

St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Pastoral Staff

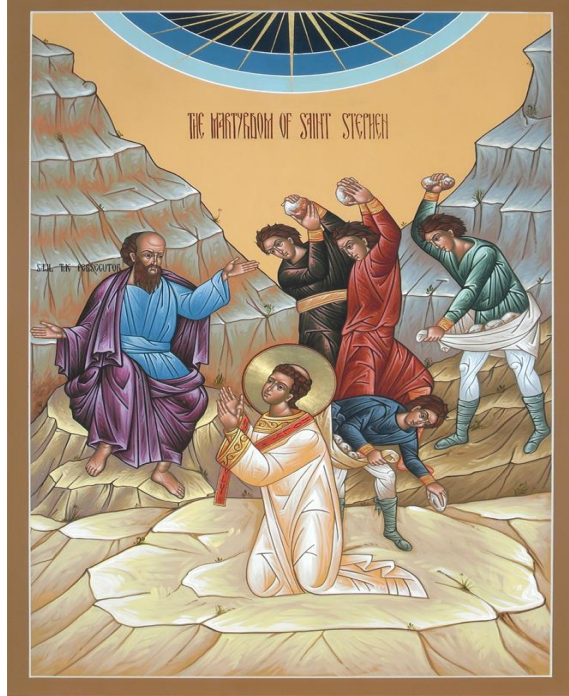
Reverend Daniel M. Rocco
Pastor

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 thru 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
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 6, 2015 – The Second Sunday of 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, 2nd Sunday @ Noon.

Baptism – 3rd 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 2016 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

SUNDAY	December 6, 2015
9:00am	Joseph Papiano r/b Jim Pennestri
10:30am	Stanley Booth r/b Josephine Marzilli
MONDAY	December 7, 2015
9:00am	<i>Communion Service</i>
TUESDAY	December 8, 2015 (Immaculate Conception)
9:00am	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
7:00pm	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
WEDNESDAY	December 9, 2015
9:00am	Jill Henry r/b Kathy & Frank Brown
THURSDAY	December 10, 2015
9:00am+Novena	Benito Ciarrocchi r/b Mrs. Jean Gugliotta
FRIDAY	December 11, 2015
9:00am	Rev. Conrad H. Stoegbauer r/b People of the Parish
SATURDAY	December 12, 2015
4:30pm	Timothy Sambucci r/b The Pandola Family
SUNDAY	December 13, 2015
9:00am	Frank Szalagiewicz r/b Joseph & Jeanne Gerst
10:30am	Daniel Kirschner r/b Anthony Midili & Family



The Sanctuary Candle this week is *In Memory of Marge Leone.*

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 28/29, 2015 Collection:	\$3,981
November 21/22, 2015 Collection:	\$4,815
2015-2016 Weekly Collection Target:	\$5,000
Actual Year-To-Date Weekly Average:	\$4,573

Special Collections:

December 13, 2015: "Retired Religious Fund" (Diocese)
December 13-20, 2015: "Christmas Flowers" (Church)
(Posted as a courtesy to our 20+ E-Givers)

Remember Our Sick

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, Eleanor Becker, Joy Bowman, Jackie Cardwell, Yolanda Colafrancesco, John Coyle, Dot Corbett, Joe DeLorenzo, Esther DeMarco, Doris Denuel, Fanny DiBenedetto, Fred Dickson, Patricia Domer, Joseph Fagan, Joe Flacco, Joanna Galdo, Richard Gentile, Jr., Richard Gentile, Sr., Joseph Gerst, Nancy Gogel, Pat Gruber, Pricilla Handy, Gregory Hayes, Chuck Hillwig, Thomas Holmes Sr., John Howard, Debra Knapp, Donna Krawchuk, Janet LaFreda-Hopkins, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Wanda Loperfido, Joann Lunsford, Harry & Mary Ellen Mayer, Cecilia McGonigle, Denise McHugh, Dorothy McPeak, Esther Nunez, Florence O'Connor, Margie Ogden, Jennifer Osborn, Savaelina Perez, Frank Pigliacelli, Tanya Robinson & Son Joseph, Rosemarie Rosolia, Dean & Marie Russell, Nancy Sonnie, Steven Stepanavage, Joanne Szumowski, Mary Terzini, Shannon Teuber Myles, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Donna Jean Vinciquerro, Mary VivIELlo, Doreen Warble, Barbara Weingard.

Ministry Schedule for December 8/12/13

Monthly schedules are also available on our website.

