

# St. Stephen Parish

6300 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109



## Pastoral Staff

Reverend Vincent Orum, A.J., Administrator  
Permanent Deacon Ernest Picknally  
Permanent Deacon Raymond Ellis  
Sister Bernadette Mary Leahy, S.S.J.

## Parish Contact Information

Rectory: (856) 662-9338 Fax: (856) 662-4679  
Convent: (856) 665-5227 School: (856) 662-5935  
Email: [ecclesia@comcast.net](mailto:ecclesia@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.StStephensPennsauken.com](http://www.StStephensPennsauken.com)

## November 30, 2008 – First Sunday of Advent

### Mass Schedule

Daily: Monday thru Saturday – 9:00am

#### Weekend Obligation:

Saturday – 4:30pm

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.

Only individually registered parishioners of one year or more are eligible to be married here. This includes anyone still living at home with parents who should register individually.

Rectory Office 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.

- MONDAY December 1, 2008 9:00am Grace Moffett r/b Family
TUESDAY December 2, 2008 9:00am Charles Horn (birthday) r/b Son-in-Law Chuck & Sister Evelyn
WEDNESDAY December 3, 2008 9:00am Grace Moffett r/b M/M Brian Burrows & Family
THURSDAY December 4, 2008 (Novena to follow) 9:00am The Conway Family r/b Family
FRIDAY December 5, 2008 (First Friday) 9:00am Anna Dippolito r/b Family Thelma & Wally Baker r/b Loving Daughter Elaine
SATURDAY December 6, 2008 9:00am Good Intentions of the People of the Parish 4:30pm Theresa Cortese r/b Mario & Phyllis Ciarrocca Tony LaRocca r/b M/M Albert Cecchini
SUNDAY December 7, 2008 9:00am Joseph Papiano r/b Jim Pennestri 10:30am Thomas DiBenedetto r/b Hal & Marge Leone Jim Cummings, Sr. r/b Marge Cummings 7:00pm Good Intentions of the People of the Parish (Vigil for Dec. 8th Holy Day of Obligation)

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.

Nov. 23rd Offertory Figures will appear in next week's bulletin as this issue was submitted on November 21st.

Automatic E-Giving

St. Stephen Parish is providing Electronic Giving, or eGiving, as a simple, secure and convenient method for making contributions. The eGiving option 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.

St. Vincent de Paul Helpline (856) 581-7980



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:

- Dolly Angelastro, Patricia Booth, Marion Borreggine, Vincent Buondonno, Ida Carfagno, Dominic Caruso, Dorothy Coyle, Marge Cummings, Esther DeMarco, Jessie Dixon, Patricia Domer, Jennie Farmer, John Fitzpatrick, Joe Flacco, Robert Gottschall, Jean Heller, Thomas Holmes, Sr., Jim Hutton, Rita Insley, Donna Krawchuk, Marie Melchiorre, Elena Melfi, Jennifer Osborn, Edith Parrissi, Chris Picciano, Rita Picciano, Leonard Rebilas, Rosemarie Rosolia, William Sauer, Carmella Scrivani, Joe Siano, Mary Jo Stedrak, Thomas Sullivan, Sr., Mary Terzini, Sr. Ann Thomas, SSJ, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Anthony Vocale, Jean Wenstrom, Harry Wilson.

Ministry Schedule for December 6/7/8

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Servers: E. Stemetzki, M. DiRico, K. Hulsey EM's: P. Krohn, P. Antonelli, M. Novoa, The Heiningers Lectors: P. Palazzo, R. Taylor

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: S. Morales, P. Luthman, E. Corbett EM's: S. Marano, A. DiGiacomo, R. Leone, The Sapienza's Lectors: D. Heck, J. Messina

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: L. Fagan, R & R Buchholz EM's: M. Meloni, T. Link, G. Tutwiler, The Fagans Lectors: C. Otto, L. Sperduto

Sunday, 7:00pm (Vigil for Immaculate Conception)

Altar Servers: S. Morales, E. Mattered, L. Fagan EM's: T. Scavuzzo, T. Veneziani, T. Mattered, R. Davis, L. Picknally Lectors: C. Mattered, A. Yeager

