

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

May 11, 2008 – Pentecost Sunday

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 May 12, 2008**
9:00am Madeline Tryson r/b Her Husband, Paul
- TUESDAY May 13, 2008**
9:00am
- WEDNESDAY May 14, 2008**
9:00am For the Good Intentions of Michael Dees r/b Grandmother
- THURSDAY May 15, 2008 (Novena to follow)**
9:00am Eleanor Szwast r/b Loretta Schuettrumpf
- FRIDAY May 16, 2008**
9:00am
- SATURDAY May 17, 2008**
9:00am People of the Parish
4:30pm Mary Paul r/b M/M Matthew Petronis
The Guaracino Family r/b M/M William Sauer
- SUNDAY May 18, 2008**
9:00am Patricia Schmidt r/b The Schmidt Family
Salvatore Lombardo r/b M/M Charles Gugliotta
10:30am Helen & Anthony Palazzo, Sr. r/b Pam
James Cummings, Sr. r/b Margaret Cummings
4:30pm The Youth of Pennsauken

The Sanctuary Candle this week is in Memory of Barbara Fallon.

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 May 3/4, 2008: \$7,934.00
Budgeted Weekly Collection: \$7,200.00
Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average: \$6,497.00

House of Charity information: (856) 583-6128
House of Charity: YTD: \$38,655 (70.3% of \$55,000 Goal)

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, Mary Chandler, 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, Mary Jo Stedrak, Frances Sullivan, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Jean Wenstrom.**

	<p><i>Next 3 Young Adult Masses:</i> May 18, June 15 & July 20 All 3rd Sundays @ 4:30pm</p>
<p><i>Info: Tery Mattera (856) 488-6357</i></p>	

Ministry Schedule for May 17/18, 2008

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Servers: T. Miller, N. Marchione, L. Miller
EM's: T. Angstman, P. Krohn, S. Eisenhardt, The Heiningers
Lectors: P. Tryson, D. Steinmetz

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: M. DiRico, J. Crew, C. Rosario
EM's: S. Marano, L. Rosario, P. Krohn, M. Gunderson, P. Antonelli
Lectors: J. Gerst, D. Heck

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: P. Luthman, C. Halloran, C. Otto
EM's: L. Solano, C. Otto, B. Buffington, P. Petronis, M. Meloni
Lectors: The Luthmans

Sunday, 4:30pm

Altar Servers: P. Sapienza
EM's: The Klecko's, T. Modzier, The Sapienza's
Lectors: G. Sapienza, L. Modzier

Next Special 2nd Collections:

- May 11, 2008: "Upkeep of the Shrines"
May 18, 2008: "Catholic Communication"

May 18th bulletin deadline: May 12th @ Noon

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

This Week @ St. Stephen's

5/12-Monday-9am Mass
 5/13-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary
 5/14-Wednesday-9am Mass
 5/15-Thursday-9am Mass, Novena, Choir 7:15pm
 5/16-Friday-9am Mass
 5/17-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Group, 9am Mass,
Church Grounds Clean-up 10am-2pm,
 3:45-4:15pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
 5/18-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. 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.

Tuesday May 13th - Eucharistic Ministers and Young Adults

Tuesday May 20th - Lectors and Spiritual Life

Tuesday May 27th - Art & Environment & Music Ministry

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 Bernice @ 662-4641 for the month of May.

Jesus replied,

"What is impossible with men is possible with God."

**\$5.00 per week X 5 weeks = \$25.00
 = One Raffle Ticket**

It's as easy as that to buy a 50/50 raffle ticket! The results? A chance to win a cash prize of 30% of net proceeds. Last years first prize was \$13,000, lets top that amount this year. Please help our parish to have a successful fund raiser!

Congratulations to: **Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Dougherty, Rose Marie Davis and Rick & Bernice Taylor** on selling ten or more tickets. They have each received one Free ticket and are now bona fide members of the TEN TALL Club (Sell Ten Stand Tall). Drawing for the 50/50 Raffle is June 7th @ 9:30 pm, during our parish Wine & Cheese Social (7:30 - 10:30 PM.) For more info call Rita Vogt (856) 662-9464 or Anthony Leone (609) 405-8247.

