

St. Stephen Parish

6300 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109



Parish Clergy & Religious

Reverend Vincent Orum, A.J., Administrator
Deacon Raymond Ellis ~ 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

April 27, 2008 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mass Schedule:

Daily: Monday thru Saturday – 9:00am
Saturday – 4:30pm --- Sunday – 9:00am, 10:30am & 4:30pm
Youth Mass: 3rd Sunday of every month @ 4:30pm
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 of month @ 1pm.
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
Closed National Holidays and Holy Days of Obligation.

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 Priest will generally offer that Mass for the Universal Church.

- MONDAY** April 28, 2008
9:00am
- TUESDAY** April 29, 2008
9:00am
- WEDNESDAY** April 30, 2008
9:00am
7:00pm Vigil for Ascension of the Lord
- THURSDAY** May 1, 2008 (Ascension Thursday)
9:00am People of the Parish
7:00pm Helen McKim r/b Joe & Maria Haas
- FRIDAY** May 2, 2008 (First Friday of the Month)
9:00am Communion Service followed by Adoration
- SATURDAY** May 3, 2008
9:00am Robert Durivage r/b M/M Petronis
4:30pm John Ripley r/b Paul Tryson
- SUNDAY** May 4, 2008
9:00am Michael Szalagiewicz r/b Joseph & Jeanne Gerst
Margaret Behnke r/b Helen Huhn
10:30am John Gillespie r/b David & Cindi Luthman
4:30pm Rose Daemer r/b St. Stephen's Eucharistic Ministers

The Sanctuary Candle this week is in Memory of Michael Pompeano, Jr.

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.

Offertory Collection April 19/20, 2008:	\$5,714.49
Grounds Upkeep Collection April 19/20	\$ 871.00
Budgeted Weekly Collection:	\$7,200.00
Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average:	\$6,486.33

House of Charity Report

YTD: \$25,265 (46% of our Goal of \$55,000)

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 log on to our church website at 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:

- Dolly Angelastro, Marion Borreggine, Vincent Buondonno, Dominic Caruso, Dorothy Coyle, Marge Cummings, Esther DeMarco, Tom DiBenedetto, Jessie Dixon, Patricia Domer, Jennie Farmer, John Fitzpatrick, Robert Gottschall, Mary Gunderson, Thomas Holmes, Sr., Jim Hutton, Rita Insley, Donna Krawchuk, Mary McNulty, John McPeak, Marie Melchiorre, Elena Melfi, Jennifer Osborn, Rita Picciano, Rosemarie Rosolia, William Sauer, Carmella Scrivani, Frances Shea, Mary Jo Stedrak, Frances Sullivan, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Jean Wenstrom.**



Next 3 Young Adult Masses:
May 18, June 15 & July 20
All 3rd Sundays @ 4:30pm

Info: Tery Mattered (856) 488-6357

Ministry Schedule for May 3/4, 2008

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Servers: E. Stemetzki, K. Sullivan, E. Mattered
EM's: J. Messina, T. Mattered, A. Knight, J. Heining, M. Baratta
Lectors: P. Palazzo, R. Taylor

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: M & C Hearn, C. Rosario
EM's: S. Marano, J. Rosario, A. DiGiacomo, R. Davis, L. Picknally
Lectors: The McKeans

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: D. Saranchak, S. Rosa, E. Corbett
EM's: T. Link, A. Mulholland, M. Meloni, D. Caruso, P. Petronis
Lectors: C. Otto, M. Link

Sunday, 4:30pm: TBA.

Next Special 2nd Collections:

- April 27, 2008: "Home Mission"
- May 11, 2008: "Upkeep of the Shrines"

May 4th bulletin deadline: April 28th @ Noon

St. Vincent de Paul Hotline (856) 581-7980
New Playground Hotline (609) 238-9471

St. Stephen School Open House
Wednesday, April 30th from 9-11am
All are invited, especially PreK3 & PreK4!

