

# St. Stephen Parish

6300 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109



## Pastoral Staff

Reverend Vincent Orum, AJ, Administrator  
Reverend Thomas Kiely, In-Residence  
Permanent Deacon Ernest Picknally  
Sister Bernadette Mary Leahy, SSJ  
Mrs. Patricia Higgins, Principal  
Mrs. Adeline Gramlich, CRE

## Parish Contact Information

Rectory: (856) 662-9338 Fax: (856) 662-4679  
Convent: (856) 665-5227 School: (856) 662-5935

Email: [eccllesia@comcast.net](mailto:eccllesia@comcast.net)

Website: [www.StStephensPennsauken.com](http://www.StStephensPennsauken.com)

## November 29, 2009 – First Sunday of Advent

### Mass Schedule

**Daily:** Monday thru Saturday – 9:00am

#### Weekend Obligation:

Saturday – 4:30pm (**Confessions 3:45pm-4:15pm**)

Sunday – 9:00am & 10:30am

**Children's Liturgy:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday @ 10:30am

**Holy Days:** 9:00am & 7:00pm – 7:00pm Vigil

**Miraculous Medal Novena** – Every Thursday after 9am Mass.

**Eucharistic Exposition** – First Friday from 9:30am-7pm.

**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.

**Reconciliation** – Saturday from 3:45pm-4:15pm

Seasonal Services are announced in bulletin.

#### Anointing of the Sick/Eucharist

Call Rectory if someone is sick or housebound.

**Marriage** – arrangements must be made with a priest 1 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.

**Rectory Hours** - Monday thru Friday 9am-4:30pm

### 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.*

**Parish Membership** – Moving INTO the parish all are asked to register as soon as possible.  
Moving WITHIN or OUT – kindly notify rectory of changes.

Please consider remembering St. Stephen's in your Will or Estate Planning. There are financial benefits to do so while still alive and, in death, the spiritual reward of helping to continue the Church's mission of preaching Jesus Christ.

#### 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.

**Our Parish Family invites all of its members to participate fully in our spiritual and social life.**



**Family or Friends** having a 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 the church 10 minutes prior to Mass and identify yourselves to one of the Ushers. Please note that where there is no intention listed, the Mass is offered for the Universal Church.

<b>MONDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>November 30, 2009</b> William Melchionni, Sr. r/b Maria & Joe Haas
<b>TUESDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>December 1, 2009</b> Chris Picciano r/b Family
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>December 2, 2009</b> Joseph Siano r/b Family Charles Horn (Birthday Remembrance) r/b Son-in-law Chuck & Sister Evelyn
<b>THURSDAY</b> 9:00am + Novena	<b>December 3, 2009</b> Elizabeth Murawski r/b Daughter Cecilia Powell
<b>FRIDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>December 4, 2009 (First Friday Adoration)</b> Mass of Thanksgiving r/b Alfreda Novak
<b>SATURDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>December 5, 2009</b> Cora & John Lehocky r/b Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ
4:30pm	Christopher Picciano r/b Roseann & Michael Perlman Thelma & Wally Baker r/b Loving Daughter Elaine
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>December 6, 2009</b> Joseph Siano r/b Jim Pennestri Barbara Fallon r/b Family
10:30am	James Cummings, Sr. r/b Margaret Cummings Bill Buffington r/b Rosina Midili & Family

***The Sanctuary Candle this week is in Memory of Barbara Fallon.***

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.

**11/22/09 Offertory Figures will be posted in next week's bulletin as this issue was required for submission on 11/20/09.**

<b>Budgeted Weekly Collection:</b>	<b>\$6,154</b>
<b>Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average:</b>	<b>\$5,713</b>

Next Diocesan Special 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection:  
**December 13, 2009: "Retirement Fund for Religious"**

**Coming in 2010: Weekly Youth Mass Here!**  
Sundays @ 7:30pm w/ Fr. Chuck of CCHS

***Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament***

This Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> is the First Friday of the Month. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin after the 9am Mass and continue until 7pm.



*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:*

**Rose Alessandroni, Dolly Angelastro, Marion Borreggine, Vincent Buondonno, Evelyn Capocetta, Dorothy Coyle, Margaret Cummings, Esther DeMarco, Patricia Domer, Joe Flacco, John Heininger Jr., Thomas Holmes Sr., Jim Hutton, Rita Insley, Patricia James, Donna Krawchuk, Robert Leone, Nancy Loperfido, Vincent Marchese, Marie Melchiorre, Elena Melfi, John Meyer, Jennifer Osborn, Edith Parrissi, Cassandra Penttleton, Rita Picciano, Frank & Louise Pigiaccielli, Jean Rooney, Rosemarie Rosolia, Raphael Rubin, William Sauer, Carmella Scrivani, Mary Jo Stedrak, Julian Terzini, Mary Terzini, Lillian Tomarchio, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Susan Verzilli, Anthony Vocale, John Von Alex, Jean Wenstrom.**

**Attention Lectors:**

Your new workbooks are ready for pickup in the sacristy.

