

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

April 5, 2009 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

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	April 6, 2009
TUESDAY 9:00am	April 7, 2009 Richard Pacholski r/b His Wife, Lucille
WEDNESDAY 9:00am 7:00pm	April 8, 2009
THURSDAY 7:00pm	April 9, 2009 (Mass of the Lord's Supper) Good Intentions of the People of the Parish
FRIDAY 3:00pm	April 10, 2009 (Good Friday) Memorial of the Lord's Passion
SATURDAY 8:00pm	April 11, 2009 (Easter Vigil) Good Intentions of the People of the Parish
SUNDAY 9:00am	April 12, 2009 (Easter Sunday) Louis & Josephine Buondonno r/b Daughter Rose Marie & Son Vincent Theresa Eisenhardt r/b Family
10:30am	Dorothy Rose r/b John & Marie Kerwick Bill Huhn r/b Duane & Pam Heck

The Sanctuary Candle this week is in Memory of Beverly Howard Rosen.

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 28/29, 2009	568 \$4,876
Attendance/Collection March 29/30, 2008	536 \$6,029
Easter Flowers 2009 (thus far)	\$ 925
Budgeted Weekly Collection:	\$6,923
Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average:	\$5,681

2009 House of Charity Appeal Y-T-D	\$18,595 (34%)
2009 House of Charity Goal	\$55,000

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, John Heining, 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 Parrisi, Rita Picciano, Leonard Rebilas, Rosemarie Rosolia, Raphael Rubin, William Sauer, Carmella Scrivani, Mary Jo Stedrak, Emilio Terzini, Julian Terzini, Mary Terzini, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Anthony Vocale, Jean Wenstrom.**

Ministry Schedule for April 9-12

Holy Thursday, 7:00pm

Altar Servers: E. Stemetzki, M & C Hearn
EM's: T. Link, M. Meloni, L. McHugh, T. Veneziani, W. Delfin
Lectors: R. Taylor, M. Link

Good Friday, 3:00pm

Altar Servers: K. Starts, R & R Buchholz
EM's: TBA.
Lectors: R. Taylor

Holy Saturday, 8:00pm

Altar Servers: K & K Bowman, C. Otto
EM's: T. Modzier, T. Scavuzzo, P. Krohn, R. Davis, S. Eisenhardt
Lectors: D. Heck

Easter Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: S. Morales, P. Luthman, M. DiRico
EM's: S. Marano, R. Leone, N. Schmidt, S. Mufalli
Lectors: The Zieglers

Easter Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: D. Saranchak, H. Atchison, L. Fagan
EM's: M. Novoa, M. Miller, T. Link, G. Tutwiler, M. Meloni
Lectors: The Links

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

Opportunities for Unemployed Parishioners

If you are currently unemployed during these difficult times, we have earning opportunities at St. Stephen's in the areas of maintenance and grounds. Please call Ray at (609) 313-1550 if interested.

Good Friday Soup Night

Our Annual Soup Night has been rescheduled to **Good Friday, April 10th from 6-7pm in the School Lunchroom.** Signup sheets are available in the lobby of the church.

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

591-StStephen

This Week @ St. Stephen's

4/6-Monday-9am Mass, 7pm Mass, 7:15pm RCIA, 7:30pm Confessions
4/7-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, 7:30pm School Board
4/8-Wednesday-9am Mass, 7pm Mass, 7:30pm Confessions
4/9-Holy Thursday-7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
4/10-Good Friday-3pm Memorial-Lord's Passion, 6pm Soup Night
4/11-Holy Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Group,
3:45-4:15pm Confession, 8:00pm Easter Vigil
4/12-Easter Sunday-Masses: 9am & 10:30am

Easter Flower Donations

Your Easter Flower donations are not only used for the Easter Season but are also used to beautify the altar during the entire Liturgical Year. Anyone interested in donating flowers for the altar to mark an Anniversary, Christening or Memorial Mass, please contact Maria Haas @ 665-8393.