** Designates Alternate Server*

Tuesday, 7:00pm Immaculate Conception

Altar Server: TBD

EM's: T. Scavuzzo, R. Davis, E. Nolte, L. D'Alessandro

Lectors: J. Melfi, R. Taylor

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Server: S. Surgner

EM's: B. Taylor, V. Thibault, J. Heiningner, L. Heiningner, *Sr. Eleanora

Lector: B. Mattia

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Server: Q. Nguyen

EM's: T. Modzier, R. Davis, J. Rosario, L. Rosario, *R. Leone

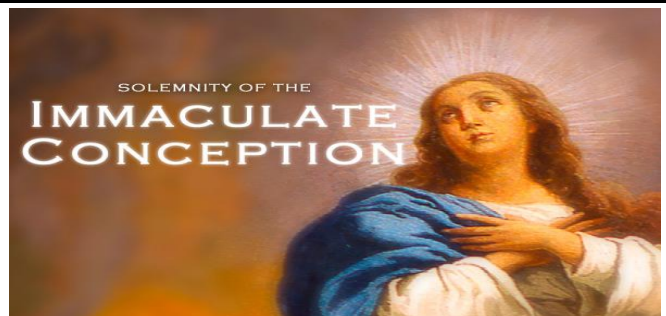
Lectors: W. McHugh, Jared Rivera

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Server: J. Bui

EM's: M. Meloni, J. Messina, Geo. Tutwiler, T. Urgo, *D. Urgo

Lectors: R. Aleszczyk, C. Aleszczyk



On Tuesday, December 8th, we will celebrate The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation.

Mass times on Tuesday December 8th are 9am & 7pm.
The Rectory & all Diocesan Offices will be closed Dec. 8th.

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

- 12/7-Monday-9am Communion Service, 1pm Bible Study
- 12/8-Tuesday-9am & 7pm Mass - Immaculate Conception
- 12/9-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD Classes
- 12/10-Thurs.-9am Mass/Novena, 6pm Choirs, 7pm Discussion
- 12/11-Friday-9am Mass
- 12/12-Saturday-3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
- 12/13-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass


Ladies Bible Study


Come and join the St. Stephen Ladies' Bible Study for reflections in God's word, lively discussions, and fun!

When: Mondays from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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

Please contact Eileen Heide with any questions.
Phone: 662-8046 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 9th at 6:15pm.

Thursday Night Discussion Club

Continues this Thursday, December 10th @ 7pm
in the Sr. Bernadette Parish Center



We are discussing:
***Galileo:
 Science, Faith,
 and the
 Catholic Church***
 Dr. Guy Consolmagno, S.J., Ph.D.

First Friday Adoration

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be
**Friday, February 5, 2016,
 9:45am-7:00pm.**



Art & Environment

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.

St. Stephen's Prayer Line Belongs to You



We are here to pray for you.
 For Prayer Requests for the month of December, please contact
Betty @ 856-662-6928.

Parish Library

The Parish Library is now open in the Parish Center for all your Fall 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 donate spiritual and religious books to the collection, please drop them off at the Parish center in the Library. 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).



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.

Prayer Pavers to Our Lady

PAVER UPDATE: All pavers from the fall update have been installed!!! A schedule for the spring update will be forthcoming. Thank you for your support.

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.

Oh Come All Ye Faithful!

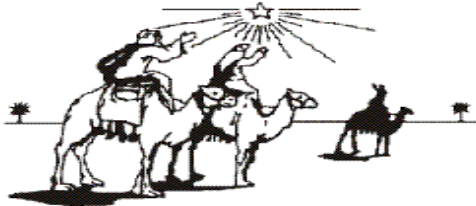
Please join us
this year to celebrate
the Christmas Season



ANGEL TREE

This year our Angel Tree Gifts will benefit the Needy Residents of our Pennsauken community and YOU will choose the gender, size (if clothes) 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 **Sunday December 13th**. All **NEW TOYS** are acceptable and **GIFT CARDS** are suitable for older children. Thank You!

Advent / Christmas Schedule



St. Stephen's Choir @ St. Mary's Nursing Home
Sunday, December 6, 2015, 2:00pm

Immaculate Conception Holy Day
Tuesday, December 8, 2015, 9:00am & 7:00pm Mass

St. Stephen's Choir Christmas Concert
Friday, December 11, 2015, 7:00pm

PENITENTIAL SERVICE
Tuesday, December 15, 2015, 7:30pm
(After the Rosary)

CONFESSION
Saturdays: December 5, 12, 19, 3:45-4:15pm

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES
Thursday, December 24, 2015
4:00 PM Children's Mass, 6:00 PM & 10:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
Friday, December 25, 2015
10:30 AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS
Thursday, December 31, 2015
9:00AM regular Mass
4:30PM Vigil for Mother of God Holy Day

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS
Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God Holy Day
Friday, January 1, 2016, 9:00 AM Mass

The Second Week of Advent

The Bethlehem Candle

The second candle is a symbol of the preparations being made to receive and cradle the Christ Child in Bethlehem.

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from old, from ancient days." -Micah 5:2

Support Elderly Religious

A parishioner writes, "As a Catholic school student from grades K-12, I was formed to be the person I am by many religious brothers and sisters, and I am forever grateful." Show your appreciation for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. **Please give generously to next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.**

Are You an RN?