**Ministry Schedule for December 5/6**

*(Monthly Schedules are also posted on our website)*

**Saturday, 4:30pm**

**Altar Servers:** K. Sullivan, M. Hobbs, M. North  
**EM's:** P. Krohn, P. Antonelli, M. Novoa, The Heiningers  
**Lectors:** P. Palazzo, R. Taylor

**Sunday, 9:00am**

**Altar Servers:** K. Starts, W. McHugh, M. DiRico  
**EM's:** The Monaco's, S. Marano, N. Schmidt, R. Leone  
**Lectors:** J. Gerst, L. Sperduto

**Sunday, 10:30am**

**Altar Servers:** The Fagans, D. Saranchak  
**EM's:** The Fagans, M. Meloni, T. Link, G. Tutwiler  
**Lectors:** The Links

***New Assignment Transfer***

Our Administrator, Fr. Vince, will be leaving for his new place of assignment at the beginning of the New Year. All major decisions and meetings shall be suspended until the new administrator's or new pastor's arrival. —Fr. Vince

***St. Stephen's Rosary Makers***

You are cordially invited to join **The Rosary Makers** in their quest to make and distribute rosaries to missions throughout the world. The group meets at 7:00 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month in Stonegate's meeting room. If you have been a member in the past, this would be a great time to rejoin.

All new members are welcome! This could be some time for yourself, and the chance to meet new people while helping to show your devotion to Mary, our Mother, and the Mother of our Savior. **Please consider giving two hours a month for such a wonderful cause.**

## This Week @ St. Stephen's

11/30-Monday-9am Mass, 7:15pm RCIA  
 12/1-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary  
 12/2-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:30pm CCD  
 12/3-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 6:15pm Youth Music,  
 7pm Rosary Makers, 7:15pm Choir  
 12/4-First Friday-9am Mass, Adoration until 7pm  
 12/5-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Group, 9am Mass,  
 3:45 Confession, 4:30pm Mass,  
 12/6-Sunday-Masses at 9am & 10:30am

### Art & Environment Ministry

Anyone interested in donating flowers for the altar to mark an Anniversary, Christening or Memorial Mass, please contact Maria Haas at 665-8393. All are welcome to join the A&E ministry by calling Maria at the number above.

### Tuesday Night Rosary

Please join us every Tuesday at 7:00pm in the church in response to Our Lady of Fatima's request to pray the rosary for peace in the world.

### St. Stephen's Prayer Line

The Prayer Line belongs to you.

If you need someone to pray for you, you are at the right place.

Contact Connie @ 662-3819 for December requests.

"Therefore I tell you, all that you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it shall be yours." -Mark 11:24

### Men of St. Stephen's

Please join us for our Men's Scripture/Prayer Group. We meet every Saturday morning at 8am for one-half hour in the Rectory Basement Meeting Room. Info: Joe Fagan-662-5908.

**St. Stephen's Young Adult Ministry**, ages 21-40, will begin it's Faith and Tradition Series on Monday nights in the rectory meeting room. Please arrive at 7:15. Presentation is from 7:30-8:30. Join us for either a reflection on the upcoming week's Gospel or a presentation on a saint of the church.

#### Upcoming schedule

December 14 - Scripture sharing (Luke 1:39-45)  
 Please contact Rose at 856.663.9342 for more information.

### Tree Donations for Loved Ones

We are now accepting donations in memory of loved ones to purchase trees that will replace the 2 dead trees recently removed from the Convent as well as others on our property. Envelopes marked "Tree Donation" may be placed in the Offertory or mailed to the rectory.

### WANTED: Antiques & Collectibles Experts

We are looking for parishioners who can appraise various collectibles (i.e. dolls, Longaberger baskets, cameras) that have been donated to the parish. If you think you can assist us or know of someone who can, please call Lonnie at 662-6049.

### Ministry of Greeting & Hospitality

Anyone interested in joining the Ministry of Greeters, those who welcome parishioners and visitors to Mass every Sunday, are asked to call Mary Ann Meloni at 488-6143.

