

# Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

[www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org](http://www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org)



[stephrembklyn](https://twitter.com/stephrembklyn)



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## Parish Staff

Rev. Robert B. Adamo, KCHS, *Pastor*  
Rev. Msgr. Peter V. Kain, *Pastor Emeritus*  
Rev. Anthony S. Chanan, *Parochial Vicar*  
Mr. Robert Cote, *Youth Minister*  
Mrs. Michele James, *Business Manager*  
Rev. Msgr. Theophilus Joseph, *Parochial Vicar*  
Ms. Eileen Maguire, *Director of Faith Formation*  
Mr. Thomas Marchesiello, *Director of Music/Liturgy*  
Deacon Kevin McLaughlin, *Permanent Deacon*  
Mr. Craig Mercado, *Academy Principal*  
Sr. Ann Martha Ondreicka, O.P., *Director of the Spirituality Center*  
Mrs. Lisa Pinsky, *Parish Secretary*  
Mr. Thomas J. Sbordone, *Christian Awareness Program/Pastoral Care*  
Deacon Anthony Stucchio, *Permanent Deacon*

April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter—Divine Mercy Sunday



### Rectory Office

929 Bay Ridge Parkway

718-833-1010

Fax 718-921-5232

### Spirituality Center

935 Bay Ridge Parkway

718-921-9518

### Christian Awareness Program

929 Bay Ridge Parkway

718-833-1143

### Faith Formation Office

Third Floor of Academy

718-745-7486

[stephremreligious@gmail.com](mailto:stephremreligious@gmail.com)

## St. Ephrem Catholic Academy

924 74th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11228 ♦ 718-833-1440 ♦ [www.stephremcatholicacademy.org](http://www.stephremcatholicacademy.org)

### Schedule of Masses

Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12 Noon, & 5:00 PM

Weekdays 7:00 AM & 8:45 AM

### Rectory Office Hours

Monday—Friday:

9:00 AM—12 Noon

1:00 PM—8:00 PM

Saturday

9:00 AM—11:30 AM

1:00 PM—6:30 PM

Sunday

No Office Hours

### Parish Registration

All are welcomed and invited to register at the Parish Office and participate in our parish.

### Devotions

Miraculous Medal Novena, Mondays following the 8:45 AM Mass

Recitation of the Rosary at 8:15 AM before weekly morning Mass.

Divine Mercy Chaplet every Friday following the 8:45 AM Mass

First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8:45 AM Mass and Benediction at 12:30 PM.

### Baptism

Parents should call the rectory to make an appointment. Please note that there are no baptisms during the season of Lent.

### Marriage

The Sacrament of Marriage requires a time of serious spiritual preparation. Couples should make arrangements for their marriage at least six months before the date of the wedding by making an appointment with a priest or deacon. Please log on to [www.pre-cana.org](http://www.pre-cana.org) for complete information about marriage preparation in the Diocese.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday 3:30—4:30 PM.

By appointment for all other times.

### Anointing of the Sick/Communion

To make arrangements for communion to be brought to any parishioner who is seriously ill or confined to the house, or if they wish to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. To see a particular Staff Member, please call for an appointment.

## Our Mission Statement

We, the parish family of St. Ephrem, baptized into the life of Jesus Christ and nourished by the Word and the Eucharist, strive to be a welcoming and responsive Roman Catholic faith community. Together we are committed to put our faith into action by:

Responding to the spiritual and physical needs of the community through service and charity.

Reaching out to those who are searching for a faith community, including the young and those seeking to re-ignite their relationship with God. Reaching out to all without distinction. Passing on our faith and traditions through teaching by word and example. Connecting to where people are on their faith journey. Actively participating in the worship, sacrament and devotional life of the church.



## **Second Sunday of Easter—Divine Mercy Sunday**

***“After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.”***

**John 20: 19-31**

Dear Parishioner,

We continue to celebrate Easter—the rising of Jesus from the dead. Last week we told about that first Easter Sunday, when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, find the stone rolled away and the empty tomb. There wasn't a crowd. The disciples were locked in the Upper Room. It was dangerous for them to come out. They were afraid. They wanted to believe the good news they heard from the women, that Jesus had risen. But it seemed too good to be true. They were living in a time of such despair and such fear. If they left the Upper Room their lives and the lives of their loved ones might be at risk. Could a miracle really have happened? Could life really have won out over death? Could this time of terror and fear be coming to an end?

