

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
Website: www.StStephensPennsauken.com

November 9, 2008 – Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

Mass Schedule

Daily: Monday thru Saturday – 9:00am

Weekend Obligation:

Saturday – 4:30pm

Sunday – 9:00am & 10:30am

Children's/Youth Mass: 3rd 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, 2nd Sunday of month @ Noon.

Baptism – 3rd 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 November 10, 2008 9:00am For All Souls Day Intentions
TUESDAY November 11, 2008 (Veteran's Day) 9:00am William P. McNelis r/b Dorothea Dodds
WEDNESDAY November 12, 2008 9:00am For All Souls Day Intentions
THURSDAY November 13, 2008 (Novena to follow) 9:00am For All Souls Day Intentions
FRIDAY November 14, 2008 9:00am For All Souls Day Intentions
SATURDAY November 15, 2008 9:00am 4:30pm Good Intentions of the People of the Parish Rocco Pietrafesa r/b Mario & Phyllis Ciarrocca Deceased Members of Berti/Travia Families r/b Anthony & Adelaide
SUNDAY November 16, 2008 (10:30 Children's Mass) 9:00am Julia & Edward Grey r/b Daughter Patricia A. Kerney r/b Leni Zinacola
10:30am Roland Pepa r/b Robert Pepa John O'Connor r/b The Heller Family

The Sanctuary Candle this week is in Memory of Deceased U.S. Military.

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.

Table with 2 columns: Attendance/Collection and Amount. Rows include Nov. 1/2, 2008 (\$4,817), Nov. 3/4, 2007 (\$7,958), All Saints/All Souls Collection Nov. 1 / 2 (\$1,936), Budgeted Weekly Collection (\$7,200), and Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average (\$5,709).

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.



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, 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. Sr. Ann Thomas, SSJ, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Anthony Vocale, Jean Wenstrom.

Ministry Schedule for November 15/16

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Servers: E. Mattera, M. DiRico
EM's: P. Krohn, T. Mattera, S. Eisenhardt, The Klecko's
Lectors: R. McKean, A. Yeager

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: H. Atchison, G. Schwankert, E. Corbett
EM's: S. Marano, S. Mufalli, R. Leone, N. Schmidt, R. Davis
Lectors: J. Gerst, D. Steinmetz

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: The Coars
EM's: C. Otto, B. Buffington, A. Mulholland, L. D'Alessandro, M. Coar
Lectors: Youth Mass

November 16th bulletin deadline: November 10th @ Noon

Next Special 2nd Collection: November 23rd - "Human Development"

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

CCD Program Needs

Our CCD Program is still in need of Teachers, 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

11/10-Monday-9am Mass, 7:15pm RCIA
11/11-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7:30pm PTA
11/12-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:30pm CCD
11/13-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7:15pm Choir
11/14-Friday-9am Mass, 7pm YAM @ Stonegate
11/15-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Group, 9am Mass,
3:45-4:15pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
11/16-Sunday-Masses @ 9am & 10:30am

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 Diane @ 308-8224 for November requests.

St. Stephen's Rosary Makers

We meet every 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month @ 7pm at Stonegate.

Our next meeting will be held on November 20th.

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 6th at the Diner. More Info: Joe Fagan @ 662-5908.

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.

Yard Sale Meeting Nov. 10th

Everyone who worked on the Yard Sale at any time from June thru October is invited to a get-together on Monday evening, November 10th at 7pm in the School Lunch Room to discuss the Yard Sale and how to make it better. Refreshments will be provided.

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.

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 4th. An order form was placed in last week's bulletin. 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.

ST. STEPHEN'S PTA

2008 CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

St. Stephen's PTA is hosting their annual Christmas Festival on Saturday, November 22nd from 2:00pm until 8:00pm and on Sunday, November 23rd from 9:00am until 2:00pm. Bring the family there's something for everyone. Crafts, Chinese Auction, Incredible Homemade Food and our Wonderful Bake Table. To make our Christmas Festival complete Santa Claus will also be on hand for pictures with everyone. So come and start the holiday season with the St. Stephen's family.

CRAFTERS/VENDORS ARE WANTED

If you are interested please contact Betsy Mason at 856-910-0205 or email elizmason@comcast.net

Celebrating Multiculturalism

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.

St Stephen's Young Adult Ministry

Upcoming Events

St. Stephen's YAM, ages 21-40, will be meeting Friday November 14 for a reflection and discussion on the upcoming week's Gospel. The meeting starts at 7:00 in the Stonegate Conference Room.

Thank You!

