

St. Stephen Parish

6300 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109



Pastoral Staff

Reverend Daniel Rocco, Pastor
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: ecclesia@comcast.net

Website: www.StStephensPennsauken.com

February 21, 2010 – First Sunday of Lent

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

Anointing of the Sick/Eucharist –

Upon request after the 4:30pm Mass in Chapel.

Prior notification is necessary by calling the rectory Monday-Friday. Also call the 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.

The 2011 Mass Intentions Book is now available for Masses within 1 year, i.e. if you come into the Rectory on Feb. 23, you may book a Mass thru 2/23/11.

MONDAY 9:00am	February 22, 2010 Rev. James R. Plummer r/b People of the Parish
TUESDAY 9:00am	February 23, 2010 John Sarich, Sr. r/b Dorothea Dodds
WEDNESDAY 9:00am	February 24, 2010 Msgr. Charles P. Barth r/b People of the Parish
THURSDAY 9:00am+Novena	February 25, 2010 Arnold Black (1-Year Anniversary) r/b Wife Pat & Family
FRIDAY 9:00am	February 26, 2010 Gordon Hartson r/b Wife Catherine Vito Lamaina r/b Wife Tilda
SATURDAY 9:00am 4:30pm	February 27, 2010 Good Intentions of the People of the Parish Louise Pigiaccelli r/b Rosemarie & Frank Rosolia
SUNDAY 9:00am	February 28, 2010 John J. McPeak r/b His Family John J. Heininger, Jr. r/b Our Eucharistic Ministers
10:30am	Susan Fitzpatrick & Arnold Black r/b Family Msgr. Joe O'Connell (2 nd Anniversary) r/b People of the Parish

The Sanctuary Candle this week is in Memory of Our Deceased Military.

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.

Feb. 13/14, 2010 Attendance/Collection	585/ \$5,619
Feb. 14/15, 2009 Attendance/Collection	568/ \$5,579
Budgeted Weekly Collection:	\$6,154
Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average:	\$5,619

Next Special 2nd Collections:

February 21, 2010: "Black & Indian Missions"
February 21, 2010: "Winter Fuel Assistance"

Feb. 15th Blood Drive a Success!

The blood drive held on Monday, February 15, was a great success. The American Red Cross and the Knights of Columbus, Council #3512, thank all who participated.



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 Ackerman, Rose Alessandroni, Dolly Angelastro, Vincent Buondonno, Evelyn Capocetta, Dorothy Coyle, Margaret Cummings, Esther DeMarco, Patricia Domer, Joe Flacco, Thomas Holmes Sr., Jim Hutton, Rita Innes, Patricia James, Donna Krawchuk, Bonnie Leone, Katherine Maggioncalda, Vincent Marchese, Marlene Matteo, Marie Melchiorre, John Meyer, Jennifer Osborn, Edith Parrissi, Cassandra Pendleton, Rita Picciano, 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, Anthony Vocale, John Von Alex, Rita Weingard, Jean Wenstrom.

Ministry Schedule for February 27/28

(Monthly Schedules are also posted on our website)

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Servers: E. Mattera, T. Mason, R. Garofalo
EM's: P. Krohn, P. Petronis, L. Garofalo, M. Novoa, S. Eisenhardt
Lectors: J. Messina, R. Taylor

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: M. DiRico, R. Buchholz, C. Hearn
EM's: S. Marano, R. Davis, J. Rosario, The Monaco's
Lectors: The Zieglers

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: The Coars
EM's: T. Scavuzzo, L. D'Alessandro, M. Meloni, M. Miller
Lectors: J. Terzini, M. Turan



Anointing of the Sick

Anointing of the Sick will be available in the Chapel after the 4:30pm Mass on Saturdays for those who are ill and/or facing surgery. **Prior notification is necessary** by calling the Rectory at 662-9338 ext. 6, Monday thru Friday. We also ask that you call the rectory if you know of anyone who is sick or homebound.



Fr. Rocco Thanks You!

