

# 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](mailto:eccllesia@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.StStephensPennsauken.com](http://www.StStephensPennsauken.com)

## December 21, 2008 – Fourth 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.

<b>MONDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>December 22, 2008</b> Deceased Family Members r/b Sandy, Marie & Angie
<b>TUESDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>December 23, 2008</b> Dan Conway r/b Family
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>December 24, 2008</b> Good Intentions of the People of the Parish
<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve:</b> Thelma & Wally Baker r/b Loving Daughter, Elaine
<b>5:30pm</b>	Giovanni Bobbato r/b Family
<b>10:00pm</b>	Drew Desmond r/b Family
<b>THURSDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>December 25, 2008 (Christmas Day)</b> Louis & Josephine Buondonno r/b Daughter Rose Marie & Son Vincent
<b>10:30am</b>	Margaret & Nicholas Rende r/b Alex Rende
<b>FRIDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>December 26, 2008</b> Mgr. Edward Korda r/b Our Parishioners
<b>SATURDAY</b> 9:00am 4:30pm	<b>December 27, 2008</b> Good Intentions of the People of the Parish Sadie Gray r/b Husband Phil & Daughter Dolores Thomas DiBenedetto r/b M/M Frank Rosolia
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9:00am	<b>December 28, 2008</b> Frank & Catherine Altadonna r/b Tony & Adele Sr. Baptista McShane r/b Joseph & Jeanne Gerst
<b>10:30am</b>	Joseph Kuczborski r/b The Leahy Family The Rocks Family r/b Family

***The Sanctuary Candle this week is in  
Memory of Anthony & Helen Palazzo, Sr.***

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.

<b>Attendance/Collection Dec. 13/14, 2008</b>	<b>488 / \$5,464</b>
<b>Attendance/Collection Dec. 15/16, 2007</b>	<b>532 / \$5,750</b>
<b>Religious Retirement Collection Dec. 13/14</b>	<b>\$2,832</b>
<b>Budgeted Weekly Collection:</b>	<b>\$7,200</b>
<b>Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average:</b>	<b>\$5,643</b>

**St. Vincent de Paul Helpline (856) 581-7980**  
**Christmas Toy Assistance: [www.ToysForTots.org](http://www.ToysForTots.org)**



*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, Raphael Rubin, William Sauer, Carmella Scrivani, Mary Jo Stedrak, Mary Terzini, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Anthony Vocale, Jean Wenstrom, Harry Wilson.**

***Ministry Schedule for December 24/25/27/28***

**Christmas Eve, 4:00pm**

**Altar Servers:** K. Hulsey, K. Sullivan, M. DiRico

**EM's:** M. Meloni, S. Mufalli, T. Veneziani, T. Angstman, A. Knight

**Lectors:** P. Krohn, P. Palazzo

**Christmas Eve, 5:30pm Children's Mass**

**Altar Servers:** E. Mattera, C. Otto, R. Garofalo

**EM's:** M. Novoa, T. Mattera, C. Otto, J. Messina, L. Garofalo

**Lectors:** The McKenna's

**Christmas Eve, 10:00pm**

**Altar Servers:** The Coars

**EM's:** T. Modzier, T. Link, B. Buffington, P. Antonelli, L. Solano

**Lectors:** S. Stehm, D. Steinmetz

**Christmas Day, 9:00am**

**Altar Servers:** P. Luthman, S. Morales, H. Atchison

**EM's:** S. Marano, L. Picknally, R. Davis, The Klecko's

**Lectors:** J. Gerst, L. Sperduto

**Christmas Day, 10:30am**

**Altar Servers:** K & K Bowman, R. Buchholz

**EM's:** L. D'Alessandro, A. Mulholland, T. Scavuzzo, The Monaco's

**Lectors:** TBA.

**Saturday, 4:30pm**

**Altar Servers:** E. Stemetzki, M. Hobbs, K. Sullivan

**EM's:** Sr. Eleanora, S. Eisenhardt, A. Knight, The Monaco's

**Lectors:** The Busch's

**Sunday, 9:00am**

**Altar Servers:** E. Corbett, H. Atchison, G. Schwankert

**EM's:** S. Marano, A. DiGiacomo, R. Davis, S. Mufalli, L. Rosario

**Lectors:** D. Heck, L. Sperduto

**Sunday, 10:30am**

**Altar Servers:** R & C Aleszczyk

**EM's:** M. Meloni, J. Messina, T. Link, The Tutwilers

**Lectors:** P. Krohn, C. Otto

Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> bulletin deadline: *Already Submitted Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>*