As we begin Advent, let us Journey with the

## "People of Advent"

We approach Advent through Old Testament figures. Their stories assist us in relating to the human element captured in scripture. This year (Cycle C) the role of David, Zachary, John the Baptist and Elizabeth are featured.

### November 28-29

This is the First Sunday of Advent. Each week we focus on the People of Advent that we meet in the scriptures. In today's first reading, the prophet Jeremiah reminds us of the promise: "In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land."

## SAINT STEPHEN PARISH ADVENT EVENING OF REFLECTION

A special evening of prayer, reflection, and music will be held in church on **Friday, December 18, 2009, at 7:00 P.M.** Give yourself a gift this season by allowing the prayerful peace of this evening to calm your "jangled" nerves. In the past, our parishioners have said that such an evening has brought them great comfort. If you're harried by the demands of the season, or if you just need a break from the commercial Christmas that surrounds us, please plan to spend some time allowing Christ to enter your hearts in a true preparation for the real meaning of Christmas. We look forward to seeing you. Any questions may be directed to Mary Ann [laure5302@comcast.net](mailto:laure5302@comcast.net) / 856-488-6143 or MarySue [ms.link@comcast.net](mailto:ms.link@comcast.net) / 856-854-7120.

## New Women's Bible Study!

St. Stephen's is beginning a new Women's Bible Study Group. If you are interested, please call Eileen Heides at 662-8046 or Email Eileen at [heides@comcast.net](mailto:heides@comcast.net). A meeting will be scheduled to decide which day and time of the week will be most convenient for this new women's study group to meet.

## PTA Gift Card News

Order forms are available through school, our school website or call Katy Fagan @ 662-5908.

TIP #1: Kohl's gift cards can be used to pay down card balance (in person).

TIP #2: Bath and Body Works discount increased to 18% until 12-31-09!

**THANK YOUR FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

## CCD News

We are still in need of **ONE TEACHER, substitutes and teacher's aides**. Please call Adeline Gramlich at 662-9338 if you are interested in joining our CCD Team!

**Attention all 6th graders who will be 7th Graders this Sept:**

Our program of studies for Confirmation will be starting this Fall.

This is a 2-year program. Confirmation will be held in the 8th Grade.

# A Great Harvest!



### Plant Five Rows of Peas:

- PREPAREDNESS
- PROMPTNESS
- PERSEVERANCE
- POLITENESS
- PRAYER

### Plant Three Rows of Squash:

- SQUASH GOSSIP
- SQUASH CRITICISM
- SQUASH INDIFFERENCE

### Plant Five Rows of Lettuce:

- LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER
- LET US BE FAITHFUL
- LET US BE LOYAL
- LET US BE UNSELFISH
- LET US BE TRUTHFUL

### Plant Three Rows of Turnips:

- TURN UP FOR CHURCH
- TURN UP WITH A NEW IDEA
- TURN UP WITH A DETERMINATION TO DO A BETTER JOB TOMORROW THAN YOU DID TODAY.

### Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street – Tropicana - Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>

\$45 ticket includes Christmas Show, buffet, bus and \$10 back in coins. Bus leaves Stonegate @ 10am, returns about 5:30pm. Limited seating, call Marianna at 663-5599 for reservations.

### Meal Delivery Volunteers Needed

Senior Citizens United Community Services is searching for volunteers to deliver meals to needy senior citizens in the Camden County area. For more information, contact the Home Delivered Meals Coordinator T.J. Ward -(856) 456-1121, x158.

## CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

### PART ONE - THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

#### SECTION 2-The Profession of the Christian Faith

#### ARTICLE I

"I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY,  
CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH"

#### Paragraph 3. The Almighty

**268** Of all the divine attributes, only God's omnipotence is named in the Creed: to confess this power has great bearing on our lives. We believe that his might is *universal*, for God who created everything also rules everything and can do everything. God's power is loving, for he is our Father, and *mysterious*, for only faith can discern it when it "is made perfect in weakness".<sup>103</sup>

"He does whatever he pleases"<sup>104</sup>

**269** The Holy Scriptures repeatedly confess the universal power of God. He is called the "Mighty One of Jacob", the "LORD of hosts", the "strong and mighty" one. If God is almighty "in heaven and on earth", it is because he made them.<sup>105</sup> Nothing is impossible with God, who disposes his works according to his will.<sup>106</sup> He is the Lord of the universe, whose order he established and which remains wholly subject to him and at his disposal. He is master of history, governing hearts and events in keeping with his will: "It is always in your power to show great strength, and who can withstand the strength of your arm?"<sup>107</sup>

"You are merciful to all, for you can do all things"<sup>108</sup>

**270** God is the *Father* Almighty, whose fatherhood and power shed light on one another: God reveals his fatherly omnipotence by the way he takes care of our needs; by the filial adoption that he gives us ("I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty").<sup>109</sup> finally by his infinite mercy, for he displays his power at its height by freely forgiving sins.

