

Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org



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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 5, 2020
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord



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

St. Ephrem Catholic Academy

924 74th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11228 ♦ 718-833-1440 ♦ 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 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.

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Dear Parishioner,

Today, Palm Sunday, we commemorate the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. The highs and the lows, exaltation and tragedy. From *"Hosanna"* to only minutes later, *"Let him be crucified, Let him be crucified."* Two very different emotions so close together. Profound themes of betrayal, trust, friendship, power, and humanity are present in the gospel reading from Matthew (21:1-11).

Who doesn't know what it's like to experience betrayal at the hand of a friend, for that is the very term Jesus uses of Judas Iscariot. Judas himself leads the authorities to Jesus for the price of thirty pieces of silver. Shortly thereafter he realizes the error of his ways and commits suicide. He was dead before Jesus was. Peter, too, betrayed Jesus but did not commit the ultimate act from which there is no return. The disciples who professed such devotion to Jesus only hours earlier folded quickly in the face of temptation. Jesus died alone, reviled even by those who were being crucified alongside him. Which in this time of coronavirus, so many are also dying alone because of isolation. Nor can we gather for a funeral mass, which is so consoling and filled with hope for us that our loved one is promised eternal life.

Their mocking requests for Jesus to come down from the cross and then they will believe are cynical. The attitude that says God can save him if he's really God's son is likewise sarcastic. Humanity itself is reflected in the crowd's behavior—in its willingness to put to death, after a sham trial, someone it turned on after only recently praising. There is a crowd or gang mentality at work and it should give us pause, not only for what happened in Jesus' day but for how such actions continue today. False testimony, deceit, betrayal, even physical force and violence leading to death are all prominently on display. The crowd, humanity itself, is only too eager to believe the worst, to mock, taunt, scourge, and kill the incarnation of love itself. Then, humanity has the nerve to test God, telling God to rescue Jesus if he's really His son.

Of course, to be God's son means that Jesus trusts the Father to the point of enduring all things up to and including death. God's vindication will come not in bringing Jesus down from the cross, but in raising Jesus from the dead. God's ways are not our ways. We demand action from God that we can see with our own eyes. But there were no witnesses to the actual resurrection, only the risen Christ. The response demanded by God of humans is faith. When faced with deceit, lies, violence, and death, God has another way, and we are invited to enter into this new way of life.

At this time we are practicing social distance, isolation, and quarantine, this is a new way of living. This can be stressful and anxious. Perhaps, like Jesus, we too in our distress want to say: *"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will."* (Matthew 26:39). Hoping and waiting for this situation and time to pass. The example of Jesus, of placing his confidence and trust in God, on this Palm Sunday inspires us to be true to God's will in our own lives. We are open to what God has in store, a resurrection from the dead that is new life. Such is the paschal mystery.

As we remember the suffering and death of Jesus, we are drawn more deeply in to the mystery of God's steadfast love for all humanity: God so loved the world he sent his only Son that all may be saved. We also hear the words that Jesus said at the Passover meal, "This is my body...This is my blood." In the Eucharist, as in his passion, death, and resurrection, Jesus gives all of himself to us. As we have begun Holy Week and the Triduum, what actions or practice might you embrace in response to this gift of the Lord?

In the Good Shepherd,

Handwritten signature of Fr. James J. Adams

Beginning Palm Sunday all weekday and Sunday Masses, as well as the Holy Week Liturgies and Services will be live streamed through our website. Please Join us and share!



Worshiping at home during Holy Week

Beginning Palm Sunday all weekday and Sunday Masses, as well as the Holy Week Liturgies and Services will be live streamed through our website. Please Join us!

Palm Sunday

Place a branch on the your door or in your window to celebrate Palm Sunday. It could be any green branch you can get. This would help, despite the social distancing, to be connected as we enter into the holiest of weeks.



**SERVICE
TO OTHERS**

Holy Thursday

The foot washing, has been a Holy Thursday practice since as early as the seventh century. A concrete representation of our call to service, the foot washing in the Holy Thursday liturgy reminds us of Jesus' example and command. If we truly understand this command, however, we realize that we are called to do more than literally wash feet. Rather, this is a ritual that reminds us of our call to serve others through the concrete realities of life. How does Jesus call you to serve others in your everyday actions?

The Eucharist is rooted in community and table fellowship. What does table fellowship look like in your home? What are some ways you commit or recommit to the sharing of family meals? Perhaps today would be a good opportunity to cook and eat dinner together. Each family member can take on a specific role, from cooking, to setting the table, to washing the dishes. It is in spending time together that we can live the "thanksgiving" at the heart of Eucharist.



