

# 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)

## December 20, 2009 – Fourth 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.**



## This Week @ St. Stephen's

12/21-Monday-9am Mass, 11am & 7:30pm A&E décor, 7-8pm Confession  
 12/22-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7-8pm Confession, 7pm Rosary  
 12/23-Wednesday-9am Mass, School Noon Dismissal, NO CCD  
 12/24-Christmas Eve-Masses @ 4pm (Children's), 5:30pm & 10pm  
 12/25-Christmas Day-Masses @ 9am & 10:30am  
 12/26-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Group, 9am Mass,  
 3:45 Confession, 4:30pm Mass,  
 12/27-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.**

Art & Environment is seeking parishioners and student volunteers to help move Christmas artifacts from the rectory basement **after the 10:30am Mass on Dec. 20th**. All students will receive service hours upon request. Please call Maria Haas if you plan to attend at 856-665-8393.

Art & Environment has purchased two small and two large Christmas trees to be planted on the St. Stephen's campus after the holiday season. **Anyone who would like to make a donation for a tree to honor a deceased love one, please call Maria Haas @ 856-665-8393**

### 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.**

### 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.

### 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.

*As we continue 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.

### December 19-20

*Today we celebrate the Fourth, and last, Sunday of Advent. Elizabeth welcomes Mary with the words:*

*"Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb."*

*Let us welcome Jesus, the fruit of Mary's womb, in this Eucharistic celebration.*

## PTA's Christmas Festival Results

The PTA would like to thank everyone who volunteered, donated bake goods and attended the Christmas Festival. The school made a profit of **\$3,600.00**. Thank you all again.

## Collectibles For Sale

Several collectible items were salvaged from the recent Yard Sale donations. **These include a group of Longaberger baskets, P. Buckley Moss brooches, Dynasty, Brinn's, and Heritage Collectible dolls, and 2 single lens reflex cameras and accessories.** They were set-aside in the hopes of selling them on eBay, but were not, due to the poor economy.

If anyone is interested in purchasing them or knows of a person or business that would be willing to buy them at a reasonable price, please contact Lonnie or Mary Sharon at (856) 662-6049.

*All proceeds benefit St Stephen's.*

## 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. 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.

## 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.**

# Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup> from 1-7pm  
St. Stephen School



Please call the rectory at 662-9338, ext 6 for an appointment.  
Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

## Religious Give Thanks

Our parish contributed \$2,529.33 to the Retirement Fund for Religious in the second collection last weekend. Of the support offered by this appeal, one religious writes, "We deeply appreciate this assistance. God's loving care touches us through the hearts of thousands of Catholics who give so generously to this collection year after year." Women and men religious throughout the country send their abundant thanks for your donation. ([www.retiredreligious.org](http://www.retiredreligious.org))

## 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.

## CCHS Annual Christmas Concert

The ARTS at Camden Catholic High School presents the "Annual Christmas Concert" on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Select pieces and Christmas music will be performed by the band and choir. Admission is FREE! Visit our web site at [www.cchsarts.com](http://www.cchsarts.com) for more information about the concert and samples of music from our programs.

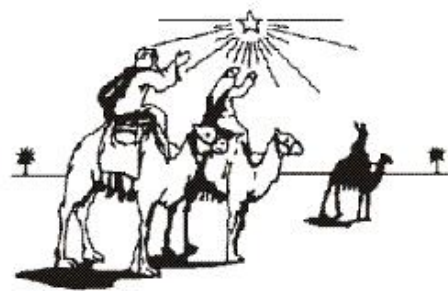
## Stewardship Reflection

*Humble Stewardship*

**"You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel." - Micah 5:1**

We may think that the gifts we have to offer may be too small or too inconsequential to give to God. Today we are reminded that God brought forth His greatest gift to mankind, His own Son, through the humble town of Bethlehem. He can also accomplish great things through our Stewardship if we generously offer our gifts to Him.

# 2009 Christmas Schedule



### Confessions:

Monday, Dec. 21st: 7-8pm  
Tuesday, Dec. 22nd: 7-8pm

### Christmas Eve Vigil Masses:

4pm Children's Mass,  
5:30pm & 10pm

### Christmas Day Masses:

9am & 10:30am

*Our School is closed from Noon Dec. 23 thru Jan. 3  
The Rectory is closed on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.*

## 2009 Christmas Giving Tree

Each year, St. Stephen families come together to help those who are in need. Last year we asked you to give a monetary gift to help families in the Pennsauken area. This year we are asking you to take a gift tag from the GIVING TREE to assist in helping families who have children in St. Anthony of Padua school in Camden celebrate Christmas. WE are specifically asking to adopt a child this year. If possible, an article of clothing, a book and a toy could be purchased and placed in a gift bag with the angel tag placed on the gift or you can bundle the gifts together put them in one gift bag. Make sure the tag is securely tied to the gift. The first name of the child, grade and clothing size are on each of the tags.

**Please have all gifts returned by December 20th.**



# *“Symphony of Life”*

Too many of us forget that sickness is as much a part of life as is health. What we consider idleness because of our illness is as necessary for our work for God as is our activity. Have you ever noted that in music there are “rests”? Sometimes we “rest” for as long as six or seven beats. During those “rests” no note must be heard or the harmony would be marred and the beauty of the piece would be ruined. So it is with our lives --especially our lives for GOD. There are rests. We call them periods of inactivity. Such, for example, as one forced on you by illness. But, if we look on these as anything other than “rests” written into the score by the Great Composer, GOD, we are very poor musicians. They are as essential to the beauty and harmony of the piece He composed, as are the notes.

You'll get back to work when the Great Composer and the Great Conductor needs you and your work to complete the harmony of His Composition. Wait, as do the singers or the orchestra members in a symphony --then come in on the downbeat.

It was not the suffering of Christ that redeemed mankind, but only His suffering in obedience. In other words, He was doing His Father's will. How are we going to change that Redemption into salvation for ourselves and others, save by following His example?

So when God's will is made manifest to us by an assignment to a hospital bed --all we have to do is Nothing!! That is, nothing but acquiesce (from the Latin *acquiēscere*: to remain at rest, agree without protest).

*God Bless you in the morning  
With His Presence shining bright,  
And make the whole day happy  
With His radiant Love and Light...  
God Bless you in the evening  
when the daytime hours depart,  
And like a benediction  
Leave His Peace upon your heart.*