

# St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

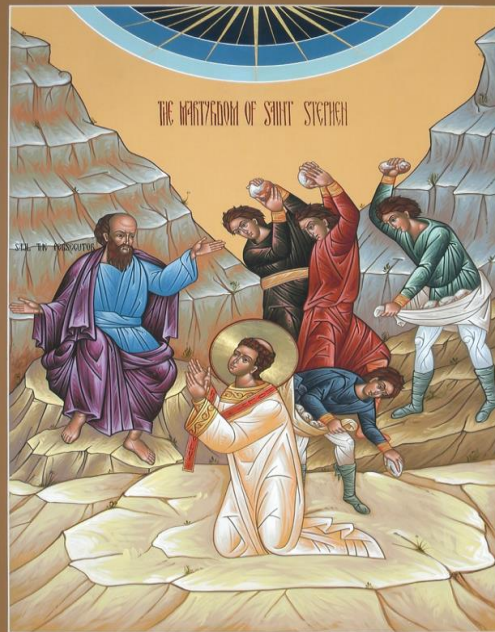
## ***Pastoral Staff***

**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

**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 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 24, 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>February 24, 2019</b>
9:00am	Rosina Midili r/b Her Neighbor, Sharon
10:30am	Bruce Hammerschmidt r/b Bill & Suzanne Underwood Edward Lukaszewicz r/b Elizabeth Gaskill & Family
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>February 25, 2019</b>
9:00am	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>February 26, 2019</b>
9:00am	Victoria Albright Marcos r/b Marge Barnett
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>February 27, 2019</b>
9:00am	Madeline Fiorelli r/b Sal Marano
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>February 28, 2019</b>
9:00am/Novena	Msgr. Joseph F. O'Connell (11 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary) r/b People of the Parish
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>March 1, 2019 (First Friday Adoration)</b>
9:00am	John Sulimay r/b Nick Picciano
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>March 2, 2019</b>
4:30pm	William Pfeiffer r/b The Haas Family
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>March 3, 2019</b>
9:00am	Vincent L. Buondonno r/b His Sister
10:30am	Rosina Midili r/b Duane & Pam Heck



The Sanctuary Candle  
this week is in Memory of  
**Monsignor**  
**Joseph F. O'Connell**

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>February 16/17, 2019 Offertory Collection:</b>	<b>\$4,712</b>
<b>2018-2019 Weekly Offertory Target:</b>	<b>\$4,600</b>
<b>Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving:</b>	<b>\$4,272</b>

Next Special Collection / Envelope:

**March 6<sup>th</sup>:**

**"Ash Wednesday/Church in Eastern Europe"**



**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:**

Dee Afilani, Raymond Amatrudo, Jr., Ted Anderson,  
Mary Bumbalow, Anna Buono, Patrick Carr,  
John Christy, Edmund Ciccarone, Carol Cranmer,  
Fanny DiBenedetto, Joseph Gerst, Pat Gruber,  
Pricilla Handy, Donna Kane, Walter Kittel,  
Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, 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 March 2/3

**Saturday, 4:30pm**

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

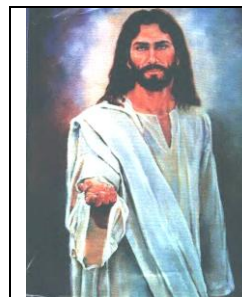
**Sunday, 9:00am**

**EM's:** L. Monaco, M. Monaco, R. Davis, R. Leone, L. D'Alessandro  
**Lectors:** P. Nolte, D. Steinmetz

**Sunday, 10:30am**

**EM's:** T. Urgo, D. Urgo, W. Delfin, T. Angstman, T. Scavuzzo  
**Lectors:** J. Messina, M. Turan

## *First Friday Adoration*



**March 1, 2019**

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

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

**Dan Rather once interviewed Mother Theresa.**

**He asked Mother Theresa about prayer:**

"What do you say to God when you pray?" he inquired.  
"Nothing," replied Mother Theresa, "I just listen."