The Art & Environment Ministry wish to express a heartfelt thank you to all our parishioners, Stonegate residents, school and community members for their support with our recent Applebee's fundraiser. We are pleased to report that we raised \$361.17.

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## Young Sowers of the Seed Children's Mass

### November 16<sup>th</sup> - 10:30am

Beginning on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> our children will animate and coordinate the **Children's Mass every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 10:30am**. All children of the parish are invited to attend. On November 16<sup>th</sup> the 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be presenting the Readings and bringing up the Gifts. This will include children from the School as well as CCD. Other grades will be asked to participate in future Masses. Please make every effort to attend these Masses with your children, as there is no greater gift than the sharing of our faith.

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Ministry Certificate/Degree Programs Information Day Nov. 15th

The Lifelong Formation Office of the Diocese of Camden will hold a special information day on Saturday, November 15 from 11am-2pm at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Absecon. Two programs will be presented: a new undergraduate ministry certificate program offered through the College of St. Elizabeth and a graduate certificate or degree program offered through Georgian Court University. Classes will start in January 2009 with locations in the Camden Diocese. Pastors and Conveners, parish ministry leaders and anyone interested in studying for ministry are invited to attend this session.

These formation programs are designed for current catechists, Catholic School teachers, youth ministers, liturgists, parish catechetical leaders, parish business managers and other parish ministry leaders, as well as anyone who would like to prepare for a parish ministry position as a leader, teacher or an assistant. The information day will include an overview of the Diocesan Lay Ministry Formation Program, descriptions and details on the specific programs from representatives of each college, and financial assistance information. Participants will also get a sample of what ministry study will be like from the theology faculty of both institutions.

To reserve a space or for more information, please call the Sherri Reed at (856) 583-6170 or email sreed@camdendiocese.org.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

(A weekly continuing series)

Section One, "I Believe-We Believe"

Chapter 3: Man's Response to God

III. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF FAITH

Faith - the beginning of eternal life

163 Faith makes us taste in advance the light of the beatific vision, the goal of our journey here below. Then we shall see God "face to face", "as he is".⁴⁷ So faith is already the beginning of eternal life:

When we contemplate the blessings of faith even now, as if gazing at a reflection in a mirror, it is as if we already possessed the wonderful things which our faith assures us we shall one day enjoy.⁴⁸

164 Now, however, "we walk by faith, not by sight";⁴⁹ we perceive God as "in a mirror, dimly" and only "in part".⁵⁰ Even though enlightened by him in whom it believes, faith is often lived in darkness and can be put to the test. The world we live in often seems very far from the one promised us by faith. Our experiences of evil and suffering, injustice and death, seem to contradict the Good News; they can shake our faith and become a temptation against it.

165 It is then we must turn to the *witnesses of faith*: to Abraham, who "in hope. . . believed against hope";⁵¹ to the Virgin Mary, who, in "her pilgrimage of faith", walked into the "night of faith"⁵² in sharing the darkness of her son's suffering and death; and to so many others: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."⁵³

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#### Talk & Open Forum

### Why Be Catholic?

Hosted by St. Rose of Lima Youth Group

Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm

St. Rose of Lima School Cafeteria

300 Kings Hwy., Haddon Hts, NJ

Free Seminar, no registration required.

Catholic author & speaker **Matthew Pinto** will share his story of going from an apathetic teenager to a fervent believer in Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. If you need a boost to your faith or want answers to challenging questions about the faith, plan on attending this very inspirational and uplifting evening. More info: Stephen Lamprou (856) 296-4450

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St. Peter's, Merchantville is hosting a play on Nov. 29th at 6 PM on the life of **Blessed Teresa of Calcutta** being held in the church auditorium. The women doing the play performed at Sydney, Australia to the World Youth Group this summer. The tickets are \$10 Adult, \$5 Children under 10. This cost includes a light meal with performance immediately following. Call Barbara DeFranco 665-2579 or Joan Decker 663-7418 for tickets.

STEWARDSHIP: A CALL TO HOLINESS AND WHOLENESS

by Father Vincent Orum, AJ

Last week on Wednesday, Fr. Ben and I attended a one-day conference on Stewardship at Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, Sicklerville by Fr. Daniel from St. Louis in Indianapolis. For me it was a great reawakening into the understanding of what Stewardship of Time, Talents and Treasure is all about.

I was very much touched by how Fr. Daniel related and proposed stewardship as a practical way of answering our call to holiness. Most often we associate Stewardship of Time, Talents and Treasures as a call to volunteering and the individual's desire to support the Parish based on the relationship with the Pastor, circles of friends or the friendly environment in the Parish community.

