

St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

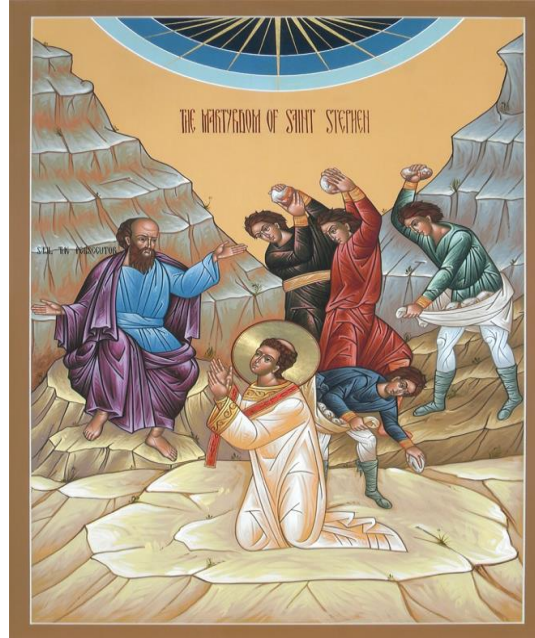
Pastoral Staff

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) 662-9339

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

Parish Email
ecclesia@comcast.net

Parish Website
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 Easter – May 5, 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".

SUNDAY	May 5, 2019
9:00am	Angelina Pennestri r/b Jim Pennestri
10:30am	John P. Iacovelli r/b Donald Mignone Jacqueline Catino r/b Her Loving Husband, Carl Walter Kittel r/b Roseann & Bob DiGiovanni Rosina Midili r/b Anthony & Susan Midili
MONDAY	May 6, 2019
9:00am	In Honor of Our Diocesan Priest Jubilarians
TUESDAY	May 7, 2019
9:00am	For the Healing & Recovery of Our Maintenance Man Ray Costner
WEDNESDAY	May 8, 2019
9:00am	For the Residents of Riverfront Rehab Center
THURSDAY	May 9, 2019
9:00am/Novena	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
FRIDAY	May 10, 2019
9:00am	For the Mothers of Our Parish, Living & Deceased
SATURDAY	May 11, 2019
4:30pm	Jean Baylor r/b Her Family
SUNDAY	May 12, 2019 (Mother's Day)
9:00am	Josephine Buondonno r/b Her Daughter
10:30am	Rosina Midili r/b Anthony & Susan Midili Susie Furlano r/b Anthony & Susan Midili William Sauer r/b His Family Walter Kittel r/b Rich & Elaine Faunce



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.

April 27/28 Offertory Collection:	\$4,050
2018-2019 Weekly Offertory Target:	\$4,600
Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving:	\$4,311

Next Special Collection / Envelope:
July 7: "Holy Father/Peter's Pence"

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.



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, 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,
- Tom Weingard, Emily Wilson.

Ministry Schedule for May 11/12

Saturday, 4:30pm

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

Lectors: J. Melfi, Jared Rivera

Sunday, 9:00am

EM's: L. D'Alessandro, M. Miller, T. Modzier, J. Rosario, L. Rosario

Lectors: W. McHugh, P. Nolte

Sunday, 10:30am

EM's: T. Urgo, D. Urgo, S. Underwood, M. Conway, G. Tutwiler

Lectors: J. Messina, M. Turan

"Stewards Love"

"Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, 'Do you love me?' and he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'" (JOHN 21:17)

All of us are challenged to show our love for Jesus and others. Discern how God is calling you to be his Steward by using your time in prayer, your talent in charitable works and your treasure to assist those who in need. Remember that giving is an act of worship and helps advance the mission of our parish and greater Church.

YOU DID IT FOR ME

HOUSE OF CHARITY
BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

2019 House of Charity y-t-d \$9,225 (19%)

2019 House of Charity Goal \$48,739

Thank you to the **34 families** that have given generously thus far. If you have not pledged as yet, extra pledge cards are available in the rectory and church vestibule.

