

# 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](mailto:ecclesia@comcast.net)

Website: [www.StStephensPennsauken.com](http://www.StStephensPennsauken.com)

## March 22, 2009 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

### Mass Schedule

**Daily:** Monday thru Saturday – 9:00am

#### **Weekend Obligation:**

Saturday – 4:30pm

Sunday – 9:00am & 10:30am

**Children's Liturgy:** 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday @ Noon.  
Baptism – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 March 23, 2009 9:00am Matthew Oler r/b Fr. Vince 7:00pm
TUESDAY March 24, 2009 9:00am Magdalene Ozelle r/b Fr. Vince
WEDNESDAY March 25, 2009 9:00am Alphonsina r/b Fr. Vince 7:00pm
THURSDAY March 26, 2009 (Followed by Novena) 9:00am
FRIDAY March 27, 2009 9:00am
SATURDAY March 28, 2009 9:00am Good Intentions of the People of the Parish 4:30pm John Catrino r/b Mrs. Higgins and the Staff & Students of St. Stephen School Paul P. McCarthy, Sr. r/b Lisa Borreggine & Family
SUNDAY March 29, 2009 (9:00am 3rd Scrutiny - RCIA) 9:00am Leonard Kozarski r/b Diane & Adrian DesRosiers Theresa Eisenhardt r/b Family 10:30am Fran Sullivan r/b The Sullivan Family Joseph Siano r/b The Scavuzzo Family

The Sanctuary Candle this week is in Memory of Michael LaRusso.

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: Attendance/Collection and Amount. Rows include March 14/15, 2009 (694 \$7,390), March 15/16, 2008 (637 /\$6,697), Budgeted Weekly Collection (\$6,923), and Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average (\$5,697).

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 Alessandroni, 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, Robert Leone, 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.

Ministry Schedule for March 28/29

Saturday, 4:30pm

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

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: K. Starts, P. Luthman, E. Corbett EM's: S. Marano, L. Rosario, S. Mufalli, R. Davis, N. Schmidt Lectors: The Zieglers

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: The Bowmans, C. Otto EM's: B. Buffington, A. Mulholland, J. Messina, The Fagans Lectors: P. Krohn, C. Otto

Next Special Diocesan 2nd Collection: April 26, 2009 - "Home Mission"

Stewardship Reflection Stewardship Sacrifice

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes might not perish but might have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious first born, but He does ask that we give sacrificially of our time, talent and treasure in service to his people.

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

**This Week @ St. Stephen's**

3/23-Monday-9am Mass, 7pm Mass, 7:15pm RCIA  
3/24-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary  
3/25-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:30pm CCD, 7pm Mass,  
7:30pm Sr. Ruthann Presentation "So Great a Love"  
3/26-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 6:15pm Youth Music, 7:15pm Choir  
3/27-Friday-9am Mass, 7pm Stations, 7:30pm YAM  
3/28-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Group, 9am Mass, 9:30am Clean-up,  
3:45-4:15pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass, 6pm Comedy Knight,  
6:30pm YAM Movie Night  
3/29-Sunday-Masses: 9am & 10:30am, 6pm Youth Pizza

**Stations of the Cross Themes**

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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday @ 7pm at Stonegate.

**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!  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade thru 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Please join us on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30pm for a Pizza & Conversation Get-Together in the Rectory Meeting Room. For further info, email [eccllesia@comcast.net](mailto:eccllesia@comcast.net).

**Service Hours Alert**

All parishioners, school staff and any 7th & 8th grade or High school students seeking community service hours are welcomed to join Art and Environment Ministry on March 28th for a morning of cleaning maintenance of the church and outside gardens. If you plan to attend, please contact Maria Haas @ 665-8393.

**A Monte Carlo Thank You**

The St. Stephen's School PTA committee extends its thanks to everyone who attended and/or donated in any way to the event on Saturday March 7. We hope that the evening met your satisfaction. The money raised goes into the operating budget of the school. Thank you again for attending and your generosity in making the night a success.

**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 in the Rectory to register by **March 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

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

## ***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 31<sup>st</sup> @ 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](http://www.chplnj.org) or (856) 903-1202.

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## ***N.J. FamilyCare & FamilyCare Advantage: Affordable, Quality Health Coverage is Available***

**NJ FamilyCare provides quality, free, or low cost health coverage for uninsured children 18 and younger and low-income parents.** Although many children are enrolled in Family Care, there are an estimated 280,000 children who are eligible but not enrolled. A mandate for all NJ children 18 and younger to have health insurance coverage goes into effect July 2009.