Many people get scared at the mention of holiness and perceive it as away of life reserved for mystics, monks and extraordinary people like Mother Teresa. Yet, Stewardship helps us to realize that we can grow into Sainthood by actually doing the simple responsibility of answering what it means to be a Christian everyday! Stewardship as spirituality offers to us the opportunity to grow into our closeness with Jesus' Identity and becoming engaged within our parish community.

By virtue of our Baptism, each one of us has been called to come and grow closer to the Lord and his Church. Our closeness to Jesus and the Parish community (Church) is the very call to holiness. This relationship is an invitation to the imitation of the generosity of self-giving by our Lord Jesus Christ who emptied himself (kenosis) of his Divine Identity (Incarnation) to become one with us even to the extent of death on a Cross (*Philippians 2:5-8*). By imitating the generosity of self-giving as Jesus did, we in actual fact answer to the call to holiness! This is an amazing twist in the understanding of Stewardship as a practical spirituality to attain holiness and more achievable call to sainthood for many.

Another aspect of Spirituality of a stewardship Christian or community is the fact that a person who answers his/her baptismal call as a steward will not only impact his/her life but the entire parish community and the world as great people in our history like Mother Teresa did with their lives. Stewardship of Time, Talents and Treasure does not aim at making the Parish/community to survive, but thrive! If we are looking for conversion and transformation of self and the community, stewardship offers that opportunity.

Stewardship is also a reawakening in us-- the fundamental basic human nature and need to participate in other people's worlds and lives (a sense of mission). The call to do good and avoid evil; the call to love, serve as opposed to greed, envy and indifference is intrinsic in every human soul. We all seek to love and be loved; we wish for our individual pursuit of happiness and shun what can deter our quest for it. Hence, the absence for this basic quest for all that is good is contrary to human spirit and soul.

In the same breath, I was happy to learn that the lack of a Stewarding spirit is not the lack of giving the gift of one's Time, Talents and Treasure as the Bishops of United States realized way back in 1992. It is, however, a cry and also symptomatic to something greater: namely what I call **"the barrenness of the human soul"** which in reality is a Spiritual issue: spiritual malaise. This view of our condition is depicted well in the account of Ezekiel's dry bone story (*Ezekiel 37:1-14*). When humanity is robbed of his/her fundamental humanness to do good, he/she is robbed of the image of God bestowed on him in the creation story (*Genesis 1:26-27*) and the breath of God is taken away; thus the world becomes the **"valley full of dry bones"**! The dry bone is man robbed of his glory and dignity as the apex of creation and the beauty of God's design in the ugly face of the culture of death.

We live in a Society today where we are poisoned by the **culture of Individualism, materialism, Relativism, hedonism and Nihilism** which Pope John Paul II calls as the **"defining characteristic of the Culture of Death"** as opposed to the Culture of life: **Personal & communal Responsibility, Generosity, Gratefulness and a Return with an increase** and Pope Benedict VI calls it the **"Anti-Culture of Death"** that we are called to strive to build and grow in.

Stewardship offers and helps us to redefine these defining characteristics of the **Culture of Death**. We are encouraged to look at Jesus who proposes Solidarity instead of individualism, heavenly riches and treasures as opposed to materialism, Truth in the place of relativism, the language of the Cross and Resurrection instead of hedonism and nihilism. The culture of death offers humanity a condition of social/spiritual malaise as we come to realize that they are but false hopes and elusive happiness.

I was impressed to discover that our Blessed Mother Mary is a model of true Stewardship as she was grateful to receive the Word of God and became responsible of taking care of the faith and her willingness to share her response not only to the people of her time, but every generation (*Lk1: 46-48*). She embodied the values that define the culture of life: Responsibility, generosity, gratitude and a return with increase as opposed to the culture of Death!

In other words, she was **engaged** in her faith and because of her engagement, **"Mary said, Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word"** Lk 1:38. She becomes to us at this point what it means to be a good steward who acts contrary to the attitude of being **"Not engaged"** or totally **Disengaged** in the practice and willingness to give the gift of Time, Talents and Treasure for our parish community.

Like our Mother Mary, a consciously engaged Stewardship practice must be a consciously **planned, proportionate to the generosity of God-given benevolence, prayerful and sacrificial giving of one's time, talents and treasure.**

Where do we belong? Are we engaged and promoting the culture of life? Are we not engaged and disengaged thus promoting the culture of Death for ourselves and the community we are called to serve? Where does it measure our Baptismal call to closeness with Jesus Christ and the Parish community (Church)?

