

St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

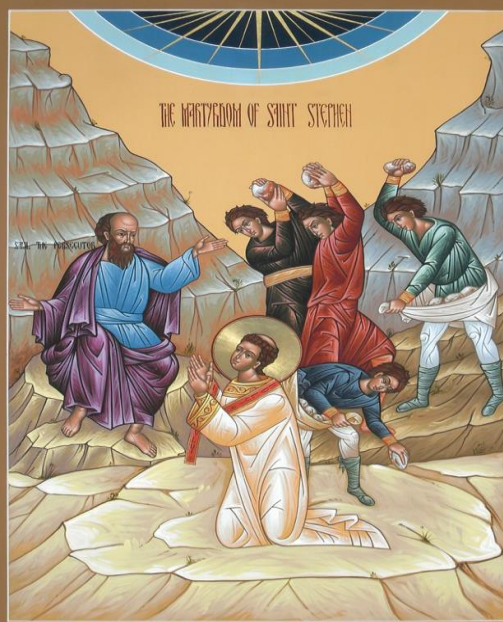
Pastoral Staff

Reverend Daniel M. Rocco
Pastor

Mrs. Suzanne Underwood
Coordinator of
Religious Education

Parish Trustees
Rose Marie Davis
Keith Knight

Rectory Office Hours
Monday – 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)

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.*

March 19, 2017 – The Third Sunday of Lent

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.

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 2018 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

SUNDAY	March 19, 2017
9:00am	Arthur Taylor r/b Louise D'Alessandro
10:30am	Alyce Klaus r/b Bill & Suzanne Underwood Amelia Roberts r/b Edith Alessi William Sauer r/b His Family Francisco Xavier Dang Viet Dang r/b Loc Dang
MONDAY	March 20, 2017
9:00am	Rosalee Bohrer r/b People of the Parish
TUESDAY	March 21, 2017
9:00am	Paul Tryson (Birthday Remembrance) r/b The Tryson Family
WEDNESDAY	March 22, 2017
9:00am	Beth Young r/b Her Sister
THURSDAY	March 23, 2017
9:00am/Novena	Helen Grace Lenard r/b Dorothea Dodds
FRIDAY	March 24, 2017
9:00am	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
SATURDAY	March 25, 2017
4:30pm	Mildred F. Busch r/b The Knight Family
SUNDAY	March 26, 2017
9:00am	Jean Gugliotta r/b Anthony & Rosemarie Leone
10:30am	John & Anne Marie Meyer r/b Family



The Sanctuary Candle this week is
In Memory of
Anthony J. Lord

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 11/12, 2017 Offertory Collection:	\$4,685
2016-2017 Weekly Offertory Collection Target:	\$4,600
Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving:	\$4,652

Special Collections:

- March 19th: "Operation Rice Bowl" (Diocese)
 - March 26th: "Catholic Relief Services" (Diocese)
 - March 26-April 16: "Easter Flowers" (St. Stephen)
 - April 13th: "The Needy in Our Area" (St. Stephen)
 - April 14th: "Holy Land/Good Friday" (Diocese)
- (Posted as a courtesy to our 20+ E-Givers)



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, Raymond Amatrudo, Jr., Raymond Amatrudo, Sr., Eleanor Becker, Bernadette Bierbach, Anna Buono, Jackie Cardwell, Edmund Ciccicone, Yolanda Colafrancesco, Jenny Cowan, John Coyle, Carol Cranmer, Joe DeLorenzo, Esther DeMarco, Doris Denuel, Fanny DiBenedetto, Fred Dickson, Joseph DiFrank, Biagio Dinoto, Michael DiVito, Patricia Domer, Joe Flacco, Joanna Galdo, Richard Gentile, Jr., Joseph Gerst, Pat Gruber, Pricilla Handy, Gregory Hayes, Mary Ann Hoffacker, Thomas Holmes Sr., Debra Knapp, Donna Krawchuk, Janet LaFreda-Hopkins, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Rosemarie Leonardo, Sam Loperfido, Sr., Michael Lopez, Joann Lunsford, Ken Maminski, Harry, Mary Ellen & William Mayer, Cecilia McGonigle, Dorothy McPeak, Rosemary Murray, Florence O'Connor, Margie Ogden, Jennifer Osborn, Savaelina Perez, Rosemarie Rosolia, Patricia Ruhl, Dean & Mary Russell, Helen Setzer, Nancy Sonnie, Steven Stepanavage, Rick Taylor, Mary Terzini, Shannon Teuber Myles, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Mary Viviello, Doreen Warble, Lily Warble, Arlene Webb, Barbara Weingard.

