

# 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*

May 3, 2020  
Fourth Sunday of Easter



### 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

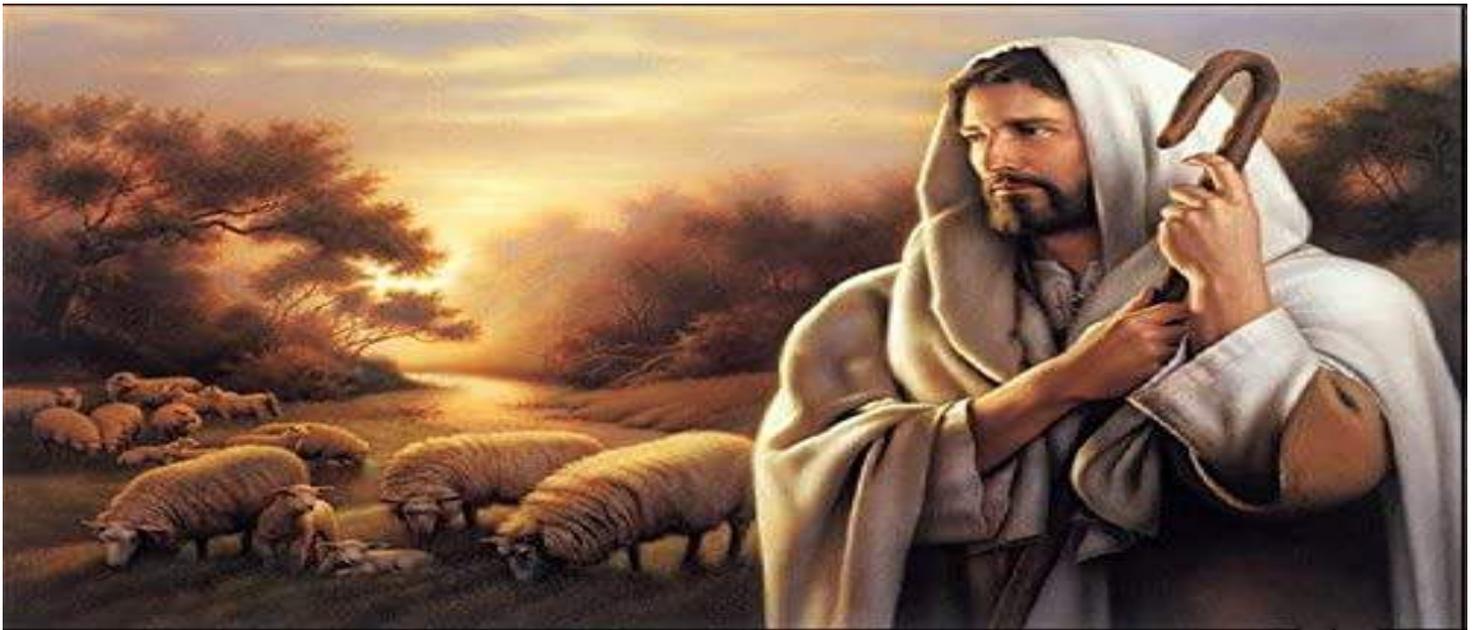
To make arrangements for communion to be brought to any parishioner who is seriously ill or confined to the house, or if they wish to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. To see a particular Staff Member, please call for an appointment.

## 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.



**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
***"I am the gate for the sheep."***  
**John 10: 1-10**

Dear Parishioner,

As we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Easter, we do not have a resurrection appearance story in the gospel. The church gives us instead this parable or, in the words of the gospel a "figure of speech" from Jesus himself. Though the term is not used in today's gospel, this is the beginning of the "Good Shepherd" parabolic discourse. This section might be more properly called the "Gate" discourse, wherein Jesus says he is the gate through which the sheep enter and are saved. The distinction of Jesus as gate is significant and should not immediately be combined with Jesus as Good Shepherd, which is stated explicitly later in this chapter. In this gospel we see Jesus as the "Gate" with an accompanying image of the gatekeeper.

In the "figure of speech" in today's gospel, we are sheep whereas Jesus is the gate for the sheepfold. The imagery is simple and ancient. Here there is not "heaven" but instead a place of safety and security from the world with its dangers and threats. Even this place of safety is not entirely secure, as there are some thieves and robbers who would climb the fence, not entering through the gate. Our only "protection" from such dangers is that we continue to listen to the voice of Jesus.