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

12/22-Monday-9am Mass, NO RCIA, 7-8pm Confessions  
 12/23-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7-8pm Confessions  
 12/24-Wed-9am Mass, No CCD, Christmas Eve: 4, 5:30 & 10pm  
 12/25-Thursday-Christmas Day Masses @ 9am & 10:30am  
 12/26-Friday-9am Mass  
 12/27-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Group, 9am Mass,  
 3:45-4:15pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass  
 12/28-Sunday-Masses @ 9am & 10:30am

### ***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***

Meets every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday @ 7pm at Stonegate.

### ***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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### ***Fourth Sunday of Advent***

Final Journey of the People of Advent – the altar depicts Mary –the Word became Flesh. Of His fullness we all have had a share- love following upon love. Mary: sad “YES” willingly, lovingly, prayerfully. God's will be done. MOTHER!

### ***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 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***

#### **Confessions:**

Monday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>: 7-8pm  
 Tuesday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>: 7-8pm

#### **Christmas Eve Vigil Masses:**

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

#### **Christmas Day Masses:**

9am & 10:30am

### ***Looking Ahead to 2009***

#### **Next Finance Council Meeting:**

Monday, January 19, 2009 @ 7pm. Location TBA.

#### **Next Pastoral Council Meeting:**

Wednesday, January 21, 2009 @ 7pm. Location TBA.

#### **Monte Carlo Night:**

Saturday, March 7, 2009 @ 6pm in the School Gym.

## St. Stephen's Nativity 2008

As we pass through the final weeks of Advent, we wait this week for the coming of our Savior. On Wednesday evening and Thursday morning you will witness a new Nativity scene here at St. Stephen's. The planning began this summer with the vision of Art & Environment's ministry member Carol Girardi. She described a nativity she has seen every year at her childhood parish in Philadelphia. With that, we went to work commissioning A & E member Eileen Ziegler, an artist and Ray Costner, master carpenter, who also works at our parish, maintaining our buildings and grounds. They have worked diligently over the past few months to bring to us a nativity that you will embrace in the years to come. Please take some extra time to stop and admire their work. We are truly blessed to have such gifted and talented parishioners. I can only say two simple words. Thank You.

**Maria Haas**  
Art & Environment Ministry Chairperson

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## Congratulations

### SSJ Villa Chance Winners!

**\$10,000 Grand Prize: Margaret Mullen**  
(sold by Sr. St. Thecia McCauley)

**\$500 Prize Winners:**

- Clotilde Morse** – sold by S. Conradine Lehmann
- M/M Michael McKeon** – sold by St. Jerome Parish
- Joseph Volpe** - sold by SSJ's of Medford, NJ
- Lea McGovern** – sold by Sr. Ann Muriel Ronan
- Leslie Lewis** – sold by Sr. Maureen Fichner
- Veronica Furey** – sold by St. Ann Convent
- Mike & Dolores Seif** – sold by Sr. Ann Seif
- Jeff Kostick** – sold by Sr. Mary Alice Snyder
- Patrick Casey** – sold by Sr. Joan Krukoski
- Kathy Misunas** – sold by Sr. Eleanor Mary Bringenberg

Thank you for making the 2008 Villa Chance Drive such a success! The 2009 Chance Drive is scheduled for December 6, 2009.

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## Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

## CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

(A weekly continuing series)

### THE CREEDS (continued)

**195** *The Niceno-Constantinopolitan or Nicene Creed* draws its great authority from the fact that it stems from the first two ecumenical Councils (in 325 and 381). It remains common to all the great Churches of both East and West to this day.