Still alone locked behind doors, ***“Jesus came and stood before them. Peace be with you he said. When he had said this, showed them his hands and his side. At the sight of the Lord the disciples rejoiced.”*** The disciples rejoiced because they knew it was Jesus, the one who was crucified. The first thing that the Risen Jesus brings is peace. Understanding their fear, Jesus knew what they needed was peace—and the Holy Spirit to encourage them to change their fear into action. ***“As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Then he breathed on them and said: ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”***

This gospel then presents Thomas, who wasn't present, known as the doubting. ***“I'll never believe it without probing the nail-prints in his hands, without putting my finger in the nail-marks and my hand into his side.”*** Once Thomas encounters the Risen Jesus and touches his wounds, he recognizes him, ***“My Lord and my God!”*** As we remain behind doors in isolation, we can identify with the disciples' fear and even Thomas' doubt. When will this difficult time be over? Jesus is standing in our midst with us today. The same Holy Spirit is shared with us to encourage us, especially during this pandemic. Each time someone does something kind for us, or helps us, that is Jesus standing in our midst and we get to touch Him. May our faith allow us to recognize the Risen Lord.

Like the disciples, we are still in our homes daring to believe that hope is on the horizon. Then after a while, when it is safe for all people, when it is the most loving choice, we will come out, gathering together, singing and shouting the good news that God brings life even out of death, that love always has the final say!

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, we are reminded that Jesus is always in our midst bringing us peace and mercy!

In the Good Shepherd,

## Litany of the Divine Mercy

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, hear us.  
Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of heaven, *have mercy on us.*  
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*  
God, the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us.*  
Holy Trinity, one God, *have mercy on us.*

Divine Mercy, greatest attribute of God, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, unfathomable love of the Sanctifier, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, incomprehensible mystery of the Most Blessed Trinity, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, expression of the greatest might of God, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, in creation of heavenly spirits, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, in calling us forth from nothingness to existence, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, encompassing the whole universe, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, endowing us with immortal life, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, shielding us from deserved punishment, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, lifting us from the misery of sin, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, justifying us through the Person of the Incarnate Word, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, which flowed out from the wounds of Christ, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, gushing forth from the Sacred Heart of Jesus, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, giving us the Blessed Virgin Mary as Mother of Mercy, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, in revealing the mysteries of God, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, in the founding of the Holy Church, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, in instituting the Holy Sacraments, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, first of all in the sacraments of Baptism and Penance, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, in the Holy Eucharist and the sacrament of Holy Orders, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, in calling us to the holy faith, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, in the conversion of sinners, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, in sanctifying the just, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, in perfecting of the pious, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, fount of help for the sick and the suffering, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, sweet relief for anguished hearts, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, only hope of despairing souls, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, accompanying us in every moment of our life, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, anticipating our needs with graces, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, repose of the dying, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, heavenly delight of the saved, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, respite and relief of the souls in Purgatory, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, crown of All Saints, *we trust in You.*  
Divine Mercy, inexhaustible source of miracles, *we trust in You.*

Lamb of God, who revealed the greatest mercy in redeeming the world by dying on the cross,  
*Spare us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, who mercifully offers Yourself for our sake in every holy Mass,  
*Graciously hear us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, who takes away our sins with inexhaustible compassion,  
*Have mercy on us.*

V: The Mercy of God is above all His works.

R: *Hence, we will praise The Divine Mercy forever and ever.*

Let us pray:

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, King of mercy, who with You and the Holy Spirit shows us mercy now and forever.

*Amen.*





## Mass Intentions for the weeks of April 12, 2020

As of March 16th there are no public celebrated masses throughout the Diocese of Brooklyn.  
The priests' of St. Ephrem will be  
celebrating private mass and fulfilling these Mass Intentions.

