

St. Stephen Parish

6306 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109

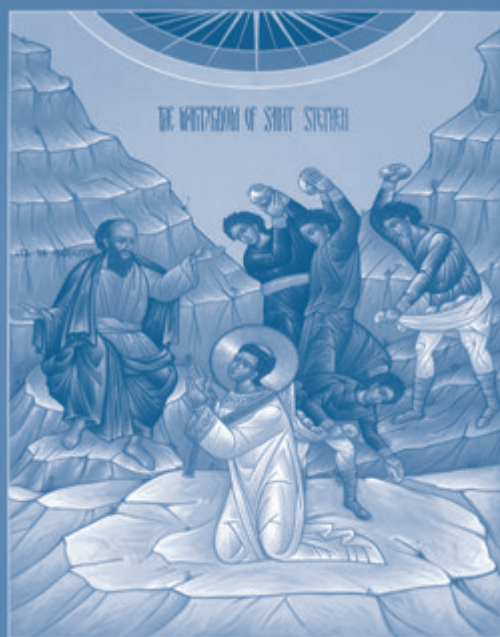
Pastoral Staff

Reverend Daniel M. Rocco
Pastor

Mrs. Suzanne Underwood
Coordinator of
Religious Education

Parish Trustees
Keith Knight
Earl Nolte

Rectory Office Hours
Monday–Friday 9am-4:30pm
*Closed All Holy Days of Obligation
and Holidays except Veterans Day*



Contact Info

Rectory Phone
(856) 662-9339

Emergencies
(856) 261-9336
(Accidents, Dying or Death)

Parish Email
ecclesia@comcast.net

Parish Website
StStephensPennsauken.com

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.*

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 17, 2019

Daily Mass: Monday thru Friday - 9:00am

Weekend Obligation:

Saturday – 4:30pm (*Reconciliation 3:45pm-4:15pm*)

Sunday – 9:00am & 10:30am

Holy Days: 9:00am & 7:00pm

Miraculous Medal Novena – Thursday after 9am Mass.

Eucharistic Exposition – First Friday from 9:30am-7pm.

Parish Membership – Moving INTO the parish all are asked to register as soon as possible.

Moving WITHIN or OUT – kindly notify rectory.

Baptism – Call the Rectory for arrangements.

Anointing of the Sick/Eucharist –

Upon request after the 4:30pm Mass in the Chapel.

Prior notification is necessary by calling the rectory.

Also call the rectory if someone is sick or housebound.

A Priest should be called if death is imminent.

Sponsors – Must be a Confirmed Catholic of at least 16 years of age in good standing and active. If married, must have been married in the Catholic Church.

Funerals – Arrangements must be made directly with a Funeral Home after notifying the Parish. All viewings should take place in the Funeral Home. Funeral planning brochures are available in the Rectory Office.

Marriage – arrangements must be made with a priest one year in advance. Only individually registered parishioners of one year or more are eligible to be married here and includes anyone still living at home with parents who should register individually.

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.

Mass Intentions for the Week



Family or Friends having a weekend 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 church 10 minutes prior to Saturday/Sunday Mass and identify yourselves to one of the Ushers.

Per Diocesan Policy: One (1) Mass Intention limit per Mass except for 10:30am on Sunday, which now has a maximum of four (4) intentions.

The 2020 Mass Book is open for intentions within one (1) year of "today".

SUNDAY	February 17, 2019
9:00am	Rosina Midili r/b Joseph & Janice Patten
10:30am	Frank Pigliacelli r/b Jim Pennestri Rosina Midili r/b Roseann & Bob DiGiovanni William Sauer r/b His Family
MONDAY	February 18, 2019
9:00am	People of the Parish – Living & Deceased
TUESDAY	February 19, 2019
9:00am	For the Healing of Bruce Schreiber r/b The Rocco Family
WEDNESDAY	February 20, 2019
9:00am	In Honor of Deacon Al Porowicz's 87 th Birthday
THURSDAY	February 21, 2019
9:00am/Novena	James F. Checchio, Jr. r/b People of the Parish
FRIDAY	February 22, 2019
9:00am	James J. O'Brien r/b The Filachek Family
SATURDAY	February 23, 2019
4:30pm	Victor Gerst, Jr. r/b Joseph & Jeanne Gerst
SUNDAY	February 24, 2019
9:00am	Rosina Midili r/b Her Neighbor, Sharon
10:30am	Bruce Hammerschmidt r/b Bill & Suzanne Underwood Edward Lukaszewicz r/b Elizabeth Gaskill & Family



The Sanctuary Candle this week is in Memory of *The Unborn Children*

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.

