

St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

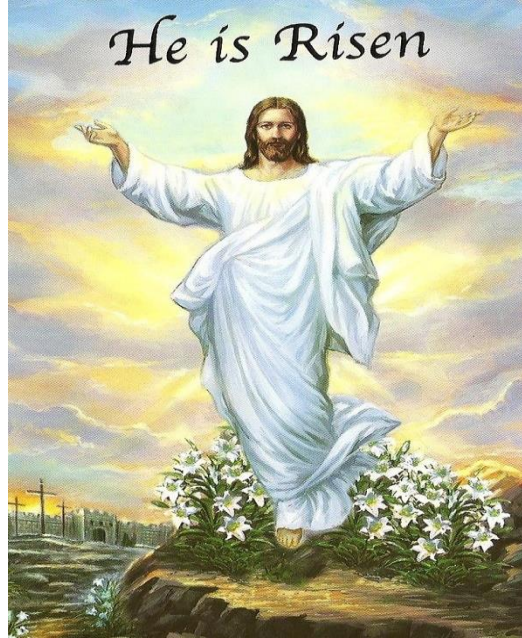
Pastoral Staff

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.*

April 16, 2017 – Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

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 April 16, 2017 (Easter Sunday)
9:00am People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
10:30am People of the Parish – Living & Deceased

MONDAY April 17, 2017
9:00am Peter Faiola r/b Anna Cirullo

TUESDAY April 18, 2017
9:00am Eleanor E. McKeaney r/b People of the Parish

WEDNESDAY April 19, 2017
9:00am Pietro Faiola r/b Our Nursing Home Ministry

THURSDAY April 20, 2017
9:00am/Novena People of the Parish – Living & Deceased

FRIDAY April 21, 2017
9:00am Pietro Faiola r/b Rose Davis

SATURDAY April 22, 2017
4:30pm Anthony J. Lord r/b Edith Alessi

SUNDAY April 23, 2017 (Divine Mercy Sunday)
9:00am Frances & William Blumenstein
r/b The McHugh Family
10:30am Glenn Nazarok r/b Bill & Suzanne Underwood
Amelia Roberts r/b Pat & Tom Marchisello
Pietro Faiola r/b Frank & Margaret Salerno



**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.

Offertory Figures for April 8/9 will be posted in next week's bulletin as this issue was submitted on April 7th.

2016-2017 Weekly Offertory Collection Target: \$4,600
Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving: \$4,646

Upcoming Special Collections:

April 23rd: "Catholic Home Missions" (Diocese)

May 28th: "Catholic Communications" (Diocese)

House of Charity-Bishop's Annual Appeal

2017 House of Charity y-t-d \$15,685 (32.7%)
2017 House of Charity Goal \$48,018

Thank you to the 74 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.



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., Eleanor Becker, Bernadette Bierbach, Anna Buono, Jackie Cardwell, Edmund Ciccarone, 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 Vivliello, Doreen Warble, Lily Warble, Arlene Webb, Barbara Weingard.

Ministry Schedule for April 22/23

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Server: S. Surgner

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

Lectors: J. Melfi, J. Gerst

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: Q. Nguyen, B. McHugh

EM's: J. Rosario, L. Rosario, R. Davis, M. Bufanio, R. Leone

Lectors: W. McHugh, P. Nolte

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: K. Fagan, K. Conway, C. Gardner

EM's: M. Meloni, J. Fagan, K. Fagan, T. Angstman, T. Mattera

Lectors: J. Messina, D. Steinmetz

The Parish Library will be closed Easter Weekend.

The Rectory will be closed Easter Monday April 17th.

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Stewardship Reflection

"Stewards Look Above"

"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." COLOSSIANS 3:2

Do you put God first in all things? Possessions, money, power, ego can easily become gods to many of us. Do a quick check on your *Stewardship*. Is God at the very top of the list? If not, your priorities need to be re-adjusted. Don't let earthly things become a god before God.

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

4/17-Monday-9am Mass, 11am Ladies Bible Study
 4/18-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary
 4/19-Wednesday-9am Mass, NO CCD Classes
 4/20-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, NO Choir, NO Discussion Club
 4/21-Friday-9am Mass
 4/22-Saturday-3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
 4/23-Sunday-9am Mass & 10:30am Mass



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*

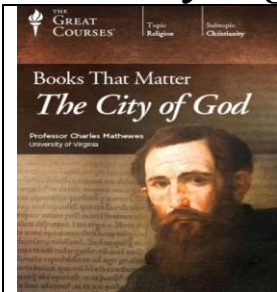
Tuesday Night Rosary

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 April 26th at 6:15pm.

