

Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

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*

June 7 2020
The Most Holy 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

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.



*Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.*

The Most Holy Trinity

“God sent his Son that the world might be saved through him.” John 3: 16-18

Dear Parishioner,

We regularly profess our faith in the Trinity. We make the sign of the cross: ***In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit***; in the Gloria we profess at Mass; and in the Profession of Faith. What we do not do regularly is pray to the Triune God; we find it hard, it would seem, to experience a relationship with the Trinity in prayer as we do with the individual Person-God the Father and Jesus the Son.

On this feast of the Most Holy Trinity, we have one of the shortest gospel readings of the year, and this from the Gospel of John. The opening line of this gospel reading will be familiar to many, as it may be used frequently to sum up Christian theology: ***“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.”***

This shows God’s love, not an angry God. “God is love.” and God acts out of love. It is this same love that reflects God’s desire to give (not merely to send) his only Son. The Son of God is given as a gift to the world out of love. As followers of the same Son, we ought to be motivated by love as well. We freely give without counting the cost; and we give not merely from our excess, but we give our very selves. That is the mark of a Christian disciple.

The mystery of the Trinity can be confusing to understand. Three persons, one God. We often state the intellectual intentions of faith without understanding it. And when attempting to understand the meaning of our words, we often fall back on that term: mystery. But what does the Trinity mean for us beyond an intellectual intention to which we agree?

As we read in the opening line of the gospel today, God is self-gift. God loves and God gives. Those attributes would mark our identity as Christians. If we want to live the paschal mystery, or even live the Trinitarian mystery, it would behoove us to become like God and to love, to give to the point of giving our very selves. Living out our faith, is much more a marker of Christian identity than merely parroting intentions we may or may not understand.

I want to share with you that Ms. Eileen Maguire, Director of Faith Formation, has decided to retire at the end of the pastoral year. I want to thank Eileen for her dedication in sharing her faith with so many. After 52 years of ministry and 6 years here at St. Ephrem, I wish Eileen many peace filled and well deserved retirement. When we can gather for Mass, we will plan a Mass of Thanksgiving and reception.

In the Good Shepherd,

REOPENING OF OUR CHURCH

Phase I

Bishop DiMarzio has given permission, in the Diocese of Brooklyn, to reopen our churches. He has done so with the assistance of a special task force, that he assembled, which is led by Former Director of Emergency Management for New York City, Mr. Joseph Esposito, while abiding by government directives.

The reopening of St. Ephrem Church:

1. Begins on Tuesday, May 26, 2020
2. The Church will be open every day from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Please ONLY use entrance on Bay Ridge Parkway to enter

NO MORE THAN 10 PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES!
If there are 10 people, please wait outside or come back. Thank You!

The Church will be opened for the following:

(Mass will not be celebrated publicly and Holy Communion will not be distributed):

1. Personal and Private Prayer
2. Funeral Services (Funeral outside of Mass)
3. Baptisms
4. Weddings

While the Church is opened for Funeral Services, Baptisms, and Weddings, there are limitations and this will be discussed with the family, on a case to case basis and consultation with the Office of the Chancellor. Please remember, government and diocesan directives will be honored.

The following directives are to be observed:

1. The elderly and all who are health-compromised **MUST** stay home.
2. If you are not feeling well or sick in any way, you **MUST** stay home.
3. If you could, please take your temperature at home and anything above 100 degrees please stay home.
4. A face covering must be worn at all times while in Church.
5. Please clean your hands thoroughly either by water and soap or hand sanitizer.
6. Please maintain social distancing (6 Feet apart).
7. Please sit in designated areas which are marked for your convenience, (families and households are permitted to sit together).
8. Please refrain from touching any statues and devotional objects.
9. And, please adhere to all directives by ushers/volunteers/staff.

Confessions:

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered on Saturday's at 1:00 PM., by the Divine Mercy Chapel. The priest will be in the confessional and we ask that the penitent sit in the pew that is indicated. You **MUST** wear a face covering or mask and practice social distancing (6 Feet apart).

Mass will continue to be Live-Streamed through our website:
www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I regret to inform you the Archdiocese of Newark has notified me that a second allegation has been leveled by an individual claiming misconduct dating back 40 years. The attorney in both of these matters is Mitchell Garabedian. He is seeking a total of \$40 million in these two unsubstantiated allegations.

There is absolutely no truth to either of these allegations. I deny this outrageous and libelous claim. I am contemplating filing a lawsuit against those responsible for these statements, which have no basis in fact. I am ready, willing, and able to go to trial to defend myself.

