

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 4, 2008 – Seventh 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** **May 5, 2008**
9:00am Anna Dippolito r/b Family
- TUESDAY** **May 6, 2008**
9:00am
- WEDNESDAY** **May 7, 2008**
9:00am Communion Service
- THURSDAY** **May 8, 2008 (Novena to follow)**
9:00am Communion Service
- FRIDAY** **May 9, 2008**
9:00am
- SATURDAY** **May 10, 2008**
9:00am People of the Parish
4:30pm For the Good Intentions of
Mark & Candy Tryson
on their 25th Wedding Anniversary
- SUNDAY** **May 11, 2008 (Pentecost / Mother's Day)**
9:00am Josephine Buondonno
r/b Daughter Rose Marie & Son Vincent
Emmanuel Primavera r/b Daughter Helen Stella
10:30am O'Brien & Scavuzzo Moms
r/b Children & Grandchildren
Susan Fitzpatrick, Mildred Thompson
and Mary Black r/b Family
4:30pm Margaret Lynch r/b The Pandola Family

***The Sanctuary Candle this week is in
Memory of Rose & Gabriel Pucci.***

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 26/27, 2008: \$5,525.15
Budgeted Weekly Collection: \$7,200.00
Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average: \$6,464.48

House of Charity: YTD: \$35,930 (65.3% 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, 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>
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Ministry Schedule for May 10/11, 2008

- Saturday, 4:30pm**
Altar Servers: W. McHugh, R. Garofalo, S. Ruff
EM's: J. Messina, The Monaco's, L. Garofalo, L. McHugh
Lectors: The McKenna's
- Sunday, 9:00am**
Altar Servers: D. Massie, S. Morales, J. Crew
EM's: S. Marano, B. O'Donnell, S. Mufalli, R. Leone, N. Schmidt
Lectors: M. Miller, K. Layton
- Sunday, 10:30am**
Altar Servers: C & R Aleszczyk, L. Fagan
EM's: The Fagans, The Tutwilers, T. Scavuzzo
Lectors: A. Yeager, J. Scavuzzo
- Sunday, 4:30pm: TBA.**

Next Special 2nd Collections:
May 11, 2008: "Upkeep of the Shrines"
May 18, 2008: "Catholic Communication"

April 27, 2008 "Home Mission" collection: \$823.00

May 11th bulletin deadline: May 5th @ Noon

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

This Week @ St. Stephen's

5/5-Monday-9am Mass
 5/6-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary
 5/7-Wednesday-9am Communion Service
 5/8-Thursday-Communion Svc, Novena, Choir 7:15pm
 5/9-Friday-9am Mass, **Ministry Fair 7-9pm**
 5/10-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Gr., 9am Mass,
 3:45-4:15pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
 5/11-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 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

St. Stephen's Prayer Line

Situation Bad? Can't Pray? Need Prayers?

We are here to pray for you.

Contact Bernice @ 662-4641 for the month of May.

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**\$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 year the first prize was \$13,000, we hope to top that amount this year. Please help our parish to have a successful fund raiser!

**Congratulations to: Kathy Boyer and Amado Magalong**, who have already sold ten or more tickets and have received one FREE raffle ticket. We would like to be able to list more FREE ticket winners. Don't forget, the drawing for the 50/50 Raffle will take place on June 7<sup>th</sup> at our parish Wine & Cheese Social 7:30 - 10:30 PM. Plan on attending. For more information call Rita Vogt (856) 662-9464 or Anthony Leone (609) 405-8247.

**Your House of Charity donations** have a two-fold effect on our parish. Besides the obvious one of meeting the goal set for the parish, if we exceed that goal we receive 75% of the overage back from the diocese, to do with as needs demand. This year we received \$5,481.00 back from our 2007 drive. These funds were immediately put to good use: termite extermination for Convent and Church (\$2,120.00), purchase of several replacement floor tiles for church (\$200.00), much needed Rectory exterior painting and refurbishing (approx. \$800.00). In addition we are doing some "beautifying" around the grounds which will require funds for mulch, top soil, plantings. We won't have to worry about the labor as that is being provided by a wonderful group of volunteers. So you can see how important it is to meet (exceed) our goal. St. Stephens is counting on YOU!

## Faith. Works. Wonders.

A Time and Talent Ministry Fair  
**May 9, 2008, 7-9pm in the School Gymnasium**

**Our Parish Ministry Fair is only days away.**  
**Here are six reasons you and your family need to come.**

- ◆ *Yummy refreshments and meaningful conversation*
- ◆ *A suggestion table where every voice counts*
- ◆ *A blessing and gift for those who serve*
- ◆ *Children learn what they live*
- ◆ *The future is in our hands*
- ◆ *God is calling you!*

#### 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 |

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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.

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### Stewardship Reflection

*"Stewards Accept Calling"*

**Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" "Here I am", I said, "send me!" -Isaiah 6:8.** Stewards accept their calling to use their God given talents in His service.

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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.



Please pray for the following students who received the Sacrament of First Communion on April 26, 2008:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Haleigh Atchison | Timothy Catrino |
| Alissa Clark | Kelly Ann Coar |
| Megan Michelle Jaffe | Jasmine Magalong |
| James Marchese | Taylor Mason |
| Zachary Mason | Alexandra Messina |
| Matthew Messina | Skyler Miller |
| Christian Nicdao | Madison North |
| Giovanni Overton | Destinee Rivera |
| David Rivera | Marion Roberts |
| Shannon Rosa | Natalee Zapata |

CCD NEWS

We would like to thank our teachers and all those who helped out this year: **Linda Yeager, Sr. Rita Edward, Geri DiStefano, Joe Fagan, Sr. Ruthann O'Mara, John Messina, Amanda Midili, Brittani McKnight, Kristin Tulani, Mary Novoa, Rich McKean, and Anthony Costantino.**

In looking forward to next year, registration for 2008-09 will be offered at our Ministry Fair on May 9th. **To allow for the ordering of new books, the deadline for CCD registration 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 teacher's aide may call the rectory at 662-9338.