School May Crowning: May 2nd
Parish May Crowning: May 3rd & 4th

This Week @ St. Stephen's

4/28-Monday-9am Mass
 4/29-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7pm A & E meeting
 4/30-Wednesday-9am Mass, **7pm Vigil for Ascension**
 5/1-Thursday-9am Mass, Novena to follow, **7pm Ascension**
 5/2-First Friday-9am Communion Svc., Adoration until 7pm
 5/3-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Gr., 9am Mass, 2pm Wedding
 3:45-4:15pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
 5/4-Sunday-Masses @ 9am, 10:30am & 4:30pm

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

Situation Bad? Can't Pray? Need Prayers?

We are here to pray for you.

Contact Lois @ 665-1221 for the month of April.

Liturgy News

As we approach the month of May, we must remind ourselves that this is a special month devoted to Our Blessed Mother.

This year, our parish has much for which we are grateful, but we also need to remember that there is much yet to be accomplished. We cannot do it alone; we require spiritual assistance if we are to attain our goals.

One of the most powerful prayers available to us is the Rosary.

We are requesting that each Ministry in our parish take one Tuesday evening during May, and pray the Rosary with other parishioners.

The Schedule appears below: however, if you are unable to attend on that evening, please feel free to join us on any Tuesday. If we heed the exhortation of Our Lady of Fatima, we know our prayers will be answered. We have so many Needs—in our world, in our Church, and in our own little parish—and only prayer will meet these needs. Please join us in praying for them.

Prayerfully,
 Saint Stephen's Liturgy Committee

- Tuesday May 6th - Ushers and Altar Servers
- Tuesday May 13th - Eucharistic Ministers and Young Adults
- Tuesday May 20th - Lectors and Spiritual Life
- Tuesday May 27th - Art & Environment & Music Ministry

\$\$ 50-50 \$\$ SUMMER CASH RAFFLE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A PARISHIONER TO BUY A RAFFLE TICKET! We welcome everyone's participation. Start the summer off right by winning some cash, Call the rectory office for tickets or contact Anthony Leone (609) 405-8247 or Rita Vogt (856) 662-9464.

Ascension Thursday, May 1st

Mass times for this Holy Day of Obligation are
9am & 7pm Thursday, Vigil Wednesday April 30th @ 7pm.
 As with all Holy Days of Obligation, the Rectory Office is closed.

First Friday, May 2nd

Friday May 2nd is the First Friday of the Month.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin after the **9am Communion Service** and continue until 7pm.

Arts & Environment Meeting

Tuesday, April 29th @ 7pm in the Rectory

Faith. Works. Wonders.

A Time and Talent Ministry Fair

May 9, 2008, 7-9pm in the School Gymnasium

The parish ministry fair will be held the Friday before Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost Sunday is a day to celebrate hope - a hope evoked by the knowledge that God through His Holy Spirit is at work among His people. It is a celebration of newness, of re-creation, of renewal of purpose, mission, and calling as God's people. It is a celebration of God's ongoing work in the world. It is also a recognition that His work is done through His people as He pours out His presence upon them.

How is God calling you to share your special gifts and talents? Perhaps you enjoy the outdoors or like working with your hands? You may be called to join the Buildings & Grounds Committee. If you have musical talents or enjoy singing, you may want to consider joining the music ministry. Do you have a special ability to communicate with teenagers and a desire to help them develop a stronger relationship with God? Perhaps you may be called to be a Youth Group Advisor. Are you good at planning and organizing events and like to work as part of a team? You may want to serve on one of the many parish committees, such as the parish picnic or Journey to Bethlehem committee. Are you creative and enjoy decorating? Maybe you should consider joining the Arts and Environment committee.

Please take some time in these next few weeks to discern how you can use your own gifts and talents to serve the Lord here at St. Stephen's. There are approximately 30 different ministries and committees currently at our parish. Come to the ministry fair and learn about them all and ask any questions you may have, and discover where you may best be of service.