February 9/10, 2019 Offertory Collection:	\$4,143
2018-2019 Weekly Offertory Target:	\$4,600
Year-To-Date Weekly Average w/ E-Giving:	\$4,259

Next Special Collection / Envelope:

March 6th: "Ash Wednesday/Church in Eastern Europe"

President's Day, February 18th



On Monday, February 18th we will observe Presidents' Day, a national holiday. The Rectory and all Diocesan offices will be closed.



Remember Our Sick



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:

Raymond Amatrudo, Jr., Ted Anderson, Mary Bumbalow, Anna Buono, Patrick Carr, Edmund Ciccarone, Carol Cranmer, Fanny DiBenedetto, Joseph Gerst, Pat Gruber, Pricilla Handy, Donna Kane, Walter Kittel, Sr. Bernadette Leahy, SSJ, Sandra Lippi, Katelyn Lum, Nancy Loperfido, Ken Maminski, Larry Miller, Joy and Ed Morrisson, Sue Ott, Rich Passaro, Nancy Sonnie, Callum Steinmetz, Rick Taylor, Frances Vocale, Barbara Weingard, Emily Wilson.

Ministry Schedule for February 23/24

Saturday, 4:30pm

EM's: A. Knight, V. Thibault, C. Pandola, A. Cirullo, Sr. Eleanora
Lectors: J. Gerst, J. Melfi

Sunday, 9:00am

EM's: L. D'Alessandro, E. Nolte, T. Modzier, J. Rosario, L. Rosario
Lectors: Jared R., Joan R.

Sunday, 10:30am

EM's: J. Messina, T. Angstman, W. Delfin, S. Underwood, G. Tutwiler
Lectors: R. Aleszczyk, D. Steinmetz

Men of Malvern Retreat March 8-10

Featured Speaker:
Reverend Dennis O'Donnell

Gentlemen,

Our annual Men of Malvern retreat will be March 8-10. Please put the date on your calendar. Each man has his own reasons for making a retreat. Some enjoy the solitude, some enjoy seeing old friends and some have some very heavy burdens that they need to bring to the Lord. Malvern allows each man to make a retreat on his own terms. Below is a link to a letter written by Joe Conway. Joe has been with our group for several years and has captured the essence of Malvern in this letter. Please take a moment to read the letter:

<http://catholicstarherald.org/the-unexpected-benefits-of-being-on-retreat/>.

Please visit www.malvernretreat.com for additional information. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 609-471-0753. I hope each of you make time for this retreat.

Prosit, Joe

This Week @ St. Stephen Parish

- 2/18-Monday-9am Mass, Rectory closed President's Day
- 2/19-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary
- 2/20-Wednesday-9am Mass, 6:15pm CCD Classes
- 2/21-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 7pm Discussion
- 2/22-Friday-9am Mass
- 2/23-Saturday-3:45pm Confessions, 4:30pm Mass
- 2/24-Sunday-9am Mass, 10:30am Mass

Tuesday Night Rosary

To Jesus through Mary 7:00-7:30pm @ Church

“Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother. Love the rosary, for the rosary is a weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother.” -St. Padre Pio

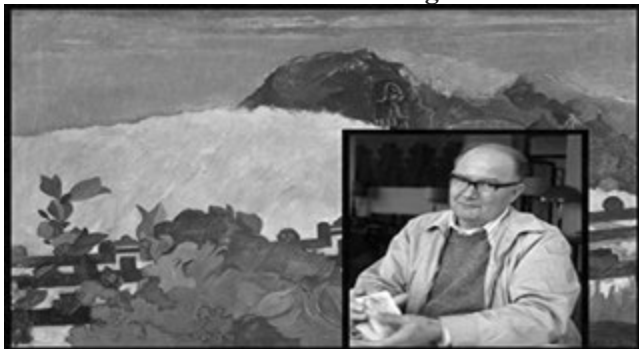
Wednesday Night CCD Classes

Continue February 20th @ 6:15pm.

Thursday Night Discussion Club

Continues February 21st @ 7:00pm.

