

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 18, 2008 – Most Holy Trinity

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
Expanded hours Monday, Tuesday & Thursday until 7:00pm.

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 19, 2008**
9:00am For the Good Intentions of Michael Dees
r/b Grandmother
- TUESDAY** **May 20, 2008**
9:00am
- WEDNESDAY** **May 21, 2008**
9:00am
- THURSDAY** **May 22, 2008 (Novena to follow)**
9:00am Albert Girone r/b Matt & Pat Petronis
- FRIDAY** **May 23, 2008**
9:00am
- SATURDAY** **May 24, 2008**
9:00am People of the Parish
4:30pm Louis Penn r/b M/M Matthew Petronis
Marcella Motyl r/b Marie Kaminski & Family
- SUNDAY** **May 25, 2008**
9:00am Msgr. Joe O'Connell r/b The McHugh Family
George Figueroa r/b The McHugh Family
10:30am James Morris r/b Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ
Dan Conway r/b Family
4:30pm Mass of Thanksgiving r/b M/M William Sauer

The Sanctuary Candle this week is in Memory of Anthony & Helen Palazzo.

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 10/11, 2008: \$6,372.00
Budgeted Weekly Collection: \$7,200.00
Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average: \$6,494.42

House of Charity information: (856) 583-6128
House of Charity: YTD: \$47,180 (86% 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, Joe Flacco, Robert Gottschall, Mary Gunderson, Thomas Holmes, Sr., Jim Hutton, Rita Insley, Donna Krawchuk, Mary McNulty, John McPeak, Marie Melchiorre, Elena Melfi, Jennifer Osborn, Chris Picciano, 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 Mattered (856) 488-6357</i></p>
--	--

Ministry Schedule for May 24/25, 2008

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Servers: H. Morris, S. Vance, R. Garofalo
EM's: J. Messina, T. Mattered, L. Garofalo, A. Knight
Lectors: M. Vance, S. Stehm

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: M & C Hearn, W. McHugh
EM's: S. Marano, L. McHugh, S. Mufalli, K. Layton, R. Leone
Lectors: The Busch's

Sunday, 10:30am

Altar Servers: The Coars
EM's: P. Antonelli, T. Veneziani, The Tutwilers, L. D'Alessandro
Lectors: V. Tutwiler, A. Midili

Sunday, 4:30pm

Altar Servers & Lectors: TBA.
EM's: T. Scavuzzo, L. Rosario, M. Novoa, The Fagans

Next Special 2nd Collections:

May 18, 2008: "Catholic Communication"
June 8, 2008: "Brazilian Mission"

May 25th bulletin deadline: May 19th @ Noon

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

This Week @ St. Stephen's

5/19-Monday-9am Mass, 7pm Joint Finance Meeting
 5/20-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary
 5/21-Wednesday-9am Mass, 7pm Pastoral Council
 5/22-Thursday-9am Mass, Novena, 7:15pm Choir
 5/23-Friday-9am Mass
 5/24-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Group, 9am Mass,
 3:45-4:15pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
 5/25-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 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."**

50/50 Summer Cash Raffle

Congrats to new members of the TEN TALL Club
 (Sell Ten Stand Tall):

J. Maggioncalda Family, Anthony Leone and Mary Lee.

Time is running out to participate in the Summer Cash Raffle. Please make all returns to the Rectory or place in collection basket marked "Raffle".

Don't forget to reserve June 7th - adults night out - come celebrate at our Wine & Cheese Social 7:30 to 10:30 pm, music, drinks and good conversation topped off with the raffle drawing @ 9:30 pm. Only \$10.00 per person. For more info call Rita @ 662-9464.

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.

Thank You from the 8th Grade!

St. Stephen's 8th grade students and their parents would like to extend their sincere thank you to the people of the parish who have supported them in their fundraising efforts this year. However you lent your support either by buying pretzels, supporting our table at the Christmas festival or by breaking bread with us at our Pasta Dinner, your kindness has been inspiring. Thank you from our hearts.

Sincerely,

Eighth Grade Students and Parents

Knights of Columbus Flea Market

The Knights of Columbus, Council 3512 is having their Spring Flea Market on **Saturday, May 24 @ St. Cecilia's Playground from 8am - 3pm**. For more info call Lonnie @ 662-6049.

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

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.

Expanded Rectory Hours

Beginning this week on **Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, May 19, 20 & 22**, the rectory will be open until 7pm.

We are still short 2 volunteers for **Wednesday & Friday**. If interested, call Jim @ 662-9338. In the meantime, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday we're available "after work"!

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

Stewardship Reflection

"Stewards are Caretakers"

"For we are His handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them." -Ephesians 2:10

Stewardship evokes a deep understanding that we are His handiwork and that everything we have is a gift from God. We are to be the absolute best caretakers of these gifts and use them for good works.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

IV. HOW CAN WE SPEAK ABOUT GOD?

39 In defending the ability of human reason to know God, the Church is expressing her confidence in the possibility of speaking about him to all men and with all men, and therefore of dialogue with other religions, with philosophy and science, as well as with unbelievers and atheists.