Ministry Schedule for March 25/26

* Designates Alternate Server

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Server: J. Bui

EM's: A. Knight, V. Thibault, C. Pandola, A. Cirullo, *Sr. Eleanora

Lectors: M. Turan, J. Melfi

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: M. Conway, Q. Nguyen

EM's: R. Leone, E. Nolte, T. Modzier, L. D'Alessandro, *M. Conway

Lectors: D. Steinmetz, J. Scavuzzo

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: K. Fagan, M. Daniels, Ma. Daniels

EM's: M. Meloni, T. Scavuzzo, T. Mattera, W. Delfin, *G. Tutwiler

Lectors: J. Messina, M. Miller



"ENCOUNTER the LIVING GOD" *We Encounter the Living God*

. . . when we share our blessings with those in need. Your *House of Charity* gift enables Catholic Charities offices in each of our 6 counties to provide a range of vital social services to people in need, for example, through food pantry, clothing, furniture warehouse, housing assistance and county sites. **Your Gift Matters.** Please support the 2017 *House of Charity – Bishop's Annual Appeal.*

2017 House of Charity y-t-d	\$11,910 (25%)
2017 House of Charity Goal	\$48,018

Thank you to the 58 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. 591-StStephen

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

3/20-Monday-9am Mass, 11am Bible Study, 7pm Health & Wellness
 3/21-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary followed by Reflection
 3/22-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD Classes
 3/23-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 6:15pm Choirs, 7pm Discussion
 3/24-Friday-9am Mass, 7pm Stations of the Cross
 3/25-Saturday-9am CPR Class, 3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
 3/26-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 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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

Please contact Eileen Heide with any questions.
 Phone or text: 610-805-5363 email: heides@comcast.net

*The woman who walks with God
 Always reaches her destination*

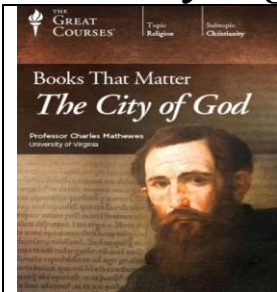
Tuesday Night Rosary

To Jesus Through Mary - 7:00-7:30pm @ Church

Come join us as we ask Our Lady to pray with us and for us. 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 March 22nd at 6:15pm.

Thursday Night Discussion Club



Will continue
March 23rd @ 7pm in the
 Sr. Bernadette Parish Center
 with
 Prof. Charles Mathewes'
**"Books That Matter-
 The City of God"**

First Friday Adoration

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be
Friday, April 7, 2017
9:45am-7:00pm.



Art & Environment Ministry

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.

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 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 rejoin their parents. We hope that you will allow your children to participate in this religious education experience.

Health and Wellness Team News

Next meeting:

Monday March 20th at 7pm in the Parish Center.

The Health and Wellness Team will be conducting a **CPR class on Saturday 3/25/17 from 9:00 am to 12 noon** in the Parish Center. First Aid for choking, basic CPR, and Basic AED use will be covered. There is still time to sign up! Contact Joanne at Joannedb@comcast.net if you have any questions or would like to sign up.

Parish Library

The Parish Library is now open in the Parish Center for all your Spring 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

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.

St. Stephen's Prayer Line Belongs to You



We are here to pray for you.

For Prayer Requests
 for the month of March
 contact Lois @ 856-665-1221.

Free Event:

“A Closer Walk with God”

On the feast day of St. Joseph, **March 19, 2017**, at 2 p.m. at St. Rose of Lima Church, 300 Kings Highway, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035-1397. Fr. Joseph Byerley will be presenting. Text “CWG” to 1-609-922-2128 if you would like a text reminder. Future dates: Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017; September 17, 2017; December 17, 2017

Lenten Parish Mission

Saint Thomas More Church, Cherry Hill Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday: **March 20, 21, 22, 2017 7: 00PM—Parish Church**

Saint Thomas More Lenten Parish Mission is Monday to Wednesday March 20 -22 at 7:00PM in the parish Church.