**271** God's almighty power is in no way arbitrary: "In God, power, essence, will, intellect, wisdom, and justice are all identical. Nothing therefore can be in God's power which could not be in his just will or his wise intellect."<sup>110</sup>

#### The mystery of God's apparent powerlessness

**272** Faith in God the Father Almighty can be put to the test by the experience of evil and suffering. God can sometimes seem to be absent and incapable of stopping evil. But in the most mysterious way God the Father has revealed his almighty power in the voluntary humiliation and Resurrection of his Son, by which he conquered evil. Christ crucified is thus "the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."<sup>111</sup> It is in Christ's Resurrection and exaltation that the Father has shown forth "the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe".<sup>112</sup>

**273** Only faith can embrace the mysterious ways of God's almighty power. This faith glories in its weaknesses in order to draw to itself Christ's power.<sup>113</sup> The Virgin Mary is the supreme model of this faith, for she believed that "nothing will be impossible with God", and was able to magnify the Lord: "For he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name."<sup>114</sup>

**274** "Nothing is more apt to confirm our faith and hope than holding it fixed in our minds that nothing is impossible with God. Once our reason has grasped the idea of God's almighty power, it will easily and without any hesitation admit everything that [the Creed] will afterwards propose for us to believe - even if they be great and marvelous things, far above the ordinary laws of nature."<sup>115</sup>

## ***Word of Life Bulletin Briefs for November 29, 2009***

You matter. That's why Christ came into your life, cleaned your soul [at baptism], and lit the lamp of faith in your heart. If ever the lamp goes out, he is always there to light it again. And while it shines, it should inspire us to roll back the dark lies of the culture of death and spread the light of Christ's love to everyone we can, because they matter too."

**Rev. John Bartunek, LC**

**"Why You Matter"**

*Respect Life Program (2009-2010)*

Abortion and euthanasia ... are the places where those committed to a *conditional* and *selective* vision of human rights have planted their flag in our time. They want to draw lines between the important and unimportant members of society, between persons and "nonpersons." In a different time or place the forcing issue might be slavery, racism or anti-Semitism – today abortion and related issues force us to decide whether we mean what we say in speaking of inalienable human rights, inherent in simply being human.

**Cardinal Justin Rigali**

**"Where do we go from here?"**

*Respect Life Program (2009-2010)*

The teaching of the Catholic Church on human sexuality is profound and uplifting. Married love is meant to mirror the love within the Trinity – to be faithful, selfless, permanent, and life-giving. And isn't that what everyone really wants out of marriage? But rather than encouraging this kind of love, contraceptives have helped many people to engage in sexual relationships that are unfaithful, selfish, short-term, and altered to be sterile, not life giving. Such uncommitted relationships can not only damage our ability to love as we're meant to love, but very often lead to other problems – contributing to the 3 million unintended pregnancies, over one million abortions, and 19 million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the United States each year.

**Susan Wills**

**"Contraception: The Fine Print"**

*Respect Life Program (2009-2010)*

Every little boy and girl is a unique and irreplaceable creature designed by the God of love, his personal gift that comes to us bearing his image and likeness. While biological parents assist in God's creative act, God contributes the child's eternal soul—his or her intellect, consciousness, will, and the capacities to reason and love, to hope and aspire.

*Flyer-Respect Life Program (2009-2010)*

Between 4 and 5 weeks after conception, the child's brain develops at an incredible rate, and the stomach, esophagus, pancreas, intestines, kidneys, and even reproductive organs are all developing. Between 5 and 6 weeks the embryo begins to move spontaneously and reflexively—e.g., in response to touch the embryo will withdraw. By 6 weeks plus 2 days an embryo's brain waves have been recorded by EEG.

*Flyer-Respect Life Program (2009-2010)*

*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities*

### ***For November 29, 2009 - A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar***

The Christmas season pressures families to buy and consume. Today's gospel warns: "Be on guard and alert" lest you get caught up in the buying frenzy. The most important shopping you can do is in your own heart to discover what you can change. It is not what you get or give which makes the difference this Christmas, it is who you become.