We'll be discussing:



Bernard Lonergan
 Christianity's Response to a Secular Age
 Dr. Gordon A. Rixon, S.J., Ph.D.
 University of Toronto

STONEGATE II Hotline

If you are interested in filling out an application for the new Stonegate II apartments, you may call (856) 342-4187 and leave your NAME, ADDRESS and PHONE NUMBER. A Diocesan Housing representative will then return your call with additional instructions & info.

Art & Environment Ministry

Anyone interested in donating flowers for the altar to mark an Anniversary, Christening or Memorial Mass is asked to contact our A&E Chairperson **Maria Haas at (856) 665-8393.**

Automatic E-Giving

St. Stephen Parish continues to provide Electronic Giving, or eGiving, as a simple, secure & convenient method for making contributions. E-Giving 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.



CHILDREN'S Liturgy of the Word

During the 10:30 AM Mass, children between the ages of 4 and 7 are invited to participate in the Liturgy of the Word for Children. Before the 1st Reading, children will be called forward. Led by adults they will process to the Parish Center where they will hear the readings and participate in activities that will help them to begin to better understand the meaning of God's Word. At the Offertory Procession, the children will be led back to Mass where they will rejoin their parents. We hope that you will allow your children to participate in this religious education experience.

Choir – New Members Welcome!

St. Stephen's Music Ministry cordially invites you to consider joining our Music Ministry family. Choir gathers in the church on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm, with rehearsals lasting 60-90 minutes. If you want to share your talents, please contact Mrs. Nancy Werner-Kaiser through the Rectory Office.

Prayer Pavers to Our Lady

Pavers to form a concrete path from our church to the Blessed Mother are available in 3 sizes: 4"x8" \$100, 8"x8" \$175, and 12"x12" \$500. Samples are available after weekend Masses and order forms are on our website and in the rectory office. If there is a particular place, possibly near a loved one already on the walkway that you'd like a paver to be placed, please contact Michael Ciarrocca at 856-425-4799 or Ciarrocca@juno.com.

St. Stephen's Prayer Line Belongs to You



We are here to pray for you.

For Prayer Requests in the month of February contact **Betty @ 856-662-6928.**

Black History Month Mass

All are welcome! Bishop Dennis Sullivan is celebrating on **Sunday, February 24, 2:30 p.m.**, at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 176 Stagecoach Rd., Sicklerville 08081. A light reception will follow Mass.

8th Annual iRace4Vocations

On **Sunday, March 31, 2019**, join Bishop Sullivan along with priests, religious, our seminarians and many other people from throughout the diocese at Washington Lake Park (626 Hurffville Crosskeys Rd, Sewell, NJ 08080) for our 8th annual iRace4Vocations. Bishop Sullivan will celebrate a Mass for Vocations at **1:00pm** followed by our 5k run/1 mile family walk. Come out to pray and race! The day will end with a picnic and family fun. Help us enjoy the day as we raise awareness and offer prayers for an increase in vocations for our diocese. We need our parishioners, all ages, to say yes to this intergenerational day. We need YOU. For more information and to register for the event, visit camdenpriest.org/irace4vocations/.

Paul VI High School News

Paul VI High School presents GODSPELL. Please join us for this stellar production in our beautiful theater. Evening performances will be held at Paul VI on **February 22nd and 23rd, and March 1st and 2nd at 7:30 p.m.**; Matinee is at **3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 24th.** Tickets are **\$12 each for general admission**; information is on the front page of the website, www.pvihs.org.

GODSPELL Dinner Theater at Paul VI. Meet the talented cast and crew of **GODSPELL** at a special dinner theater production held on **Saturday February 23rd.** Your admission includes a **buffet dinner from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** featuring appetizers, dinner, dessert and a **reserved seat for the Saturday evening performance at 7:30.** Tickets are **\$25 for adults and \$13 for children** under 10. Information is on the front page of the website, www.pvihs.org.

Paul VI Alumni Night at the Play. PVI Alumni are invited to visit their alma mater for the **Friday March 1st 7:30 p.m. performance of GODSPELL.** General admission tickets for **\$12** can be reserved by contacting nestrella@pvihs.org. To register for the complimentary wine and cheese held before the show from **6:00 to 7:00 p.m.**, please contact the Paul VI Advancement office, myeager@pvihs.org.

