

St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

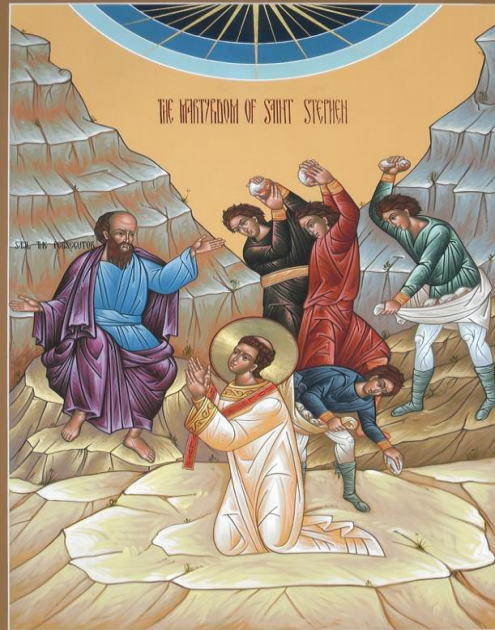
Pastoral Staff

Reverend Daniel M. Rocco
Pastor

Mrs. Suzanne Underwood
Coordinator of
Religious Education

Parish Trustees
Rose Marie Davis
Keith Knight

Rectory Summer Hours
Monday–Thursday 9am-4:30pm
Friday 9:30am-2:00pm
(Through August 31)



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.*

The 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – August 26, 2018

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 2019 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

SUNDAY	August 26, 2018
9:00am	Gennaro Leone r/b The Knight Family
10:30am	Charles Ackerman r/b His Family Frank & Susie Furlano r/b The Midili Family Nestor & Fermina Nicdao r/b The Nicdao Family
MONDAY	August 27, 2018
9:00am	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
TUESDAY	August 28, 2018
9:00am	For the Good Intentions of Rose Davis r/b People of the Parish
WEDNESDAY	August 29, 2018
9:00am	For the Spiritual Healing of Idiono Eden r/b A Friend
THURSDAY	August 30, 2018
9:00am/Novena	For the Continued Healing of Bill Underwood
FRIDAY	August 31, 2018
9:00am	Birthday Blessings for Patrick Underwood r/b His Parents
SATURDAY	September 1, 2018
4:30pm	Carmella Meyers r/b The Baylor-Pandola Family
SUNDAY	September 2, 2018
9:00am	Victor Gerst, Sr. r/b Joseph & Jeanne Gerst
10:30am	Nora Anders r/b Duane & Pam Heck



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.

August 18/19, 2018 Offertory Collection: \$4,320
2018-2019 Weekly Offertory Target: \$4,600
Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving: \$4,003

Upcoming Special Collections / Envelopes:

September 9: "Catholic University" (Diocese)

October 7: "Pro-Life" (Diocese)

October 21: "World Mission Sunday" (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:

Raymond Amatrudo, Jr., Alice Jean Baylor,
 Anna Buono, Edmund Ciccarone, Carol Cranmer,
 Joseph Gerst, Pat Gruber, Pricilla Handy,
 Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Katelyn Lum,
 Sam & Nancy Loperfido, Ken Maminski, Rich Passaro,
 Nancy Sonnie, Callum Steinmetz, Rick Taylor,
 Frances Vocale, Barbara Weingard.

Ministry Schedule for September 1/2

Saturday, 4:30pm

EM's: T. Scavuzzo, A. Knight, C. Pandola, Sr. Eleanora, A. Cirullo
 Lectors: Jared Rivera, R. Taylor

Sunday, 9:00am

EM's: L. Monaco, M. Monaco, R. Davis, R. Leone, T. Modzier
 Lectors: J. Gerst, M. McHugh

Sunday, 10:30am

EM's: S. Underwood, G. Tutwiler, M. Conway, J. Fagan
 Lectors: J. Messina, M. Miller



House of Charity Appeal

2018 House of Charity y-t-d \$37,785 (78.7%)

2018 House of Charity Goal \$48,018

Thank you to the **70 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.

