

# 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



2ND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

## *Contact Info*

**Rectory Phone**  
(856) 662-9338

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

**Parish Email**  
[ecclesia@comcast.net](mailto:ecclesia@comcast.net)

**Parish Website**  
[StStephensPennsauken.com](http://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 Second Sunday of Advent – December 8, 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 2020 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>December 8, 2019</b>
9:00am	Joseph & Viola Papiano r/b Jim Pennestri
10:30am	William Sauer r/b His Family
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>December 9, 2019</b>
9:00am	Booker T. McKenney r/b People of the Parish
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>December 10, 2019</b>
9:00am	Rev. John F. Bloh r/b People of the Parish
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>December 11, 2019</b>
9:00am	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>December 12, 2019</b>
9:00am/Novena	William J. Schmidt r/b Anthony & Rosemarie Leone
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>December 13, 2019</b>
9:00am	Rev. Patsy C. Amabile r/b People of the Parish
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>December 14, 2019</b>
4:30pm	Peter Tepper, Sr. r/b People of the Parish
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>December 15, 2019</b>
9:00am	Maria Calzonetti (Birthday Remembrance) r/b Family
10:30am	Peggy Driggers r/b Anthony & Susan Midili



## 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.

<b>Nov. 30/Dec. 1 Offertory Collection:</b>	<b>\$3,710</b>
<b>November 23/24 Offertory Collection:</b>	<b>\$4,311</b>
<b>2019-2020 Weekly Offertory Target:</b>	<b>\$4,500</b>
<b>Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving:</b>	<b>\$3,843</b>

**Special Envelopes/Collections:**

**December 8<sup>th</sup>: "Retired Religious Fund"**

**Now thru December 25<sup>th</sup>: "Christmas Flower Memorials"**

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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 18<sup>th</sup>.



**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,
- Nancy Sonnie, Bill Spicher, Rick Taylor, Peggy Tepper,
- Adelaide Travia, Rita Vogt, Barbara Weingard,
- Tom Weingard, Emily Wilson.

### Ministry Schedule – December 14/15

**Saturday, 4:30pm**

**EM's:** A. Knight, V. Thibault, Sr. Eleanora, L. D'Alessandro  
**Lectors:** J. Gerst, J. Melfi

**Sunday, 9:00am**

**EM's:** J. Rosario, L. Rosario, M. Conway, R. Davis  
**Lectors:** M. McHugh, W. McHugh

**Sunday, 10:30am**

**EM's:** D. Urgo, T. Urgo, M. Meloni, G. Tutwiler  
**Lectors:** Joan Rivera, J. Messina

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent "Stewardship Gifts"

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

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter and junk? Our time, our talent and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them, in Stewardship, is our gift back to God. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

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**"Men, let's meet at My House on Sunday before the Game." -God**

# This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

- 12/9-Monday-9am Mass
- 12/10-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary
- 12/11-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD Classes
- 12/12-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Discussion Club
- 12/13-Friday--9am Mass
- 12/14-Saturday-3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
- 12/15-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

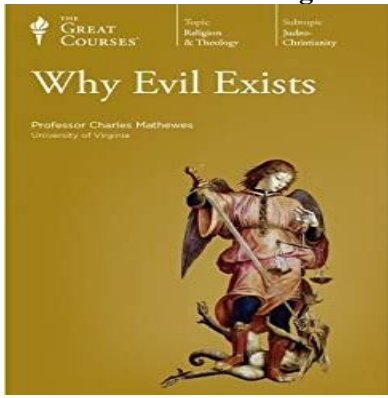
## Wednesday Night CCD Classes

Continue December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm

## Thursday Night Discussion Club

Continues December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Rectory

We'll be discussing:

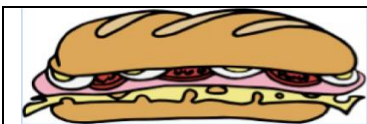


## First Friday Adoration

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 **December 7 & 8**. 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](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 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](mailto:Ciarrocca@juno.com).