I would like to thank all the parishioners that set up the receptions for my welcome here at St. Stephen's and all those who attended. It was a joy to get to meet you in an environment that was so cordial. I am very thankful for your hospitality, kindness and generosity. I hope in the future there will be many more opportunities for us to share a cup of coffee and (chocolate) cake. *-Father Rocco*

This Week @ St. Stephen's

2/22-Monday-9am Mass, 7pm Liturgy, 7:15pm RCIA, 7:30pm YAM,
2/23-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary
2/24-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:30pm CCD
2/25-Thursday-9am Mass, 6:15 Youth Music, 7:15pm Choir
2/26-Friday- 9am Mass, 5:30pm Wedding Rehearsal, 7pm Stations
2/27-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Group, 9am Mass, 11am 1st Penance,
2pm Wedding, 3:45 Confession, 4:30pm Mass, YAM Movie
2/28-Sunday-Masses at 9am & 10:30am

Art & Environment Ministry

A tree has been donated to beautify the St. Stephen's Campus
In Loving Memory of Cataldo Procacci
requested by Josephine Procacci & Children

Anyone interested in donating flowers for the altar to mark an Anniversary, Christening or Memorial Mass may contact Maria Haas at 665-8393. Anyone who would like to make a donation for a tree to honor a deceased love one or would like to join the A & E Ministry may call Maria at the number listed above.

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 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 1st and 3rd 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.**

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 Bernice @ 662-4641 for February 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

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.

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.**

Men's Retreat March 12-14

Gentlemen: You are invited to Saint Joseph's In The Hills in Malvern Pa. for a 42-hour retreat. Our retreat will begin on Friday evening March 12 and conclude with Sunday morning Mass March 14. During this retreat you will have the opportunity to rest, focus on issues that are important to you, pray, celebrate the Eucharist with friends. For more info visit www.malvernretreat.com or contact **Joe Fagan (e) 609-471-0753, (h) 662-5908, jfagan1982@comcast.net**.

Women's Bible Study Feb. 22nd

St. Stephen's Women's Bible Study Group will have its first meeting on **Monday, February 22 from 1:00 to 2:30pm in the Conference Room at Stonegate**. All ladies of the parish are welcome. Please bring a Bible if you have one. Any questions, contact Eileen Heide at 662-8046, or email heides@comcast.net. Hope to see you there!

Young Adult Ministry

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:

February 22 - "Saints of the Sacred Heart"
presented by Sr. Ruthann O'Mara
February 27 - Movie Night - "Song of Bernadette"
(**Not held** at the rectory, location TBD)
March 15 - Scripture sharing (Jn 8:1-11)
March 22 - "Saints Joseph" presenter TBD
March 27 - Movie Night - "Pay It Forward"
(**Not held** at the rectory, location TBD)

Please contact Rose at 856.663.9342 for more information.

Lourdes Wellness Center--NEW!!!

Programs and offerings at Our Lady of Lourdes Wellness Center in Collingswood, NJ, are now linked to our St. Stephen Parish Website. Take time to review the many and varied opportunities that are offered for very reasonable costs/donations. Please note that **Sr. Ruthann, SSJ**, who lives here at St. Stephen's, has posted a number of Spirituality Programs for the Lent 2010 Season:

Creating Sacred Space: Retreat Evening (\$10 per session)
Thursdays, February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 from 7:30-8:30 pm

Mondays with Mary
March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 10:30-11:30 am (\$10 per session)

Joyce Rupp: Group Spiritual Direction
March 2, April 6, May 4 from 12-1 pm (\$10 per session)

"Leaning on God" Retreat Morning
March 6 from 10 am -12 pm (\$20 donation for the morning)

Thomas Merton: "Becoming Who You Already Are"
March 9, April 13, May 11 from 10:30-11:30 am (\$10 per session)

Desert Days: Days of Solitude
March 29 or 30 from 10 am to 3 pm \ (\$25 for the day, includes Spiritual Direction Session)

To Register Ahead Call (856) 869-3125
Please refer to www.lourdeswellnesscenter.org for descriptions of the above programs.

Lourdes Spirituality Center at the Little Portion
1049 Haddon Avenue, 2nd Floor, Collingswood, NJ 08108

The Season of Lent



**Remember man thou art dust
and to dust thou shalt return**

Lenten Regulations

1. The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.

On a Day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.

2. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence "substantially", or as a whole is a serious obligation.

3. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.

4. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, February 21, 2010 to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, May 30, 2010.

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday in Lent @ 7:00pm

Stations of the Cross Themes:

2/26 Peace & Justice, 3/5 Seniors,
3/12 Children, 3/19 Traditional, 3/26 Mary

Lenten Soup Night

March 5, 2010 at 5:45pm
(Rescheduled from Feb. 26)

4 Tuesday Nights of Gospel Reflection

March 2, 9, 16, 23 at 7:30pm
following the 7pm Rosary

Woman at the Well Presentation

Sunday, March 7, 2010 at 1pm

Parish Penance Service

Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 7pm

Holy Thursday, April 1, 2010

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:00 pm
Repository Visit until Midnight

Good Friday, April 2, 2010

Reading of the Psalms Noon-2:45pm
Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 3:00 pm
(No Stations at 7pm)

Holy Saturday, April 3, 2010

Easter Vigil Mass: 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010

Masses: 9:00am & 10:30 am



In Loving Memory of Elena M. Melfi

April 25, 1930 – February 13, 2010



8th Grade News!

The 8th grade class at St. Stephen School has been exercising their bodies and minds with a flurry of activities during Catholic School's Week. The 8th graders began the week easily routing the faculty in a volleyball game, but suffered a disappointing defeat in the basketball game, although several of the 8th grade players accused the referee of ignoring holding penalties committed by the faculty. Fourth grade teacher, Ms. Austin denied the claim, saying the teachers had been merely "exuberantly hugging" students. The 8th grade also won 2nd place in the school Knowledge Bowl, answering some difficult questions.

Our 8th grade students have been working on many interesting academic projects this week. In religion class, the students are studying the development of evangelization within the Catholic Church. Father John Carlo's visit gave the students first-hand knowledge of missionary work in the Philippines. In social studies, the 8th grade students read about the Great Depression and the New Deal programs enacted by FDR. Discussions have focused on similarities and differences between today's economy and the economy of the 1930s. In study skills, the 8th graders have been writing first-person narratives about African American artists, musicians and writers from the Harlem Renaissance. They are also creating a wall collage to display with their writings in the middle school wing. In language arts, Mrs. Donahue's class has been writing persuasive essays on topics that impact Americans today and are continuing to read, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Mrs. Amos' language arts class has begun reading, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, which will coincide with the social studies unit on World War II and the Holocaust.

The 8th grade will end the year with a trip to the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. The science class has been testing Newton's 1st, 2nd and 3rd Law's of Physics. They are crashing cars into obstacles and walls and evaluating passenger damage. In Mrs. Austin's algebra class, students started factoring trinomials and polynomials and Mr. Gross' math class has been configuring slope and linear equations.

-By Mrs. Kara Chase

Alumnus Recognition!

Congratulations to St. Stephen School Alumnus, Class of 2006, **Caitlin Mattera** for receiving Distinguished Honors for the Semester 1 Honor Roll, January 2010, at Merion Mercy Academy. Caitlin is currently in her senior year at the Academy.

St. Stephen Parish Finance Council Meeting - Thursday, 2/11/10

In Attendance: Fr. Daniel Rocco (Pastor), Kathy Boyer, Keith Knight, Susan Lambert (Church and School Bookkeeper), Lonnie Monaco (Trustee), Craig Otto (Trustee), Gary Sapienza and Tony Saranchak (Chairperson)

Father Rocco opened our second monthly meeting of 2010 with a prayer at 7:05 PM. The meeting had been postponed until 2/11 due to the snowstorm on 2/10.

Financial Report Review: Tony Saranchak and Susan Lambert provided an overview of the current status of church and school finances. At the end of the first seven months of the fiscal year, the church is fairly close to being on budget. On the school side, receipts for tuition and fees are running about \$70,000 behind budget projections, mainly due to the fact that the school budget was based on 235 students in grades K-8, but only 215 are actually enrolled.

Father Rocco inquired about the \$9,200 capital improvement expense which was for replacement of the windows on the second floor of the Rectory and a down payment on new windows for the first floor of the Rectory. Another question was raised concerning the \$15,960 liability on the church's balance sheet related to school repairs. This item needs to be investigated. It was also noted that the line item expense for extra clergy wages was \$5,900 over budget, primarily due to the need to provide priests to fill in for Father Vince during his extended summer vacation, as well as during his absences in November and December 2009.

