

# St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

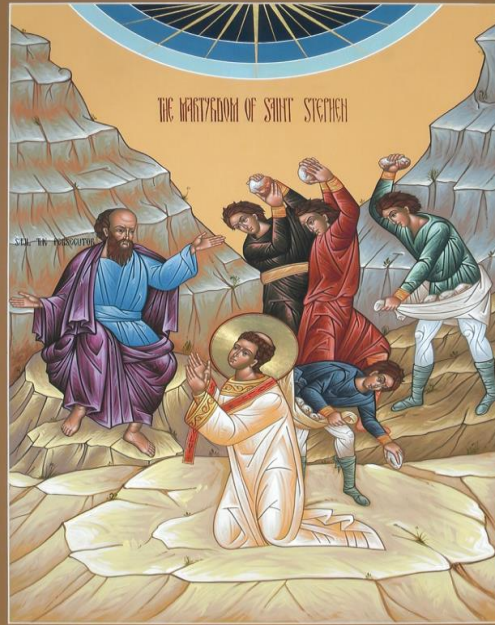
## Pastoral Staff

**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



## 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 Third Sunday of Lent – March 15, 2020*

**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 2021 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>March 15, 2020</b>
9:00am	Louis Buondonno r/b Daughter
10:30am	Rick Taylor r/b Frank & Diane Sinatra Deacon Ernie Picknally r/b His Wife, Lois Francisco Dang, Maria Dang, and Vincent Nguyen r/b Loc Dang
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>March 16, 2020</b>
9:00am	Msgr. John H. Casey r/b People of the Parish
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>March 17, 2020</b>
9:00am	Angelina Pennestri (11 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary) r/b Jim Pennestri
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>March 18, 2020</b>
9:00am	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>March 19, 2020</b>
9:00am/Novena	Peter Faiola r/b Sr. Eleanora Faiola
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>March 20, 2020</b>
9:00am	Msgr. Cornelius O'Leary r/b People of the Parish
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>March 21, 2020</b>
4:30pm	Andrea Derr r/b Joseph & Jeanne Gerst
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>March 22, 2020</b>
9:00am	Rick Taylor r/b Immaculate Conception Council 3512
10:30am	Regina (Jean) Parker r/b Terri Dippolito



The Sanctuary Candle this week is in memory of **Deacon Ernie Picknally**

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.

March 7/8, 2020 Offertory Collection:	\$3,470
2019-2020 Weekly Offertory Target:	\$4,500
Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving:	\$3,947

### Special Collections / Envelopes:

- March 15: Rice Bowl
- March 22: Catholic Relief
- March 22: Easter Flowers
- April 5: Lenten Collection
- April 10: Good Friday / Holy Land
- April 12: Easter Offertory Collection



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, Melissa Connelly, Athan Criaris, Fanny DiBenedetto, Kim DiTheodore, Robert Foltz, 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, John Moffett, Ken Morris, Joy and Ed Morrisson, Yvonne Mulhern, Rich Passaro, Dean & Mary Russell, Louise Siciliano, Nancy Sonnie, Holly Spatz, Bill Spicher, Peggy Tepper, Adelaide Travia, Rita Vogt, Barbara Weingard, Tom Weingard, Emily Wilson.

### Ministry Schedule – March 21/22

#### Saturday, 4:30pm

EM's: A. Cirullo, Sr. Eleanora, L. D'Alessandro, L. McHugh  
Lector: B. Mattia

#### Sunday, 9:00am

EM's: T. Modzier, E. Nolte, M. Conway, R. Davis  
Lectors: Joan Rivera, W. McHugh

#### Sunday, 10:30am

EM's: M. Meloni, G. Tutwiler, S. Underwood, J. Messina, T. Scavuzzo  
Lectors: M. Turan, M. McHugh



2020 House of Charity y-t-d	\$6,860 (14.1%)
2020 House of Charity Goal	\$48,700

Thank you to the 28 families that have given generously thus far. If you have not pledged as yet, extra pledge cards are available in the rectory office and church vestibule.

# This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

- 3/16-Monday-9am Mass
- 3/17-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary
- 3/18-Wed-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD, 7pm Liturgy Board
- 3/19-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Discussion Club
- 3/20-Friday--9am Mass, 7pm Stations of the Cross
- 3/21-Saturday-3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
- 3/22-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

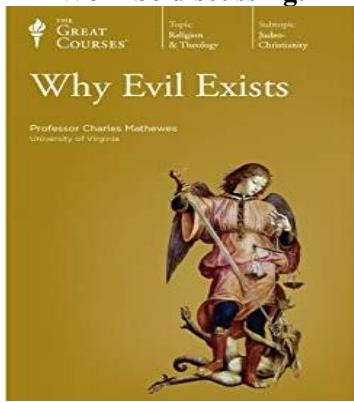
## Wednesday Night CCD Classes

**Continue March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm**

## Thursday Night Discussion Club

**Continues March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Rectory**

**We'll be discussing:**

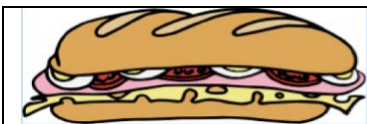


## First Friday Adoration

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be **Friday, April 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 **April 4 & 5.**  
 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 March contact **Bernadette @ 609-220-6359.**



