

# 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

THE SECOND SUNDAY  
IN ADVENT:

PEACE



## *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 4, 2016 – The Second Sunday in Advent***

**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>SUNDAY</b>	<b>December 4, 2016</b>
9:00am	Joseph Papiano r/b Jim Pennestri
10:30am	In Memory of the Deceased Members of The Knights of Columbus Counsel 3512
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>December 5, 2016</b>
9:00am	Communion Service
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>December 6, 2016</b>
9:00am	Msgr. Felix M. O'Neill r/b People of the Parish
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>December 7, 2016</b>
9:00am	Karen Wise r/b Maureen Poulson
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>December 8, 2016 (Immaculate Conception)</b>
9:00am/Novena	Joseph Adamo r/b Anthony & Rosemarie Leone
7:00pm	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>December 9, 2016</b>
9:00am	Joseph Fagan, Sr. r/b William & Mary Sullivan
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>December 10, 2016</b>
4:30pm	Terry Doran r/b Alex Rende
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>December 11, 2016</b>
9:00am	Grace Finnegan r/b Nick Picciano
10:30am	Carmela & Michael Furlano r/b Roseann & Bob DiGiovanni John (Jack) H. Lyons r/b M/M Ed Ciccarone Joseph Fagan, Sr. r/b Lou & Susan Esola Vincent Pecora r/b Dorothea Dodds



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.

November 26/27, 2016 Offertory Collection:	<b>\$4,536</b>
November 19/20, 2016 Offertory Collection:	<b>\$4,571</b>
2016-2017 Weekly Collection Target:	<b>\$4,600</b>
Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving:	<b>\$4,570</b>

Special Collections/Envelopes:

December 11<sup>th</sup>: "Retired Religious" (Diocese)

December 4-25: Christmas Flower Memorials (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:

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. 8/10/11

*\* Designates Alternate Server*

### Thursday, 7:00pm – Immaculate Conception

EM's: T. Scavuzzo, R. Davis, M. Meloni, L. D'Alessandro  
Lectors: P. Cioe, J. Melfi

### Saturday, 4:30pm

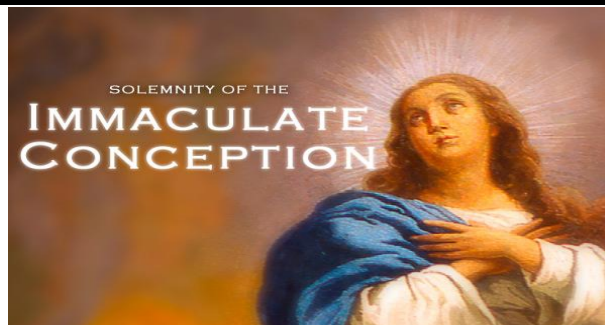
Altar Server: S. Surgner  
EM's: A. Rende, A. Knight, V. Thibault, C. Pandola, \*A. Cirullo  
Lectors: B. Mattia, P. Nolte

### Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: Q. Nguyen, J. Vales  
EM's: M. Miller, E. Nolte, L. McHugh, L. D'Alessandro, \*T. Modzier  
Lectors: W. McHugh, D. Heck

### Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: C. Gardner, M. Daniels, C. Nicdao  
EM's: D. Urgo, T. Urgo, T. Mattera, G. Tutwiler, \*J. Messina  
Lector: P. Cioe



On Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation.

**Mass times on Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup> are 9am & 7pm.**

*\*The Rectory & all Diocesan Offices will be closed Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>.*

*\*The Rectory will close at 3:30pm on Wed. Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>*

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

12/5-Monday-9am Communion Service, 11am Ladies Bible Study  
 12/6-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7pm Liturgy Board  
 12/7-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD Classes  
 12/8-Thur.-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Mass-Immaculate Conception  
 12/9-Friday-9am Mass  
 12/10-Saturday-3:45pm Confessions, 4:30pm Mass  
 12/11-Sunday-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*

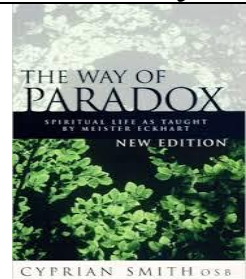
#### **To Jesus Through Mary - 7:00-7:30pm @ Church**

The Holy Name of Mary is powerful. 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 December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm.

### *Thursday Night Discussion Club*



Will continue  
**December 15<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*

**Our Cup Runneth Over!**

**Until further notice, we can't accept any more books!**

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

If you would like to volunteer in the library, please contact Gail Tutwiler (gtutg@aol.com), Beth Picknally Camden (bethcorkabi@gmail.com) or Mary Sharon Monaco (monacofamily4@comcast.net; 609-238-1968).

## *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).



# WILL YOU TAKE A BABY BOTTLE.....AGAIN???



## And help the homeless, pregnant mothers of Good Counsel Homes?

This weekend, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, Good Counsel Homes will be sharing the story of what your ongoing support financial support has allowed us to do in our Good Counsel Home. The Riverside home, opened for over 5 years now, has witnessed the birth to 59 babies!! You will simply be asked to take a baby bottle home with you, fill it with spare change, dollars, checks, or whatever your means allow, and return it within the next two weeks. If you would like to volunteer at our home, please call JoAnn DiNoia-(609-387-2928) or email [joann\\_dinoia@goodcounselhomes.org](mailto:joann_dinoia@goodcounselhomes.org). Thank you for your prayers and support.