Monday, 9:00am (Immaculate Conception)

Lectors: D. Steinmetz, D. Heck. EM's/Altar Servers: TBA

Monday, 7:00pm (Immaculate Conception)

Altar Servers: E. Corbett, K. Hulsey, W. McHugh EM's: S. Marano, L. D'Alessandro, R. Leone, The Klecko's Lectors: C. Mattered, K. Jakubowski

Dec. 7th bulletin deadline: Dec. 1st @ Noon

Next 2nd Collection: Dec. 14th - "Religious Retirement"

CCD Program Needs

Our CCD Program is still in need of Subs and Aides. If you feel a calling to this wonderful Ministry, please call Adeline Gramlich, CRE at (856) 662-9338.

### ***This Week @ St. Stephen's***

12/1-Monday-9am Mass, 7pm Fundraising, 7:15pm RCIA  
12/2-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7:30pm School Adv. Board  
12/3-Wednesday-9am Mass, No CCD  
12/4-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Rosary Makers, 7:15pm Choir  
12/5-Friday-9am Mass, Adoration till 7pm, **7pm Multicultural Night**  
12/6-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Group, 9am Mass, **10am Councils**,  
3:45-4:15pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass  
12/7-Sunday-Masses @ 9am & 10:30am, **7pm Immac. Conc. Vigil**

### ***Altar Flower Donations***

Anyone interested in donating flowers for the altar to mark an Anniversary, Christening or Memorial Mass, please contact Maria Haas @ 665-8393.

**Your Christmas Flower donations** are not only used for the Christmas Season but are also used to beautify the altar during the entire Liturgical Year.

### ***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 Betty @ 662-6928 for December requests.

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

We meet every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday  
of the month @ 7pm at Stonegate.  
Our next meeting will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

### ***St Stephen's Young Adult Ministry***

St Stephen's YAM, ages 21-40, is currently meeting every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month.

\* The 2nd Friday will be a reflection and discussion on the upcoming weeks Gospel.

The meeting starts at 7:00 in the Stonegate Conference Room.

\* On the 4th Friday, YAM will be hosting a movie night followed by a discussion.

The group will gather in the Stonegate Main room at 6:30 for light refreshments. The movie starts at 7:00. Stonegate residents are welcomed to attend.

### ***First Friday Adoration***

This Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, is the First Friday of the Month. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin after the 9:00am Mass and continue until 7:00pm.

### ***Pastoral & Finance Councils Workshop Saturday, Dec. 6th from 10am-11:30am***

### ***"Working As A Team"***

***Stonegate Meeting Room***

presented by

**Tom McGuire of Good Leaders, Good Shepherds**

A senior sales executive with proven leadership and team building skills and extensive experience in designing, implementing and executing business plans and initiatives, **Thomas McGuire** has developed four sales start-up organizations including Richardson-Vicks and Novartis Nutrition. Additionally, Mr. McGuire has coached countless senior-level executives for major organizations through such challenges as delegation, collaboration and communications. Mr. McGuire served as the Vice President for Sales of Novartis Consumer Health, Inc. for 18 years until being named Senior Vice President for Business Planning and Development. Mr. McGuire holds an Executive Masters of Business Administration from the Kellogg School of Management.

### ***First Sunday of Advent***

*Journey of People of Advent*

Isaiah: People of Advent waiting, preparing, longing for God. With us Emmanuel Join them. Preaching, Teaching, calling people to repentance and salvation.

WE are the clay- You are the Potter

### ***Celebrating Multiculturalism***

**THIS FRIDAY, December 5, 2008 @ 7 p.m.**

**"God of a thousand faces, help us also to acknowledge You are worshipped in many languages, in different songs and rhythms of life from our own."**

**The honor of your presence** is requested at an evening that celebrates our diversity as a Christian community. Please join us as an active participant to express our uniqueness in Christ through prayer, music and food. **For further information, please call Mary Sue Link @ (856) 854-7120.**

### 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. The first meeting each month will be held at the Merchantville Diner on Centre Street. The remaining meetings will be held in the Rectory Basement Meeting Room. Hope to see you on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Diner. **More Info: Joe Fagan @ 662-5908.**

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### PTA GIFT CARD PROGRAM

The St. Stephen PTA Gift Card program is in full swing for this holiday season and orders will be received until Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Should you need another form please feel free to stop by the school or pick one up in the back of church. For any questions please contact Katy Fagan @ 662-5908 or [katyfagan@comcast.net](mailto:katyfagan@comcast.net).