Planning team members:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Donna McKean 665-5582 | Betsy McBride 665-3722 |
| Terry Modzier 488-0790 | Maria Haas 665-8393 |
| Eileen Busch 662-0561 | Kathy McKenna 661-8024 |

Good Counsel Homes Walk for Life May 17

The Walk for Life will be held at Haddon Hts. Park to raise funds to open a Good Counsel Home in South Jersey. These Homes were founded by Fr. Benedict Groeschel and Christopher Bell in 1985 to support women who are homeless and pregnant. We need your help to open one in our diocese. For more information contact Brenda Quinn at (856) 423-3468. If you can't join us for the walk, you may sponsor a walker by sending a check made out to "Good Counsel-South Jersey" to Good Counsel Homes c/o Brenda Quinn, 268 Genesse Rd., Clarksboro, NJ 08020.

591-StStephen

Knights of Columbus Open House

Date: Monday, April 28, 2008

Time: 7PM

Place: St. Stephen's library

All are welcome but membership is limited to men 18 years of age and older. Please join us for an informative and enjoyable evening. Refreshments will be served. Learn how becoming a Brother Knight can change your life, expand your network of friends and bring you closer to your family and to your church.

SPIRIT ALIVE AT LOURDES: TERRIFIC TUESDAYS

Tuesdays: June 3, 17, 24 and July 1 - Time: 12:30 PM

RELAXATION PRACTICE IN NATURE

Come to one or all of the above sessions and relax in the meditation garden at the Little Portion. Relaxation Session will include: deep breath practice, muscle relaxation and meditation.

Tuesday: June 3 (only)

Time: 5:30 PM OR 7 PM

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER AND MEDITATION

This session will explore several different definitions of prayer, a mindfulness practice and a walking meditation

Tuesdays: June 17, 24 and July 1

Time: 5:30 PM OR 7:00 PM

WALK WITH THE MYSTICS

Befriend one or all of three ordinary soul guides:
Francis of Assisi,

**Clare of Assisi and/or Julian of Norwich ~ good
companions for your**

spiritual journey! Short input, meditation garden experience and group conversation. Bring a friend!

June 17: Francis of Assisi

June 24: Clare of Assisi

July 1: Julian of Norwich

SPIRIT ALIVE AT LOURDES: SUMMER THURSDAYS

Thursdays: June 5, 19, and 26:

Time: 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM

GARDEN MEDITATIONS

Take this *one-hour* from your busy day to slow down and enter into a slower pace. Group meditation followed by personal prayer time in the Little Portion Meditation Garden will enhance your spiritual experience.

Where: Lourdes Wellness Center, Little Portion, 1049

Haddon Ave., Collingswood, NJ

(opposite the 1st Colonial National Bank, 2nd floor)

All Programs: one hour

Donation: \$10.00 per session

Pre-register with Celeste at: 856-869-3125 asap

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

(A Continuing Weekly Series)

PART ONE - THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

SECTION ONE - "I BELIEVE" - "WE BELIEVE"

26 We begin our profession of faith by saying: "I believe" or "We believe". Before expounding the Church's faith, as confessed in the Creed, celebrated in the liturgy and lived in observance of God's commandments and in prayer, we must first ask what "to believe" means. Faith is man's response to God, who reveals himself and gives himself to man, at the same time bringing man a superabundant light as he searches for the ultimate meaning of his life. Thus we shall consider first that search (*Chapter One*), then the divine Revelation by which God comes to meet man (*Chapter Two*), and finally the response of faith (*Chapter Three*).

CHAPTER ONE - MAN'S CAPACITY FOR GOD

I. THE DESIRE FOR GOD

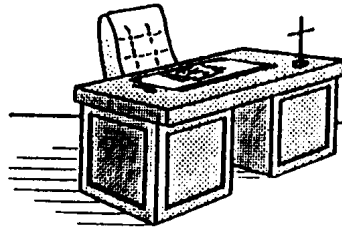
27 The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for:

The dignity of man rests above all on the fact that he is called to communion with God. This invitation to converse with God is addressed to man as soon as he comes into being. For if man exists it is because God has created him through love, and through love continues to hold him in existence. He cannot live fully according to truth unless he freely acknowledges that love and entrusts himself to his creator.¹

