

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: eccllesia@comcast.net

Website: www.StStephensPennsauken.com

March 1, 2009 – First Sunday of Lent

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 columns for Day, Date, and Intention. Rows include Monday (March 2, 2009), Tuesday (March 3, 2009), Wednesday (March 4, 2009), Thursday (March 5, 2009), Friday (March 6, 2009), Saturday (March 7, 2009), and Sunday (March 8, 2009).

The Sanctuary Candle this week is in Memory of William & Mary McNulty.

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 financial data: Attendance/Collection Feb. 21/22, 2009 (764 / \$6,318), Attendance/Collection Feb. 23/24, 2008 (609 / \$5,783), Budgeted Weekly Collection (\$6,923), Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average (\$5,658).

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 Alessandroni, Dolly Angelastro, Arnold Black, Patricia Booth, Marion Borreggine, Vincent Buondonno, Dominic Caruso, Dorothy Coyle, Marge Cummings, Esther DeMarco, Jessie Dixon, Patricia Domer, Joe Flacco, Robert Gottschall, John Heininger, Jr., 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 March 7/8

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Servers: K. Sullivan, T. Mason, E. Mattera
EM's: C & A Pandola, P. Krohn, P. Antonelli, Sr. Eleanora
Lectors: R. Taylor, J. Bowman

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: K. Starts, S. Morales, P. Luthman
EM's: S. Marano, A. DiGiacomo, S. Mufalli, The Monaco's
Lectors: D. Heck, J. Messina

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: H. Atchison, D. Saranchak, L. Fagan
EM's: W. Delfin, M. Novoa, L. D'Alessandro, The Fagans
Lectors: The Links

Next Special Diocesan Second Collection: March 1, 2009 - "Black/Indian Mission"

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

"Lenten Stewardship"

"For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45) Jesus came to serve and give his life for us. Our Stewardship of service where we give of our time, talent and treasure is modeled from His example of service.

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

This Week @ St. Stephen's

3/2-Monday-9am Mass, **7pm Mass**, 7:15pm RCIA
3/3-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, **7:30pm Joint Parish Council**
3/4-9am Mass, 6:30pm CCD, **7pm Mass**, 7pm Fundraising
3/5-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 6:15pm Youth Music, 7:15pm Choir
3/6-Friday-9am Mass, **Adoration**, **7pm Stations**, 7:30pm YAM
3/7-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Group, 9am Mass, 10am 1st Penance,
3:45-4:15pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
3/8-Sunday-Masses: 9am & 10:30am

Stations of the Cross Themes

- 3-6 Mary Stations 7:00PM enhanced by music ministry
- 3-13 Traditional Stations 7:00 PM
- 3-20 Peace Stations enhanced by music ministry
- 3-27 Mary Stations 7:00PM enhanced by music ministry
- 4-3 Traditional Stations
- 4-10 NO EVENING STATIONS (Good Friday)

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

This Friday, March 6th is the First Friday of the Month. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin after the 9am Mass and conclude before the 7pm Stations of the Cross.

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 Mary Ann @ 235-1423 requests.

St. Stephen's Rosary Makers

Meets every 1st & 3rd Thursday @ 7pm at Stonegate.
NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME to join us March 5th!

Season of Lent

Our season of Lent began last Wednesday, and we would like to provide all of our parishioners with an opportunity to participate fully in a prayerful spirit. On the First Sunday of Lent, we ask that you take a Lenten Stone and prayer card as you leave church. Keep the stone with you daily and use it as a reminder to rid yourselves of the hardness of heart and accept Christ in your lives as we move through the forty days of Lent. Say the prayer as a part of your daily rituals, and ask God to travel with you. On Easter, return the stone and leave it in the newly blessed water to symbolize your new life in the Risen Lord.

There will also be a booklet providing you with information about the season of Lent. Please take one and keep it as a reminder of all that is happening in our parish to assist you as you journey through this holy season.

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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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***Lent 2009 Spirituality Series***

**Theme: So Great A Love**

"A deeper personal relationship with God requires not only belief in a loving God, but the experience of that love on a feeling level."

**Experiencing God's Tremendous Love,**  
**Sr. Maureen Conroy, RSM**

During this Lenten Series, we will explore practical insights into the reality of God's personal and unconditional love. There will be a short presentation on the weekly theme and the use of Scripture, stories, and contemporary experiences. The evening session will be promptly at 7:30 PM and will allow time for those who would like to remain in church for personal prayer during this season of Lent.

**Presenter: Sister Ruthann T. O'Mara, SSJ**

Sr. Ruthann currently ministers at Our Lady of Lourdes Wellness Center in Collingswood, N. J. and resides here at St. Stephen Convent.

**Wednesday Evenings:** March 25 and April 1<sup>st</sup>

**March 25:** God's Love/Touching God's Heart

**April 1:** Our God's Transforming Power

**Time:** 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM

**Place:** St. Stephen Church (chapel)

Please call Jim Rotondo & register for this Series by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

# 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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Knights of Columbus, Pennsauken Council, presents:

Comedy Knight - A Knight of Comedy

March 28, 2009 at St Stephen's School

Beef N Beer begins at 6:00 pm - Comedy Show at 8 pm

Featuring Headliner

Legendary Philly Comedian Grover Silcox

(Fox 29's Good Day Philadelphia & the John DeBella Show)

Also Featuring

Ventriloquist Nick Pawlow & Manualist Jim Rotondo

Tickets - \$25 per person. Limited seating.