Good Friday

The Adoration of the Holy Cross begins with looking at the cross and singing the proclamation: *Behold, the wood of the Cross.*

You may want to place a cross from your home on a table or some other place of honor, adding candles if your wish. Be sure to allow some time in silent reflection as you gaze upon the cross and grow in relationship with Jesus. You may wish to touch the cross, or show another suitable sign, such as genuflection or a kiss. Take some time to pray the psalm from today's liturgy, Psalm 31, with the antiphon from Luke's Gospel, "*Father, into your hands I command my spirit,*" it is a beautiful testimony of trust in God.

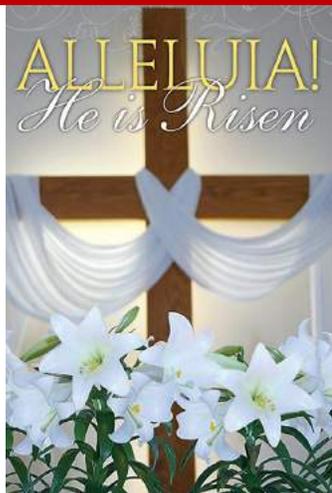


ALLELUIA!
He is Risen

Easter Vigil & Sunday

"Exult, let them exult!" We hear these words at the beginning of the, The Easter Proclamation as we trace God's saving action throughout history. The Easter Vigil liturgy is rich with symbol and ritual, and the Scripture readings connect us to our ancestors in faith, living the very same hope that we live today. The Easter Vigil takes place in the night, for the contrast between darkness and light are essential. The Paschal Candle is the light of Christ that shines in our darkness. You may want to light a candle or have one for each person. May we welcome this light of Christ into our lives. Each person can sign themselves with Holy Water, recalling the waters of Baptism and our commitment to life in Christ. As we celebrate Easter, take time to notice the daily experience of resurrection and new life.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!





Mass Intentions for the weeks of April 4, 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.
We are working on broadcasting the Masses from our church.**

**Begining Palm Sunday all weekday and Sunday Masses, as well as all the Holy Week Liturgies and
Services will be live streamed through our parish website. Please share and join us!**

Saturday, April 4, 2020

People of St. Ephrem

Louis DiPreto

Anne, Florence & Nicholas Infantino

Joseph Nardo

Natalino Guglielmetti

Sunday, April 5, 2020

Laura Poggioli

Deceased members of the

Hyland & Blundell Families

Michele Lepore

For the People of St. Ephrem

Monday, April 6, 2020

For the People of St. Ephrem

John Carr

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Thomas A. Dorney

Erasto Fernandes

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Theresa Murray

Vincenza Sperrazza

**All Holy Week Liturgies will be broadcast live
through our Parish Website at the follow times below.**

Thursday, April 9, 2020—Holy Thursday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

7:30 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday, April 10, 2020—Good Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

3:00 PM Passion of the Lord

7:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 11, 2020—Holy Saturday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

8:00 PM Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 12, 2020—Easter Sunday

10:00 AM

Matthew O'Connor

Mary & Sal Bonfiglio

Mary Antico

**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.

Reflections on the Importance of both Prayer and Action



“In our Christian life too prayer and action are always profoundly united. Prayer that does not lead to concrete action toward a brother who is poor, sick, in need of help, the brother in difficulty, is a sterile and incomplete prayer. But, in the same way, when in ecclesial service we are only concerned with doing, we give greater weight to things, functions, structures, and we forget the centrality of Christ; we do not set aside time for dialogue with him in prayer, we are in risk of serving ourselves and not God present in our needy brother.” (Pope Francis, Sunday Angelus, July 22, 2013)

“People who pray are not wasting their time, even though the situation appears desperate and seems to call for action alone. Piety does not undermine the struggle against the poverty of our neighbors, however extreme. In the example of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta we have a clear illustration of the fact that time devoted to God in prayer not only does not detract from effective and loving service to our neighbor but is in fact the inexhaustible source of that service.” (Pope Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est, no. 36)

The Stations of the Cross began as the practice of pious pilgrims to Jerusalem who would retrace the final journey of Jesus Christ to Calvary.

Later, for the many who wanted to pass along the same route, but could not make the trip to Jerusalem, a practice developed that eventually took the form of the fourteen stations currently found in almost every church.



This devotion can be practiced at home. The USCCB website provides an [audio version](#) of the Stations of the Cross, as well as [several different versions](#) of the devotion that can be read in both English in Spanish.



March 22, 2020	23 Envelopes	\$1,855.00
March 29, 2020	30 Envelopes	\$1,145.00
Easter Flowers	18 Envelopes	\$260.00
Landscaping	3 Envelopes	\$90.00
Catholic Relief	16 Envelopes	\$290.00
We Share (Online Giving)	49 Families	\$987.22

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	March 29, 2020
Parish Goal	\$1.25 Million
Number of Donors	225
Amount Pledged	\$1,317,865.64
Paid to Date	\$435,671.63
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	71
Amount Pledged	\$38,975.00
Paid to Date	\$16,753.00

You!