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Big Yard Sale Sept. 8

The **Knights of Columbus** are sponsoring a big yard sale Saturday, Sept. the 8th, at St. Cecelia School parking lot, 49th St. & Westfield Ave., Pennsauken from 8 AM to 2 PM. Rain date 9/15. To reserve a vendor space, call Lonnie at 662-6049.

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

8/27-Monday-9am Mass
8/28-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary
8/29-Wednesday-9am Mass
8/30-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena
8/31-Friday-9am Mass
9/1-Saturday-3:45pm Confessions, 4:30pm Mass
9/2-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass

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 2018-2019 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 12th at 6:15pm.

Thursday Night Discussion Club

Will Resume in September

We'll be discussing:
**"The Catholic Theological
Union Lecture Series:
Rediscovering Vatican II"**

First Friday Adoration

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



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

Will Resume in September

Music Ministry Notes

The St. Stephen Music Ministry would like to thank you for all of the support and encouragement that you offer us each year. We especially want to offer our gratitude to Father Rocco for his leadership and inspiration. The Adult Choir will be taking their summer break, but will be back the weekend after Labor Day. We will still provide music for all of our liturgies and we ask you to, please, welcome a few "guest cantors/musicians" this summer. As always, we invite you to consider joining our Music Ministry family. If you want to share your talents, please contact Mrs. Nancy Werner-Kaiser through the Rectory Office. Thanks again, and see you in September.

Mrs. Nancy Werner-Kaiser, Music Ministry Director

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.

RCIA Ministry

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

RCIA begins soon. Don't let another year go by without inquiring into the Catholic faith, catching up on missed sacraments, resolving issues in your relationship with the Church and refreshing your faith. **For more information, call Loretta Steinmetz at 856-227-4980.**

St. Stephen's Prayer Line Belongs to You

We are here to pray for you.

For Prayer Requests in the month of **August contact Diane-856-308-8224.**
In Sept. contact Betty-856-662-6928.



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 & information.

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**Special Mass of Celebration Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>**

VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services is looking for parishioners who have reached that Milestone of Life of age 90 and above. We want to Recognize, Honor and Celebrate you or your family member at a special Mass and celebration on **September 16<sup>th</sup>**, at 3pm at Annunciation Church, St. Joachim Parish in Bellmawr, NJ Please contact or forward to us your or your friend or family member's name, address, phone number, parish and date of birth, to receive an invitation to this very special event. Send your information to or contact us at:

**VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services**  
**Attn: Anne Marie Pirillo**  
**Diocese of Camden**  
**631 Market Street - Camden, NJ 08102**  
**(856)583-6121 - Or email to:**  
**Annemarie.pirillo@camdendiocese.org**



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Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Maple Shade welcomes you to schedule a tour of our preschool - 8th grade school for enrollment for the 2018-19 school year. **The Pennsauken School District** provides transportation for our students who live there. Please contact Mrs. Cynthia Smith, Principal for more details and for registration information. Office hours are Tuesday – Friday, 8:30AM – 12:30PM or by appointment. (856) 779-7526 principal@OLPHparish.com.

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**Did you know** that more than 96% of South Jersey Catholic Schools' 2018 graduates are starting college this summer and fall? There is still time to give your child the gift of a Catholic school education. For more information contact the parish office or the **Office of Catholic Schools** at 856-583-6107 or go to [www.southjerseycatholicsschools.org](http://www.southjerseycatholicsschools.org).

## Camden Catholic High School Events

### Camden Catholic 70+ Year Alumni Mass & Brunch for Classes 1943 and Earlier

Monday, **September 24** at 8:15 a.m. at Camden Catholic High School (300 Cuthbert Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002). All CCHS alumni who graduated in the year 1943 or earlier are invited to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy during an all-school Mass with students, followed by a reunion brunch. Each alumnus may bring a guest. RSVP: Jennifer Van Es 856-663-2247 ext. 133 or email [Jennifer.vanes@camdencatholic.org](mailto:Jennifer.vanes@camdencatholic.org).