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

5/6-Monday-9am Mass
5/7-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary
5/8-Wednesday-9am Mass
5/9-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Discussion
5/10-Friday-9am Mass
5/11-Saturday-3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
5/12-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass

Tuesday Night Rosary

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

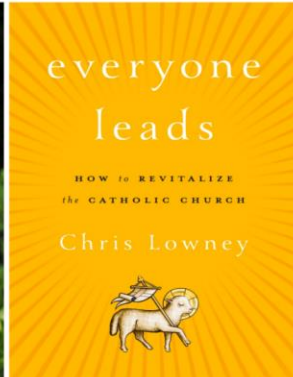
“Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother. Love the rosary, for the rosary is a weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother.” -St. Padre Pio

Wednesday Night CCD Classes

Will Resume in September

Thursday Night Discussion Club

Continues May 9th @ 7:00pm. We'll be discussing:



First Friday Adoration

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be **Friday, June 7, 2019 9:45am-7:00pm.**



Knights of Columbus, Council 3512



***Next Hoagie Sales
May 4/5 & June 8/9***

As a charity fundraiser, our Knights of Columbus council will be selling fresh hoagies @ \$5.00 & \$6.00 each after all Masses the weekends of **May 4/5 & June 8/9.**

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 to set up your account.

Children's Liturgy of the Word



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.

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

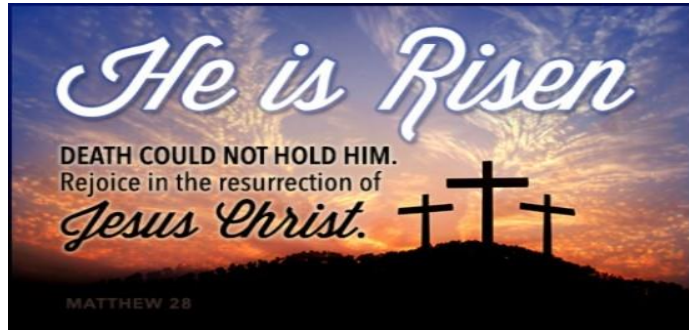
Pavers to form a concrete path from our church to the Blessed Mother are available in 3 sizes: **4"x8" \$100, 8"x8" \$175, and 12"x12" \$500.** Samples are available after weekend Masses and order forms are on our website and in the rectory office. If there is a particular place, possibly near a loved 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.

St. Stephen's Prayer Line Belongs to You



We are here to pray for you.

For Prayer Requests in the month of May contact **Bernadette @ 609-220-6359**



Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of the Parish of Saint Stephen, I would like to thank you for your generous gift this Easter Season. While this year has been filled with many demands upon you and your families, i.e. Catholic Strong and the House of Charity, you have again blessed our parish with your Easter donation of \$11,116.

Stonegate II update: Diocesan Housing has informed us that the completion of the construction phase of the new complex is slated for the end of this year or the beginning of 2020. Please let anyone you may know who is interested in filling out an application that they must go through Diocesan Housing, not through the parish.

Current Financial Status as of 4/30/19 (all bills paid)

Revolving Account Savings:	\$1,145,489
Maintenance Reserve Savings:	\$77,598
Catholic Strong: 70% of \$120,370	\$84,260
Parish Operating Account:	\$21,671

Your sacrifices have afforded us the ability to continue spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and establishing our new presence in the community of Pennsauken with the expansion of our services to the new residents of the Stonegate II complex.

With a promise of prayer for your intentions, I am

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Reverend Daniel M. Rocco
Pastor



This year's Paschal Candle has been donated by Mrs. Georgette Rocco in memory of Mr. Fred G. Rocco.



**Knights of Columbus
Yard Sale May 11th**



K of C Pennsauken Council will sponsor a big flea market Saturday, 5/11/19 at St. Cecelia School parking lot, Westfield Ave. & 49th St. from 8 AM to 2 PM, rain date May 25. To rent a space or donate goods for charity, call Lonnie at 662-6049.