What a comfort knowing our voice is known and listened to by our Good Shepherd. The world we knew came to a screeching halt. In these weeks of isolation, the better question may be how well we have heard the shepherd's voice? Hopefully we have found ways to share it for the good of the community.

We need to stay within the flock and be good followers. As we have heard over the past weeks, "we are all in this together." No matter where our shepherd takes us, we should not be afraid to follow. This time has been very rough, but as promised, greener pastures will follow.

May these trying times renew our spirits to follow and show our compassionate strength to one another.

We pray that we will remain faithful and attentive to the voice of the Good Shepherd. May we follow you with trust and faith. Finally, we continue to share abundantly in the life you have created for us now and hereafter.

In the Good Shepherd,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. James J. Adams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

P.S. Sunday and Weekday Mass Readings and other resources can be found on our website in the Parish News Tab.

## VOCATION SUNDAY

Not only is it Good Shepherd Sunday, it is also "Vocations Sunday". On this day we are especially asked first of all to pray that the Church may be provided with the leaders needed to do its work of spreading the Gospel.

We have for too long given a much too narrow meaning to the word 'vocation'. We tend to limit it to a calling to be a priest or a member of a religious institute. But, in fact, every single one of us has a vocation. For most of us, probably, it is what we are now doing be it as spouses, parents, teachers, doctors, civil servants, running a business, salespersons... or whatever.

God is calling every single one of us to work for the Gospel. For a small number it may be as a priest or religious – and that call can come at any time in one's life. But there are hundreds of other ways of serving the Church and helping to build up the Christian community. Where is God calling me to make my own unique contribution based on the particular talents God has given me? If every single one of us were to answer that question sincerely and to act upon it, I am confident that our Church would have all the leadership it needs.

### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS



Lord of the Harvest, we petition you as you have instructed us to ask for more laborers to serve in the vineyard of your Church. You have told us that the harvest is rich and laborers are few and we experience this great need in the face of the challenge of the New Evangelization.

We ask the Holy Spirit to inspire young men and women to seriously consider vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Help all of us to be effective instruments to encourage and support those whom you are calling to serve and lead the Church of Brooklyn and Queens in the future.

Lord, you told the Apostles to put out into the deep. We ask for the grace and courage to respond to your call as we pray and work for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest, Amen.

*+Nicholas DiMarzio*



# Lockdown

Yes there is fear.  
Yes there is isolation.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
Yes there is sickness.  
Yes there is even death.  
But,  
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise  
You can hear the birds again.  
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet  
The sky is no longer thick with fumes  
But blue and grey and clear.  
They say that in the streets of Assisi  
People are singing to each other  
across the empty squares,  
Keeping their windows open  
So that those who are alone  
Many hear the sounds of family around them.  
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland  
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.  
Today a young woman I know  
Is busy spreading fliers with her number  
Through the neighbourhood  
So that the elders may have someone to call on.  
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples  
Are preparing to welcome  
And shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary  
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting  
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way  
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality  
To how big we really are.  
To how little control we really have.  
To what really matters.  
To Love.  
So we pray and we remember that  
Yes there is fear.  
But there does not have to be hate.  
Yes there is isolation.  
But there does not have to be loneliness.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
But there does not have to be meanness.  
Yes there is sickness.  
But there does not have to be disease of the soul  
Yes there is even death.  
But there can always be a rebirth of love.  
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.  
Today, breathe.  
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic  
The birds are singing again  
The sky is clearing.  
Spring is coming.  
And we are always encompassed by Love.  
Open the windows of your soul  
And though you may not be able  
To touch across the empty square,  
Sing.