**All Masses are being live streamed through our parish website.  
Please share and join us!**

**Saturday, April 18, 2020**  
Peter Ursino

**Sunday, April 19, 2020 Divine Mercy Sunday**

**10:00 AM Mass followed by  
Adoration, Novena to Divine Mercy, and Benediction**

Edward Beneduci  
Richard Racioppi, Sr.  
Emilia Longo  
For the People of St. Ephrem

**Monday, April 20, 2020**  
For all souls

**Tuesday, April 21, 2020**  
Salvatore Nicosia 100th Birthday in Heaven

**Wednesday, April 22, 2020**  
Philip Sestito

**Thursday, April 23, 2020**  
Anna Marie Walsh  
Margaret Greene

**Friday, April 24, 2020**  
William David Nelson

**Saturday, April 25, 2020**  
Salvatore Moscola

**Sunday, April 26, 2020**  
10:00 AM Mass  
Doreen Delaney  
Angelo Tesoriero  
Joseph Mondiello (Birthday)  
Millie & Paul mormando  
For the People of St. Ephrem



It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion.

The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

### **Spiritual Communion Prayer**

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in  
the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love you above all things and I desire to  
receive you in my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive  
you sacramentally,  
Come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already there  
And unite myself wholly to you.  
Never permit me to be separated from you.  
Amen.**

*About the author: Archdiocese of New York*

*Seven Acts of Love in a time of Coronavirus*

1. Call some who is lonely
2. Check on someone who is old or sick
3. Keep your distance (social not spiritual)
4. Listen to public health officials
5. Pray for doctors
6. Wash your hands
7. Stay home



**Pope Francis**

**Prayer for protection from Coronavirus**

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test - and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



**A PRAY AMID A PANDEMIC**

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

*Kerry Weber is an executive editor of America Magazine*

# Jesus Appears to His Disciples

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25

Based on John 20:19-31 (NIV)



Y J M N P S M B J D J Y D J S  
 C X I T A T F M L H O Y W A X  
 W X R K N Y G X P O F O M E D  
 X M A D V Y G E A X C O R E H  
 R X C C J V D R L X H K V S A  
 T L L U V E D A E T N E E D M  
 T K E S H E H I R C I N S D S  
 O X S C W B A S S L O C Y N T  
 G R U O L K N Z E C L R G D N  
 E O H D Q Z D B H J I I D E P  
 T S I U J J S A S R S P F E Z  
 H N T F E K D P I A M I L B D  
 E T W U S N K D D U L G E E E  
 R S R N U K P S E S L V H N S  
 R P T V S V D O U B T I N G B

JESUS	TOGETHER	DOUBTING	RECORDED
MIRACLES	SIGNS	SHOWED	BELIEVED
DOORS	LIFE	HANDS	DISCIPLES
TOUCHED	THOMAS	SIDE	LOCKED

**April 5, 2020**      35 Envelopes      \$1,577.00  
**April 12, 2020**    46 Envelopes      \$3,020.00  
*Easter Gift*        40 Envelopes      \$2,255.00  
*Retired Priests*    40 Envelopes      \$575.00  
*Landscaping*        3 Envelopes        \$90.00  
*Holy Places*        32 Envelopes      \$290.00  
**We Share (Online Giving)** 80 Families      \$5,025.00  
 740 Families Registered and Receive Envelopes

**If you are able to send in your weekly donation or enroll on the secure online donation through our website it would be greatly appreciated.**

**Thank you for those who mailed in your donation or sign up for online giving!**  
 Thank You!

**Thank you for your generosity to St. Ephrem Parish!**

**St. Ephrem Centennial Campaign**  
*Our Church, Our Prayers, Our Legacy*

As of	April 8, 2020
Parish Goal	\$1.25 Million
Number of Donors	225
Amount Pledged	\$1,317,865.64
Paid to Date	\$435,896.63
Percent of Goal	105%

**Thank You for your Generosity!**

*Saint Ephrem, pray for us!*

**How will our Parish Benefit?**

**St. Ephrem Parish Goal is: \$109,682.00**

You may notice that our parish goal has been reduced. This as a result that our weekly collections have gone down due to less attendance at weekly Masses. Once we exceed our goal, then we will receive 100% of all funds raised above goal. Last year we received back \$12,159.00 Thank

St. Ephrem Parish Goal	\$109,682.00
Number of Donors	78
Amount Pledged	\$40,685.00
Paid to Date	\$19,393.00

**You!**