I have hired Joseph Hayden, an experienced trial lawyer from New Jersey, who has been investigating these claims and has uncovered conclusive evidence of my innocence. We plan to challenge these allegations in court or in any other proceeding. I will never agree to a settlement of these claims.

These false allegations are troubling. They will not deter me from our continued ministry and our Gospel mission. The last 50 years of my life have been spent in service to the Church, ministering to the poor and marginalized. That work must continue, along with my commitment to protecting children and continued advocacy for the healing of, and justice for, all victim-survivors of sexual abuse.

These have been difficult days for all of us. Our Diocese in Brooklyn and Queens remains at the epicenter of the Coronavirus pandemic and the center of civil unrest in our country. These untrue claims cannot distract from our efforts to continue bringing faith, hope, and charity into our parish communities during these unprecedented times.

I understand this is a grave matter. A Church investigation, called Vos Estis, is being conducted. The Archdiocese of New York has hired an outside law firm to oversee the process and they in turn hired the investigative agency run by the retired former director of the FBI, Louis Freeh, to conduct the investigation. I pledge my full cooperation to this independent investigation. As we go forward, I will keep you informed.

Asking you to keep the Diocese of Brooklyn in your prayers, and assuring you of my prayers for you, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio
Bishop of Brooklyn

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*Bishop DiMarzio is recognized as a leader in the fight against sexual abuse. Since arriving at the Diocese of Brooklyn in 2003, Bishop DiMarzio instituted changes to protect children that surpassed the mandates of the 2002 Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. They include an independent reporting line, where reports are automatically sent to the district attorney in Brooklyn or Queens. He meets with victim-survivors of clergy sexual abuse and started the annual Mass of Hope and Healing to pray for them.*

*Even before the mandates of the Dallas Charter, Bishop DiMarzio created protocols when he was the Bishop in the Diocese of Camden from 1999-2003 to ensure that children were protected and that victims received the care they need. Under his leadership, the Diocese of Camden was the first diocese in the country to offer victims a toll-free reporting line.*

*As a result of his exemplary record fighting sexual abuse, Pope Francis recently selected Bishop DiMarzio to conduct the investigation into the Diocese of Buffalo.*

## United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Prayer to Address the Sin of Racism

We pray for healing to address  
The persistent sin of racism  
Which rejects the full humanity  
Of some of your children,  
And the talents and potential You have given.

We pray for the grace to recognize  
The systems that do not support  
The dignity of every person,  
That do not promote respect  
For those who are seen as other,  
Who bear the legacy of centuries  
Of discrimination, fear, and violence.

We pray for graced structures  
So children of color in Flint, and all children,  
Have access to clean water and health care.

We pray for graced structures  
So children of color in Mississippi, and all children,  
Have quality education that will allow them to develop their gifts.

We pray for graced structures  
So children of color in Camden, and all children,  
Have homes where families can live in dignity and security.

We pray for graced structures  
So children of color in Chicago, and all children,  
Can grow up without fear, without the sound of gunshots.  
Lord of all, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers.

Give us eyes to see how the past  
Has shaped the complex present,  
And to perceive how we must create  
A new way forward,  
With a new sense of community  
That embraces and celebrates  
The rich diversity of all,  
That helps us live out your call to reject  
The sin of racism, the stain of hate,  
And to seek a compassionate solidarity  
Supported by Your grace and Your love.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

## PARISH DAY

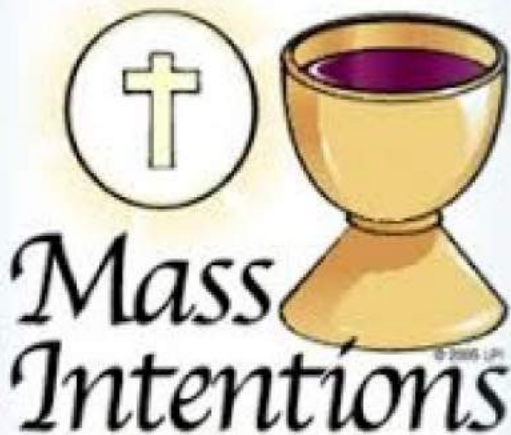


**Saint Ephrem, Deacon and Doctor of the Church**  
c. 306–373 | FEAST DAY JUNE 9

Known to Syrian Christians as “the harp of the Holy Ghost,” this Mesopotamian from Nisibia was baptized at 18 and may have accompanied his bishop to the Council of Nicaea in 325. He served as head of the cathedral school and left Nisibia only after it became Persian. In 363 he moved to a cave overlooking Edessa but preached frequently in the city and wrote many poems, hymns and biblical commentaries; he organized a choir of women to sing his hymns during liturgies. About 370 he visited St. Basil in Caesarea. The winter before his death, he earned praise for managing relief supplies during a severe famine in Edessa. Ephraem is the only Syrian father declared a doctor of the church.