### 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.**

# Join the Seventh Annual DIOCESE OF CAMDEN FAITHFULL FOOD DRIVE

Sunday  
**MARCH  
22**

*In Southern New Jersey...  
1 in 6 people are food insecure (1 in 5 are children)  
20,000 seniors must choose between food and medications  
Help us combat hunger!*

## WHAT WE'RE COLLECTING



- |                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Canned Fruits & Vegetables | Canned Tuna Fish |
| Canned Vegetable Juice     | Canned Chicken   |
| Canned Tomato Products     | Canned Beans     |
| Canned Spaghetti Sauce     | Canned Chili     |
| Cooking Oils               | Peanut Butter    |
| Applesauce                 | Nuts             |
| Canned Fruit Juice         | Dried Oats       |
| Jelly                      | Cereals          |
| Canned Soup/Stews/Chili    | Dry Rice         |
| Dried Herbs & Spices       |                  |

**\*\* NON EXPIRED FOOD ONLY \*\***  
Aim for 'no salt added,' 'low-sodium,' and  
'whole grain' options!

**FOOD DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT ANY CATHOLIC CHURCH  
IN OUR DIOCESE ON MARCH 22! TO LEARN MORE, VISIT:  
[CAMDENDIOCESE.ORG/FAITHFULL](http://CAMDENDIOCESE.ORG/FAITHFULL)**



## CHRISM MASS 2020

Bishop Sullivan invites the faithful of the diocese to join him and the priests of the diocese for the Chrism Mass at 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday, **April 7, 2020** at Our Lady of Hope Parish (Saint Agnes Church) in Blackwood. The Chrism Mass is a celebration of the priesthood and the occasion during which the sacred oils used in the sacramental life of the Church are blessed and the Holy Chrism is consecrated. Your presence and prayerful support will be greatly appreciated.



Kevin Wells, author of "The Priests We Need to Save the Church" will deepen your faith this Lent, and help you understand what all priests, by their vocation, are consecrated and called to be.

# "The Priests We Need to Save The Church"

*Presented by Author Kevin Wells*

**Monday, March 16th at 7:00pm**

**St. Peter Roman Catholic Church**

43 W. Maple Avenue, Merchantville, NJ | Free Will Offering



Guest Speaker **KEVIN WELLS** is a former Major League Baseball writer and award-winning journalist.

In the year 2000, Kevin's uncle, Monsignor Thomas Wells, was stabbed to death in Germantown, MD. Msgr. Wells had been sent by his ordinary, Cardinal James Hickey to clean up an immoral cabal in a parish there.

Since his uncle's murder, Kevin Wells has committed himself to proclaiming a message of priestly holiness and calling the laity to support and encourage their priests.



[www.thepriestsweneed.com](http://www.thepriestsweneed.com)

## Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Bells are ringing for married couples! Not church bells, not school bells, not wedding bells, but faith, knowledge and married love WILL grow if you hear the wake-up bell reminding you to go on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend! The next weekend is **May 1-3, 2020**. Questions? Need more information? Call our application couple at 609-741-8012 or email [applications@wwme-southjersey.org](mailto:applications@wwme-southjersey.org). Visit our website [wwme-southjersey.org](http://wwme-southjersey.org)

## Lenten Schedule



### FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

March 20, 27, and April 3 at 7pm

### LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

Tuesday, April 7 @ 7:30pm  
following the 7pm Rosary



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

#### April 9: Holy Thursday

#### Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm

Blessed Sacrament Reposed until 10:00pm

#### April 10: Good Friday

Reading of the Psalms from Noon to 2:45pm  
Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross  
and Holy Communion 3:00pm

### April 11: Holy Saturday Easter Vigil – 8pm

Rehearsal for Easter Vigil 9:00am,  
Blessing of Food at Noon

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

### Lenten Guidelines

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

## Reflection on Today's Gospel Reading

### **John 4:5-42: Jesus reveals himself to the Samaritan woman at the well.**

On this Sunday and the next two Sundays, we break from reading the Gospel of Matthew to read from John's Gospel. The Gospel of John is the only Gospel not assigned to a particular liturgical year. Instead, readings from John's Gospel are interspersed throughout our three-year liturgical cycle.

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy and most theological found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation as well. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." With no running water, the daily trip to the well by the women of the community was of paramount importance. The women of the town would have traveled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her "many husbands."

Behind the conversation lies the animosity and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included worship of Yahweh, but was also influenced by the worship of other gods. When the Jews refused Samaritan help in the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, the Samaritans eventually built a temple for themselves at Mt. Gerizim (the same mountain mentioned by the woman at the well). Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come.

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshiping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship.

After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people.

The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.