

# 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 7, 2008 – Second 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.

**MONDAY** December 8, 2008 (Immaculate Conception)  
9:00am Grace Moffett r/b Joanne & Ron Robinson  
7:00pm Frances Sullivan r/b Rosina Midili

**TUESDAY** December 9, 2008  
9:00am Adriana Pepa r/b Robert Pepa

**WEDNESDAY** December 10, 2008  
9:00am Jennie Ballario r/b Connie O'Neill

**THURSDAY** December 11, 2008 (Novena to follow)  
9:00am The Donnelly Family r/b Family  
Sr. M. Dorreen Hermann, OSF  
r/b Kathy Boyer

**FRIDAY** December 12, 2008  
9:00am Msgr. Edward Korda r/b People of the Parish

**SATURDAY** December 13, 2008  
9:00am Norma Kauffman r/b Lily Solano  
4:30pm Bea Pepa r/b Robert Pepa  
Thomas DiBenedetto r/b The Melfi Family

**SUNDAY** December 14, 2008  
9:00am Sigmund Spiewak r/b Jennifer Gerst  
Barbara Fallon r/b Family

10:30am Otto Genie Hermann r/b Kathy Boyer  
Maria Perez r/b Daughter Myra Burgos  
and the Perez Family

**The Sanctuary Candle this week is in  
Memory of Barbara Fallon.**

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 Nov. 29/30, 2008 443 / \$4,686  
Attendance/Collection Dec. 1/2, 2007 555 / \$6,812  
Budgeted Weekly Collection: \$7,200  
Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average: \$5,629

**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](http://www.StStephensPennaauken.com) to set up your account.

**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, 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 13/14**

**Saturday, 4:30pm**

Altar Servers: K. Sullivan, M. Hobbs, R. Garofalo  
EM's: Sr. Eleanora, M. Baratta, S. Eisenhardt,  
T. Veneziani, L. Garofalo  
Lectors: P. Tryson, R. McKean

**Sunday, 9:00am**

Altar Servers: M & C Hearn, H. Atchison  
EM's: S. Marano, L. McHugh, R. Davis, The Monaco's  
Lectors: M. Miller, M. McHugh

**Sunday, 10:30am**

Altar Servers: T. Mason, S & S Rosa  
EM's: J. Messina, B. Buffington, A. Mulholland,  
L. D'Alessandro, T. Scavuzzo  
Lectors: M. Turan, K. Jakubowski

**Commissioning of New EM's & Lectors  
December 14, 2008 – 10:30am Mass**

Please keep in your prayers our newly trained Ministers

**Lectors:** Joy Bowman & Kevan Link

**Eucharistic Ministers:**

Monica Corbett, Wilfredo Delfin, Linda Gruber,  
Marcia Miller, Alicia Pandola, Cindy Pandola,

Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> bulletin deadline:

**Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> @ Noon**

Next 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection:

**Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> - "Religious Retirement"**

**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.

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

12/8-Monday-9am & 7pm Mass (**Immaculate Conception Holy Day**),  
7:15pm RCIA, **School/Rectory closed.**  
12/9-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7:30pm PTA Board  
12/10-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:30pm CCD  
12/11-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7:15pm Choir  
12/12-Friday-9am Mass, 7pm YAM Advent Faith-Sharing  
12/13-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Group, 9am Mass,  
3:45-4:15pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass  
12/14-Sunday-Masses @ 9am & 10:30am

### ***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.

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

Our next meeting will be held on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

### ***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.

## ***Second Sunday of Advent***

*Continuing the Journey of People of Advent,  
the altar depicts the reading:*

John: Herald's voice, preaching, preparing, making way for the Lord- Baptizer. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs carrying them in his bosom and leading the ewes with care.

### ***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. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

#### **Confessions:**

Saturday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>: 3:45-4:15pm

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

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

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

4pm, 5:30pm & 10pm

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

9am & 10:30am

### ***Spiritual Food Only***

We would respectfully ask all to refrain from bringing food into our church services in an effort to help build our Community of Faith **spiritually** as opposed to building the **flesh**. Cleanliness is indeed next to Godliness. Thank you!

### The Rite of Welcome

We would like to express our gratitude for the following **Candidates and Catechumens** who were welcomed and accepted into the Catechumenate at St. Stephen's on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>:

**Kandeh Kamara, Farid Aboharb, William Stow, Jr., Paula Fagulha and Holly Taylor.**

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### Young Adult Ministry News

St Stephen's Young Adult Ministry, ages 21-40, will be meeting **Friday December 12 and 19**. Details for these events are still being determined. For more information please call Rose at 856-663-9342 or email us at [saintstephens\\_yam@yahoo.com](mailto:saintstephens_yam@yahoo.com).

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### Retirement Fund for Religious

#### Share in the Care

“When my eyes came to the enclosed check, I immediately prayed a “Glory Be” and was practically moved to tears,” wrote an abbot at an Oklahoma monastery for benefits received from The Retirement Fund for Religious. “Know that you are remembered in our prayers daily.”