"What does God say to you?" he responded rather derisively. "Nothing," replied Mother Theresa, "He just listens." That's what prayer before the Blessed Sacrament can become. We are still, silent and we listen to God listening to us. And the more time we spend before the Blessed Sacrament in silence the more we will begin to hear God listen, the more aware we will become of his presence in our lives. -Douglas McManaman

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

- 2/25-Monday-9am Mass
- 2/26-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary
- 2/27-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD Classes
- 2/28-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Discussion
- 3/1- First Friday-9am Mass, Adoration until 7pm
- 3/2- Saturday-3:45pm Confessions, 4:30pm Mass
- 3/3- 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

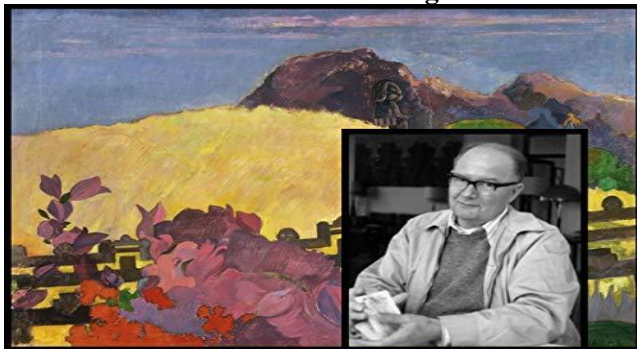
### ***Wednesday Night CCD Classes***

**Continue February 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6:15pm.**

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

**Continues February 28<sup>th</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.



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 February contact **Betty @ 856-662-6928.**

In March contact **Maryann @ 856-333-6525.**

## Black History Month Mass

All are welcome! Bishop Dennis Sullivan is celebrating on **Sunday, February 24, 2:30 p.m.**, at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 176 Stagecoach Rd., Sicklerville 08081. A light reception will follow Mass.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual iRace4Vocations

On **Sunday, March 31, 2019**, join Bishop Sullivan along with priests, religious, our seminarians and many other people from throughout the diocese at Washington Lake Park (626 Hurffville Crosskeys Rd, Sewell, NJ 08080) for our 8<sup>th</sup> annual iRace4Vocations. Bishop Sullivan will celebrate a Mass for Vocations at **1:00pm** followed by our 5k run/1 mile family walk. Come out to pray and race! The day will end with a picnic and family fun. Help us enjoy the day as we raise awareness and offer prayers for an increase in vocations for our diocese. We need our parishioners, all ages, to say yes to this intergenerational day. We need YOU. For more information and to register for the event, visit [camdenpriest.org/irace4vocations/](http://camdenpriest.org/irace4vocations/).

## Paul VI High School News

Paul VI High School presents GODSPELL. Please join us for this stellar production in our beautiful theater. Evening performances will be held at Paul VI on **March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 p.m.**; Matinee is at **3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**. Tickets are \$12 each for **general admission**; information is on the front page of the website, [www.pvihs.org](http://www.pvihs.org).

GODSPELL Dinner Theater at Paul VI. Meet the talented cast and crew of *GODSPELL* at a special dinner theater production held on **Saturday February 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Your admission includes a **buffet dinner from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** featuring appetizers, dinner, dessert and a **reserved seat for the Saturday evening performance at 7:30**. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$13 for children under 10. Information is on the front page of the website, [www.pvihs.org](http://www.pvihs.org).

Paul VI Alumni Night at the Play. PVI Alumni are invited to visit their alma mater for the **Friday March 1<sup>st</sup> 7:30 p.m. performance of GODSPELL**. General admission tickets for \$12 can be reserved by contacting [nestrella@pvihs.org](mailto:nestrella@pvihs.org). To register for the complimentary wine and cheese held before the show from **6:00 to 7:00 p.m.**, please contact the Paul VI Advancement office, [myeager@pvihs.org](mailto:myeager@pvihs.org).