No tickets sold at the door.

For tickets, please call

Lonnie - 856 662-6049 or George - 856 488-1980

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**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 7<sup>th</sup> at the Diner. **More Info: Joe Fagan @ 662-5908.**

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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.

St. Stephen School Fundraisers

St. Stephen School greatly appreciates the support that parishioners provide by participating in our many fundraising activities. Fundraising plays an integral part in our school's budget each year. So far this school year, our PTA has raised money in support of the school through the following activities:

<u>Fundraiser</u>	<u>Profit (after expenses)</u>
Magazine Drive	\$3,036.43
Joe Corbi Pizza Sale	\$2,513.00
Charity Mania	\$2,044.25
Christmas Festival	\$3,227.16
Thanksgiving Pie Sale	\$376.20
Gift Certificate Sale	\$1,652.24

In addition, the Catholic Schools Week pancake breakfast, which was designed as an event for the whole parish community to enjoy and not just as a fundraiser, did earn about \$125.00. Also, any profits from our hot lunch program are funneled back to the school.

Additional fundraisers are planned during the remainder of the school year, including our traditional Monte Carlo night and a candy sale. We'll keep parishioners posted on the success of these activities. Thanks again for your ongoing support of our school!

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**St. Stephen's RCIA Ministry**



Have you been worshipping with us, but never officially took the step to become Catholic?

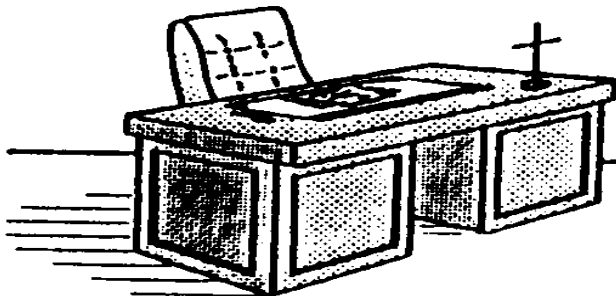
Have you been away from the church...and have now returned, but want to know more?

Have you been a Catholic all your life, but never celebrated all the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism; Confirmation; and Eucharist?

Have you joined us from a different background and would now like to find out more about the Catholic Church?

If any of the above questions apply to you, we would love to help you in your journey! Or, if you know of anyone who could answer YES to any of these questions, perhaps you should extend an invitation to them!

Please contact Father Vincent Orum at (856) 662-9338 or Loretta Steinmetz, RCIA Team Leader at (856) 227-4627 for more information about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).



*From the Desk of  
Father Vincent Orum, AJ*

***“Remember, you are dust, and to dust you will return.”***

We have officially begun the new Liturgical season of Lent as we celebrated Ash Wednesday until the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday. This period is exclusively meant to enable us to be aware of our need to conversion through acts of prayer, Alms-giving and fasting. Our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI in his Lenten messages for this year explained to us the reasons and need for us to engage in these spiritual exercises. We published his messages in our two successive Sunday Bulletins last week and I hope each one of us has made a resolution to follow the Holy Father’s encouragement for us to practice them.

I was reading the order of prayer and I found it interesting to note that Lent falls in two parts namely “pre-Lent” which runs from Ash-Wednesday to Saturday of the third Week of Lent. The second part is Sunday the third week of Lent to Holy Thursday. The Liturgy of the Word is arranged in a sequence of highlighting the theme of each part of Lent respectively.

During pre-Lent, the Gospel is taken from Mathew, Luke and Mark commonly known as Synoptic Gospels with a continuous message of calling us to a life of conversion. We are reminded about fasting, prayer, almsgiving, mutual forgiveness, love of enemies, hardness of heart; absolute claims of justice and to go beyond mere observation of rituals in worship other than the Love of God. The Old Testament readings like the call of Naaman and the Gospel Narrative Stories about the workers in the Vineyard are also presented as examples for a call to conversion.

The aim of the pre-Lenten readings according to the “**Ordo**” is to lead us into “Compunction” which it explains as “to puncture”; namely “the deflation of our inflated egos, a challenge to a self-deceit about the quality of our lives as disciples of Jesus.” This in the end is meant to act as a soul-searching encounter with the Word of God that provokes us to “confront the illusions about ourselves” as we were reminded at the rite of Ash Wednesday, “**Remember, you are dust, and to dust you will return.**”

During the second half of Lent, the readings are taken from the Gospel of John in the fourth week of Lent whereby Jesus Christ is presented as the healer and life-giver through his acceptance of suffering, death and resurrection for the children of God. Our self-rupture from all the emptiness of our lives can only find meaning and hope in Jesus who by his death has reconciled us to God and our true self.

It’s therefore quite clear that the Lenten season is a time in which the catechumens and the Christian faithful are called to prepare for the celebration of the Paschal mystery. At this time, through the rite of election and scrutinies, and catechesis the church prepare the catechumens for the celebration of the Sacraments of Christian initiations: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. On the other hand, the faithful are called to be evermore attentive to the Word of God and prayer so as to prepare themselves by penance for the renewal of their baptismal promises.

The fact that Lent is a time of Conversion through prayer, fasting and Almsgiving, the nature of worship and Liturgy is less festive and pompous. We are called to give more room for Silence and reflections on the Mystery of Christ Jesus surrounding us, and the reality of our discipleship!