.” – Philippians 4:13

9. **The gift of Purpose:** “For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” – Jeremiah 29:11

10. **The gift of prayer/ direct access to God:** “And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.”  
-1 John 5:14-15

11. **The gift of Hope:** “I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.” - Romans 15:13

**May God Bless You  
with the True Gifts of Christmas!**



### 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.



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