

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

March 15, 2009 – Third 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.

MONDAY 9:00am 7:00pm	March 16, 2009
TUESDAY 9:00am	March 17, 2009
WEDNESDAY 9:00am 7:00pm	March 18, 2009 Rev. John Newton r/b People of the Parish
THURSDAY 9:00am	March 19, 2009 (Followed by Novena)
FRIDAY 9:00am	March 20, 2009
SATURDAY 9:00am 4:30pm	March 21, 2009 Good Intentions of the People of the Parish Michael LaRusso r/b Daughters Linda & Sharon
SUNDAY 9:00am	March 22, 2009 (10:30am 2nd Scrutiny - RCIA) Karl Stewart r/b Jan Stewart & Family Al Hillman r/b Terry Carr
10:30am	Caroline Fanelle r/b Her Sister Ida Claire McDonough r/b Mary Jane & Andy Salmonsens

The Sanctuary Candle this week is in Memory of Albert Mignogna.

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 March 7/8, 2009	552 / \$4,714
Attendance/Collection March 8/9, 2008	636 / \$6,699
March 8th Rice Bowl Collection	\$1,042
Budgeted Weekly Collection:	\$6,923
Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average:	\$5,650

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:

- 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, 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.**

Ministry Schedule for March 21/22

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Servers: M. DiRico, T. Mason, K. Hulsey
EM's: P. Petronis, M. Novoa, Sr. Eleanora, The Monaco's
Lectors: S. Stehm, A. Yeager

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: E. Corbett, S. Morales, H. Atchison
EM's: S. Marano, J. Rosario, T. Modzier, The Sapienza's
Lectors: L. Modzier, M. Miller

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: S. Rosa, L. Fagan, D. Saranchak
EM's: T. Link, W. Delfin, M. Meloni, G. Tutwiler, L. D'Alessandro
Lectors: M. Turan, J. Terzini

Next Special Second Collections:

March 22, 2009 – "Catholic Relief" & "Star Herald"

Please note: If you contributed toward last October's Star Herald collection of \$1,225, please do not feel obligated to contribute to this one. The March 22nd envelope is part of the yearly envelope program (common in all churches) to help defray our increased cost that has risen from \$3k per year to almost \$14k per year for the 700+ subscriptions. Thank you.

Stewardship Reflection

Stewardship Interference

"You shall not crave idols for yourself in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth." (Exodus 20:4)

Have you created idols for yourself in earthly shapes? An idol, which blocks stewardship, can be in shape of money, sports, fashions, travel or anything else we value more than God and His word to us.

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

This Week @ St. Stephen's

3/16-Monday-9am Mass, **7pm Mass**, 7:15pm RCIA
 3/17-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary
 3/18-9am Mass, 6:30pm CCD, **7pm Mass**, **7pm Parish Council**
 3/19-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 6:15pm Youth Music,
7pm Parish Mission, 7pm Rosary Makers
 3/20-Friday-9am Mass, **7pm Stations**, 7:30pm YAM
 3/21-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Group, **8:45am Women's Retreat**,
 9am Mass, 3:45-4:15pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
 3/22-Sunday-Masses: 9am & 10:30am

Stations of the Cross Themes

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)

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 for March requests.

St. Stephen's Rosary Makers

Meets every 1st & 3rd Thursday @ 7pm at Stonegate.
 NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME to join us March 19th!

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

The Young Adult Faith & Film Series –

Saturday Nights at 6:30, location to be determined

Upcoming Presentations include:

March 28th - Barabbas

April 25th - The Bucket List

May 23rd - A Time for Miracles: Story of Mother Seton

The evening will include dinner and a short discussion period following the film.

Please call JD at 856.316.2598 for information.

Welcome Youth of St. Stephen's! 8th Grade thru 12th Grade

Please join us on **Sunday, March 29th from 6-7:30pm** for a Pizza & Conversation Get-Together in the Rectory Meeting Room.

For further info, email ecclesia@comcast.net.

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 continue on March 19 at 7:00PM in the Church**

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"

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 1st

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 in the Rectory to register as soon as possible.