Mass of Remembrance & Healing

will be celebrated by Monsignor Michael Mannion & Monsignor Peter Joyce on Monday, May 13th 7:00pm at Church of the Resurrection in Marmora for those who have suffered the loss of a child of any age through miscarriage, still birth, abortion, SIDS, illness, overdose, suicide or any untimely death. We encourage and welcome all members of the family and friends affected by the loss of this beloved child to join in this mass of celebration for the precious life that touched ours briefly yet stays in our hearts forever! **(Please bring a picture or special remembrance of your child. Roses will be available for those who have lost their child before birth.)** For more information, please call: Betty at 609-425-3553 or email at elizpearce@comcast.net



24th Annual NJ Catholic Youth Rally

will be held at Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, NJ on Sunday, May 19th. This event is open to all families, parish groups, youth and young adults. Tickets are \$50 and include park admission, all-you-can-eat lunch buffet and parking. Mass will be celebrated at 5 PM in the Plymouth Rock Arena. A free evening of worship with singer, songwriter Matt Maher will follow Mass at 7 PM. If you have any questions about this event or would like to purchase tickets please call Martha A. Scutte at 856-583-2909 or email at martha.scutte@camdendiocese.org

Reflection on Today's Gospel Reading

John 21:1-19

Jesus appears to the disciples for a third time after his Resurrection and shares a meal with them.

In Lectionary Cycle C, our Sunday Gospels are usually taken from the Gospel of Luke. The Gospels for the Easter Season, however, are taken from the Gospel of John. Today's Gospel is one of the post-Resurrection appearances reported by John. Recall that in John's Gospel, Jesus appears first to Mary of Magdala, second to all of the disciples except Thomas, and finally to Thomas and the disciples (which we heard last Sunday). After those appearances, John's Gospel seems to conclude with a reference to other signs that Jesus gave after his Resurrection, which have not been recorded.

Because it follows this apparent conclusion, most scholars believe today's Gospel passage (and all of John 21) to have been an addition to John's original text. Because there are significant differences between this report and the other appearances described in John's Gospel, it is quite likely that this story is from a different source. There are details in the story that recall Jesus' call to Simon Peter and the other fishermen as well as the miraculous catch of fish (found in the Gospel of Luke, with parallels in the other Synoptic Gospels). The end of the chapter, where Jesus asks Peter three times whether he loves him, most likely is meant to represent the reconciliation that occurred between the community represented by John's Gospel with the larger Christian community represented by Peter. This Gospel reading is a rich and textured story that speaks of Jesus' presence in the Eucharist and our commission to serve others as Jesus did.

Last week we heard that Jesus appeared to the gathered disciples in a locked room, probably in Jerusalem. In today's Gospel, the disciples are no longer in Jerusalem; they are in Galilee, returning to their work of fishing. Simon Peter is still presented in the role of leader: when he announces that he is going fishing, the other disciples follow. They spend the night fishing but are unsuccessful.

Jesus calls to them from the shore, but just as when Jesus first appeared to Mary of Magdala, the disciples do not recognize him immediately. Still, they follow the stranger's instructions and bring in a large haul of fish. It is at this point that one of the disciples (the "disciple whom Jesus loved") realizes that Jesus is appearing to them. Upon hearing this news, Simon Peter leads the way again, jumping from the boat and swimming to shore. The other disciples follow in the boat, dragging the fish.

The disciples have brought to shore a tremendous catch of fish that Jesus has directed them to find. But once on the shore, they see that Jesus has already prepared fish and bread on a charcoal fire. Jesus directs the disciples to bring their catch of fish as well. Jesus is host at the meal that follows, feeding the disciples the bread and fish. In this detail we see allusions to the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes told in John 6.

There are also allusions in the Gospel to our gathering for the celebration of the Mass. In the Eucharist, we too are fed by Jesus in the bread and wine that have become his very Body and Blood. We also find in this story insight about the Presentation of the Gifts at Mass. The gifts we bring to the altar, bread and wine, are made from gifts that God gave first to us: grain and grapes, the fruit of the earth. God has no need of anything further. Yet God accepts the offering we bring—bread and wine, "the work of human hands"—and transforms our offering into the gift of his very presence.

After the meal, Jesus directs himself to Simon Peter. The community of John's Gospel probably looked down on Peter because of his denial of Jesus. This dialogue with Simon Peter is a reversal of Peter's three denials. Peter is forgiven. Having been restored to friendship with Jesus, Simon Peter is sent on a mission. "Feed my lambs . . . Tend my sheep . . . Feed my sheep." These commands indicate that Peter is to be as Jesus, even unto sacrificing for the flock. As Jesus has fed Peter in this meal and as Jesus feeds us in the Eucharist, so he also sends us to follow him, asking that we offer our lives in service and sacrifice.