

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: eccllesia@comcast.net
Website: www.StStephensPennsauken.com

December 14, 2008 – Third Sunday of Advent

Mass Schedule

Daily: Monday thru Saturday – 9:00am

Weekend Obligation:

Saturday – 4:30pm
Sunday – 9:00am & 10:30am

Children's Liturgy: 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 @ 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** **December 15, 2008**
9:00am Jennie Ballario r/b Connie O'Neill
- TUESDAY** **December 16, 2008**
9:00am The Welding & Brady Families r/b Family
- WEDNESDAY** **December 17, 2008**
9:00am Grace Moffett r/b Doris & Irv Suval
- THURSDAY** **December 18, 2008 (Novena to follow)**
9:00am Anna Brady r/b Friends
- FRIDAY** **December 19, 2008**
9:00am John O'Connor r/b Wife Florence & Family
Eleanor McBride r/b The Petronis Family
- SATURDAY** **December 20, 2008**
9:00am Good Intentions of the People of the Parish
4:30pm John J. & John R. Bielinski r/b Wife & Mother
John O'Connor r/b Wife Florence & Family
- SUNDAY** **December 21, 2008 (10:30am Children's)**
9:00am Caroline Schmidt r/b The Schmidt Family
Sigmund Spiewak r/b Joseph & Jeanne Gerst
- 10:30am Victor & Teresa Tomaselli r/b Tony & Adele
Grace Moffett r/b Joe McDonnell

***The Sanctuary Candle this week is in
Memory of Florence Dean.***

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.

Attendance/Collection Dec. 6/7, 2008	489 / \$6,132
Attendance/Collection Dec. 8/9, 2007	665 / \$7,678
Budgeted Weekly Collection:	\$7,200
Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average:	\$5,651

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.StStephensPennaauken.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, 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, Rita Picciano, Leonard Rebilas, Rosemarie Rosolia, William Sauer, Carmella Scrivani, 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 20/21

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Servers: K. Hulsey, E. Mattera, M. DiRico
EM's: P. Antonelli, T. Angstman, T. Scavuzzo, C & A Pandola
Lectors: S. Stehm, A. Yeager

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: S. Morales, G. Schwankert, P. Luthman
EM's: S. Marano, R. Leone, N. Schmidt, J. Rosario, T. Modzier
Lectors: L. Modzier, J. Gerst

Sunday, 10:30am Children's Mass

Altar Servers: Children's Mass - TBA
EM's: M. Novoa, P. Petronis, C. Otto, The Fagans
Lectors: Children's Mass - TBA

Dec. 21st bulletin deadline:

Dec. 15th @ Noon

Next 2nd Collection:

Jan. 25th - "Membership Sunday"

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.

St. Vincent de Paul Helpline (856) 581-7980
Christmas Toy Assistance: www.ToysForTots.org

This Week @ St. Stephen's

12/15-Monday-9am Mass, 7:15pm RCIA
 12/16-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary
 12/17-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:30pm CCD, **7pm Penitential Service**
 12/18-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, **7pm School Christmas Show**,
 7pm Rosary Makers, 7:15pm Choir
 12/19-Friday-9am Mass, 7pm YAM Advent Faith-Sharing
 12/20-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Group, 9am Mass,
 3:45-4:15pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
 12/21-Sunday-Masses @ 9am & **10:30am Children's Mass**

Christmas Flower Donations

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 1st & 3rd Thursday @ 7pm at Stonegate.
 Our next meeting will be held on December 18th.

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 January 3rd 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.

Third Sunday of Advent

Continuing the Journey of People of Advent the altar represents Advent as a time of Hope, Faith and Love – remembering the past, celebrating NOW!

Elijah: He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners. He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted.

The Angel Tree

This year's Angel Tree will benefit **Pennsauken Neighbors Helping Neighbors**, a non-profit organization striving to help those in our community struggling with emergency financial needs. These emergencies can be due to medical illness, an accident, job loss, a natural disaster or similar circumstances.

