

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

February 1, 2009 – Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

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.

Table with 2 columns: Day and Date/Intention. Rows include Monday (Feb 2), Tuesday (Feb 3), Wednesday (Feb 4), Thursday (Feb 5), Friday (Feb 6), Saturday (Feb 7), and Sunday (Feb 8) with specific intentions and times.

The Sanctuary Candle this week is in Memory of Florence Marchione.

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.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Rows include Attendance/Collection Jan. 24/25, 2009 (841 / \$5,572), Propagation of the Faith Jan. 24/25, 2009 (\$ 733), Budgeted Weekly Collection (\$7,200), and Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average (\$5,604).

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.StStephensPennsauken.com to set up your account.



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:

- List of names: Rose Alessandrone, Dolly Angelastro, Patricia Booth, Marion Borreggine, Vincent Buondonno, Dominic Caruso, Dorothy Coyle, Marge Cummings, Esther DeMarco, Jessie Dixon, Patricia Domer, Joe Flacco, Robert Gottschall, Jean Heller, Thomas Holmes, Sr., Jim Hutton, Rita Insley, Donna Krawchuk, Nancy Loperfido, Vincent Marchese, 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 February 7/8

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Servers: M. Hobbs, R. Garofalo, M. DiRico
EM's: T. Veneziani, T. Angstman, P. Krohn, The Heiningers
Lectors: P. Tryson, M. Turan

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: S. Morales, P. Luthman, K. Starts
EM's: S. Marano, R. Leone, R. Davis, N. Schmidt
Lectors: D. Heck, L. Sperduto

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: C. Otto, D. Saranchak, L. Fagan
EM's: A. Mulholland, M. Miller, B. Buffington, L. Solano, C. Otto
Lectors: K. Jakubowski, J. Terzini

Next Special 2nd Collection: February 15, 2009 - "Heating Fuel Assistance"

St. Vincent de Paul Helpline (856) 581-7980

Stewardship Reflection
Stewardship Defeats Anxiety

I should like you to be free of anxieties." (I Corinthians 7:32a)

Are we bringing anxieties upon ourselves by worrying about attaining ever more material possessions? Stewardship teaches us to give out of gratitude and promises us that a heart open to give will be open to receive God's peace and joy.

This Week @ St. Stephen's

2/2-Monday-9am Mass, 7:15pm RCIA
 2/3-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7:30pm School Board
 2/4-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:30pm CCD, 7pm Fundraising
 2/5-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 6:15pm Youth Music, 7:15pm Choir
 2/6-First Friday-9am Mass, Adoration until 7pm
 2/7-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Group, 9am Mass,
 3:45-4:15pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
 w/ Financial P/L Presentation
 2/8-Sunday-Masses: 9am & 10:30am w/ Financial P/L Presentation

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 Sharon @ 397-3692 for February 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 February 7th at the Diner. More Info: Joe Fagan @ 662-5908.

Class of '91 Alumni Alert!

St. Stephen's Class of '91 is requesting any information you may have regarding the whereabouts of our classmates as we would like to put together a reunion. Please contact Irene Krasovetz at 609-707-9770 or ikrasovetz@yahoo.com.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

This Friday, February 6th is the First Friday of the Month. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin after the 9am Mass and continue until 7pm.

House of Charity News

Many thanks to all who contributed to last year's successful House of Charity Campaign. In exceeding our goal of \$55,000, we just received our refund of \$5,500. We would encourage all who have not yet fulfilled last year's pledge to please do so before our 2009 Campaign gets fully underway shortly. Thank you for your continued support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Music Ministry Notes:

from Nancy Werner-Kaiser, Music Director

- The Youth Music Ministry is in rehearsal every Thursday at 6:15. Please join this dynamic group of young people.
- Our Adult Choir is always on the lookout for new talent. Come to our regular Thursday rehearsals at 7:15 and join us in song as we praise our God!!!

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

Faith Sharing - A reflection and discussion on the upcoming week's Gospel, Friday, February 13 at 7:00. Location to be announced, call Rose at 856-663-9342 for details.
Take-Out and a Movie - Saturday, February 28th at 6:30, Location to be announced, call JD at 856-316-2598 for details.

Upcoming feature presentations include February - "Evan Almighty"

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

Special Lenten Series - "Your are not an accident!"

Even before the universe was created, God had you in mind, and planned you for his purpose" The St. Stephen's Young Adult Ministry, ages 21-40, will begin a special Lenten series based on the popular book "The Purpose Driven Life". The group will gather at church every Friday during lent at 7pm starting on February 27th to attend the stations-of-the-cross and then move to another location to participate in group sharing from 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Please RSVP to Rose at 856.663.9342 by February 16th. Participates will need to make arrangements to pick up materials. A \$10 book fee is required, made payable at the first meeting. The first 7 short chapters will need to be read prior to the first meeting for discussion on February 27.

Monte Carlo Night

at St. Stephen School, Saturday March 7th
Doors Open at 6:30 - Gaming Starts at 7:15



Donation: \$40 per person
Includes Dinner, Beer, Wine, Soda and
\$40 in Casino Gambling Chips

Gambling Chips will be cashed for prizes
in the form of Chinese Auction Baskets

For Ticket Reservations, please call:
Anna North @ 856-324-0701

To make a prize donation, contribution or to Volunteer
in any capacity (including as a dealer), please call
Tom McHugh @ 856-608-6542

~~~~~ *Peace & Justice Gathering Feb. 14th*

On Saturday February 14, The Sacred Heart Peace Community is hosting its Annual Gathering for Peace and Justice, a daylong event to be held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Camden. The theme of this year's Gathering is "**Where Do You Stand? Creative Peacemaking in a Changing World.**" The Gathering will shine a light on the artist in all of us as we invite you to imagine our world as a place of just peace.

We are also offering a workshop designed especially for teachers, youth ministers, counselors and parents-**The Conscience Curriculum for Catholic Youth.** The Peace Community has been working closely with the Diocesan Office of Social Justice Ministries, on this exciting initiative to bring Catholic teachings on the morality of war and formation of conscience into the mainstream of education and lifelong faith formation.

The Gathering for Peace and Justice starts at 9:00 am and ends at 4:00 pm on Saturday, February 14. Check-in and welcome is from 8:30 to 9:00 in the Sacred Heart Church cafeteria. Admission is free and includes lunch and morning and afternoon workshops.

A very special closing talk with Michael Doyle, Pastor of Sacred Heart Church, in his 40th year in Camden, on his monthly love letters from Camden to the world.

For more information contact Pat Johnston at pmj123@comcast.net or 609-220-3999.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

(A weekly continuing series)

PART ONE - THE PROFESSION OF FAITH SECTION 2-The Profession of the Christian Faith

Chapter 1: I Believe in God the Father

Paragraph 2: The Father

I. "IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT"

232 Christians are baptized "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"⁵³ Before receiving the sacrament, they respond to a three-part question when asked to confess the Father, the Son and the Spirit: "I do." The faith of all Christians rests on the Trinity.⁵⁴

233 Christians are baptized in the *name* of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: not in their *names*,⁵⁵ for there is only one God, the almighty Father, his only Son and the Holy Spirit: the Most Holy Trinity.

234 The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in himself. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the "hierarchy of the truths of faith".⁵⁶ The whole history of salvation is identical with the history of the way and the means by which the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, reveals himself to men "and reconciles and unites with himself those who turn away from sin".⁵⁷

235 This paragraph expounds briefly (I) how the mystery of the Blessed Trinity was revealed, (II) how the Church has articulated the doctrine of the faith regarding this mystery, and (III) how, by the divine missions of the Son and the Holy Spirit, God the Father fulfills the "plan of his loving goodness" of creation, redemption and sanctification.

236 The Fathers of the Church distinguish between theology (*theologia*) and economy (*oikonomia*). "Theology" refers to the mystery of God's inmost life within the Blessed Trinity and "economy" to all the works by which God reveals himself and communicates his life. Through the *oikonomia* the *theologia* is revealed to us; but conversely, the *theologia* illuminates the whole *oikonomia*. God's works reveal who he is in himself; the mystery of his inmost being enlightens our understanding of all his works. So it is, analogously, among human persons. A person discloses himself in his actions, and the better we know a person, the better we understand his actions.

237 The Trinity is a mystery of faith in the strict sense, one of the "mysteries that are hidden in God, which can never be known unless they are revealed by God".⁵⁸ To be sure, God has left traces of his Trinitarian being in his work of creation and in his Revelation throughout the Old Testament. But his inmost Being as Holy Trinity is a mystery that is inaccessible to reason alone or even to Israel's faith before the Incarnation of God's Son and the sending of the Holy Spirit.

News from the Councils

On January 19th and 21st our Finance and Pastoral Councils met to begin work on their charter documents, establish ground rules, discuss frequency of meetings, and define individual roles of members.

Pastoral Council:

President: Joe Haas
Vice President: Elizabeth McHugh
Secretary: Terry Modzier

Members:

Christopher Hearn
Jack Mattera
Ryan McCann

Ex Officio Members:

Deacon Ernie Picknally
Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ
Sr. Ruthann O'Mara, SSJ
Mrs. Pat Higgins

Finance Council:

Chairperson: Anthony Saranchak
Secretary: Bill Mattia
Budgets: Gary Sapienza
Fundraising: Lonnie Monaco
Grounds & Buildings: Kathy Boyer
School Rep: Craig Otto

The Finance Council will present to the parish an overview of the current Profit & Loss statement at all Masses the weekend of **February 7/8**.

As a follow-up, they will conduct an **Open Parish Meeting on February 15th after the 10:30am Mass** (in church) to field any questions you may have.

A Preacher and a Quarter

Several years ago, a preacher accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself,

'You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it.' Then he thought, 'Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet.'

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, 'Here, you gave me too much change.'

The driver, with a smile, replied, 'Aren't you the new preacher in town?'

'Yes,' he replied.

'Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday.'

When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, 'Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter.'

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians, and will put us to the test! Always be on guard -- and remember -- You carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself 'Christian.'

Watch your thoughts; they become words.

Watch your words; they become actions.

Watch your actions; they become habits.

Watch your habits; they become character.

Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.