## FIRST MOTHER FAMILY OUTREACH

Women from our diocese have formed a compassionate outreach for mothers who have not raised their firstborn children. In this Year of Mercy 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/>

**Paul VI Dance Audition Clinic:** Saturday, December 10, 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Don't miss this unique opportunity to work with coaches and choreographers from the Paul VI Dance Teams, in our beautiful dance studio. Open to dancers 7<sup>th</sup> grade and above, our clinic is designed for dancers who are auditioning for a dance team, or want to improve audition skills. Fee for the clinic is \$60, payable the day of the event. For more information, and to reserve your spot, visit the front page of the Paul VI website, [www.pvihs.org](http://www.pvihs.org). Questions about the dance clinic? Please email Ms. Michele Diegel, [mdiegel@pvihs.org](mailto:mdiegel@pvihs.org)

**Paul VI Slam Dunk Tours:** The Paul VI Eagles are ready to soar! Please join us for a special pre-game tour of our beautiful school, followed by an exciting Paul VI home basketball game:

**Paul VI Boys vs. Eastern, Saturday, January 7, 2017, Tours at noon, Game at 1 PM**

**Paul VI Girls vs. Lenape, Saturday, January 14, 2017, Tours at noon, Game at 1 PM**

Reservations are appreciated; please visit [www.pvihs.org](http://www.pvihs.org) for more information and to make a reservation. Students must be accompanied by an adult. Please come to the gym entrance at tour time; guests will receive complimentary game passes.

Questions? Please email Mrs. Kathleen Stewart, Director of Admissions at [kstewart@pvihs.org](mailto:kstewart@pvihs.org).

**Art & Environment** is seeking volunteers to help prepare the church for the Christmas Liturgical Season.

**Dec 17th** (Saturday) 9:30 am students seeking service hours to help transport items from rectory to the church

**Dec 22nd** (Thursday) 7 pm to begin preparation of the church

**Dec 23rd** (Friday) 9:30am to finish preparation of the church (if needed)

Please indicate your availability on the sign up sheets in the back of the church. Thank you in advance,

**Maria Haas, Art & Environment Ministry**

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**First Reading:** Isaiah 11:1-10 - A descendent of Jesse will usher in a time of peace.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17- The Messiah will bring justice and peace to the nations.

**Second Reading:** Romans 15:4-9 - Both Jews and Gentiles glorify God for the salvation found in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 3:1-12 - John the Baptist appears in Judea preaching a message of repentance.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: ". . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

# The 2016-2017 Liturgical Calendar at a Glance

## Oh Come All Ye Faithful!

Please join us  
this year to celebrate  
the Christmas Season

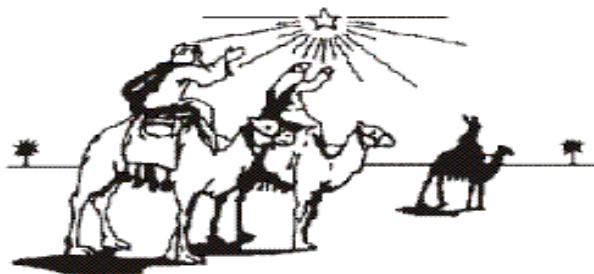
### ANGEL TREE



This year our Angel Tree Gifts will benefit the Needy Residents of our Pennsauken community and you will choose the gender and age (Newborn-15yrs.) of your child recipient. Please specify these details on the back of the Angel Tag. Kindly place your UNWRAPPED gifts under the tree by Friday December 16<sup>th</sup>. All NEW TOYS are acceptable and GIFT CARDS are suitable for older children.

\*NOTE: This year Pennsauken Township prefers NO CLOTHES.

## Advent / Christmas Schedule



**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
Thursday, December 8, 2016, 9:00am & 7:00pm Mass

**PENITENTIAL SERVICE**  
Tuesday, December 20, 2016, 7:30pm  
(After the Rosary)

**CONFESSION**  
Saturdays: December 10, 17, 3:45-4:15pm

**CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES**  
Saturday, December 24, 2016  
4:30 PM Children's Mass & 10:00 PM Vigil

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES**  
Sunday, December 25, 2016  
9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

**ST. STEPHEN'S FEAST DAY MASS**  
Monday, December 26, 2016  
9:00 AM

**NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS**  
Saturday, December 31, 2016  
4:30PM

**NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES**  
Sunday, January 1, 2017  
9:00 AM & 10:30AM

**ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES**  
March 1, 2017 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

**LENTEN FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & April 7 at 7pm

**LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE**  
To Be Determined

**2017 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**  
April 9: Palm Sunday Masses-9am & 10:30am  
April 13: Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper-7pm  
April 14: Good Friday Liturgical Service - 3pm  
April 15: Holy Saturday Easter Vigil - 8pm  
April 16: Easter Sunday Masses - 9am & 10:30am

**FIRST PENANCE**  
To Be Determined

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**  
Sunday, May 7, 2017

**CONFIRMATION**  
To Be Determined by the Bishop

**FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**  
Thursday, May 25, 2017 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

**FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION**  
Tuesday, August 15, 2017 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

**FALL HARVEST MASS**  
Saturday, October 28, 2017 - 4:30 PM

**FEAST OF ALL SAINTS DAY**  
Wednesday, November 1, 2017 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

**MASS OF REMEMBRANCE**  
Sunday, November 5, 2017 - 10:30 AM

**THANKSGIVING VIGIL MASS**  
Wednesday, November 22, 2017 - 7:00 PM