Grants of up to \$1000 are awarded to applicants after an anonymous review by a three-member professional panel.

How can we help? Envelopes decorated by school and parishioner families will be hung from the tree starting on the first weekend of Advent, November 29-30. Envelopes will be on the tree every day until Christmas. **Please take an envelope and have your children do so as well. Fill the envelope with coins, or cash or a check in the amount you can afford and that God intends.** Place the filled envelope in the gift box/s at the bottom of the tree. January 1st will mark the beginning of the 2nd grant application phase for PNHN. **If you know of someone who may be in need of our support, please have them check All Around Pennsauken or Channel 19 for details.** Want to help decorate envelopes? Please contact Betsy McBride at 856-665-3722. Leave a message if no one is home.

Christmas Schedule, 2008

Penitential Service:

Wednesday, Dec. 17th @ 7pm

Confessions:

Saturday, Dec. 20th: 3:45-4:15pm

Monday, Dec. 22nd: 7-8pm

Tuesday, Dec. 23rd: 7-8pm

Christmas Eve Vigil Masses:

4pm,

5:30pm Children's Mass,
 & 10pm

Christmas Day Masses:

9am & 10:30am

Thank You!

To each of you who bought chances for our St. Joseph Villa for retired Sisters, we offer our gratitude and prayers. Many of you told us you were taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph and have very fond memories! Our median age is now 75! Three of us here at St. Stephen's entered in the 1950's and were, hopefully, a part of those great memories!

We sent \$450 to the Villa! We are HOPING that this year a member of St. Stephen's Parish will be one of the WINNERS! God bless you and your families!

**S. Bernadette, S. Helen, S. Rita, S. Ruthann, S. Stella,
Grateful Sisters of St. Joseph**

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## Young Adult Ministry News

The St Stephen's Young Adult Ministry ages 21-40, will be hosting a **Taize Prayer hour this Friday Dec 19th from 7:30 - 8:30**. The theme is *Light in Darkness*, an hour of Scripture readings, songs and reflection. The group will gather at the Rectory at 7:20 so we can begin promptly at 7:30. Space is limited so call Jim at the rectory to make a reservation. For more information on the St. Stephen's Young Adult Ministry please call Rose at 856-663-9342 or send an email to [saintstephens\\_yam@yahoo.com](mailto:saintstephens_yam@yahoo.com).

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Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, Dec. 30th from 1pm-7pm St. Stephen School



If you're at least 110 pounds, 17 years of age and in good health, you qualify to give the gift of life. There will be sign-up sheets in the lobby of the church after all Masses.

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*In Loving Memory  
Joseph A. Siano*



*Born October 27, 1920  
Died December 1, 2008*

## CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

*(A weekly continuing series)*

### PART ONE: THE PROFESSION OF FAITH SECTION 2: The Profession of the Christian Faith

#### THE CREEDS

190 And so the Creed is divided into three parts: "the first part speaks of the first divine Person and the wonderful work of creation; the next speaks of the second divine Person and the mystery of his redemption of men; the final part speaks of the third divine Person, the origin and source of our sanctification."<sup>4</sup> These are "the three chapters of our [baptismal] seal".<sup>5</sup>

191 "These three parts are distinct although connected with one another. According to a comparison often used by the Fathers, we call them *articles*. Indeed, just as in our bodily members there are certain articulations which distinguish and separate them, so too in this profession of faith, the name *articles* has justly and rightly been given to the truths we must believe particularly and distinctly."<sup>6</sup> In accordance with an ancient tradition, already attested to by St. Ambrose, it is also customary to reckon the articles of the Creed as *twelve*, thus symbolizing the fullness of the apostolic faith by the number of the apostles.<sup>7</sup>

