

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

Website: www.StStephensPennsauken.com

December 6, 2009 – Second 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: 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 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.



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 7, 2009 (7pm Vigil for Imm. Conc.)
 9:00am
 7:00pm Good Intentions of the People of the Parish

TUESDAY December 8, 2009 (Immaculate Conception)
 9:00am Matthew Marchione r/b Family
 7:00pm Good Intentions of the People of the Parish

WEDNESDAY December 9, 2009
 9:00am

THURSDAY December 10, 2009
 9:00am + Novena

FRIDAY December 11, 2009
 9:00am Joseph Szarzynski r/b The Leahy Family

SATURDAY December 12, 2009
 9:00am Good Intentions of the People of the Parish

4:30pm Emilio Anthony Terzini r/b Dan & Lil Ragone
 Elizabeth Santore r/b Kathy Boyer

SUNDAY December 13, 2009 (10:30am Rite of Welcome)
 9:00am Angela Nobile r/b Bob & Angie Pino
 Adeline Canalichio r/b The Knight Family

10:30am Emilio Anthony Terzini r/b Marie Newell
 Lawrence Duffy r/b The Morales Family

***The Sanctuary Candle this week
 is in Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Santino Frank.***

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.

Nov. 28/29, 2009 Attendance/Collection	621/ \$4,945
Nov. 29/30, 2008 Attendance/Collection	443/ \$4,686
Nov. 21/22, 2009 Attendance/Collection	607/ \$5,603
Nov. 22/23, 2008 Attendance/Collection	522/ \$5,470
Budgeted Weekly Collection:	\$6,154
Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average:	\$5,674

Next Diocesan Special 2nd Collection:
December 13, 2009: "Retirement Fund for Religious"

Coming in 2010: Weekly Youth Mass Here!
 Sundays @ 7:30pm w/ Fr. Chuck of CCHS



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:

Rose Alessandroni, Dolly Angelastro, Marion Borreggine, Vincent Buondonno, Evelyn Capocetta, Dorothy Coyle, Margaret Cummings, Esther DeMarco, Patricia Domer, Joe Flacco, John Heininger Jr., Thomas Holmes Sr., Jim Hutton, Rita Insley, Patricia James, Donna Krawchuk, Robert Leone, Nancy Loperfido, Vincent Marchese, Marie Melchiorre, Elena Melfi, John Meyer, Jennifer Osborn, Edith Parrissi, Cassandra Penttleton, Rita Picciano, Frank & Louise Pigiaccielli, Jean Rooney, Rosemarie Rosolia, Raphael Rubin, William Sauer, Carmella Scrivani, Mary Jo Stedrak, Julian Terzini, Mary Terzini, Lillian Tomarchio, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Susan Verzilli, Anthony Vocale, John Von Alex, Jean Wenstrom.

Ministry Schedule for December 7/8 / 12/13

(Monthly Schedules are also posted on our website)

Monday, 7:00pm

Altar Servers: The Bowmans
EM's: T. Scavuzzo, S. Marano, L. D'Alessandro, J. Rosario, R. Leone
Lectors: M. Link, J. Bowman

Tuesday, 9:00am – School Coverage of Lectors & Altar Servers
EM's: P. Petronis, A. Mulholland, Sr. Eleanora, R. Davis, L. McHugh

Tuesday, 7:00pm

Altar Servers: C. Otto
EM's: The Pandola's, The Heiningers, C. Otto
Lectors: P. Krohn, R. Taylor

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Servers: R. Garofalo, T. Mason, K. Hulsey
EM's: T. Veneziani, S. Eisenhardt, A. Knight, Sr. Eleanora, L. Garofalo
Lectors: P. Tryson, J. Messina

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: K. Starts, W. McHugh, M. DiRico
EM's: S. Marano, L. McHugh, R. Davis, The Sapienza's
Lectors: L. Modzier, M. McHugh

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: The Coars
EM's: L. Solano, J. Messina, W. Delfin, T. Scavuzzo, L. D'Alessandro
Lectors: M. Turan, K. Jakubowski



**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Holy Day of Obligation – Mass times:
 Monday, December 7th at 7pm (Vigil)
 Tuesday, December 8th at 9am and 7pm
The Rectory & all Diocesan Offices will be closed
 on Tuesday, December 8th.**

This Week @ St. Stephen's

12/7-Monday-9am Mass, 7pm Vigil for Immac. Conc., 7:15pm RCIA
 12/8-Tuesday-9am & 7pm Mass (Immaculate Conception Holy Day)
 12/9-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:30pm CCD
 12/10-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 6:15pm Youth Music, 7:15pm Choir
 12/11-Friday-9am Mass
 12/12-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Group, 9am Mass,
 3:45 Confession, 4:30pm Mass,
 12/13-Sunday-Masses at 9am & 10:30am (10:30am Rite of Welcome)

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.**

St. Stephen's Young Adult Ministry, ages 21-40, will begin its **Faith and Tradition Series** on Monday nights in the rectory meeting room. Please arrive at 7:15. Presentation is from 7:30-8:30. Join us for either a reflection on the upcoming week's Gospel or a presentation on a saint of the church.