Giant Yard Sale II

The Fundraising Committee will sponsor another Giant Parish Yard Sale on **October 4, 2008**. Pickups of donated stuff will begin in June. Please begin setting aside things you want to get rid of and feel free to call us now at 665-0173 to get on the pickup list.

CCD NEWS

To allow for the ordering of new books, the deadline for CCD registration for the 2008-09 year will be **July 31, 2008**. Tuition will remain at \$125 per family. Any new registrants must bring their baptismal certificate. Also, anyone interested in being a teacher or CCD aide may call the rectory at 662-9338.

Beginning next year, First Reconciliation and Communion will take place in the 2nd Grade, however for next year only, 2nd & 3rd Graders will receive these Sacraments. Confirmation is now administered in the 7th Grade instead of the 6th Grade, thus the next Confirmation class will be in the 2009-2010 CCD year.

Mrs. Adeline Gramlich, CRE

Hospitality Sunday May 18th!

Join us next Sunday after Mass for coffee, donuts & fellowship.

Church Grounds Cleanup Day!

Saturday, May 17th from 10am - 2pm

Great opportunity to enhance your tan for summer!

All garden tools are welcome, come join the fun!

Call Joey @ (609) 238-9471 for more info.

Stewardship Reflection

"Stewardship and the Holy Spirit"

They are like a tree planted near streams of water, that yields its fruit in season. Its leaves never wither; whatever they do prospers." -Psalm 1:3.

When we credit our blessings to God, we can see the Holy Spirit moving with us in our daily lives. Our desire to serve God in thanksgiving is lived out in our stewardship.

Choir Notes!!!

St. Stephen's choir in combination with the Liturgical Choir Of Camden Catholic High School will be featured in a performance by **The Arden Theatre Company of "Our Town" on Friday, May 23rd**. This unique production will showcase the combined choirs throughout the performance. What a wonderful opportunity for our choir to work with a professional cast in an historic setting. The performance will begin at 8:00 P.M. and while the choir will support the cast in singing selections in Act I and Act III, we will be featured at the opening of Act II which will take place in Christ's Church, adjacent to the theatre. For ticket information, you can contact the Arden Theatre Company at 215-922-1122, or on their Web site at www.ardentheatre.org. See you at the theatre.

2 Volunteers Still Needed

We are still short 2 volunteers in our upcoming plans to extend rectory hours Monday-Friday from 4:30-7pm. Wednesday & Friday are still open. If interested, call Jim @ 662-9338.

SPIRIT ALIVE AT LOURDES: TERRIFIC TUESDAYS

Presenter: Sr. Ruthann T. O'Mara, SSJ
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

Host Families Needed for CCHS

Host families are needed for several international students who will be attending Camden Catholic High School for the 2008-09 school year. Students speak English, are fully insured and have their own pocket money for personal expenses. For more information contact Lisa Borreggine at (609) 319-4844.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PART ONE - THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

SECTION ONE - "I BELIEVE" - "WE BELIEVE" (continued)

34 The world, and man, attest that they contain within themselves neither their first principle nor their final end, but rather that they participate in Being itself, which alone is without origin or end. Thus, in different ways, man can come to know that there exists a reality which is the first cause and final end of all things, a reality "that everyone calls God".¹⁰

35 Man's faculties make him capable of coming to a knowledge of the existence of a personal God. But for man to be able to enter into real intimacy with him, God willed both to reveal himself to man and to give him the grace of being able to welcome this revelation in faith. The proofs of God's existence, however, can predispose one to faith and help one to see that faith is not opposed to reason.

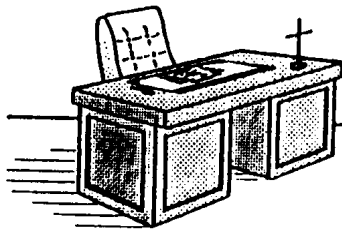
III. THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD ACCORDING TO THE CHURCH

36 "Our holy mother, the Church, holds and teaches that God, the first principle and last end of all things, can be known with certainty from the created world by the natural light of human reason."¹¹ Without this capacity, man would not be able to welcome God's revelation. Man has this capacity because he is created "in the image of God".¹²

37 In the historical conditions in which he finds himself, however, man experiences many difficulties in coming to know God by the light of reason alone:

Though human reason is, strictly speaking, truly capable by its own natural power and light of attaining to a true and certain knowledge of the one personal God, who watches over and controls the world by his providence, and of the natural law written in our hearts by the Creator; yet there are many obstacles which prevent reason from the effective and fruitful use of this inborn faculty. For the truths that concern the relations between God and man wholly transcend the visible order of things, and, if they are translated into human action and influence it, they call for self-surrender and abnegation. The human mind, in its turn, is hampered in the attaining of such truths, not only by the impact of the senses and the imagination, but also by disordered appetites which are the consequences of original sin. So it happens that men in such matters easily persuade themselves that what they would not like to be true is false or at least doubtful.¹³

38 This is why man stands in need of being enlightened by God's revelation, not only about those things that exceed his understanding, but also "about those religious and moral truths which of themselves are not beyond the grasp of human reason, so that even in the present condition of the human race, they can be known by all men with ease, with firm certainty and with no admixture of error".¹⁴



*From the Desk of
Father Vincent Orum, AJ*

PRAYING THE ROSARY: A WAY OF REFLECTING ON THE SCRIPTURES

In our reflection last week, we argued that both the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Scriptures support and give us the reasons for Marian devotions. We realized that it will be incorrect to say that devotions to the Blessed Mother has no Biblical connections as some Churches argue, since some of the few texts we mentioned last week attest to the fact that Mary's greatness was already recognized in the early Church. Again to ignore the importance of giving Mary due recognition as Catholics is to be short sighted of Mary's significance in the plan of Salvation when she, unlike Eve, (Genesis 3:12) made the great "Fiat" to the Angel Gabriel in Luke 1:38. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

If God found favor with her among all other virgins in fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah7:14-16 & Lk1:26-27), who are we to disregard her role and prominency in the Plan of Salvation?

We are lucky that the mother church encourages us, her children, to have devotions to her through the celebrations of memorials, feasts and solemnity dedicated to her in the liturgical calendars throughout the year.

Another form of devotion is the prayer of the Rosary. The Rosary gives us the opportunity to reflect on the Scriptures as we pray. In the joyful mystery which we are supposed to say on Mondays and Thursdays, we recall the infant narratives of Jesus' life as found in Luke's Gospel (Lk1:26-2:1-52). The sorrowful Mystery that is prayed on Tuesdays and Fridays reminds us of Jesus' passion and death on the cross as found in all the four Gospels (Mt26:36ff, Mk14:32ff). The Luminous Mystery (Thursdays and Saturdays), recently introduced by Pope John Paul II reflects on the public ministry of Jesus while the Glorious Mystery for Saturday and Sunday has both the scriptural account of Jesus' resurrection and Ascension into heaven (Mt.28;Acts1:6-11) and the traditional beliefs of the early church that Mary was assumed into Heaven body and soul and crowned Queen as reflected in the Book of Revelation (Rev.12:1).

Saint Jerome, one of the greatest Biblical scholars, said that 'ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ'.

It's beautiful and encouraging to note that the prayer we recite after each decade is taken from the greetings of the Archangel Gabriel (Lk 1:28) and her Cousin's Elisabeth's recognition of Mary's blessedness. The other part is an invocation of Mary to intercede for us at the hour of our death just as she did at the Wedding feast in Cana (John 2).

I am humbled by the fact that when I say, "Hail Mary full of Grace the Lord is with you", I am using what was said by the Angel Gabriel, the messenger of God! The Angel was reporting what he was sent to say to Mary. So? My lips pronounce God's message! I am for once connected with the Divine God as I recite the prayer! Amazing! What other prayer composed by men can be far greater than this prayer after the "Our Father" composed by our Lord Himself? Think about it.

We also have the opportunity to say our Lord's Prayer at the end of each ten-decade and glorify the triune God as we say the "Glory Be."

The Rosary therefore should not be taken lightly by anyone who calls himself/herself a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. The one who has a healthy relationship with his/her parents and more especially a mother cannot ignore the love relationship between Jesus and his mother and us.

As we celebrate the gift of motherhood on this Mother's Day, let us remember how God's love has been reflected to us by giving us a Spiritual Mother in the Blessed Mother--Mary!