**Please give generously to next week’s second collection** which benefits the many deserving religious who served our diocese, past and present, and who now need our help meeting the overwhelming costs of eldercare. ([www.retiredreligious.org](http://www.retiredreligious.org))

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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. **More info at 1-800-GiveLife.**

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### Bishop Eustace Christmas Story Hour

On **Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**, the Student Library Association at Bishop Eustace will host a free Christmas Story Hour for Children ages 4-7 in Lulli Library at 1:00pm. Christmas stories, crafts and refreshments have been planned. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer will make a “surprise” visit. **Registration is required.** Please call (856) 662-2160, ext. 231 by December 5<sup>th</sup>. Visitors should use Route 70 entrance onto the school property. An adult must accompany all children.

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**The Knights of Columbus** wish to thank all those who contributed nearly \$300 to the “Roses for Life Campaign”. The money will be used to support the Unborn as well as the Newborn in our community.

## CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

*(A weekly continuing series)*

### PART ONE

### THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

### SECTION TWO

### The Profession of the Christian Faith

### THE CREEDS

**185** Whoever says "I believe" says "I pledge myself to what we believe." Communion in faith needs a common language of faith, normative for all and uniting all in the same confession of faith.

**186** From the beginning, the apostolic Church expressed and handed on her faith in brief formula normative for all.<sup>1</sup> But already very early on, the Church also wanted to gather the essential elements of her faith into organic and articulated summaries, intended especially for candidates for Baptism:

This synthesis of faith was not made to accord with human opinions, but rather what was of the greatest importance was gathered from all the Scriptures, to present the one teaching of the faith in its entirety. And just as the mustard seed contains a great number of branches in a tiny grain, so too this summary of faith encompassed in a few words the whole knowledge of the true religion contained in the Old and the New Testaments.<sup>2</sup>

**187** Such syntheses are called "professions of faith" since they summarize the faith that Christians profess. They are called "creeds" on account of what is usually their first word in Latin: *credo* ("I believe"). They are also called "symbols of faith".

**188** The Greek word *symbolon* meant half of a broken object, for example, a seal presented as a token of recognition. The broken parts were placed together to verify the bearer's identity. The symbol of faith, then, is a sign of recognition and communion between believers. *Symbolon* also means a gathering, collection or summary. A symbol of faith is a summary of the principal truths of the faith and therefore serves as the first and fundamental point of reference for catechesis.

**189** The first "profession of faith" is made during Baptism. The symbol of faith is first and foremost the *baptismal* creed. Since Baptism is given "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit",<sup>3</sup> the truths of faith professed during Baptism are articulated in terms of their reference to the three persons of the Holy Trinity.

# Office of the Bishop

## Diocese of Camden

December, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

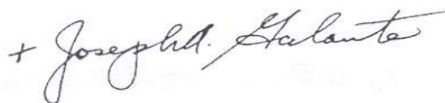
On the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul last June 29, Pope Benedict XVI dedicated this year in honor of Saint Paul. Since then, churches and dioceses throughout the world have offered special celebrations and programs in observance of the Pauline Year. I am happy to note the many programs already have been offered here in parishes and diocesan facilities throughout our own diocese.

I have designated three diocesan churches as Pilgrimage Churches: The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Camden, the Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Turnersville, and the Church of Saint Paul in Stone Harbor. Those who devoutly visit any one of these churches will be able to gain a special Plenary Indulgence granted by the Holy Father during the Pauline Year. Our Worship Office will be providing a booklet of prayers to be used on the occasion of a visit, either as a group or as an individual to the pilgrimage churches.

In addition to your own visits to these churches, I invite you to join me on a Diocesan pilgrimage. We will gather first for Evening Prayer at the Cathedral on Sunday, January 4, the Solemnity of the Epiphany. At the second Diocesan gathering to be held on Sunday, January 25, the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, we will celebrate Mass at the Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Turnersville. Finally we will conclude our Diocesan Pilgrimage at the Church of Saint Paul, Stone Harbor on Sunday, June 28, for Mass on the Vigil of the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, and the conclusion of the Pauline Year. Those who gather for these special celebrations will be able to receive the plenary indulgence attached to the Pauline Year.

As we continue this Year of Saint Paul, please especially seek the intercession of Saint Paul for the continued growth and life of the parishes in the Diocese of Camden. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to imitate the example of Saint Paul who poured out his life as an oblation in service to God and to His people. Know that you are forever in my prayers. May God continue to bless you and guide you.

Fraternally,



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

December 2008

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.

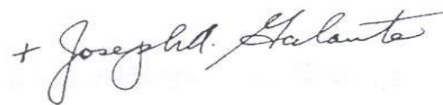
Religious communities are responsible for meeting the costs of caring for the aging men and women of their communities. In spite of the economies of scale that are obtained from community living, the cost of health care and living costs in most religious communities far exceed income from investments, 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 13-14**. 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**