

# St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109



*Different Histories...*

*One Faith...*

*Different Ages...*

## *Pastoral Staff*

Reverend Daniel M. Rocco, Pastor  
Permanent Deacon Anthony Cioe  
Mrs. Patricia Higgins, Principal  
Mrs. Suzanne Underwood, CRE

**Emergencies: (856) 261-9336**  
*(Accidents, Dying or Death)*



## *Contact Information*

Rectory: (856) 662-9338  
Rectory Fax: (856) 662-4679  
School: (856) 662-5935  
School Fax: (856) 662-6128

Email: [eccllesia@comcast.net](mailto:eccllesia@comcast.net)  
Web: [www.StStephensPennsauken.com](http://www.StStephensPennsauken.com)

## *December 8, 2013 – The Second Sunday of Advent*

### Mass Schedule

**Daily:** Monday thru Friday – 9:00am

**Weekend Obligation:**

Saturday – 4:30pm (**Reconciliation 3:45pm-4:15pm**)

Sunday – 9:00am & 10:30am

**Children's Liturgy:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday @ 9:00am

**Holy Days:** 9:00am & 7:00pm

**Miraculous Medal Novena** – Every Thursday after 9am Mass.

**Eucharistic Exposition** – First Friday from 9:30am-7pm.

**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 1 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.

**Tribunal Parish Advocate**-Dc. Anthony Cioe- (856) 227-2145

**Rectory Office Hours**-Monday thru Friday 9am-4:30pm  
*(Closed all Holy Days of Obligation & National Holidays)*

### 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.*

**Parish Membership** – Moving INTO the parish all are asked to register as soon as possible.

Moving WITHIN or OUT – kindly notify rectory of changes.

**Please consider remembering St. Stephen's in your Will or Estate Planning.** There are financial benefits to do so while still alive and, in death, the spiritual reward of helping to continue the Church's mission of preaching Jesus Christ.

**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.

**Our Parish Family invites all of its members to participate fully in our spiritual and social life.**

# 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 2014 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

**MONDAY** December 9, 2013 (Not a Holy Day of Obligation)  
9:00am Mary Gundersen r/b M/M Charles Gugliotta

**TUESDAY** December 10, 2013  
9:00am Thomas Anderson r/b Jack & Maryanne Merritt

**WEDNESDAY** December 11, 2013  
9:00am People of the Parish – Living & Deceased

**THURSDAY** December 12, 2013  
9:00am+Novena Stephen L. Dombrowski r/b Family

**FRIDAY** December 13, 2013  
9:00am People of the Parish – Living & Deceased

**SATURDAY** December 14, 2013  
4:30pm Deacon Ernest Picknally r/b Joseph & Jeanne Gerst

**SUNDAY** December 15, 2013  
9:00am Margaret Phyllis Johnson  
r/b The Knights of Columbus Council 3512  
  
10:30am Jack Miller r/b Frank & Margaret Salerno, Sr.  
Rev. William F. Collins r/b People of the Parish  
Lillian Tomarchio  
r/b The Browning Road Senior Citizens Club

## 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.

Nov. 30/Dec. 1, 2013 Attendance/Collection	519/	\$5,958
Dec. 1 / 2, 2012 Comparison	477/	\$5,445
Nov. 23/24, 2013 Attendance/Collection	455/	\$4,260
Nov. 24/25, 2012 Comparison	499/	\$4,965

2013-2014 Budgeted Weekly Collection:	\$5,588
Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average:	\$4,976

### Diocesan Special Collection:

12/8/13: "Religious Retirement Fund"

### Stewardship Reflection "Stewardship Gifts"

"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." MATTHEW 3:10B

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter and junk. As we are immersed in the Holiday shopping season now might be a good time to evaluate our **Stewardship**. What gifts do we give to God?



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:

- Dolly Angelastro, Mary Caruso, Yolanda Colafrancesco,
- Dot Corbett, Patricia DeLorenzo, Esther DeMarco,
- Fanny DiBenedetto, Joe DiLorenzo, Patricia Domer, Diane Fesko,
- Joe Flacco, Joanna Galdo, Richard Gentile, Jr.,
- Richard Gentile, Sr., Thomas Holmes Sr., Donna Krawchuk,
- Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Marge Leone, Wanda Loperfido,
- Maureen Lukasiak, Joann Lunsford, John Maggioncalda,
- Harry & Mary Ellen Mayer, Dorothy McPeak, Marie Melchiorre,
- Debbi Morrissey, Freda Novak, Esther Nunez, Jennifer Osborn,
- Betty Picciano, Frank Pigliacelli, Rosemarie Rosolia,
- Theresa Sauer, Loretta Stayton, Kathleen Stehm,
- Steven Stepanavage, Mary Terzini, Shannon Teuber Myles,
- Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro,
- John Vindick, Mary Vивиello, Anthony Vocale.