Plants, plants, plants! After Easter, please don't discard your Easter plants—we'll re-plant them on our church grounds! Further details forthcoming in a future bulletin.

~~~~~

### ***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 Connie @ 662-3819 for April 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:

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.

Holy Week Schedule

Monday, April 6th

9am & 7pm Masses, 7:30pm Confessions

Tuesday, April 7th

9am Mass, 7pm Rosary

Wednesday, April 8th

9am & 7pm Masses, 7:30pm Confessions

Holy Thursday, April 9th

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 10th

3pm Memorial of the Lord's Passion
6pm Soup Night (No Stations)

Holy Saturday, April 11th

8pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 12th

9am & 10:30am Masses

~~~~~

### ***Holy Week Closings***

The School will have a Noon dismissal on Wed., April 8<sup>th</sup> and be closed for Easter Vacation until it reopens Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. The Rectory will be closed from Holy Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup> thru Monday April 13<sup>th</sup> and reopen on Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup>.

~~~~~

YOUNG ADULT INVITATION

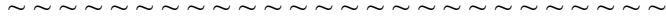
Many young adults (18-40) are looking for ways to make the world a better place. Often, they find themselves looking for jobs with meaning, relationships that challenge them, or they may just want to continue the kind of faith community they encountered while in college or high school—liturgically uplifting, service oriented, welcoming, and seeking faith-based justice in the world.

I am writing to personally invite you to prayerfully consider being a part of a small faith-sharing group of Young Adults whose focus will be talking about and doing faith-based social justice work. This group will be different from other Young Adult groups in that it will specifically focus on justice issues.

PLEASE CONTACT ME IF THIS SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING YOU MAY WANT TO TAKE PART IN!
mikeg@romero-center.org or 856-964-9777

Monte Carlo Night Results

Thanks again to everyone who contributed to the success of the recent Monte Carlo Night fundraiser. Because of the participation of parishioners, school families and Stonegate residents, as well as other friends of St. Stephen, the net profit from this fundraiser amounted to **\$10,000**. The proceeds from Monte Carlo Night and all other school fundraising activities are used to support St. Stephen School. As always, we rely on your continued support!



Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass

If this year, (January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009) you are celebrating your 25th Wedding Anniversary, 50th Wedding Anniversary, or more than 50 years of marriage, please join us in celebrating on:

Sunday, May 17, 2009 with 3:00 pm Mass
(light reception following)

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
591 New Jersey Avenue, Absecon

Please call 856-583-6118 for further information.



Crocheters/Knitters

Crocheted or knitted squares (7"wide x 9" long) are needed for the ongoing "Warm-up America" program.

The squares are joined to make afghans that are given to various charitable organizations--Ronald McDonald House, Shelters, Crossroads, and the Military Support Group of New Jersey and Pennsylvania for our enlisted personnel at medical sites overseas and stateside.

For more information, call Betty McWilliams @ 665-3202.



Good Friday Collection

The daily news reminds us of the violence and instability plaguing the Middle East, but we rarely hear of the shrinking Christian community there, a community that struggles to remain in the land of Christ's birth, death and resurrection. Please help support our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land by giving to the special Good Friday Collection. This Pontifical Collection allows the Franciscans and others to continue caring for Christianity's holiest sites and for God's people in the Holy Land. Your generosity is much appreciated.

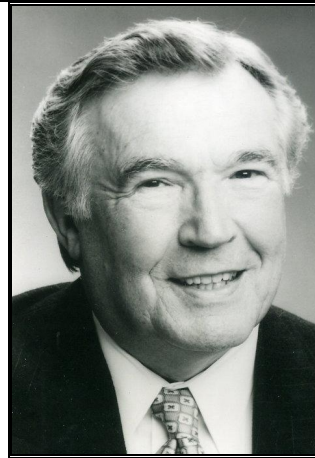


Diocesan Biblical Institute

The Diocese of Camden's Biblical Institute will begin new Bible Study Groups in April, 2009. The Biblical Institute offers an in-depth and unique opportunity to explore the beauty and wonder of Sacred Scripture. By increasing our knowledge and experience of God's Word, we are drawn into a deeper relationship with our loving God. Learning is facilitated through a "hands on" process, which integrates Bible study, personal reflection, and application to daily life. The new classes will meet each week from 7:00 -9:00 p.m. at the following parishes:

- Annunciation, Bellmawr: School Library**
Starting Monday, April 20, 2009
 - Holy Family, Sewell: Parish Center**
Starting Wednesday, April 22, 2009
 - St. Andrew, Gibbsboro: Parish Center**
Starting Wednesday, April 22, 2009
- Handicap Accessible**

For more information, please contact Dr. Frank Blee, Office of Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation, Diocese of Camden, at (856) 583-6105. To register, please contact Diane Scafidi, Diocese of Camden, at (856) 583-6129.



In Loving Memory of Robert M. Gottschall
1936-2009



Lenten Stone Reminder for Easter

On the First Sunday of Lent, you were asked to take a Lenten Stone and prayer card as you left 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.

Next Sunday, Easter, we ask that you return the stone and place it in the Easter water, as an outward sign that you have traveled the journey, and discarded those things that have kept your heart & soul in living the words of the Gospel message, "Love one Another".



St. Stephen's RCIA Ministry



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

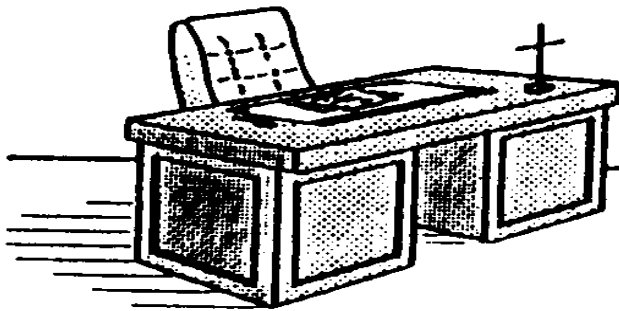
Have you been away from the church...and have now returned, but want to know more?

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*

The Uniqueness of Easter Triduum Liturgy:

Last week we reflected on the importance of celebrating Easter Triduum; tracing its connection to the understanding of the role of Liturgy in the Church's life in general and what the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches on Easter, namely that **"Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the feast of feasts, the Solemnity of Solemnities and the culmination of the entire liturgical year."**

One of the well-attended Liturgical celebrations in the course of Liturgical year is the Easter Sunday. Churches across the globe are filled to capacity with number of Masses doubled in some churches. The multitude of Christians attending Easter Sunday is striking and I believe it is based on the understanding that the Easter feast is in actual fact celebrated on Easter Sunday. Yet, Easter Sunday precisely is the concluding liturgy of what began on Holy Thursday! The General Norms for the Liturgical Calendar speaking about Easter Triduum says, **"The Easter Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil and closes with evening prayer on Easter Sunday."**

Imagine a situation whereby you are interested in watching a movie and you only arrive towards the last scene in the entire film presentation! Chances are that you may have to miss some vital information that would connect you to understanding the film's message in general!

The Liturgy of Easter as a single unit begins on Holy Thursday through Good Friday, Holy Saturday and ends with Easter Sunday. Very interesting to note that the sign of the cross is only made at the beginning of the Mass on Thursday until Easter Sunday when the presiding minister once again greets the Assembly after the sign of the cross and just as Jesus greeted the Apostles after resurrection and said to them, **"Peace be with you." Jn.20:19.**

Similarly, on Holy Thursday there will be no concluding rite of dismissal as the liturgy will proceed with taking the Blessed Sacrament to the repository for adoration and the assembly disperses in silence! This will also be repeated on Good Friday, the only day in the entire Catholic Church where there is no consecration of the Bread and Wine into the Body and Blood of Christ! In other words, no celebration of the Mass! Why? Because as we participate in Mass, we continue that one single sacrifice of Jesus on Mount Calvary and on Good Friday, we commemorate and relive that one single redemptive event of our Lord! I call it "The Mass".

On Holy Saturday, the Christian faithful keep vigil as they await the risen Lord and through the rite of Blessing the Easter Calendar, we are reminded of Jesus' resurrection as the Light to the world! Again, no traditional greetings at the beginning of the Mass.

The Easter Triduum Liturgy is very moving and inspiring, arranged in such a way that we celebrate one entire Liturgy in four days! Each day marks an important series in the understanding and celebrating the entire drama of our salvation! We might have to find time to participate in every single series of the entire movie if we want to understand and appreciate the unfolding of God's Dramatic- Drama in the Drama of our salvation history!