

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

December 28, 2008 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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 29, 2008**
9:00am Robert W. Kozempel r/b Gerry Kozempel
 Fran Sullivan r/b The Sullivan Family
- TUESDAY** **December 30, 2008**
9:00am Anthony DiMartino r/b Sam Recchia
- WEDNESDAY** **December 31, 2008**
9:00am Msgr. Edward Korda r/b Parishioners
7:00pm Milton Koshland r/b Connie O'Neill (**BVM Vigil**)
- THURSDAY** **January 1, 2009 (BVM, Mother of God)**
9:00am Barbara Fallon r/b Family
- FRIDAY** **January 2, 2009 (First Friday of the Month)**
9:00am Mass of Thanksgiving r/b Alfreda Novak
- SATURDAY** **January 3, 2009**
9:00am Good Intentions of the People of the Parish
4:30pm Thomas DiBenedetto r/b Phil & Alma Ardire
 Elizabeth Hooks r/b Her Mom
- SUNDAY** **January 4, 2009**
9:00am Jacob Attone r/b Tony & Adele
 Mateo Oler r/b Joseph & Jeanne Gerst
- 10:30am James Cummings, Sr. r/b Margaret Cummings
 Grace Moffett
 r/b M/M Anthony Fratterelli (Terri Behlau)

***The Sanctuary Candle this week is in
Memory of Joseph Petulla.***

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.

Please Note: The Mass Intentions for January 5-8 will be honored the following week of January 12-16. We will have Communion Services January 5-8.

Offertory Figures will appear in next week's bulletin as this issue was submitted/required on December 19th.

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, 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
Dec. 31/Jan. 1 & January 3/4***

Wednesday, 7:00pm – Vigil for Mary, Mother of God

Altar Servers: M. Hobbs, C. Otto, H. Atchison
EM's: T. Modzier, T. Link, J. Messina, The Heiningers
Lectors: L. Modzier, M. Miller

Thursday, 9:00am – Mary, Mother of God

Altar Servers: S & S Rosa, L. Fagan
EM's: R. Davis, L. Picknally, Sr. Eleanora, The Monaco's
Lectors: R. Taylor, C. Otto

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Servers: E. Stemetzki, K. Sullivan, E. Mattera
EM's: T. Veneziani, T. Angstman, A. Knight, The Heiningers
Lectors: R. Taylor, P. Palazzo

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: K. Starts, P. Luthman, E. Corbett
EM's: P. Krohn, S. Marano, R. Leone, R. Davis, N. Schmidt
Lectors: D. Heck, J. Messina

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: D. Saranchak, R & R Buchholz
EM's: T. Scavuzzo, M. Miller, B. Buffington,
 L. Solano, L. D'Alessandro
Lectors: The Links

January 1st we will celebrate
Mary, the Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation.
Mass January 1st is 9:00am.
Vigil Dec. 31st is 7:00pm.
The Rectory will be closed Thursday & Friday this week.

Jan. 4th bulletin deadline:
Already Submitted Dec. 23rd

This Week @ St. Stephen's

12/29-Monday-9am Mass, 7:15pm RCIA
12/30-Tuesday-9am Mass, 1-7pm Blood Drive, 7pm Rosary
12/31-Wednesday-9am Mass, No CCD, 7pm BVM Vigil
1/1-Thursday-9am Mass-BVM Mother of God Holy Day
1/2-First Friday-9am Mass, Adoration until 7pm
1/3-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Group, 9am Mass,
3:45-4:15pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
1/4-Sunday-Masses @ 9am & 10:30am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

This Friday, January 2nd, is the First Friday of the Month. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin after the 9am Mass and continue until 7pm.

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.

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.

Contact Linda @ 661-8045 for January requests.

St. Stephen's Rosary Makers

Meets every 1st & 3rd 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 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.

Christmas Flower Memorials

In Memory Of:

Arnold DiCianni, Bernardi Family
Joseph Biasi & Mary Fedele
Albert Carfagno
Beverly Howard Rosen, James Muir,
Mom & Dad, Ritchy Hand
Joe & Stella Adinolfi

Requested by:

Ida DiCianni
Elsie Biasi
Ida Carfagno
Catherine Hanson
Lorraine Cucinotta

Red Cross Blood Drive

This Tuesday, Dec. 30th -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 are signup sheets in the church lobby after all Masses.