## Ministry Schedule for December 14/15

(Monthly Schedules are also posted on our website)

\* Designates Alternate Server

### Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Servers: J. Mack, S. Caban

EM's: A. Cirullo, A. Pandola, C. Pandola, Sr. Eleanora, \*B. Taylor

Lectors: L. Heining, J. Heining

### Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: O. Graff, J. Bui, V. Bui

EM's: S. Marano, L. McHugh, M. Miller, T. Modzier, \*S. Mufalli

Lectors: J. Messina, W. McHugh

### Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: The Hughes Family

EM's: T. Link, T. Mattera, M. Meloni, J. Messina, \*C. Otto

Lectors: P. Cioe, E. Mattera

## 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

Many Thanks to the  
**Filacheck and Daniels families**  
for lighting the Advent Candle last weekend.

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

12/9-Monday-9am Mass, 1pm Bible Study, 7pm Finance Council  
12/10-Tuesday- 9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7:30pm RCIA  
12/11-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD  
12/12-Thurs.-9am Mass/Novena, 6pm Choirs, 7pm Discussion Club  
12/13-Friday-9am Mass, 5:30pm FOCCUS  
12/14-Saturday-9am Men's Group, 3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass  
12/15-Sunday-9am School Mass, 10:30am Mass

*A Message for All the Ladies:*



God values you, and  has a plan for your life!

***Monday Ladies' Bible Study***

1-2:30pm in the Stonegate Conference Room.

***To Jesus Through Mary Tuesday Night***

***Rosary 7:00-7:30pm @ Church***

Your devotion to the Blessed Mother was expressed by the response to the Knights' "Prayer Pavers to Our Lady".

Continue your devotion – Come pray with us!

"To recite the Rosary is nothing other than to contemplate with Mary the face of Jesus."

Blessed John Paul II, Apostolic Letter on the Rosary

***Wednesday Night CCD Classes***

Continue this Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6:15pm.

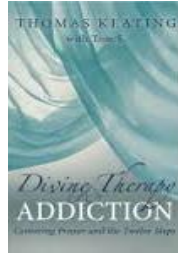
***Thursday Night***

***Discussion Club***

Continues December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Parish Center.

We are discussing

"Divine Therapy & Addiction" by Fr. Thomas Keating, OCSO



***First Friday Adoration***

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be

**Friday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:45am-7:00pm.**



"The worship given to the Trinity of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...must fill our churches also outside the timetable of Masses...Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Him in adoration and in contemplation that is full of faith and ready to make reparation of the great faults and crimes of the world. May our adoration never cease." -Blessed John Paul II

***Saturday 9am Men's Prayer Group***

Please join us for our Men's Scripture/Prayer Group. We meet every Saturday morning at 9am for one-half hour in the Parish Center Meeting Room. Info: Joe Fagan-662-5908.

***CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS AND STUDENT VOLUNTEERS***

The ministry of Art & Environment is seeking volunteers to help prepare our church for the Christmas Liturgical season. Kindly consider helping on the dates below. Students please bring your paperwork to document service hours.

**Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> 9:30 am**

**Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> 11:45 am (after the 10:30 mass)**

**Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:30 am if needed**

**Jan 12<sup>th</sup> 11:45 am (after the 10:30 am mass)**

Look for sign-up sheets in the back of the church on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Questions call Maria @ 665-8393.

***Bereavement Committee***

The Bereavement Committee is seeking volunteers to help minister to those who've recently lost loved ones in our community of faith. To join this special ministry, please call Joy Bowman at 662-4803.

***Council & Board Meetings***

All at 7pm in the Parish Center unless otherwise noted.

**Monday, December 9 Finance Council**

**Monday, December 16 Pastoral Council**

***Prayer Pavers to Our Lady***

**AN ONGOING MEMORIAL!**

Congratulations and thank you to

**Michael and Shelley Eisenhardt,**

**Denise (Garber) Chico, and**

**Mr. and Mrs. Weingard**

on purchasing their pavers!!

**All pavers are now installed and many spaces still available!**

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 in the school office, order forms are on our website and in the rectory office.

Info is available @ [www.ststephenspennsauken.com](http://www.ststephenspennsauken.com)

or by calling Michael Ciarrocca at 856-425-4799.