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### St. Stephen's BookMates!

The BookMates interfaith literacy program is well underway at St. Stephen School and we need your help! If you are available to read for one hour each week during the school day with young St. Stephen students or would like more information about the program, please contact Julie Silver, BookMates Program Coordinator, at (856) 751-9500, ext. 143. BookMates is a social justice project of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Southern New Jersey and the Catholic Jewish Commission.

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### CCHS presents

### "Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street"

Please join us as The Arts at Camden Catholic High School, Cherry Hill, NJ presents the Christmas classic "Miracle on 34th Street" performed in our newly renovated auditorium on Thursday, Friday & Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM and Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 2:00 PM. Reserved seating /tickets \$10. For more information, please call the school at (856) 663-2247 Extension 101.

### CCHS Adoration Volunteers Needed

Camden Catholic High School is also in need of volunteers for First Friday Adoration at various times of the day. Anyone interested may call Elizabeth at (856) 488-1963 to sign up.

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### Bishop Eustace Christmas Story Hour

On Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, the Student Library Association at Bishop Eustace will host a free Christmas Story Hour for Children ages 4-7 in Lulli Library at 1:00pm. Christmas stories, crafts and refreshments have been planned. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer will make a "surprise" visit. **Registration is required.** Please call (856) 662-2160, ext. 231 by December 5<sup>th</sup>. Visitors should use Route 70 entrance onto the school property, All children must be accompanied by an adult.

## CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

(A weekly continuing series)

### Section One, "I Believe-We Believe"

### Chapter 3: Man's Response to God

### Article 2: We Believe

#### IN BRIEF

176 Faith is a personal adherence of the whole man to God who reveals himself. It involves an assent of the intellect and will to the self-revelation God has made through his deeds and words.

177 "To believe" has thus a twofold reference: to the person, and to the truth: to the truth, by trust in the person who bears witness to it.

178 We must believe in no one but God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

179 Faith is a supernatural gift from God. In order to believe, man needs the interior helps of the Holy Spirit.

180 "Believing" is a human act, conscious and free, corresponding to the dignity of the human person.

181 "Believing" is an ecclesial act. The Church's faith precedes, engenders, supports and nourishes our faith. The Church is the mother of all believers. "No one can have God as Father who does not have the Church as Mother" (St. Cyprian, *De unit.* 6: PL 4, 519).

182 We believe all "that which is contained in the word of God, written or handed down, and which the Church proposes for belief as divinely revealed" (Paul VI, CPG § 20).

183 Faith is necessary for salvation. The Lord himself affirms: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (*Mk* 16:16).

184 "Faith is a foretaste of the knowledge that will make us blessed in the life to come" (St. Thomas Aquinas. *Comp. theol.* 1, 2).

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### St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Gibbsboro

will hold an "Advent Evening of Reflection" on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7:30-8:30pm. Join the "Singing Padres" back by popular request in seasonal prayers and songs. Refreshments will be served and free will donations accepted. Call (856) 784-8501 for more information.

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### A Marriage Encounter Weekend

is a gift that lasts forever. The best gift a couple can give their children is to love each other. Consider a Marriage Encounter Weekend as a Christmas gift for your spouse and yourself. Register today for the next Marriage Encounter Weekend on December 5-7. For more info or to schedule a weekend, call Bob & Michelle Dooley at (800) 688-9963 or Email [mrdool@comcast.net](mailto:mrdool@comcast.net). Website: [www.mesj.net](http://www.mesj.net).