## Camden Catholic High School News

**The Arts at CCHS Presents the 2019 Spring Musical: Guys and Dolls March 8, 9, 15 & 16 at 7:30PM and March 10 and 17 at 2PM**

“Luck be a lady” at this fantastic production featuring one of Broadway’s most beloved shows presented by over 100 CCHS students. Sing, dance and laugh from the bustle of Times Square to the dance clubs of Havana in this show. Alumni Night is March 15 with a complimentary Wine & Cheese Reception at 6PM for all alumni (RSVP [kate.bieg@camdenatholic.org](mailto:kate.bieg@camdenatholic.org)).

Tickets (\$12/person) and Ad & Patrons available online: [www.cchsperformingarts.com](http://www.cchsperformingarts.com) or call 856-663-2247 ext. 120.

**Irish Experience Guest Days** for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are being scheduled at Camden Catholic High School. Limited dates remain in 2019 (February 14 and March 14 and 19). Experience the tradition, feel the passion, catch the spirit of being a student at CCHS, the only school in South Jersey with a Leadership Academy.

Select your day at [www.camdenatholic.org/admissionsevents](http://www.camdenatholic.org/admissionsevents) or contact Janet Indelicato to schedule: [janet.indelicato@camdenatholic.org](mailto:janet.indelicato@camdenatholic.org) or 856-663-2247 ext. 136.

**CCHS Class of 2023: Admissions Applications**  
The Camden Catholic Admissions Office will review applications for admission for the 2019-20 school year on a rolling basis. Apply online today: [www.camdenatholic.org/admissions](http://www.camdenatholic.org/admissions).

**Men of Malvern Retreat - March 8-10**  
Featured Speaker: **Reverend Dennis O'Donnell**

**Gentlemen,**  
Our annual Men of Malvern retreat will be March 8-10. Please put the date on your calendar. Each man has his own reasons for making a retreat. Some enjoy the solitude, some enjoy seeing old friends and some have some very heavy burdens that they need to bring to the Lord. Malvern allows each man to make a retreat on his own terms. Below is a link to a letter written by Joe Conway. Joe has been with our group for several years and has captured the essence of Malvern in this letter. Please take a moment to read the letter: <http://catholicstarherald.org/the-unexpected-benefits-of-being-on-retreat/>.

Please visit [www.malvernretreat.com](http://www.malvernretreat.com) for additional information. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 609-471-0753. I hope each of you make time for this retreat. **Prosit, Joe**

# Reflection on Today's Gospel Reading

## Luke 6:27-38

### **Jesus teaches his disciples to be merciful as God is merciful.**

Today's gospel reading is a continuation of the teaching that began in last Sunday's gospel. We continue to hear Jesus' Sermon on the Plain. Recall that in Luke's Gospel, this teaching is addressed to Jesus' disciples. This is in contrast to the parallel found in Matthew's Gospel, the Sermon on the Mount, in which Jesus' words are addressed to both the disciples and to the crowds.

These words from Jesus' teaching are familiar to us. They constitute the crux and the challenge of what it means to be a disciple: Love your enemies, turn the other cheek, give to those who ask, do unto others, lend without expecting repayment, judge not lest you be judged.

There are several similarities between Luke's and Matthew's report of Jesus' great teaching. Both begin with the Beatitudes. Matthew includes nearly all the content that Luke does; the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel is longer than Luke's Sermon on the Plain. There are, however, differences in language and nuance. For example, Matthew presents this portion of the teaching as a contrast between Jesus' teaching and the teachings of the law and the prophets. This is in keeping with Matthew's concern to address his predominantly Jewish audience. It is likely that Luke omits this contrast because it was unnecessary for the Gentile believers for whom Luke is writing.

Another point of contrast between Matthew and Luke's presentation is the terminology. In Luke, Jesus contrasts the behavior of his followers with the behavior of "sinners." In Matthew, Jesus contrasts the behavior desired with the behavior of tax collectors and Gentiles. Matthew concludes the teaching about love of enemies with the admonition to be perfect as God is perfect; Luke concludes by emphasizing God's mercy.

In both Gospels, Jesus' words challenge those who would follow him to be more like God. God loves us beyond our expectations, beyond anything we can possibly imagine. In response to God's love, we are to love as God loves, beyond expectations and with a depth beyond imagining.