Thursday Night Discussion Club



Will continue
April 27th @ 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, May 5, 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.

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 April contact
Bernadette @ 609-220-6359

Camden Catholic High School Hall of Fame Ceremony

Saturday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m.

at CCHS (300 Cuthbert Road, Cherry Hill, 08002)

Proceeds benefit the Hall of Fame Scholarship for CCHS students. Visit www.camdenatholic.org/halloffame or call 856-663-2247 ext. 130 for tickets.

Emerald Hall of Fame for Academics and Arts: entertainment agent Thomas Escott Lizzio '58, pediatric nurse practitioner and researcher Julia Bilodeau Purdy '78 and respected physician Dr. John Tedeschi '56. 1887 Special Recognition: Corporal John Michael Reid '65, USMC (posthumous) and the Sisters of Mercy, who founded Camden Catholic High School and remained an integral part of its growth for the past 129 years. Green & White Hall of Fame for Athletics: leading scorer in Irish girls basketball history Rashidat Junaid '06, track and field star Andy Mancini '63, Irish boys basketball standout Karl Sartor '83, Irish wrestling great Bobby Stinson '02 and the legendary state championship 1993 Irish girls swim team.

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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/.

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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.

Easter Sunday Gospel Reflection

John 20:1-9

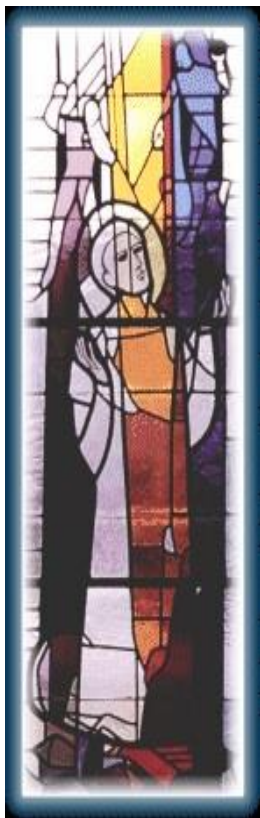
Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Symbolism of Our Stained Glass Windows



**Our Patron
Saint Stephen**



The following is an explanation of the stained glass windows of St. Stephen Church.

The biblical concept for the windows was chosen by the Stained Glass Window Committee which consisted of **Lucille Buffington, Lou DeVlieger, Ken McNaughton, Sr. Mary Scherr, Charles McDaniels, Rev. Joseph O'Connell, and Vincent Paglione.**

After arriving at a design, a committee interviewed several artists and decided on Willets Stained Glass Studio of Philadelphia. The completion of the stained glass represents the completion of St. Stephen's Church in its original design. The Church stands as a tribute to the faith community of the Parish of St. Stephen's.

The artist has expressed two themes in our stained glass design: that of the Old Testament and New Testament, and that of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Spirit.

The creating hand of the Father reaches down into the lower windows of the left side of the church in which we see:

- The symbol of God's Covenant with Noah; the rainbow and ark after the flood.
- Moses receiving the stone tablets of the Law on Mount Sinai.
- David, King of Israel, from whose genealogy Christ was born.
- The prophesy from Isaiah: In the New Jerusalem, the lion and lamb feed together in the Peaceable Kingdom. The Spirit, from whom all life issues, sends us his grace through the sacraments, the most important of which are:
 - Baptism, symbolized by all the scalloped shell with water flowing from it, and
 - The Eucharist, symbolized by the wheat and grapes.

The two large windows on the right depict New Testament themes:

- The mystery of the Incarnation, Christ's Nativity, and the Resurrection in which the angel tells the woman, "He is not here. His is risen."

Above the vestibule is the triangular window which represents God the Son. He is the unblemished Lamb of God whose victory over death assures our entry into the New Jerusalem.

The circles in bright gold represent the eternal nature of the Trinity and carry through the two triangular abstract windows on either side of the church.

The blue glass throughout reminds us of the gift of the waters of creation, of the great flood, and of the sacraments of salvation; while the tan coloring, here and there, tells of the desert experience through which God led Israel out of slavery to be an image of His holy people.

The Chapel windows represent two major saints of the New Testament and our patron saint:

- St. Peter: the keys, the rock and the inverted cross;
- St. Paul: the sword, the book and the boat;
- St. Stephen: Rocks used to kill him surround the figure.

The Reconciliation windows represent:

- Jesus writing in the sand after the woman caught in adultery was taken to Him;
- the Prodigal Son.

The sacristy window contains symbolism which represents:
The People of God and their relationship to the Trinity.

**Our stained glass windows, as well as our entire church,
are dedicated to the Honor and Glory of God.**