

# St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

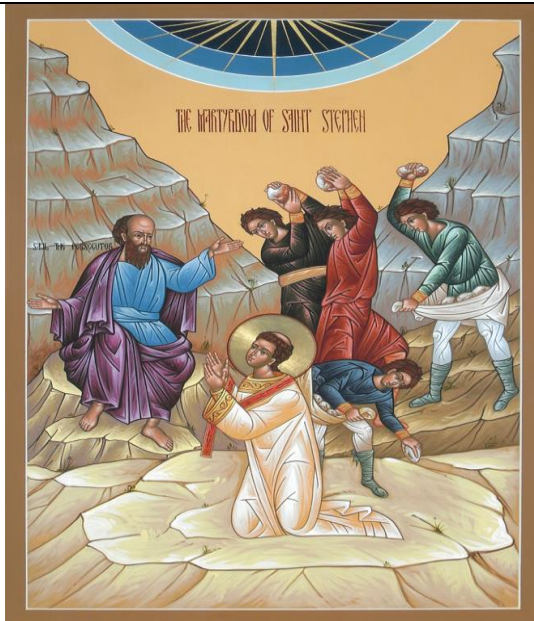
## *Pastoral Staff*

**Reverend Daniel M. Rocco**  
Pastor

**Mrs. Suzanne Underwood**  
Coordinator of  
Religious Education

**Parish Trustees**  
Rose Marie Davis  
Keith Knight

**Rectory Summer Hours**  
Monday–Thursday: 9:00am-4:30pm  
Friday: 9:30am-2:00pm



## *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](mailto:ecclesia@comcast.net)

**Parish Website:**  
[www.StStephensPennsauken.com](http://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.*

*July 23, 2017 – The 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday @ Noon.

Baptism – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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".

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>July 23, 2017</b>
9:00am	Mary Ellen Gerst r/b Joseph & Jeanne Gerst
10:30am	George Siefert r/b The McHugh Family Rose Mary Wehrle r/b George & Gail Tutwiler
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>July 24, 2017</b>
9:00am	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>July 25, 2017</b>
9:00am	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>July 26, 2017</b>
9:00am	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>July 27, 2017</b>
9:00am/Novena	Christine Lamb (25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary) r/b Her Sisters
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>July 28, 2017</b>
9:00am	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>July 29, 2017</b>
4:30pm	James Burns r/b The Pandola Family
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>July 30, 2017</b>
9:00am	Gloria Vendetti (4 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary July 28 <sup>th</sup> ) r/b Her Husband, Anthony
10:30am	Ada Barbarito r/b Jim Pennestri Ann Rhoads r/b The Rocco Family



The Sanctuary Candle this week is  
***In Memory of***  
***Anna Barrett***

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.

**July 15/16, 2017 Offertory Collection: \$4,299**  
**2017-2018 Weekly Offertory Collection Target: \$4,600**  
**Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving: \$4,021**

Next Special Collection:

July 30<sup>th</sup>: Parish Air Conditioning Fund (St. Stephen)

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## **House of Charity-Bishop's Annual Appeal**

**2017 House of Charity y-t-d \$18,220 (38%)**  
**2017 House of Charity Goal \$48,018**

**Thank you to the 88 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, Barbie Brown, Anna Buono, Jackie Cardwell, Lina Ciarrocchi, Edmund Ciccarone, Yolanda Colafrancesco, Jenny Cowan, John Coyle, Carol Cranmer, Joe DeLorenzo, Esther DeMarco, 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, Linda Petrilli, Rosemarie Rosolia, Patricia Ruhl, Dean & Mary Russell, Helen Setzer, Nancy Sonnie, Steven Stepanavage, Keri Ann Taxis, Rick Taylor, Mary Terzini, Shannon Teuber Myles, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Mary Viviello, Frances Vocale, Doreen Warble, Lily Warble, Arlene Webb, Barbara Weingard.

## **Ministry Schedule for July 29/30**

### **Saturday, 4:30pm**

**Altar Server:** J. Bui

**EM's:** A. Knight, R. Davis, V. Thibault, C. Pandola, A. Cirullo

**Lectors:** J. Gerst, M. Turan

### **Sunday, 9:00am**

**Altar Servers:** Q. Nguyen, K. Conway

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

**Lectors:** J. Scavuzzo, P. Nolte

### **Sunday, 10:30am**

**Altar Servers:** C. Nicdao, M. Daniels, Ma. Daniels

**EM's:** W. Delfin, T. Angstman, G. Tutwiler, T. Mattered

**Lector:** J. Messina

## **Stewardship Reflection**

### ***"Stewards Sow Good Seed"***

*"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field...He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom." - MATTHEW 13:24, 37-38*

As children of God, we are all "good seeds," blessed by God with the potential to accomplish much good in the world. We fulfill God's plan when we share our talents and our financial gifts to help build God's kingdom on earth. Through our **Stewardship** we sow "good seeds" on earth to ultimately help each other get to Heaven!