### Designer Bag Bingo: October 12

Pisa Dining Hall @ CCHS. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. First game begins at 7 p.m. \$25 in advance. \$35 at the door. Purchase tickets [www.camdencatholic.org](http://www.camdencatholic.org) or email [noemi.merenyi@camdencatholic.org](mailto:noemi.merenyi@camdencatholic.org) to reserve tickets. Tickets include 10 games and 50/50. One purse winner each game! And door prizes! One special purse will be raffled off. Bring your own appetizers and refreshments.

### Camden Catholic High School Open House

Thursday, **October 25** at 6:30 p.m. Learn how we empower today's students to find their purpose through academics, arts and spirituality. Meet our faculty, students, coaches and administration, tour the campus, and learn more about our "Strong Ties. Inspiring Journeys."

**RSVP online:**

[www.camdencatholic.org/admissionsevents](http://www.camdencatholic.org/admissionsevents).

### Camden Catholic High School Scholarship & High School Placement Test

Saturday, **November 3** at 8:30 a.m. Pre-Register online [www.camdencatholic.org/admissionsevents](http://www.camdencatholic.org/admissionsevents). Students interested in competing for Merit and Arts Scholarships *must* take the test at Camden Catholic.

**Irish Experience Guest Days** for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are being scheduled at Camden Catholic High School. Experience the tradition, feel the passion, catch the spirit of being a student at CCHS, the only school in South Jersey with a Leadership Academy. Select your day at [www.camdencatholic.org/admissionsevents](http://www.camdencatholic.org/admissionsevents) or contact Janet Indelicato to schedule: [janet.indelicato@camdencatholic.org](mailto:janet.indelicato@camdencatholic.org) or 856-663-2247 ext. 136.

## Reflection on Today's Gospel Reading

*John 6:60-69*

**Simon Peter confesses his faith that Jesus alone has the words of the eternal life.**

For our Gospel today we hear the conclusion of the “Bread of Life discourse” in the sixth chapter of John’s Gospel. In the preceding verses, which we have heard proclaimed in our liturgy over the past few weeks, we have heard Jesus explain that he is the Bread of Life, given so that those who believe may have eternal life. This discourse follows the miracle in which Jesus fed more than five thousand people with five barley loaves and two fish. As Jesus has been teaching these things, John’s Gospel describes a murmuring crowd unable to accept Jesus’ words. In today’s Gospel, the crowd has dwindled in number, and John no longer references them, or the Jews. Instead John describes the questioning of those considered to be Jesus’ own disciples.

Today’s Gospel first records the response of those in the crowd who are described as Jesus’ disciples. Just as the larger crowd had struggled with Jesus’ teaching, these disciples also cannot accept Jesus’ words. Jesus is said to know about their murmuring. He responds by acknowledging their unbelief and by reiterating that only those chosen by the Father will follow Jesus to the end. John’s Gospel reports that many of those who had been Jesus’ disciples ceased to follow him at this point. The number of people following Jesus dwindled from a crowd of more than 5,000 to only 12 people. And it is to these Twelve that Jesus now turns his attention.

Simon Peter’s response to Jesus’ question as to whether those closest to him will also leave, reminds us of the reports of Peter’s confession of faith in the Synoptic Gospels. Peter announces, on behalf of all the Twelve, that they have come to believe all that Jesus has taught about himself: Jesus is the one from God in whom they have found the path to eternal life.

This conclusion of the Bread of Life discourse focuses on personal faith in the life of Christian discipleship. Each person must make his or her own judgment about who Jesus is and in doing so determine the way of life that he or she will follow. God’s grace invites us to be Jesus’ disciples, but each person must respond to the grace of God and confess as his or her own the belief that Jesus is the one from God. This faith then commits us to the path of life, leading us to eternal life.