28 In many ways, throughout history down to the present day, men have given expression to their quest for God in their religious beliefs and behavior: in their prayers, sacrifices, rituals, meditations, and so forth. These forms of religious expression, despite the ambiguities they often bring with them, are so universal that one may well call man a *religious being*:

From one ancestor [God] made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him - though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "in him we live and move and have our being."²

29 But this "intimate and vital bond of man to God" (GS 19 § 1) can be forgotten, overlooked, or even explicitly rejected by man.³ Such attitudes can have different causes: revolt against evil in the world; religious ignorance or indifference; the cares and riches of this world; the scandal of bad example on the part of believers; currents of thought hostile to religion; finally, that attitude of sinful man which makes him hide from God out of fear and flee his call.⁴



From the Desk of
Father Vincent Orum, AJ

DOES CATHOLIC FAITH ENCOURAGE DEVOTION TO MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS?

When I was growing up, I remember how every night before we would go to bed my Dad and Mum gathered us at our family Altar to say the Rosary and Night prayers. It was an unforgivable offense to go to bed without night prayers and the Rosary! You are better off nodding your head there until the Rosary is over.

Of course, the family Altar has a big statue of the Blessed mother, the cross, pictures of different saints and popes, and the native priests of our home parish including myself celebrating Mass.

The very first day mum would come back from the maternity with us, we would be immediately taken to be blest in front of the Statue of our Mother Mary on the Altar and then given a name; a tradition my dad has kept to date for all her grandchildren born.

In the month of May and October that is traditionally dedicated to our Mother and also known as the “month of the Rosary”, the Comboni missionaries would organize praying the rosaries in different homes followed by the celebration of the Eucharist within the neighborhood. It was such a big celebration and feast! The Statue of the Blessed Mother would be carried from the parish center to different homes until it returned on the feast of Assumption in August with a big Parish celebration and festivity.

To this day, most families in my home Parish have strong devotion to the Blessed Mother by praying the rosaries, attending the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary every first Saturday of the month after Mass and Benediction.

In my family, it’s the month in which every evening my father would gather all the grandchildren and the neighbors to say the rosary; a prayer I treasure to this day even as a priest.

It’s unfortunate that today many Catholics have forgotten to pray the Rosary or even have deep love and devotion for our Blessed Mother! A good number feel that the Rosary is too long even though we spend hours watching television or sporting activities regardless of how long it takes. It makes true what our Lord said, **“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” Mt. 6:21.**

But why do we have devotion to her?

It’s interesting to note how the Catechism of the Catholic Church devotes a great deal of time and space about the Blessed Mother. Articles 484-511, 263-975 and 2617-2619 all speak about Mary. Vatican Council II, devoted a whole chapter on Mary entitled “Our Lady” in chapter Eight of the documents on the Church (Lumen Gentium). Articles 52-69 clearly spell out the importance of Mary in the plan of salvation and her role in the church. Following the Council, Pope Paul VI wrote a whole letter on “Devotion to Mary”(Marialis Cultus).

Speaking about Devotion to the Blessed Virgin, article **No.971** of the Catechism of the Catholic Church starts with a quotation of **Luke’s Gospel Chapter 1:48** *‘all generations will call me blessed’* and continues thus:

“The Church’s devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic to Christian worship. The Church rightly honors “the Blessed virgin with special devotion. From the most ancient times the Blessed Virgin has been honored with the title of “Mother of God”, to whose protection the faithful fly in all their dangers and needs. This very special devotion differs essentially from the adoration, which is given to the incarnate word and equally to the Father and the Holy Spirit, and greatly fosters this adoration. The liturgical feasts dedicated to the Mother of God and Marian prayer, such as the rosary, an epitome of the whole Gospel, expresses this devotion to the Virgin Mary”.

As we begin the Month of May, I encourage you as well as the Catholic faith does, to think about the devotion to our Mother Mary and find time with your family to say the Rosary together. We have the Rosary every Tuesday at 7pm; would it not be good to take opportunity of that time? God bless you through the intercession of our Blessed Mother.