The presenters and themes are:

- Father Rossi: Finding our Identity in Christ (MONDAY)
Father Odien: Jesus asks, “What is it you want me to do for you?” (TUESDAY)
Father Capella: Our Fear of Personal Holiness (WED)

Paul VI High School News

Paul VI High School 7th Grade Practice HSPT is being offered on Saturday, April 1st. This full-length practice test is helpful in preparing students for the High School Placement Test taken in the fall of 8th grade. (The HSPT is the scholarship vehicle used by many private high schools, including Paul VI.) Reservations are required, space is limited. For more information, or to reserve a desk, please visit the ADMISSIONS EVENTS page on our website, www.pvihs.org

Paul VI High School Coffee, Tea, and Tours will be held on Saturday, April 1st. Two convenient morning tour times are offered, ideal for families who are interested in Paul VI, or parents whose students are taking the 7th Grade Practice HSPT. Reservations appreciated, all are welcome. For more information, or to make a reservation, please visit our website, www.pvihs.org, on the ADMISSIONS EVENTS tab.

Paul VI High School – 7th Grade Eagle Days are now available! Seventh grade students are invited to spend a day as a Paul VI Eagle. For more information and to make a reservation, please visit the EAGLE FOR A DAY page on our website, www.pvihs.org.

CHRISM MASS 2017

Bishop Sullivan invites the faithful of the diocese to join him and his priests for the Chrism Mass at 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at St. Agnes Church/Our Lady of Hope Parish in Blackwood.

The Chrism Mass is a celebration of the priesthood and the occasion at which the bishop consecrates the sacred oils used in the sacramental life of the Church. Your presence and prayerful support will be greatly appreciated.

Afternoon of Jazz

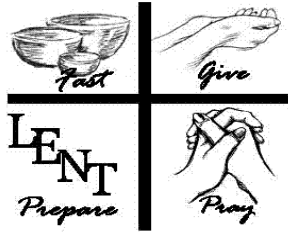
Don't miss this 26th annual dinner dance to benefit the Diocesan Black Catholic Ministries' Scholarship Fund on Sun., April 23, 3 – 8 p.m. at Masso's Crystal Manor, 210 S. Delsea Dr., Glassboro. Send a check made out to "Diocese of Camden" for \$40 per person and mail it to James E. Andrews, Director, Black Catholic Ministries, 631 Market St., Camden, NJ 08102. Questions? Contact James at (856) 583-2907 or James.Andrews@camdendiocese.org.

iRace4Vocations

On Sunday, April 30, 2017, join Bishop Sullivan along with priests, religious, our seminarians and many other people from throughout the diocese at Williamstown High/Middle School (561 Clayton Rd, Williamstown, NJ 08094) for our 6th 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/.

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass

If in this calendar year (01/01/17. Through 12/31/17), you are celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary of 25, 50, 60 or 70 years or more of marriage, please join us in celebrating on Sunday, June 18, at 3:00 p.m. Mass in Glassboro, at Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish. Bishop Sullivan will be the celebrant. A light reception will follow in the parish hall. Registration forms are available at all parish offices. Registration deadline is May 26, 2017. For more information please contact the parish office at 856-662-9338.



LENT 2017

“Open My Eyes, Lord”



Reflection on Today’s Gospel Reading (John 4:5-42)

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.

3/19/17	Sunday	Third Sunday of Lent
3/21/17	Tuesday	Rosary 7:00pm followed by Reflection “Why the Call to Evangelize is So Urgent”
3/24/17	Friday	Stations of the Cross 7:00pm (Peace & Justice theme)
3/26/17	Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Lent
3/28/17	Tuesday	Rosary 7:00pm followed by Reflection
3/31/17	Friday	Stations of the Cross 7:00pm
4/2/17	Sunday	Fifth Sunday of Lent
4/4/17	Tuesday	Penance Service at 7:30pm following the Rosary at 7:00pm
4/7/17	Friday	Stations of the Cross 7:00pm
4/9/17	Sunday	Passion Sunday – Mass 9:00am and 10:30am
4/13/17	Thursday	Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7:00pm -Blessed Sacrament Reposed in the Parish Center until 11:00pm
4/14/17	Friday	Good Friday - Reading of the Psalms from Noon to 2:45pm -Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion 3:00pm
4/15/17	Saturday	Holy Saturday -Rehearsal for Easter Vigil 9:00am, Blessing of Food at Noon, Easter Vigil 8:00pm
4/16/17	Sunday	Easter Sunday – Mass 9:00am and 10:30am