Thank you and God Bless you,
Mrs. Adeline Gramlich, CRE

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.

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)

30 "Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice."⁵ Although man can forget God or reject him, He never ceases to call every man to seek him, so as to find life and happiness. But this search for God demands of man every effort of intellect, a sound will, "an upright heart", as well as the witness of others who teach him to seek God.

You are great, O Lord, and greatly to be praised: great is your power and your wisdom is without measure. And man, so small a part of your creation, wants to praise you: this man, though clothed with mortality and bearing the evidence of sin and the proof that you withstand the proud. Despite everything, man, though but a small a part of your creation, wants to praise you. You yourself encourage him to delight in your praise, for you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.⁶

II. WAYS OF COMING TO KNOW GOD

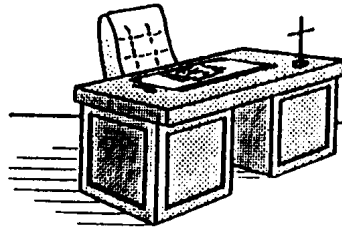
31 Created in God's image and called to know and love him, the person who seeks God discovers certain ways of coming to know him. These are also called proofs for the existence of God, not in the sense of proofs in the natural sciences, but rather in the sense of "converging and convincing arguments", which allow us to attain certainty about the truth. These "ways" of approaching God from creation have a twofold point of departure: the physical world, and the human person.

32 The *world*: starting from movement, becoming, contingency, and the world's order and beauty, one can come to a knowledge of God as the origin and the end of the universe.

As St. Paul says of the Gentiles: For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made.⁷

And St. Augustine issues this challenge: Question the beauty of the earth, question the beauty of the sea, question the beauty of the air distending and diffusing itself, question the beauty of the sky. . . question all these realities. All respond: "See, we are beautiful." Their beauty is a profession [confessio]. These beauties are subject to change. Who made them if not the Beautiful One [Pulcher] who is not subject to change?⁸

33 The *human person*: with his openness to truth and beauty, his sense of moral goodness, his freedom and the voice of his conscience, with his longings for the infinite and for happiness, man questions himself about God's existence. In all this he discerns signs of his spiritual soul. The soul, the "seed of eternity we bear in ourselves, irreducible to the merely material",⁹ can have its origin only in God.



From the Desk of
Father Vincent Orum, AJ

WHY DO WE VENERATE OR HAVE DEVOTIONS TO THE BLESSED MOTHER?

In my article last week, I started what I consider to be the beginning of a series of reflections on our Blessed Mother in view of the month of May dedicated to her. We asked ourselves whether the Catholic Church permits devotion to our Lady and the answer was a big “yes.”

It’s important this week to answer the reasons why we in the Catholic Church have devotions and veneration to our Blessed Mother; especially today, when we are confronted with a declining zeal and enthusiasm by so many Catholics toward these devotions and challenges from other denominations that argue that such a devotion is not Biblically based. Some even argue that the Catholic Church wrongly places Mary’s role in the plan of salvation as Co-redemptrix with her son Jesus Christ who is THE ONLY redeemer!

It will be good to read the **Catechism of the Catholic Church Nos.2617-2622** on the role of Mary in prayer and giving us the reason why we can and should pray to Jesus through her.

However, in the Bible/Scriptures there are several texts that outline and form the basis for the Catholic devotions/veneration to the Blessed Mother. Luke’s Gospel in particular has dedicated **Chapter 1:26 to Chapter 2:1-52** about Mary. This has prompted some Biblical scholars to call it a Marian Gospel. We should remember that Luke’s Gospel is believed to have been composed around 80-90 AD way back before the reformation of Martin Luther that triggered the origin and mushrooming of different sects today opposed to Marian devotions.

Reading through these texts in Luke, we hear Mary being addressed twice as “**avored by God**” when the Angel Gabriel greeted her (Lk 1:28, 30), and her cousin Elizabeth addressing her as “**Blessed among women**” (Lk 1:42).

In her Canticle, Mary proclaiming God’s greatness cries out among other things,

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

My spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid’s Lowliness;

Behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.” Lk 1:46-48.

I have underlined what I consider to be the core argument in favor of the devotions to our Lady. She rightly acclaim and urges people of all generations to call her “**Blessed or favored.**” Our devotions, indeed acknowledge this biblical greatness bestowed on Mary by Divine revelation.

Her role as a mediatrix is clearly spelt in John’s Gospel at the wedding feast in Cana (Jn. 2:1-12) when she prompted her son to perform the first miracle in his Public ministry according to the Gospel of John. Even though Jesus seemed not to have shown interest, it’s interesting reading what Mary said to the servers, “**Do whatever he tells you.**” **verse 6.**

While all the four Gospels mention Mary at the passion of our Lord on mount Calvary, John of interest specifically mentions Jesus telling her Mother she is John’s mother and John Mary’s son **Jn.19:25-27.**

The fathers of the church have always interpreted this as a vital relationship between Mary and the Church. John represents all of us Disciples of Jesus Christ, the beloved. I am impressed that Acts 1:14 mentions Mary and the Apostles praying together in the Upper room while waiting for the Holy Spirit as if to confirm our Lord’s entrusting Mary to behold the infant Church!