192 Through the centuries many professions or symbols of faith have been articulated in response to the needs of the different eras: the creeds of the different apostolic and ancient Churches,<sup>8</sup> e.g., the *Quicumque*, also called the Athanasian Creed;<sup>9</sup> the professions of faith of certain Councils, such as Toledo, Lateran, Lyons, Trent;<sup>10</sup> or the symbols of certain popes, e.g., the *Fides Damasi*<sup>11</sup> or the *Credo of the People of God* of Paul VI.<sup>12</sup>

193 None of the creeds from the different stages in the Church's life can be considered superseded or irrelevant. They help us today to attain and deepen the faith of all times by means of the different summaries made of it.

Among all the creeds, two occupy a special place in the Church's life:

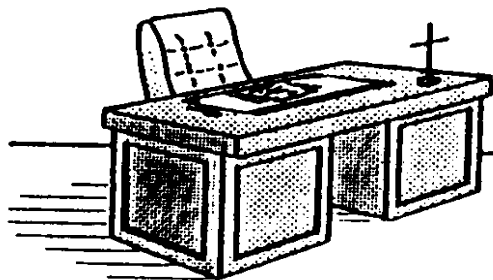
194 *The Apostles' Creed* is so called because it is rightly considered to be a faithful summary of the apostles' faith. It is the ancient baptismal symbol of the Church of Rome. Its great authority arises from this fact: it is "the Creed of the Roman Church, the See of Peter the first of the apostles, to which he brought the common faith".<sup>13</sup>

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*In Memory of
Christopher L.
Picciano*

*October 12, 1964 ~~~
December 1, 2008*





*From the Desk of
Father Vincent Orum, AJ*

Listening to the media waves already singing Christmas Carols, we cannot help but understand that Christmas is finally around the corner! I am sure many of us are already busy with the preparations of gifts to our loved ones and are on shopping sprees. This season is characterized by the spirit of generosity and gift giving. Faced with the economic recession going around, it may be a very challenging time for every household to be as generous as they used to be to one another and their Parish family at Christmas.

Despite all these tough times, let us be aware of the magnitude of love God has for us as we celebrate a God who has taken a human face like ours! The language and message of Christmas is still clear: God's generosity to us is made manifest by sending his Son, Jesus Christ-Word-Incarnate in our world He is called Emmanuel," God-With-Us" because he doesn't want to abandon us.

Much as God has been generous to us, we are called to be generous to Him as well even though the general economic trend in the Country has made it difficult for people to give as much. I want to thank all of you, who despite this difficult time, are still generously giving back to God in gratitude. I need to tell you that even with the recession being faced in this Country, we as a nation are blessed with so much in comparison with many nations on the face of the earth! You can still count your blessings and have so much to thank God and be grateful for!

We need to understand and appreciate that our gift offerings are but to God alone who provides "seed to the sower and bread for food..."2Corinthians 9:10.

While the priest offers to God Bread and Wine on his behalf and that of the community during the celebration of the Mass, your love offerings that you bring is your generous gift of gratitude to God and the service of His Church.

As Saint Paul said, "**consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have abundance for every good work**" 2 Corinthians 9:10.

Mathew 12:41-44, speaking about the poor widow's contribution, presents to us a model of generosity and gratitude even at the most trying time because it is not what we give that matters, but what we are to God that matters.

The prayer after our gifts are raised and presented to God through the hands of the priest makes it clear that the recipient of our love offering is God, who has been generous to us in many ways: the priest says, "**Pray, brethren, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.**

We respond on our part, "**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his church.**" To Him we present the produce of the earth, Bread and Wine, to be changed into the spiritual food for our salvation as our humanity is Divinized through this great act of worship expressed in the prayer the Priest/Deacon says: "**May this mingling of water and wine enable us to share into the Divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share our humanity.**"

Our Lord's teaching in Mathew 6:1-4 about Almsgiving is clear: "**But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.**"

May God bless you as we wait for Jesus, Emmanuel.