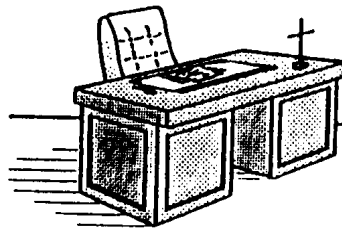
40 Since our knowledge of God is limited, our language about him is equally so. We can name God only by taking creatures as our starting point, and in accordance with our limited human ways of knowing and thinking.

41 All creatures bear a certain resemblance to God, most especially man, created in the image and likeness of God. The manifold perfections of creatures - their truth, their goodness, their beauty all reflect the infinite perfection of God. Consequently we can name God by taking his creatures' perfections as our starting point, "for from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator".¹⁵

42 God transcends all creatures. We must therefore continually purify our language of everything in it that is limited, image-bound or imperfect, if we are not to confuse our image of God--"the inexpressible, the incomprehensible, the invisible, the ungraspable"--with our human representations.¹⁶ Our human words always fall short of the mystery of God.

43 Admittedly, in speaking about God like this, our language is using human modes of expression; nevertheless it really does attain to God himself, though unable to express him in his infinite simplicity. Likewise, we must recall that "between Creator and creature no similitude can be expressed without implying an even greater dissimilitude";¹⁷ and that "concerning God, we cannot grasp what he is, but only what he is not, and how other beings stand in relation to him."¹⁸

IN BRIEF: **44** Man is by nature and vocation a religious being. Coming from God, going toward God, man lives a fully human life only if he freely lives by his bond with God. **45** Man is made to live in communion with God in whom he finds happiness: When I am completely united to you, there will be no more sorrow or trials; entirely full of you, my life will be complete (St. Augustine, *Conf.* 10, 28, 39: PL 32, 795). **46** When he listens to the message of creation and to the voice of conscience, man can arrive at certainty about the existence of God, the cause and the end of everything. **47** The Church teaches that the one true God, our Creator and Lord, can be known with certainty from his works, by the natural light of human reason (cf. Vatican Council I, can. 2 § 1: DS 3026). **48** We really can name God, starting from the manifold perfections of his creatures, which are likenesses of the infinitely perfect God, even if our limited language cannot exhaust the mystery. **49** Without the Creator, the creature vanishes (*GS* 36). This is the reason why believers know that the love of Christ urges them to bring the light of the living God to those who do not know him or who reject him.



From the Desk of
Father Vincent Orum, AJ

What Else Can We Learn From the Blessed Mother?

For many who have a healthy relationship with their biological mother/guardian, they often look at them as role models in their different responsibilities. We even consciously/unconsciously take some of their traits in our behavior or personality. Even though some may have already died, we continue to cherish their fond memories and always refer to them. I do see that in my own life as well; like among many other things, I have learned the value of hospitality, kindness and respect from my deceased mother Magdalene. I grew up knowing that my mum's kitchen was always opened to the neighbors in the village for coffee especially during the months of rain. The kids in the village always were invited for the meals and we shared the little we had with them! We were taught never to turn anyone away but share whatever we had with them.

In our spiritual journey, we have the Blessed Mother with whom we can relate in a similar manner. We should consider ourselves blessed to have a spiritual mother in the Blessed Mother Mary as our role model of faith.

Quoting the Vatican II document on **the Church No. 53 & 63**, the Catechism of the Catholic Church observes, **“By her complete adherence to the Father’s will, to his son’s redemptive work, and to every prompting of the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary is the Church’s model of faith and charity. Thus she is a “preeminent and ...wholly unique member of the Church. Indeed, she is the “exemplary realization” (typus) of the Church. CCC. No.967**

We have to remember that at the time of Annunciation, Mary demonstrated great sense of Faith when she said, **“Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to thy word.” -Luke 1:38**

The Blessed Mother in uttering those words, totally entrusted herself into God's hands and fate! It must have taken her a great act of courage and faith to be able to consent her will into **God's will!**

In a society where freedom of speech and individual rights are given great deal of emphasis, at times loyalty and humility can be construed as signs of weaknesses. It's not uncommon to question the will of God and to place our own will, liking, desires above faith/God.

These attitudes are clearly expressed in today's "pick-and-choose-faith" mentality and the growing number of dissent towards the Church's teachings even by those who call themselves Catholics/Christians.

Blessed Mother stands above that kind of discipleship. Here is how the Catechism of Catholic Church describes her:

“Her role in relation to the Church and to all humanity goes still further. In a wholly singular way she cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope, and burning charity in the Savior’s work of restoring supernatural life to Souls.”CCC.No.968

Again, it further states:

“This motherhood of Mary in the order of grace continues uninterrupted from the consent which she loyally gave at the Annunciation and which she sustained without wavering beneath the cross, until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect.” CCC No.969

Looking for a spiritual and a disciples' role model, why not try the Blessed Mother? May be its something you can think about during this month of May if Marian spirituality is not your cup of tea!