# **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

**From the Desk of our Administrator, Father Vincent Orum, A.J.**

Two Sundays ago I was filled with joy and excitement as I participated in the Children's Liturgy at 10:30 am led by our very own sons and daughters at Saint Stephen's Catholic School and CCD. I could not stop thinking about Mt.19:14 "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these". It was quiet moving to watch them proclaim God's Word in the readings of the day, the prayer of the faithful, and the procession with the gifts to the Altar. Their Angelic voices as they led us in songs were incredible and amazing to say the least! Thanks to the teachers and Mrs. Pat Higgins for preparing the kids to have such a wonderful participation in our Sunday Liturgical celebration and worship to the Lord. I look forward to every third Sunday of the month at 10:30 am for their celebration of the Liturgy.

I am sure the parents, family and friends of our CCD kids and the students at Saint Stephen's School were equally moved and felt proud as they watched these kids lead us in praising and glorifying God our Father! Certainly they demonstrated that given the opportunity, they have the potential to give their very best to God.

I have often felt that we need to create an enabling environment for our children to grow in faith and such opportunity to participate in liturgy is obviously proper ways of continuing with their Catholic upbringing they experience in the school. So often there is a disconnect between their Catholic environment at school during the weekdays and the weekend experience whereby most parents care less to bring them in church nor pray at home with them. What a good tradition to allow our children not only live their Catholic upbringing during weekdays at school, but also be able to see them actively involved in their Parish family over the weekend.

This reminds me of Pope Pius XI encyclicals, *Divini Illius Magistris*" (Christian Education) of 1929 in which he emphasized on Catholic education of the children in schools the responsibility of the Family (Parents), the Church in the education of the children in matters of faith and Morals. In Articles No.32-34 he says,

*"The family therefore holds directly from the Creator the mission and hence the right to educate the offspring, a right inalienable because inseparably joined to the strict obligation, a right anterior to any right whatever of civil society and of the State, and therefore inviolable on the part of any power on earth.*

*That this right is inviolable St. Thomas proves as follows: The child is naturally something of the father . . . so by natural right the child, before reaching the use of reason is under the father's care. Hence it would be contrary to natural justice if the child, before the use of reason, were removed from the care of its parents, or if any disposition were made concerning him against the will of the parents. [21]*

*And as this duty on the part of the parents continues up to the time when the child is in a position to provide for itself, this same inviolable parental right of education also endures. "Nature intends not merely the generation of the offspring, but also its development and advance to the perfection of man considered as man, that is, to the state of virtue"[22] says the same St. Thomas.*

*The wisdom of the Church in this matter is expressed with precision and clearness in the Codex of Canon Law can. 1113: "Parents are under a grave obligation to see to the religious and moral education of their children, as well as to their physical and civic training, as far as they can, and moreover to provide for their temporal well-being." [23]*

Pope Pius XI continues to remind us the Christian family and the Church are inseparable in as far as education of the children is concerned. The church is the avenue through which the family can solidly rely on in matters of forming the morals and faith of their children despite the fact that many parents today seemed to pay less attention about getting to church together with their children on Sunday. Yet they are available and have time to take them to sporting activities, shopping sprees etc.

In his own words in NO.75-76, Pope Pius XI the Pope writes,

*"To meet the weakness of man's fallen nature, God in His Goodness has provided the abundant helps of His grace and the countless means with which He has endowed the Church, the great family of Christ. The Church therefore is the educational environment most intimately and harmoniously associated with the Christian family. This educational environment of the Church embraces the Sacraments, divinely efficacious means of grace, the sacred ritual, so wonderfully instructive, and the material fabric of her churches, whose liturgy and art have an immense educational value; but it also includes the great number and variety of schools, associations and institutions of all kinds, established for the training of youth in Christian piety, together with literature and the sciences, not omitting recreation and physical culture. And in this inexhaustible fecundity of educational works, how marvelous, how incomparable is the Church's maternal providence! So admirable too is the harmony which she maintains with the Christian family, that the Church and the family may be said to constitute together one and the same temple of Christian education"*

We hope that by giving our children the opportunity to lead us in liturgy every third Sunday of the month, we are offering to them the educational environment for growing in the faith. I look forward to every family and parent to support us in this undertaking which is their inviolable right endowed by the creator.

