

St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

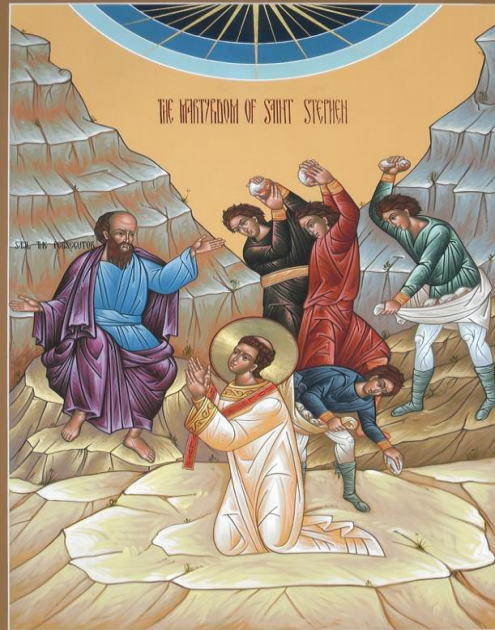
Pastoral Staff

Reverend Daniel M. Rocco
Pastor

Mrs. Suzanne Underwood
Coordinator of
Religious Education

Parish Trustees
Rose Marie Davis
Keith Knight

Rectory Office Hours
Monday–Friday 9am-4:30pm
*Closed All Holy Days of Obligation
and Holidays except Veterans Day*



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 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 2, 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 9:30am 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	September 2, 2018
9:00am	Victor Gerst, Sr. r/b Joseph & Jeanne Gerst
10:30am	Nora Anders r/b Duane & Pam Heck
MONDAY	September 3, 2018 (Rectory Closed Labor Day)
9:00am	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
TUESDAY	September 4, 2018
9:00am	Veronica O'Brien (20 th Anniversary) r/b Her Daughter Terry and Family
WEDNESDAY	September 5, 2018
9:00am	In Thanksgiving to God, Mother Mary, and Saint Joseph
THURSDAY	September 6, 2018
9:00am/Novena	Prayers for Piere Nhan r/b A Friend
FRIDAY	September 7, 2018 (First Friday Adoration)
9:00am	Elenore Mazzola r/b Nick Picciano
SATURDAY	September 8, 2018
4:30pm	Rev. Alfred Aversa r/b People of the Parish
SUNDAY	September 9, 2018
9:00am	Marie C. Miller r/b Joseph & Jeanne Gerst
10:30am	Joseph B. Vogdes r/b Agnes & Jim Madden Lillian Creedon r/b Mary Jane & Andy Salmonsens



**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 25/26, 2018 Offertory Collection: \$3,986
2018-2019 Weekly Offertory Target: \$4,600
Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving: \$4,001

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, Sandra Lippi, Katelyn Lum,
- Sam & Nancy Loperfido, Ken Maminski, Rich Passaro,
- Nancy Sonnie, Callum Steinmetz, Rick Taylor,
- Frances Vocale, Barbara Weingard.

Ministry Schedule for September 8/9

Saturday, 4:30pm

EM's: V. Thibault, T. Scavuzzo, A. Knight, C. Pandola, A. Cirullo
Lectors: B. Mattia, D. Steinmetz

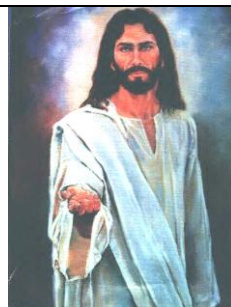
Sunday, 9:00am

EM's: M. Miller, J. Rosario, L. Rosario, L. D'Alessandro, M. Conway
Lectors: J. Gerst, D. Heck

Sunday, 10:30am

EM's: J. Messina, M. Meloni, T. Angstman, W. Delfin, G. Tutwiler
Lector: R. Aleszczyk

A SPECIAL INVITATION



First Friday Adoration September 7, 2018

"A Genius conceives a masterpiece... He is delighted with it; he will realize it by every possible means and at the cost of any sacrifice.

He is dominated by his masterpiece; he sees it continually.

Well, (in like manner) fix your mind on our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament and ponder on his love."

Saint Peter Julian Eymard

RSVP to Rosemarie Leone

@ 856-662-0035.

"O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine."

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.

Military Bible Sticks

The **Knights of Columbus** will be accepting donations after all Masses on **September 22 and 23** to raise money to purchase bible sticks for our military personnel all over the world. This will be the third year we have participated in this ongoing campaign, which has raised enough money to provide nearly one million bible sticks. Thank you in advance for your contributions

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

9/3-Monday-9am Mass, Rectory Closed Labor Day
9/4-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary
9/5-Wednesday-9am Mass
9/6-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena
9/7-First Friday-9am Mass, Adoration until 7pm
9/8-Saturday-3:45pm Confessions, 4:30pm Mass
9/9-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass

Monday Ladies' Bible Study

Will Resume Later 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 Later 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 Later 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
**September contact Betty:
856-662-6928.**

Paul VI High School Events

Are you ready to be a Paul VI Eagle? We're ready to help you soar! Paul VI High School is ready for you! Please join us this fall for Open House, our scholarship test, and more!