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

7/24-Monday-9am Mass  
7/25-Tuesday-9am Mass  
7/26-Wednesday-9am Mass  
7/27-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena  
7/28-Friday-9am Mass  
7/29-Saturday-3:45pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass  
7/30-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass

***Rectory Office Summer Hours***

**Monday thru Thursday:  
9:00am – 4:30pm**

**Friday:  
9:30am – 2:00pm**

***Monday Ladies Bible Study***

**Will resume in September.**

***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***

**Registration for 2017-2018 is underway!**

Registration forms may be found in the rectory, church vestibule, and on our website. The fee is \$135 per family (\$10 late fee after Labor Day). Opening CCD Mass will be celebrated on **Wednesday, September 6th at 6:15pm.**

***Thursday Night Discussion Club***

**Will Resume in September.**

***First Friday Adoration***

The next Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be **Friday, August 4, 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](http://www.StStephensPennsauken.com) to set up your account.

***Children's Liturgy of the Word***

**(Will resume in September)**

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 summer 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](mailto: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 July contact **Maryann @ 856-333-6525.**

## Wedding of the Sea Festival Tuesday, August 15

Take part in this special tradition  
of the Parish of St. Monica in Atlantic City!

**Mass of the Assumption of Mary  
Boardwalk Hall**

**Doors Open • 11:00 AM  
Program and Mass • 12:00 PM  
Procession to Surf • 1:15 PM**

**Join the Most Reverend Dennis Sullivan,  
Bishop of the Diocese of Camden  
in celebration of this beautiful Mass.**

**Festival – St. Michael’s Church Parking Lot,  
Georgia Avenue • 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Free & open to the public.  
Enjoy 10 Atlantic City restaurant vendors, a beer  
garden, live music, children’s games, and more.

Free parking at multiple locations.  
• (609) 345-1878 •

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### Marriage Preparation

*Beginning to Live in Love* brings together engaged  
couples with a married couple trained to mentor them on  
the marriage-preparation journey. Couples will be  
provided with resources, experiential exercises, practical  
skills, and inspirational witness in four, 3-hour sessions.

**Sunday afternoons August 13 and 20  
beginning at 1 p.m.**

**St Teresa of Calcutta Parish in McLaughlin Hall  
809 Park Avenue, Collingswood, NJ 08108**

Any engaged couple may register online at  
[http://livinginlove.org/beginning-to-live-in-love-  
registration/](http://livinginlove.org/beginning-to-live-in-love-registration/). Please take a snack for the 'sharing table'  
(e.g. fruit, pretzels, chips).

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### Laptop Donation Wanted

A Parishioner is looking for a used but usable laptop  
computer for a worthy cause. Operating System may  
be Vista, Windows 7, or Windows 8. Please call 856-  
488-1375 if you are able to accommodate this request.  
All original data will be erased. Thank you.



We’ve noticed many new visitors attending Mass who’ve generously  
contributed to our church. Please consider registering as there are  
many benefits to being officially registered at St. Stephen’s:

- To Arrange for the Reception of the Sacraments
- To Receive Certificates of Eligibility to act as a Sponsor
- To Become more intimately involved in our Parish Ministries
- To Begin receiving Offertory Envelopes to track contributions

### St. Stephen Parish Registration Form

**6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109**

*(This form may be mailed OR placed in the Offertory Basket at Mass)*

Family Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Current Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Husband’s 1st Name: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Wife’s Name (1<sup>st</sup> & maiden): \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Marriage: Priest\_\_\_ Special Permission\_\_\_ Divorced\_\_\_  
Separated\_\_\_ Single\_\_\_ Widowed\_\_\_ Co-Habit\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

Children at Home Name:                      Date of Birth:

\_\_\_\_\_                                              \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_                                              \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_                                              \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_                                              \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Others Living in the Home:                      Date of Birth:

\_\_\_\_\_                                              \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_                                              \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## *Reflection on Today's Gospel Reading*

*Matthew 13:24-43 (shorter form: Matthew 13:24-30)*

Jesus offers parables about the Kingdom of Heaven and explains them to his disciples.

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers three parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. He also explains why he speaks to the crowds in parables and interprets the parable of the sower for the disciples. This reading is a continuation of Jesus' discourse that we began reading last Sunday.

All three parables use commonplace experiences to describe aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven. The first parable is longer and more detailed than the next two, and it alerts us to the two-fold reality of the Kingdom of Heaven. The beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven can be found in this world. The fruition of the Kingdom of Heaven, however, will not be realized until the final judgment. In the meantime, as Jesus' explanation to the disciples cautions, any effort to judge the progress of the Kingdom of Heaven is premature. Only God, in the final judgment, will distinguish the fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven and offer its reward.

The second and third parables call to our attention the abundance that will result from the small beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven. Just as a mustard seed—the smallest of all seeds—will become a large bush, so too God will bring his Kingdom to full bloom. As a small amount of yeast will leaven the entire batch of bread, so too God will bring about the expansion of his Kingdom. In each case the image is of the superabundance that God brings out of even the smallest of signs of the Kingdom.

Contained within these parables are words of caution as well as words of consolation. In the parable of the sower we are warned against judging others. To judge and uproot the "weeds" prematurely will harm the wheat; final judgment rests with God. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we are consoled by the message that God can work wonders and produce abundance from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven.