

St. Stephen Parish

6300 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109



Pastoral Staff

Reverend Vincent Orum, A.J., Administrator
Reverend Thomas Kiely, In-Residence
Permanent Deacon Ernest Picknally
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 15, 2009 – Sixth 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.

MONDAY 9:00am	February 16, 2009 (Presidents' Day) Helen Palazzo r/b Pam Palazzo
TUESDAY 9:00am	February 17, 2009 Doris Lawler r/b Melinda & James Gaffney
WEDNESDAY 9:00am	February 18, 2009 Salvatore DiPaolo r/b Daughter (from Feb. 11 th)
THURSDAY 9:00am	February 19, 2009 Dolores Balestrucci r/b Fr. Vincent Orum, AJ
FRIDAY 9:00am	February 20, 2009 Communion Service
SATURDAY 9:00am 4:30pm	February 21, 2009 Good Intentions of the People of the Parish Michael LaRusso r/b The Knight Family Frank Carroll r/b Joe & Terry Scavuzzo & Family
SUNDAY 9:00am	February 22, 2009 (10:30am Children's Mass) Victor Gerst, Jr. r/b Joseph & Jeanne Gerst Jenny Denicolo r/b Lenora & Frank Annibale
10:30am	Grace Moffett r/b Jean & Kevin Brodie Donato Fanelle r/b Daughter

Note: **The Children's Mass**, normally the 3rd Sunday, has been changed to **February 22nd** this month due to holiday weekend the 15th.

The Sanctuary Candle this week is in Memory of Louis 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.

Attendance/Collection Feb. 7/8, 2009	563 / \$5,660
Attendance/Collection Feb. 9/10, 2008	593 / \$5,631
Budgeted Weekly Collection:	\$7,200
Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average:	\$5,640

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.**

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:

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, Angie Pennestri, 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 21/22

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Servers: M. Hobbs, R. Garofalo, M. DiRico
EM's: A. Knight, T. Scavuzzo, M. Novoa, The Klecko's
Lectors: The McKenna's

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: E. Corbett, K. Starts, G. Schwankert
EM's: S. Marano, L. Rosario, S. Mufalli, A. DiGiacomo, N. Schmidt
Lectors: The Zieglers

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: Children's Mass – TBA.
EM's: L. Solano, A. Mulholland, W. Delfin, The Fagans
Lectors: Children's Mass – TBA.

Next Special 2nd Collection:

February 15, 2009 – "Heating Fuel Assistance"

Presidents' Day, February 16, 2009

On Monday, February 16th we will observe Presidents' Day, a National Holiday. **The School & Rectory will be closed.**

Calling All Ushers!

St. Stephen's has a great need for ushers, especially at the **10:30am Mass**. Anyone interested in being an usher (this includes men, women or youth) is asked to call the rectory office. Thank you.

Stewardship Reflection

Steward's Freewill Gifts

"In generous spirit pay homage to the Lord, be not sparing of freewill gifts." (Sirach 35:7)

Stewardship teaches free will giving, where we come to understand our calling to be generous when giving of our Time, Talent and Treasure. This Old Testament instruction has been lived out by many who have gone before us who we identify as Saints.

This Week @ St. Stephen's

2/16-Monday-9am Mass, **School & Rectory closed**, 7:15pm RCIA
 2/17-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, **7pm School Board**
 2/18-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:30pm CCD, **7pm Pastoral Council**
 2/19-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 6:15pm Youth Music, 7:15pm Choir
 2/20-Friday-9am Mass
 2/21-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Group, 9am Mass,
 3:45-4:15pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
 2/22-Sunday-Masses: 9am & **10:30am Children's Mass**

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 @ 397-6810 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 March 7th at the Diner. **More Info: Joe Fagan @ 662-5908.**

The San Miguel School

Is your middle school aged son struggling academically and/or could benefit from small class sizes and individualized instruction? THE SAN MIGUEL SCHOOL is an independent Catholic Lasallian Middle School for young men of families in Camden whose educational needs will be met regardless of their financial status. We are currently accepting fifteen 6th grade students and six 7th grade students for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year. Please call Mr. James Hoban, the school Principal at 856.342.6707, ext. 202 for admissions and enrollment information. THE SAN MIGUEL SCHOOL is administered by the Brothers of the Christian Schools, the Church's largest male lay order of teachers since 1679.

Gentlemen: Time Out!

Tough times? Could you use God's help? Gentlemen, you are invited to take time to relax and energize yourselves at a weekend retreat at St. Joseph's in the Hills in Malvern, PA. The retreat begins Friday, March 13th and concludes at 11am on Sunday, March 15th. Why should you go?

- 1. Time with God away from hectic daily schedule**
- 2. Perspective**
- 3. Find new purpose**
- 4. Improve your prayer life**
- 5. Relax with Friends**

For more info call Joe Fagan @ 662-5908 or visit www.malvernretreat.com.

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

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 for 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.** Participants 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.

Celebrate the Wedding of Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Social Teaching, and Operation Rice Bowl Saturday, February 21, 2009

Presenter: **Mr Dennis Fisher**, Program Officer and Educator, Catholic Relief Services The Romero Center – 2907 Federal St., Camden, NJ. **Agenda:**

- 9:00am – Coffee, Bagels, Juice
- 9:30am – Prayer / Welcome
- 9:45am–11:20am - Presentation / Discussion, Mr Dennis Fisher
- 11:20am–11:30am – Remarks / Closing Prayer

.For those who want to learn more about the mission of Catholic Relief Services, the challenge of our Catholic Social Teachings, the power of Operation Rice Bowl – and how all these are connected to the mission of Jesus, His Church, and you. **Please call Larry DiPaul (856-964-9777), if you plan to attend, or for more information.**

Ash Wednesday – February 25th

There are 2 Masses in which to received ashes: 9am & 7pm.
Our students will receive ashes at the 10am School Mass.
There will be no Noon service for ashes.

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### Catch the Spirit by attending the **Parish Lenten Mission**

Since Our Holy Father dedicated this year to St. Paul, the mission will focus on the life and time of St. Paul and how he promoted social justice.

The presenter is **Mary An Love**, a secular Carmelite, who has a Masters Degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling and has worked in Parish Social Ministry as well as an educator and administrator. **The mission will be conducted on March 11 and March 19 at 7:00PM in the Church**

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Parish Women’s Retreat

A retreat & reflection morning is scheduled for **March 21 from 8:45AM – 12:00PM** for the women of the parish.

Sr. Peggy Devlin will be the facilitator. **Theme:**
“Journey of Transformation”

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### **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**

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Window Bids Wanted

St. Stephen's is accepting bids for replacement windows
for the convent. Anyone interested in offering us a quote
may call **Ray at (609) 313-1550**. Thank you.

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

II. THE REVELATION OF GOD AS TRINITY

The Father and the Son revealed by the Spirit

243 Before his Passover, Jesus announced the sending of "another Paraclete" (Advocate), the Holy Spirit. At work since creation, having previously "spoken through the prophets", the Spirit will now be with and in the disciples, to teach them and guide them "into all the truth".⁶⁸ The Holy Spirit is thus revealed as another divine person with Jesus and the Father.

244 The eternal origin of the Holy Spirit is revealed in his mission in time. The Spirit is sent to the apostles and to the Church both by the Father in the name of the Son, and by the Son in person, once he had returned to the Father.⁶⁹ The sending of the person of the Spirit after Jesus' glorification⁷⁰ reveals in its fullness the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

245 The apostolic faith concerning the Spirit was confessed by the second ecumenical council at Constantinople (381): "We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father."⁷¹ By this confession, the Church recognizes the Father as "the source and origin of the whole divinity".⁷² But the eternal origin of the Spirit is not unconnected with the Son's origin: "The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, is God, one and equal with the Father and the Son, of the same substance and also of the same nature. . . Yet he is not called the Spirit of the Father alone, . . . but the Spirit of both the Father and the Son."⁷³ The Creed of the Church from the Council of Constantinople confesses: "With the Father and the Son, he is worshipped and glorified."⁷⁴

246 The Latin tradition of the Creed confesses that the Spirit "proceeds from the Father *and the Son (filioque)*". The Council of Florence in 1438 explains: "The Holy Spirit is eternally from Father and Son; He has his nature and subsistence at once (*simul*) from the Father and the Son. He proceeds eternally from both as from one principle and through one spiration. . . . And, since the Father has through generation given to the only-begotten Son everything that belongs to the Father, except being Father, the Son has also eternally from the Father, from whom he is eternally born, that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Son."⁷⁵

247 The affirmation of the *filioque* does not appear in the Creed confessed in 381 at Constantinople. But Pope St. Leo I, following an ancient Latin and Alexandrian tradition, had already confessed it dogmatically in 447,⁷⁶ even before Rome, in 451 at the Council of Chalcedon, came to recognize and receive the Symbol of 381. The use of this formula in the Creed was gradually admitted into the Latin liturgy (between the eighth and eleventh centuries). The introduction of the filioque into the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed by the Latin liturgy constitutes moreover, even today, a point of disagreement with the Orthodox Churches.

From the Desk of Father Vincent Orum, AJ

On Wednesday, February 25th, 2009 we shall be celebrating Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of Lenten season for this year. As we enter into this period of Lent, we need to make the very best use of it for our growth into relationship with our God through Jesus. I came across the Lenten message of Pope Benedict VI in Zenit.org and I would like to share with you for our Lenten reflection. Pope Benedict VI issued a Lenten message in VATICAN CITY, FEB. 3, 2009, dated Dec. 11, 2008. The theme of the letter is "He Fasted for Forty Days and Forty Nights, and Afterward He Was Hungry."

In his message, the pope basically stressed the importance of lent for our spiritual growth demonstrating it with some historical writings and Biblical events. He further encourage the practice of charity and alms giving; characteristics of Lenten spirit.

Here is the Pope's message which we shall presents in series:

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

At the beginning of Lent, which constitutes an itinerary of more intense spiritual training, the Liturgy sets before us again three penitential practices that are very dear to the biblical and Christian tradition -- prayer, almsgiving, fasting -- to prepare us to better celebrate Easter and thus experience God's power that, as we shall hear in the Paschal Vigil, "dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy, casts out hatred, brings us peace and humbles earthly pride" (Paschal Præconium). For this year's Lenten Message, I wish to focus my reflections especially on the value and meaning of fasting. Indeed, Lent recalls the forty days of our Lord's fasting in the desert, which He undertook before entering into His public ministry. We read in the Gospel: "Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry" (Mt 4,1-2). Like Moses, who fasted before receiving the tablets of the Law (cf. Ex 34,28) and Elijah's fast before meeting the Lord on Mount Horeb (cf. 1 Kings 19,8), Jesus, too, through prayer and fasting, prepared Himself for the mission that lay before Him, marked at the start by a serious battle with the tempter.

We might wonder what value and meaning there is for us Christians in depriving ourselves of something that in itself is good and useful for our bodily sustenance. The Sacred Scriptures and the entire Christian tradition teach that fasting is a great help to avoid sin and all that leads to it. For this reason, the history of salvation is replete with occasions that invite fasting. In the very first pages of Sacred Scripture, the Lord commands man to abstain from partaking of the prohibited fruit: "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die" (Gn 2, 16-17). Commenting on the divine injunction, Saint Basil observes that "fasting was ordained in Paradise," and "the first commandment in this sense was delivered to Adam." He thus concludes: "'You shall not eat' is a law of fasting and abstinence" (cf. Sermo de jejuniis: PG 31, 163, 98). Since all of us are weighed down by sin and its consequences, fasting is proposed to us as an instrument to restore friendship with God. Such was the case with Ezra, who, in preparation for the journey from exile back to the Promised Land, calls upon the assembled people to fast so that "we might humble ourselves before our God" (8,21). The Almighty heard their prayer and assured them of His favor and protection. In the same way, the people of Nineveh, responding to Jonah's call to repentance, proclaimed a fast, as a sign of their sincerity, saying: "Who knows, God may yet repent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we perish not?" (3,9). In this instance, too, God saw their works and spared them.

In the New Testament, Jesus brings to light the profound motive for fasting, condemning the attitude of the Pharisees, who scrupulously observed the prescriptions of the law, but whose hearts were far from God. True fasting, as the divine Master repeats elsewhere, is rather to do the will of the Heavenly Father, who "sees in secret, and will reward you" (Mt 6,18). He Himself sets the example, answering Satan, at the end of the forty days spent in the desert that "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Mt 4,4). The true fast is thus directed to eating the "true food," which is to do the Father's will (cf. Jn 4,34). If, therefore, Adam disobeyed the Lord's command "of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat," the believer, through fasting, intends to submit himself humbly to God, trusting in His goodness and mercy.

The practice of fasting is very present in the first Christian community (cf. Acts 13,3; 14,22; 27,21; 2 Cor 6,5). The Church Fathers, too, speak of the force of fasting to bridle sin, especially the lusts of the "old Adam," and open in the heart of the believer a path to God. Moreover, fasting is a practice that is encountered frequently and recommended by the saints of every age. Saint Peter Chrysologus writes: "Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. So if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others. If you do not close your ear to others, you open God's ear to yourself" (Sermo 43: PL 52, 320. 322).