196 Our presentation of the faith will follow the Apostles' Creed, which constitutes, as it were, "the oldest Roman catechism". The presentation will be completed however by constant references to the Nicene Creed, which is often more explicit and more detailed.

**197** As on the day of our Baptism, when our whole life was entrusted to the "standard of teaching",<sup>14</sup> let us embrace the Creed of our life-giving faith. To say the Credo with faith is to enter into communion with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and also with the whole Church which transmits the faith to us and in whose midst we believe:

#### PART ONE: THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

#### SECTION TWO:

#### THE PROFESSION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

#### CHAPTER ONE

#### I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER

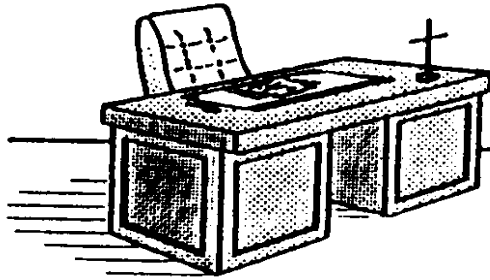
198 Our profession of faith begins with *God*, for God is the First and the Last,<sup>1</sup> the beginning and the end of everything. The Credo begins with God the *Father*, for the Father is the first divine person of the Most Holy Trinity; our Creed begins with the creation of heaven and earth, for creation is the beginning and the foundation of all God's works.

#### ARTICLE I

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

Paragraph 1. I Believe in God

**199** "I believe in God": this first affirmation of the Apostles' Creed is also the most fundamental. The whole Creed speaks of God, and when it also speaks of man and of the world it does so in relation to God. The other articles of the Creed all depend on the first, just as the remaining Commandments make the first explicit. The other articles help us to know God better as he revealed himself progressively to men. "The faithful first profess their belief in God."<sup>2</sup>



*From the Desk of  
Father Vincent Orum, AJ*

**Dear Members of Saint Stephen's Parish!**

On behalf of the staffs of Saint Stephen's and myself, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2009!

As we celebrate this year's Christmas, let us thank God for all his blessings he has bestowed upon us this year of 2008. We also ask him forgiveness for failing to contribute our best to be the best of who we are as individuals and community.

We as members of Saint Stephens have so much to thank God for, especially the fact that the Bishop's decision permitted us to remain a stand-alone Parish amongst all the changes affected with the reconfigurations.

This blessing has its own challenges of realizing the dream of Bishop Galante that the Parishes become more vibrant and dynamic by way of worship and mission! Are we up to the task and challenge as a Parish?

We are challenged to realize this dream and I look forward to the new year as a time to begin our concerted efforts to model ourselves and identity as a vibrant and dynamic parish as outlined in the vision statement of the diocese and the findings of the speak-up sessions with Bishop Galante. I have every hope and conviction that you are resilient and have the capacity to stand up to the challenge. I see that in your love for the Parish and your unwavering generosity of the gift of your time, talents and treasure! I see it in our committed choir, ushers, Eucharistic ministers, Altar servers, counters and lectors! I see it in the way you actively respond during our liturgical celebrations every Sunday! I see that in our silent volunteers who make it to the Parish for any work and want to go unnoticed!

I feel that our ministries and committees can become the means by which we as a Parish can affect and realize the call to be dynamic and vibrant as they become creative in the exercise of their ministries and call to serve the Lord.

Our school of Saint Stephen as well can be very productive in creating an enabling environment for our families who have their children in the school to become more involved. I have decided to involve the children every third Sunday of the month in our Sunday Liturgy because I believe that through them, we can reach and touch every family and bring them to the table of the Lord and His Word. By involving our children, we entrust to them our faith and make them become part of our worship other than spectators.

It's my ardent desire to make a grassroots evangelization in the new year as I had always longed, but could not make it this year. Our Lord had time for the people as he moved from town to town and villages to bring them the Good News and I believe that it's my challenge to do the same. I plan to visit each one of you in your home and spend some time with you sharing our faith and friendship

I therefore pray for each one of you, that together, we can all become that force and power that can move Saint Stephen Parish to greater heights as we truly become vibrant and dynamic.

Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**-Fr. Vince**