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 April 4th at the Diner. **More Info: Joe Fagan @ 662-5908.**



***In Loving Memory of Frank Caruso
1921-2009***

I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes", said the Spirit, "let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them." -Revelation 14:13

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***SJ Interfaith Passover Seder***

**Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> @ 6:15pm  
St. Patrick's Parish Life Center  
96 Green Ave., Woodbury, NJ**

The Jewish Community Relations Council, in conjunction with the Catholic-Jewish Institute, will present a Passover Seder for interested people of different faiths and backgrounds, to gain a better understanding of this special holiday for the Jewish people, one that has had a profound impact throughout the ages. The Seder will be led by community rabbis. They will explain the traditional Passover service, as everyone participates with symbolic foods that represent the trials and tribulations of the Israelite people as they struggled to achieve freedom from slavery in Egypt, a story retold from generation to generation.

\$35 cost for the buffet style Kosher Seder, RSVP by March 24<sup>th</sup> online at [www.jcrsny.org](http://www.jcrsny.org). More info at (856)751-9500.

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RENEWAL

**Tuesday, March 31st @ 7pm
Cherry Hill Public Library**

1100 Kings Hwy North in Cherry Hill, NJ

All clergy, lay leaders, parishioners and neighbors are welcome to attend this feature length documentary on people of faith standing up for the environment.

Co-sponsored by the Catholic-Jewish Commission of South Jersey. The event is FREE, but registration is required at www.chplnj.org or (856) 903-1202.

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).

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***Lay Ministry Formation***

The Diocese of Camden has established a life-long formation office aimed at the Lay Ministry Formation Program (LMFP). This program helps the Laity who have indicated a desire to pursue the formal education opportunity of becoming professionally prepared in a particular ministry discipline or pursue a graduate degree in theology so as to supply our parishes with a greater number of qualified persons for ministry and service. If you are interested, call Fr. Vincent or the parish office @ 662-9338.

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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

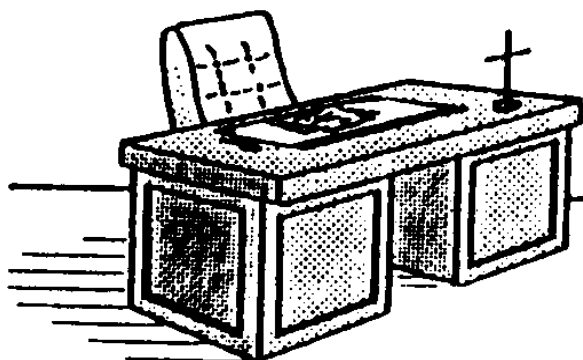
Ventriloquist Nick Pawlow & Manualist Jim Rotondo

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



*From the Desk of
Father Vincent Orum, AJ*

READINESS FOR GOD IS A LENTEN CALL FOR DISCIPLESHIP!

I was searching on the Internet and reading some articles about Lent, and I came across this reflection by Fr. Tom Baldonieri in which he presents Lent as a time in which we are called to be "ready for God":

"How do we tune in to God? What kind of signal or image do we have of God?"

The first reading from Genesis: God calls out to Abraham, and he replies "ready!"

The adjective "ready" is significant because it means a): prepared mentally or physically for some experience or action b): prepared for immediate use c): willingly disposed or inclined. Abraham is so inclined. He leans toward God with words and actions of faith. He is called our father in faith. His call leads him on a journey taking him to new and unknown territory. What an awesome journey.

Another awesome reaction of pointing one self to God is seen in the transfiguration. Peter, James and John are led up the mountain where they incline themselves to witness the great miracle of Jesus transfigured in dazzling white. They see Elijah and Moses. God sees them as ready to see this great event. Peter's reaction is to state "Rabbi, how good it is for us to be here". Peter, like Abraham appreciates the opportunity. With faith they tune in to God. God speaks out of a cloud: this is my beloved Son. Listen to Him. The word listen means a:)to pay attention to sound, b): to hear something with thoughtful attention: give consideration c): to be alert to catch an expected sound.

Do we listen and tune in, with a readiness of faith? Are we aware of the many times in which God calls us to incline ourselves, respond to God with readiness even during tough times? Paul reminds the Romans: "If God is for us who can be against us." We rejoice at the concept that this almighty God chooses to pay attention to us so much so that God is for us. Are we ready to listen and therefore be for God?"