Upcoming schedule

December 14 - Scripture sharing (Luke 1:39-45)
 Please contact Rose at 856.663.9342 for more information.

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.

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 5-6

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. In today's gospel, we meet John, son of Zachary. Before John's birth, Zachary doubted the sign of the promise and was silenced until John was born. Let us silence our hearts and open our minds to the words of the Lord spoken in today's liturgy.

SAINT STEPHEN PARISH ADVENT EVENING OF REFLECTION

A special evening of prayer, reflection, and music will be held in church on **Friday, December 18, 2009, at 7:00 P.M.** Give yourself a gift this season by allowing the prayerful peace of this evening to calm your "jangled" nerves. In the past, our parishioners have said that such an evening has brought them great comfort. If you're harried by the demands of the season, or if you just need a break from the commercial Christmas that surrounds us, please plan to spend some time allowing Christ to enter your hearts in a true preparation for the real meaning of Christmas. We look forward to seeing you. Any questions may be directed to Mary Ann laure5302@comcast.net / 856-488-6143 or MarySue ms.link@comcast.net / 856-854-7120.

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.

PTA Gift Card News

Order forms are available through school, our school website or call Katy Fagan @ 662-5908.

TIP #1: Kohl's gift cards can be used to pay down card balance (in person).

TIP #2: Bath and Body Works discount increased to 18% until 12-31-09!

THANK YOUR FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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.

THANK YOU

To all the great Samaritans that helped my husband on Saturday night, 11/21/09 outside St. Stephen's Church, when he fell going into Mass, I extend my sincere Thank You. I can't begin to tell you how grateful I am for all your help. It was overwhelming to see so many people willing to help a stranger. We are not registered with your parish, but we do attend Mass often. To the wonderful young man who took over and called for help, the nurse who assisted, the parishioner who went for ice, the ushers who got towels and helped with the cleanup, the nun who consoled my daughter and all others who helped. Words cannot express our gratitude; we can offer only a simple Thank You. **-Loretta McKenna**

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### 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.**

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Retirement Fund Helps Senior Religious

"As expenses continue to increase and economic difficulties tighten our income, we appreciate more and more the help of the Retirement Fund," notes a woman religious. Your tax-deductible donation supports the care of elderly and frail religious and helps to provide such basic necessities as prescription drugs and medical services. Please give generously to next week's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

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### Stewardship Reflection

#### Stewards Giving Back

**"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." - Philippians 1:9-10**

Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God.

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WANTED: Antiques & Collectibles Experts

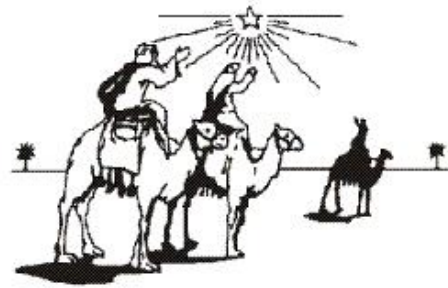
We are looking for parishioners who can appraise various collectibles (i.e. dolls, Longaberger baskets, cameras) that have been donated to the parish. If you think you can assist us or know of someone who can, please call Lonnie at 662-6049.

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### 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.

## 2009 Christmas Schedule



### Penitential Service:

Wednesday, Dec. 16th @ 7pm

### Advent Evening of Reflection:

Friday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

### Confessions:

Saturday, Dec. 19th: 3:45-4:15pm

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

## 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.**



*Diocese of Camden*  
***Office of the Bishop***

December 2009

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

In recent decades, the number of elderly religious has grown dramatically and now outnumbers the number of wage-earning religious. Today, nearly 60 percent of men and women religious are past age 70. Seven percent are past the age of 90 and almost 5,000 elderly religious now in need of skilled nursing care. Religious men and women did not become eligible for Social Security benefits until 1972 and their benefits are just one-third of the average recipient's. At the same time, health-care costs have skyrocketed.

Religious communities are responsible for meeting the costs of caring for the aging men and women of their communities. In spite of the economies of scale that are obtained from community living, the cost of health care and living costs in most religious communities far exceed income from investments, from government programs and from compensated ministries.

To assist religious communities in meeting this crisis in underfunded retirement, church officials and religious leaders twenty years ago established the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) and launched the Retirement Fund for Religious. Grants from the Retirement Fund for Religious have helped to ensure appropriate care and handicapped accessible housing for Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who are now past age 70.

This year, the **Retirement Fund for Religious** collection will be taken up in parishes of the Diocese of Camden **December 12-13**. I ask you to give generously to this year's appeal to ensure that these dedicated women and men will age with grace, dignity and adequate care.

May God continue to guide you and bless you.

Fraternally,  
**Most Reverend Joseph A. Galante, D.D., J.C.D.**  
*Bishop of Camden*