Camden Catholic High School News

The Arts at CCHS Presents the 2019 Spring Musical: Guys and Dolls March 8, 9, 15 & 16 at 7:30PM and March 10 and 17 at 2PM

“Luck be a lady” at this fantastic production featuring one of Broadway’s most beloved shows presented by over 100 CCHS students. Sing, dance and laugh from the bustle of Times Square to the dance clubs of Havana in this show. Alumni Night is March 15 with a complimentary Wine & Cheese Reception at 6PM for all alumni (RSVP kate.bieg@camdencatholic.org).

Tickets (\$12/person) and Ad & Patrons available online: www.cchperformingarts.com or call 856-663-2247 ext. 120.

Irish Experience Guest Days for 8th grade students are being scheduled at Camden Catholic High School. Limited dates remain in 2019 (February 14 and March 14 and 19). Experience the tradition, feel the passion, catch the spirit of being a student at CCHS, the only school in South Jersey with a Leadership Academy.

Select your day at www.camdencatholic.org/admissionsevents or contact Janet Indelicato to schedule: janet.indelicato@camdencatholic.org or 856-663-2247 ext. 136.

CCHS Class of 2023: Admissions Applications
The Camden Catholic Admissions Office will review applications for admission for the 2019-20 school year on a rolling basis. Apply online today: www.camdencatholic.org/admissions.

Merion Mercy Academy News

We welcome all seventh grade students, both girls and boys, to take the practice High School Placement Test at Merion Mercy on **Saturday, February 23, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Parents are offered a school tour at 9:15 a.m. on the test day. The cost is \$40 and includes lunch for students. For more information and to register, please visit our website at www.merion-mercy.com and click on the link for the practice test, listed on the homepage.

Merion Mercy Music Theater presents the smash hit musical, *Sister Act!* Performances are **February 22, February 23, March 1, and March 2 at 7:30 p.m. and February 24 and March 3 at 2 p.m.** Visit Merion Mercy's website, www.merion-mercy.com to order tickets.

Reflection on Today's Gospel Reading

Luke 6:17, 20-26

Jesus teaches the crowd the way to happiness.

Last Sunday we heard Jesus call Peter to be his disciple. Jesus then travels with Peter and the other disciples. Luke reports acts of healing (a person with leprosy and a paralytic man) and the call of Levi, the tax collector. Jesus also replies to questions from the Pharisees regarding fasting and the observance of the Sabbath. In the verses immediately before today's gospel reading, Jesus is reported to have chosen 12 men from among his disciples to be apostles. *Apostle* is a Greek word that means "one who is sent."

Today's gospel reading is the beginning of what is often called the Sermon on the Plain. We find a parallel to this passage in Matthew 5:1-7,11 that is often called the Sermon on the Mount. As these titles suggest, there are differences and similarities between these gospel readings.

When spoken from the mountaintop in Matthew's Gospel, we can't miss the impression that Jesus is speaking with the authority and voice of God. The mountaintop is a symbol of closeness to God. Those who ascend the mountain see God and speak for God; recall the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments. As Luke introduces the location of Jesus' teaching, Jesus teaches on level ground, alongside the disciples and the crowd. Luke presents Jesus' authority in a different light. He is God among us.

Another distinction found in Luke's version is the audience. Luke's Sermon on the Plain is addressed to Jesus' disciples, although in the presence of the crowd; Matthew's Sermon on the Mount is addressed to the crowd. In keeping with this style, the Beatitudes in Luke's Gospel sound more personal than those in Matthew's Gospel—Luke uses the article "you" whereas Matthew uses "they" or "those." There is also a difference in number: Matthew describes eight beatitudes; Luke presents just four, each of which has a parallel warning.

The form of the Beatitudes found in Luke's and Matthew's Gospel is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, such as in the Psalms and in Wisdom literature. They are a way to teach about who will find favor with God. The word *blessed* in this context might be translated as "happy," "fortunate," or "favored."

As we listen to this Gospel, the Beatitudes jar our sensibilities. Those who are poor, hungry, weeping, or persecuted are called blessed. This is, indeed, a Gospel of reversals. Those often thought to have been forgotten by God are called blessed. In the list of "woes," those whom we might ordinarily describe as blessed by God are warned about their peril. Riches, possessions, laughter, reputation . . . these are not things that we can depend upon as sources of eternal happiness. They not only fail to deliver on their promise; our misplaced trust in them will lead to our demise. The ultimate peril is in misidentifying the source of our eternal happiness.

The Beatitudes are often described as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. We are challenged to examine our present situation in the context of our ultimate horizon, the Kingdom of God.

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