Discussion of church and school finances: Those in attendance participated in an extensive and wide-ranging discussion on church and school finances, including the parish's school subsidy, responsibility for school repair bills, the need for careful and realistic budgeting at the school, and the parish's debts to the Diocese. In light of this discussion, Father Rocco proposed and the Finance Council agreed with the following items:

- Next year's school budget must be based on the actual number of students enrolled. A portion (1.5%) should be set aside for repairs.
- Parish subsidy: \$35,170 will be taken from the revolving reserve account and paid to the school to cover past-due subsidy payments. Starting with January 2010, the parish will pay its subsidy obligations on a monthly basis.
- The parish will pay one outstanding school repair bill (\$700), but remaining school repairs will need to be funded by the school. In future, school repairs must be built into the school budget.
- The parish will take funds from our revolving reserve account and pay \$99,000 past due to the Diocese for assessments and DSIP.
- The remaining funds in the parish's revolving reserve will be split into two funds: a savings fund to contain at least three months operating expenses; and a repair and maintenance fund. Initially, these two funds should contain about \$85,000 and \$100,000 respectively.

Review of Current Contracts: Kathy Boyer provided an overview of her work looking at the status of parish contracts.

- Rectory photocopier: The current contract (\$230 per month plus usage charge for black and white copies) is about to expire, although we need to provide 90 day notice if we do not want it to continue. Kathy investigated copier contracts with three companies. Xerox was the best of the three: \$109 per month plus usage charge of \$36 per month for a color copier.
- HVAC: All of the McAllister contracts have expired. Kathy proposed that the parish make arrangements to have Hawks and Company make a complete assessment of our equipment and needs and provide recommendations and cost estimates.
- Alarm system: This still needs to be investigated. The parish has been paying for the installation on a monthly basis, in addition to the usual monthly fee for the service.
- Telephones: There is nothing available that is less expensive than what we have.
- Snow Removal: No changes can be made at present. Kathy recommended that this summer action be taken to fold church and school snow removal for next winter into the contract already in place for Stonegate.

Capital Repairs and Improvements: Lonnie Monaco met with Ray Costner and provided an update on the four top-priority capital projects.

- The two 10 gallon water heaters located in the church ceiling need to be removed and replaced with one in the boiler room.
- The church needs to "get green" with its lighting in order to save on electric costs (and be more environmentally friendly).
- The air conditioner controls need to be updated. Hawks and Company will look into this issue.
- Church roof leaks: Father Rocco is arranging to have an expert take a careful look at this longstanding problem caused by the improper installation of the exterior cross.

Future Fundraisers: Pat Higgins and Katy Fagan are investigating the possibility of starting a combined church-school food scrip fundraising activity. Father Rocco has established the following policy regarding this fundraising: all funds raised will go to support the school and will be counted as part of the church's school subsidy obligation. In addition, Father Rocco asked all Finance Council members to think creatively about how to best raise funds in the future for the church and school.

Other business:

- Tony Saranchak will represent the Finance Council at the regular Pastoral Council meetings.
- The School Board is being reorganized and will have an all-day training session on 3/13/10.
- We will continue to pursue obtaining the current year subsidy due to St. Stephen School from St. Veronica (now merged with St. Cecilia as Mary Queen of All Saints parish).
- We have not yet received the instructions from the Diocese needed in order to begin preparing the school budget for next year. The school budget will be reviewed by the Finance Council before submission to the Diocese.
- Monthly financial reports will be distributed via email prior to the regular meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. The monthly detailed general ledger will be added to the balance sheet and profit and loss statements.
- An area adjacent to the Rectory has been enclosed with a chain-link fence. Father Rocco paid for the entire cost of installation. No parish funds were used.

The next regular monthly Finance Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 3/10/10 at 7:00 PM in the Stonegate meeting room.

Father Rocco closed the meeting with a prayer at 9:30 PM.

Please direct any questions about these notes to Craig Otto at ottocp@comcast.net or 856-663-4955.

Respectfully submitted, Craig Otto - 2/15/10

591-StStephen