The 2009 Cover the Uninsured Week Campaign (March 22-28) provides the opportunity to spread the word about NJ FamilyCare. If your family income, or another family's income, falls within certain ranges (e.g. \$6,432 per month for a family of 4), your children may be eligible for NJ FamilyCare. If your family income is above the limit, you may still be able to get affordable health insurance for your children through the New Jersey FamilyCare Advantage program. If you are a parent, you may also be eligible for free or low-cost healthcare coverage through NJ FamilyCare.

To find out if you are eligible, or for more information, call or visit: 1-800-791-0710 [www.njfamilycare.org](http://www.njfamilycare.org) TTY 1-800-701-0720 (multilingual operators) (Apply on line) (For hearing impaired)

## ***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, A.J.*

## ***Why Holy Water during Lent?***

Many of you have been asking me why we have Holy Water at the entrance of the Church during Lent. In order for us to understand the reasons why Holy Water should be there at Lent time, we need to know **why** we have this tradition of using and having Holy Water. This will help explain the correlations between Lent and Holy Water.

It should be noted that many Christian Churches like Anglicans, Eastern orthodox, Oriental Orthodoxy, Pentecostal and the Catholic Church use holy water; explained by the Catholic Wikipedia on the website as **“water which has been sanctified by a priest or Bishop for the purpose of baptism or for the blessings of persons, places, or things.**

The article continues to explain that, **“Holy water is water that has been blessed and set apart for baptism. It is also used as a sacramental. Holy water is kept in the *font*, the church furnishing used for baptisms, which is typically located at the entrance to the church (or sometimes in a separate room or building called a baptistry. Its location at the entrance serves as a reminder of the centrality of baptism as the primary rite of initiation into the Christian faith. Smaller vessels, called *stoups*, are usually placed at the entrances of the church. As a reminder of baptism, Roman Catholics dip their fingers in the holy water and make the sign of the cross when entering the church.”**

I have underlined from the article what I considered very important in underscoring the need for having Holy Water at Lent namely, **“...reminder of the centrality of Baptism”**-which at Lent is also the point of focus as I will substantiate below.

In the official guideline books for the Archdiocese of Newark and the Universal church known as **“The Order of Prayer in Liturgy of the Hours and the Celebration of the Eucharist” page 57**, Lent is explained as a season in which both the Catechumens and the faithful (we), are prepared for the Celebration of the passion, Death and resurrection of our Lord. It says that while catechumens through the rite of Election and scrutinies are prepared for the celebration of the sacraments of Christian initiations namely Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, (we) the Christian faithful, **“...ever more attentive to the word of God and prayer prepare by penance for the renewal of (our) baptismal promises.”**

Speaking about the selections of the readings during Lent, the Order once again mentions the Baptismal character of Lent: **“The readings for Lenten Masses have been chosen in relation to the themes of baptismal renewal and Penance. The Gospels and readings from the Hebrew Scriptures have been selected for their mutual relationship.”** Page 59.

Since Lenten season is therefore focused on the renewal of our Baptismal promises and we use Holy water as a reminder of our Baptismal commitment/promises, **would it not be contradictory not to have Holy Water at the time we need the symbol the most?**

Therefore, it makes sense when His Eminence Francis Cardinal Arinze the then Prefect for the Congregation for Divine Worship wrote on March 14<sup>th</sup>,2000 in answer to the question whether it is in accord with liturgical law to remove the Holy Water from the fonts for the duration of the season of Lent, had this to say:

**“This Dicastery is able to respond that the removing of Holy Water from the fonts during the season of Lent is not permitted, in particular for two reasons:**

**1.The Liturgical legislation in force does not foresee this innovation, which in addition to being praeter legem is contrary to a balanced understanding of the season of Lent, which though truly being a season of penance, is also a season rich in symbolism of water and baptism, constantly evoked in liturgical texts.**

**2. The encouragement of the Church that the faithful avail themselves frequently of the Sacrament of her sacraments and sacramental is to be understood to apply also to the season of Lent. The “fast” and “abstinence” which the faithful embrace in this season does not extend to abstaining from sacraments or sacramental of the Church. The practice of the Church has been to empty the Holy Water fonts on the days of the Sacred Triduum in preparation of the blessing of the water at the Easter Vigil, and it corresponds to those days on which the Eucharist is not celebrated (i.e., Good Friday and Holy Saturday).”**