If you are, then you have the unique perspective of seeing how the mind, body and spirit work together for the overall health and wellbeing of each patient. It is this combination of physical, emotional and spiritual care that heals the whole person. If this sounds like something you believe in, you may want to explore the ministry of Parish Nursing. This ministry continues the healing work of Jesus in your faith community by tending to the needs of its people.

If you are interested in being part of a Parish Nurse ministry, please contact Mary Anne Serra, RN at (856) 583-6120 or email MaryAnn.Serra@camdendiocese.org.

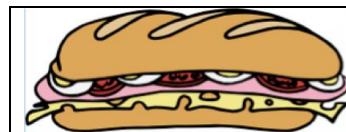
Food Donations Thank You

The Social Justice Ministry would like to extend a very heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all of St. Stephen Parishioners who continually bring food to St. Stephen's Church. Our donations go to Mary, Queen of All Saints Parish's (St. Cecilia's) Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. They have a weekly food pantry that benefits many people who live in Pennsauken. The work that is done there is truly remarkable.

The Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry recently sent the following note: "Thank you so much for your constant and generous support of our food pantry. Many local families have benefitted from you thoughtfulness. May God bless you for your kindness." Again, thank you for your continued support.

Knights' Roses For Life Thank You

Knights of Columbus Council #3512 sincerely thanks the parishioners of St. Stephen's Church for their generosity in giving to our annual, world-wide Roses For Life collection the weekend of 11/21-22. Total receipts were \$371.78, all of which goes to help fund the K of C's many pro-life programs, which have saved the lives of a great number of unborn babies. Let us pray for this and all pro-life efforts everywhere.



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 **December 12 & 13**. For info call 856-227-4980.



Good Counsel
Homes & Hope for Babies & Mothers

**GOOD COUNSEL
IS MORE THAN
GRATEFUL...**

The Mom's, babies and staff of Good Counsel Homes are so very grateful for your support and genuine caring for our mission. There were over 250 baby bottles taken by the parishioners of St. Stephen's and many volunteers expressed the desire to help in our home! A special thank you to the young adults who helped hand out the bottles at all the Masses. **For your convenience, you may drop off your baby bottles in the plastic bins that have been placed near the exit of the church by the weekend of December 12/13.** 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 and await for the birth of Our Lord and Savior. Thank you for your continual support and may God continue to bless you and your loved ones.

JoAnn DiNoia, Good Counsel Homes, 609-387-2928
joann_dinoia@goodcounselhomes.org



EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

DEC. 8, 2015 - NOV. 20, 2016



**"IT WILL BE A HOLY YEAR OF MERCY."
- POPE FRANCIS**

In April, Pope Francis announced in his papal bull "Misericordiae Vultus," that a Year of Mercy will begin on December 8, 2015. This is the first jubilee since 2000 and the first extraordinary jubilee since 1983, when Pope John Paul II announced the Holy Year of the Redemption.

Pope Francis, since the beginning of his papacy, has made mercy one of the pillars of his pontificate. In his first Angelus address, the Holy Father proclaimed mercy as shown by Christ. "Jesus' attitude is striking: we do not hear the words of scorn, we do not hear words of condemnation, but only words of love, of mercy, which are an invitation to conversation. 'Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again.' Ah! Brothers and Sisters, God's face is the face of a merciful father who is always patient. Have you thought about God's patience, the patience He has with each one of us? That is His mercy. He always has patience, patience with us, He understands us, He waits for us, He does not tire of forgiving us if we are able to return to Him with a contrite heart."

In the document, Pope Francis explained that mercy is not only an act of God, but something all of us should be practicing in our daily lives. "We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness."

It is no coincidence that the opening of the Year of Mercy falls on both the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the 50th anniversary of the closing of Vatican II. Said Pope Francis, "The Council Fathers strongly perceived, as a true breath of the Holy Spirit, a need to talk about God to men and women of their time in a more accessible way. The walls which for too long had made the Church a kind of fortress were torn down. It was a fresh undertaking for all Christians to bear witness to their faith with greater enthusiasm and conviction."

Events throughout the Year of Mercy will reemphasize and promote both the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that all Catholics are encouraged to undertake.

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Admonish the sinner
- Instruct the ignorant
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive all injuries
- Pray for the living and the dead

The Vatican will be celebrating the Jubilee Year of Mercy in a variety of ways, including the opening of the Holy Doors of the four papal basilicas in Rome, establishing the Missionaries of Mercy who will be the Holy Father's personal heralds of joy and forgiveness, granting various indulgences for those who sacrifice and seek forgiveness during the holy year, and encouraging all Catholics to both minister to those living on the outermost fringes of society and to embark on a pilgrimage during the Year of Mercy.

The Diocese of Camden will formally celebrate the Year of Mercy by opening Holy Doors at specific churches throughout the region, hosting events and educational opportunities that give instruction on mercy, and reinforcing the Holy Father's various initiatives as they are announced.

The Jubilee year will close with the Solemnity of Christ the King on November 20, 2016.

FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION ON THE JUBILEE OF MERCY
WWW.CAMDENDIOCESE.ORG/MERCY/