*Brother Richard Hendrick, O.F.M., Cap.*



## Mass Intentions for the weeks of May 3, 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!**

### **Sunday, May 3, 2020**

#### **10:00 AM Mass**

Joseph Edmund Ryan  
John Milea  
Maria Esposito  
For the People of St. Ephrem

### **Monday, May 4, 2020**

John Carr

### **Tuesday, May 5, 2020**

Robert Offitto  
Pasquale Marsillo

### **Wednesday, May 6, 2020**

Artic Nielson

### **Thursday, May 7, 2020**

McGuirk Delehanty Families

### **Friday, May 8, 2020**

Carmelo Trapani

### **Saturday, May 9, 2020**

Clara Calabrese

### **Sunday, May 10, 2020—Mother's Day**

#### **10:00 AM Mass**

Michael & Winifred McNamara  
Ray Losardo  
Rocco & Marie Paciello  
Anna Striano  
Theodore M. Caridi  
Mother's Day Mass Remembrance  
Dan Marchesiello  
Michele Lepore  
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*

## May Crowning

Next Sunday, May 10th

Mother's Day

Immediately follow the  
10:00 AM Live-Streamed  
Mass

We will have our  
May Crowning



## The Holy Rosary

During the month of May,  
dedicated to the  
Blessed Virgin Mary,  
we will live stream the  
praying of the  
Holy Rosary  
each evening at 7:00 PM.

Please share and join us!



### *Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Life*

*The Response is:* Mary, pray for us.

Mary, Mother of all Life,  
Help us to respect human life from the  
Moment of conception  
To the moment of natural death. R.

Mary, Mother of Compassion,  
You showed us how valuable a single life can be;  
I help us to guard and protect the lives of all  
People entrusted to our care. R.

Mary, Mother of the Child Jesus,  
With St. Joseph you formed the Holy Family.  
Guard and protect all families in this earthly life; R.

Mary, Mother Most Holy,  
You sanctified the vocation of motherhood;  
Pour out your heavenly aid on all mothers and  
Help them to be holy. R.

Mary, Mother of Sorrows,  
Simeon's prophecy foretold that a sword of  
Suffering would pierce your heart;  
Bring comfort and hope to all mothers who  
Suffer over their children. R.



*The Response is:* Mary, pray for us.

Mary, Full of Grace,  
You had a choice in responding to God's call;  
Help us always to say "Yes" to the will of God  
In our lives,  
And strive always to do whatever he tells us. R.

Mary, Comforter of the Afflicted,  
Pour forth your, heavenly grace on all who are in need  
of God's healing,  
Especially those involved in abortion;  
Help them to experience the love and mercy of  
Christ, your Son. R.

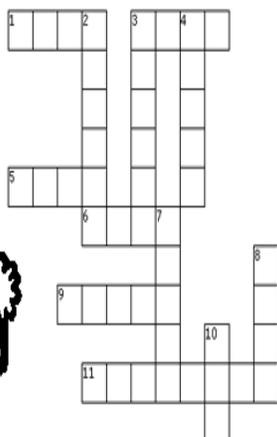
Mary, Intercessor and Advocate,  
We lift up the poor, the displaced, the  
Marginalized and vulnerable members of society;  
Help them to never abandon hope, but to place  
Their trust in the God who gave them life. R.

Mary, Mother of the Word Incarnate, you bore  
In your womb him whom the heavens cannot contain;  
Help us to bear witness to Christ by the  
Example of our lives.  
And show the world the extravagant love of God. R.

**Remember, o most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known  
that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or  
sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confi-  
dence, we fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, our Mother. To you we  
come, before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the  
Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy hear  
and answer them. Amen.**

# The Good Shepherd

John 10:11-18 (NIV)



ACROSS

1. Wild animal that looks like a dog and hunts in packs
3. The period from birth to death
5. A strong feeling of affection
6. Goes faster than walking
9. What we use to speak
11. One who takes care of the sheep

DOWN

2. The male parent
3. To hear or pay attention to something
4. A group of sheep herded together
7. Woolly animals which are similar to goats
8. The opposite of bad
10. A small place where animals are kept

Words Used

good	sheep	runs	listen
shepherd	wolf	father	pen
life	flock	voice	love



Sharing our time, treasure and talent with others

April 26, 2020      40 Envelopes      \$1,521.00  
 Catholic Home Missions      26 Envelopes      \$275.00

We Share (Online Giving)      39 Families      \$2,720.00

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	231
Amount Pledged	\$1,331,922.00
Paid to Date	\$481,009.64
Percent of Goal	106%

**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	85
Amount Pledged	\$53,325.00
Paid to Date	\$31,395.00

**You!**