Paul VI Scholarship Test will be conducted at Paul VI, on **Saturday October 27th**. Paul VI High School annually awards academic scholarships to incoming freshmen. To enter the scholarship process, 8th grade students must take the HSPT at Paul VI on October 27th. For more information, and to register for the test, please visit our website, www.pvihs.org/Admissions.

Paul VI presents Tours & Touchdowns- This season's dates are Friday **Sept. 21st**, and Friday **Oct. 19th**. Arrive at the PVI football gate by 6 o'clock for a student-guided tour of our beautiful facility, and stay for Friday night football under the lights. Students must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations are appreciated. For more information, please visit our website, www.pvihs.org/Admissions.

Paul VI Eagle-for-a-Day visits are available for 8th grade students throughout the fall admissions season. To see the schedule of available dates, and to make a reservation, please visit www.pvihs.org/Admissions. Experience a day in the life of a Paul VI Eagle!

Paul VI High School Open House will be held at 6:30 PM, Thursday, **November 15th**. Middle school students and their families are invited to meet our faculty, coaches and students, enjoy special performances by our performing arts groups, and see our beautiful school. Reservations are appreciated. For more information, please visit our website, www.pvihs.org/Admissions.

**Questions may be directed to Mrs. Kathleen Stewart,
Paul VI Director of Admissions, kstewart@pvihs.org**

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## **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.

# 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

*Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23*

**Jesus teaches that it is that which comes from our hearts that defiles us.**

This Sunday, our lectionary returns to Mark's Gospel after a number of Sundays in which we heard the Bread of Life discourse from the Gospel of John. Recall that we focus on the Gospel of Mark in Lectionary Cycle B, but substitute John's report of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes for Mark's report of this event.

In today's Gospel, Mark provides a significant amount of information about the Jewish observance of ritual-purity laws. Most scholars believe that Mark includes this information because his audience includes Gentile Christians who have no knowledge or experience of these laws. We can infer, therefore, that many in Mark's community were not Jewish Christians.

In this Gospel, Mark addresses the question of which Jewish practices would also be observed in the newly emerging Christian community. This was a significant question for the early Christian Church, especially in communities that included both Jewish and Gentile converts to Christianity. We also hear this question addressed in the letters of Paul with regard to table fellowship. In Gospel passages such as the one today, we see the Gospel evangelists finding justification for a Christian practice distinct from Judaism in the remembrances of Jesus' teaching and the practice of his first disciples.

Jesus first criticizes the Pharisees for putting human tradition above God's Law. Here, Jesus is referring to the tradition of the elders, the teachings of the Pharisees, which extended the ritual-purity laws of Temple worship to everyday Jewish life. Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for making this tradition equal to and as binding as the Law of Moses.

Next, Jesus comments on the meaning behind the Pharisees' language of holiness—clean and unclean. Jesus teaches that a person is not defiled by the food that enters his or her body, but rather by sin that emerges from his or her words and actions. In this teaching, Jesus unmasks a deeper question behind the one posed to him by the Pharisees. The real issue is holiness, which is not found in external acts alone. Holiness comes from within and is evidenced in the actions and attitudes that emerge from a person's life.

If we read today's Gospel carefully, we will see a pattern in Jesus' teaching method that will be repeated in the weeks ahead. Jesus' first teaching is directed to the Pharisees who questioned him. Jesus' words are then directed to the crowd, teaching that a person is defiled by his or her words and actions, not by the food that he or she eats. In verses omitted in today's reading, we learn that Jesus returned home with his disciples, who in turn questioned him about what he had taught. The words we read at the conclusion of today's Gospel are addressed to Jesus' disciples. Mark's narrative shows several audiences for Jesus' teaching: his antagonists, the crowds, and Jesus' disciples. As we see in this reading, the words to the Pharisees are often words of challenge. The teaching to the crowds is often a general, sometimes cryptic, message. With the disciples, who often misunderstand Jesus' words, further explanation is offered about his message and its meaning.

Jesus' words challenge us as well. In our desire to show that we are holy, we might also give too much credence to externals, following rules without thinking about the intention behind them. Jesus reminds us that we do not make ourselves holy by our actions. Rather, we become holy when we allow God's Spirit to transform us. Our actions should be an expression of the conversion of our heart to God and to God's ways.