***Scrip Fundraising Program***

Scrip is available for purchase at the Scrip Table after all weekend Masses and at the rectory during regular business office hours, Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm (excluding Holy Days & Holidays).

***St. Stephen's Prayer Line***

***Belongs to You***



We are here to pray for you. Prayer requests for the month of December, please contact Bernadette @ 854-2928.



# Oh Come All Ye Faithful!

Please join us  
this year to celebrate  
the Christmas Season  
**ANGEL TREE**



Our St. Stephen's School Community  
Angel's were tagged on the tree Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>.  
Kindly place your gifts under the tree by Dec.15<sup>th</sup>  
Script gift cards are available for purchases for age appropriate gifts.

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**Advent/Christmas Schedule**



**PENITENTIAL SERVICE**

**Tuesday, December 17, 2013, 7:30pm**  
(After the Rosary)

**CONFESSION**

**Saturday, December 14 & 21, 2013, 3:45-4:15pm**

**CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES**

**Tuesday, December 24, 2013**  
4:00 PM Children's Mass, 6:00 PM & 10:00 PM

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASS**

**Wednesday, December 25, 2013**  
10:30 AM

**NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS**

**Tuesday, December 31, 2013**  
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**  
**Wednesday, January 1, 2014**  
9:00 AM Mass

## In Loving Memory of



**Roswell D. Holmes, Sr.**

**(Doug)**

**Retired Chief of Police**  
**Camden, NJ**

11/19/1926 – 11/11/2012

*I wish to publicly thank the  
wonderful people of South Jersey and  
St. Stephen Church, Pennsauken, NJ  
for all their Mass Cards, love and support.*

**Mrs. Priscilla B. Handy**

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**ATTENTION USHERS!!**

A Group Photo of the Ushers  
will be taken for the Parish Directory on  
**Sunday, December 15, 2013**  
in the Church between the  
9am & 10:30am Mass, approximately 10:00am.

***Around the Diocese***

***Magical Morning with Santa***  
***at Camden Catholic High School,***

*Presented by the National Honor Society*

**Saturday, December 14, 9-11:30 a.m.** for ages 10 and younger  
(and parents) in the CCHS Cafeteria (300 Cuthbert Road, Cherry Hill). \$5.00 per child includes full breakfast, magic show, Christmas crafts and games, carols and music, face painting, prizes and raffles. And of course, a visit from Santa Claus! For questions or to reserve tickets, email Mr. Jeff Cordner at [jcordner@camdenatholic.org](mailto:jcordner@camdenatholic.org).

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***Gloucester Catholic News***

The Gloucester Catholic Admissions Office announces their **"Ram for a Day"** program! Take the opportunity to experience a day in the life of a Gloucester Catholic student and feel part of the GC family. For information regarding Gloucester Catholic's shadow program, contact Admissions Director, George Bakey, at [gbakey@gchsrams.org](mailto:gbakey@gchsrams.org) or (856)-456-4400, ex 227.

## *State of the Parish – November 24, 2013*

*(As presented at the weekend Masses on November 23/24)*

Good morning/afternoon, my name is (Keith Knight, Rose Davis, Lonnie Monaco) and I am a Trustee/Finance Council member of St. Stephen Parish. As you are all aware, education, in both public and parochial schools in New Jersey, and throughout the Philadelphia Metropolitan area, is facing serious financial difficulties, and particularly, Catholic parishes with elementary schools.

As a result of the continuing decline in paid-student enrollment in our school each year, there is an ongoing need of additional funds required from the parish. From 2007 to 2013 our school enrollment for grades K-8 decreased by 50 students. St. Stephen parish has reached a crisis point. Our current level of income from all sources, including giving by parishioners, tuition paid by school families, and fundraising, cannot support the expense of maintaining both the church and the school. During the past year, support for our school totaled \$164,000, representing both funds drawn from our regular parish income and from our parish reserve account. As a result, we have used virtually all of our parish reserve funds. Compounding the problem is the fact that our regular parish income has declined by 12% compared with last year's level of giving.

Discussions about our financial situation have taken place with all appropriate parish and school groups, including the Finance Council, the school Finance Committee, the Parish Council, and the School Board. We have kept appropriate personnel at the Diocese of Camden, including Bishop Sullivan, fully aware of our situation. As a result, the Diocese is currently in the process of reviewing our current state of finances and we have been advised that they will inform us in the near future of their findings as well as the prospects for supporting the parish and school into the future. We will inform parishioners and school families as soon as we hear back from the Diocese.

We invite any parishioner with concerns or questions to attend an open meeting of the parish Finance Council scheduled for **Monday, December 9 at 7:00PM in the Parish Center.**