## St. Stephen's Prayer Line Belongs to You



**We are here to pray for you.**  
 For Prayer Requests in December contact **Betty @ 856-662-6928**.



### 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**.

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



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

In the gospel of Mathew Jesus calls a little child to him and proclaims "...whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me" (Mathew 18:5).

**Next weekend a representative will be speaking on behalf of Good Counsel Homes at all Masses sharing their mission.** Good Counsel operates Catholic pro-life homes for pregnant women and their children as well as a national toll-free crisis pregnancy help line (800-723-8331). We will be handing out baby bottles to be filled with monetary donations to assist with their valuable lifesaving work. You may also find out more and donate online at [www.goodcounselhomes.org](http://www.goodcounselhomes.org). To help spread the word LIKE Good Counsel Homes on Facebook.

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## Advent Masses Cemetery Visitation & Mass



**SOUTH JERSEY CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**  
Your Choice † Your Privilege † Your Right

During this time of Advent in preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, we will hold special masses at the diocesan managed cemeteries in our mausoleum chapels. We encourage our families to visit our cemeteries and mausoleums and pray for their dearly departed loved ones. All masses are listed on our website. We, the staff of your South Jersey Catholic Cemeteries, wish you a joyous Advent Season and a Merry Christmas. For more information on these masses and locations, please visit [SouthJerseyCatholicCemeteries.org](http://SouthJerseyCatholicCemeteries.org).

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." -John 3:16*

# Reflection on Today's Gospel Reading

*Matthew 3:1-12*

**John the Baptist appears in Judea preaching a message of repentance.**

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 2019-2020 Liturgical Calendar at a Glance

## Oh Come All Ye Faithful!

Join us to celebrate  
the Christmas Season



## ANGEL TREE

Once again this year, you will choose the gender and age (Newborn-15yrs.) of your child recipient. The color of the angel tag does not indicate gender.

Kindly place your UNWRAPPED gifts under the tree by next Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. All NEW TOYS are acceptable and GIFT CARDS are suitable for older children. Destination of the gifts will once again benefit the Needy Families of Pennsauken Township.

## Advent / Christmas Schedule



### FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Monday, December 9, 2019

9:00am Mass

*(Not a Holy Day of Obligation)*

### PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Tuesday, December 17, 2019, 7:30pm

*(After the Rosary)*

### CONFESSION

Saturdays: December 7, 14, 21, 3:45-4:15pm

### CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

5:00 PM Children's Mass & 10:00 PM Vigil

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Wednesday, December 25, 2019

10:30 AM

### ST. STEPHEN'S FEAST DAY MASS

Thursday, December 26, 2019 - 9:00 AM

### NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL

Mary the Mother of God  
Tuesday, December 31, 2019  
5:00PM

### NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

Mary the Mother of God  
Wednesday, January 1, 2020  
9:00 AM

### ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

February 26 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

### LENTEN FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

February 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3 at 7pm

### LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

To Be Determined

### 2020 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 5: Palm Sunday Masses-9am & 10:30am

April 9: Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper-7pm

April 10: Good Friday Liturgical Service - 3pm

April 11: Holy Saturday Easter Vigil - 8pm

April 12: Easter Sunday Masses - 9am & 10:30am

### FIRST PENANCE

To Be Determined

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

To Be Determined

### CONFIRMATION

To Be Determined

### FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Thursday, May 21, 2020 - 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

### FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

Saturday, August 15, 2020 - 4:30 PM

### FALL HARVEST MASS

Saturday, October 24, 2020 - 4:30 PM

### FEAST OF ALL SAINTS DAY

Sunday, November 1, 2020 - 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

### MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday, November 1, 2020 - 10:30 AM

### THANKSGIVING VIGIL MASS

Wednesday, November 25, 2020 - 7:00 PM