St Stephen's Young Adult Ministry, ages 21-40

Faith Sharing - A reflection and discussion on the upcoming week's Gospel. Friday January 9th and February 13 at 7:00. Location to be announced, call Rose at 856-663-9342 for details.

Take-Out and a Movie - Saturday January 24th and February 28th at 6:30, Location to be announced, call JD at 856-316-2598 for details.

Upcoming feature presentations include

January- "The Scarlet and the Black"

February - "Evan Almighty"

For more information on the St. Stephen's Young Adult Ministry contact us at saintstephens_yam@yahoo.com.

Important Dates for 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.

Comedy Knight Beef & Beer:

Saturday, March 28, 2009 - School Lunch Room 6-10pm

Retirement Fund Thank You

Thank you, in the name of the thousands of men and women religious who benefit from your generous donation of \$2,832 to the Retirement Fund for Religious. You have taken the opportunity to give back to these men and women who have given of themselves for many years to our church. Know that you will have a grateful remembrance in the daily prayers of all religious as you help us provide for our sick and elderly and during this Christmas season, we pray that God will bless you in unexpected ways during this now and in the New Year.

591-StStephen

Lourdes Wellness Center: New Spirituality Programs Join us this Winter for Spirit Alive!

Going Deeper: Introduction to Spiritual Direction
Tuesday, January 6th @ 7pm – FREE

Experiencing God’s Great Love Series
Thursdays, Jan. 8, 22 & 29 @ 7pm - \$10

Saturday Evenings for Young Adults: Ages 21-40

Standing at the Door of the New Year
Saturday, January 3rd from 7-8:30pm – Free Will Offering

Care for Body, Mind and Spirit: All God’s Gifts
Saturday, January 31st from 7-8:30pm – Free Will Offering

Presenter: Sr. Ruthann T. O’Mara, SSJ

Please come 5 minutes prior to the time.
Please register at least one week in advance
to prevent program cancellations.

General Info & Registration: (856) 869-3125
Lourdes Spirituality Center at The Little Portion
1049 Haddon Avenue, 2nd Floor (steps) Collingswood, NJ
www.lourdeswellnesscenter.org



Camden Catholic’s

“Teams for Turf” Fundraiser

Camden Catholic High School will host a “Teams for Turf” Fundraiser on **Sunday, January 18th from 5-10pm** at Pinsetters Bar & Bowl located at 7111 Maple Avenue in Pennsauken. All proceeds from the event will benefit the school’s recently announced “Fields for the Future Campaign”, which consists of the installation of a turf field at the school and re-grading of existing playing fields. Tickets for the January 18th fundraiser are \$25 and can be purchased by calling the school at (856) 663-CCHS or by contacting Linda @ sxerri@aol.com. This is a 21 and over event.



Seeking Volunteers

Moorestown Visiting Nurses & Hospice is seeking caring and compassionate volunteers to visit terminally ill patients in their home or care facility. Training is provided and volunteers can give as little or as much time as they wish. Volunteers are also needed for office work, community outreach, and bereavement. Please contact Volunteer Coordinator by calling (856) 552-1300. We look forward to hearing from you!

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

(A weekly continuing series)

PART ONE - THE PROFESSION OF FAITH SECTION TWO

THE PROFESSION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH CHAPTER 1 - I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER

ARTICLE I

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

Paragraph 1. I Believe in God

200 These are the words with which the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed begins. The confession of God's oneness, which has its roots in the divine revelation of the Old Covenant, is inseparable from the profession of God's existence and is equally fundamental. God is unique; there is only one God: "The Christian faith confesses that God is one in nature, substance and essence."³

201 To Israel, his chosen, God revealed himself as the only One: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD; and you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might."⁴ Through the prophets, God calls Israel and all nations to turn to him, the one and only God: "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other... To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. 'Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength.'"⁵

202 Jesus himself affirms that God is "the one Lord" whom you must love "with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength".⁶ At the same time Jesus gives us to understand that he himself is "the Lord".⁷ To confess that Jesus is Lord is distinctive of Christian faith. This is not contrary to belief in the One God. Nor does believing in the Holy Spirit as "Lord and giver of life" introduce any division into the One God:

We firmly believe and confess without reservation that there is only one true God, eternal infinite (immensus) and unchangeable, incomprehensible, almighty and ineffable, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; three persons indeed, but one essence, substance or nature entirely simple.⁸

II. GOD REVEALS HIS NAME

203 God revealed himself to his people Israel by making his name known to them. A name expresses a person's essence and identity and the meaning of this person's life. God has a name; he is not an anonymous force. To disclose one's name is to make oneself known to others; in a way it is to hand oneself over by becoming accessible, capable of being known more intimately and addressed personally.

204 God revealed himself progressively and under different names to his people, but the revelation that proved to be the fundamental one for both the Old and the New Covenants was the revelation of the divine name to Moses in the theophany of the burning bush, on the threshold of the Exodus and of the covenant on Sinai.

From the Desk of Father Vincent Orum, AJ – Administrator

The Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth and the Christian Family in the Modern World – Part I of II

As we celebrate the **Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph** this Sunday, let us reflect on the importance of the Christian family in our Society in the words of Pope John Paul II in his Apostolic Exhortation, “**Familiaris Consortio**” translated as “**The Christian Family in Modern World**” issued out on the Feast of Christ the King November 22nd, 1981 after the recommendations of the Synods of Bishops held in Rome from September 26th, to October 25th, 1980.

Pope John Paul II begins to note in his Apostolic letter that family is the basic unit of the human Society and is inseparable with the institution of Marriage. The duo as he said, “**constitutes one of the most precious of human values**” and yet there seems to be greater forces of attack and degradation of these fundamental foundations of the society and its values.

Note what the Pope says in No1. “**The family in the modern world, as much as and perhaps more than any other institution, has been beset by the many profound and rapid changes that have affected society and culture. Many families are living this situation in fidelity to those values that constitute the foundation of the institution of the family. Others have become uncertain and bewildered over their role or even doubtful and almost unaware of the ultimate meaning and truth of conjugal and family life. Finally, there are others who are hindered by various situations of injustice in the realization of their fundamental rights.**”

Pope John Paul II mentions some of the values under attack and the causes of the negative and “disturbing degradation of the fundamental values inherent in family life and marriage. He says, “**signs are not lacking of a disturbing degradation of some fundamental values: a mistaken theoretical and practical concept of the independence of the spouses in relation to each other; serious misconceptions regarding the relationship of authority between parents and children; the concrete difficulties that the family itself experiences in the transmission of values; the growing number of divorces; the scourge of abortion; the ever more frequent recourse to sterilization; the appearance of a truly contraceptive mentality.**”

He also points out that the Synod Fathers observed as some of the troubling signs: “**.... the spread of divorce and of recourse to a new union, even on the part of the faithful; the acceptance of purely civil marriage in contradiction to the vocation of the baptized to "be married in the Lord", the celebration of the marriage sacrament without living faith, but for other motives; the rejection of the moral norms that guide and promote the human and Christian exercise of sexuality in marriage.**”

He further observes that, “**... in the countries of the so-called Third World, families often lack both the means necessary for survival, such as food, work, housing and medicine, and the most elementary freedoms. In the richer countries, on the contrary, excessive prosperity and the consumer mentality, paradoxically joined to a certain anguish and uncertainty about the future, deprive married couples of the generosity and courage needed for raising up new human life: thus life is often perceived not as a blessing, but as a danger from which to defend oneself.**”

According to JP II, the negative forces and power of degradation is the misconstrued understanding of Freedom and the negative influence of the human conscience by the power of the media: “**At the root of these negative phenomena there frequently lies a corruption of the idea and the experience of freedom, conceived not as a capacity for realizing the truth of God's plan for marriage and the family, but as an autonomous power of self-affirmation, often against others, for one's own selfish well-being...Living in such a world, under the pressures coming above all from the mass media, the faithful do not always remain immune from the obscuring of certain fundamental values, nor set themselves up as the critical conscience of family culture and as active agents in the building of an authentic family humanism.**” *-To be continued in next week's bulletin.*