## The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) Sunday, June 14, 2020

*Immediately following the Live-Streamed Mass at 10:00 AM  
We will have Adoration & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament*



**On Tuesday, May 26th**

**Mass Intentions**

**for**

**July 1, 2020**

**to**

**December 31, 2020**

**Will be available.**

**Since our staff is working remotely please email your Mass Intention request to:**

**[stephremrectory@aol.com](mailto:stephremrectory@aol.com)**

**or**

**Please call the rectory or leave a message and someone will return your call.**

**You can make your Mass Intention Offering through our website at the “Ways to Give” tab or by mail.**



## Mass Intentions for the weeks of June 7, 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, June 7, 2020

#### **The Most Holy Trinity**

10:00 AM Mass

Anna Striano  
Eileen M. Maguire  
Edmund Curry  
Marina Tesoriero  
Anthony Jabaily  
Michele Lepore  
For the People of St. Ephrem Parish

### Monday, June 8, 2020

Aida Offitto  
Rosalia Adamo

### Tuesday, June 9, 2020

#### **Feast of St. Ephrem**

Marie Lutzius  
Lorraine Health

### Wednesday, June 10, 2020

For the Intentions of John Salvatore  
Lucy & Edwin McGuirk

### Thursday, June 11, 2020

Maddalena Piscioneri

### Friday, June 12, 2020

Louis Zraick  
Michael E. Esposito

### Saturday, June 13, 2020

Matthew A Gilmartin

### Sunday, June 14, 2020

Vito Gentile  
Anna Marie Walsh  
Peter A. Carlin  
Salvatore Bonfiglio  
Rosario & Gerlanda Carluzzo  
& Matia Taibi  
For the People of St. Ephrem Parish

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.



## Bread and Wine

In Loving Memory of:  
**Peter A. Carlin**

*Requested by: Margaret Carlin*

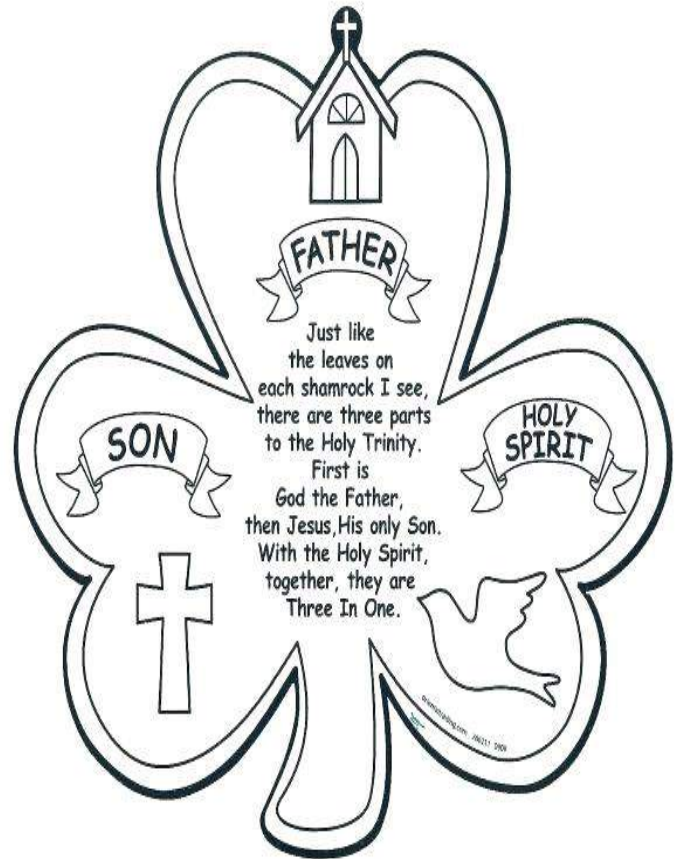
*About the author: Archdiocese of New York*

John 3: 16-18



Find the following words in the puzzle.  
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

- |           |          |        |
|-----------|----------|--------|
| BREATHED  | HOLY     | SENT   |
| DISCIPLES | HOUSE    | SIDE   |
| DOORS     | PEACE    | SINS   |
| FATHER    | RECEIVE  | SPIRIT |
| FEAR      | REJOICED |        |
| FORGIVE   | RETAIN   |        |
| HANDS     | SEND     |        |



“God sent his Son, that the world might be saved through him.”  
John 3: 16-18

**May 31, 2020**      53 Envelopes      \$2,391.00  
**May 24, 2020**      21 Envelopes      \$960.00

**We Share (Online Giving)**    42 Families    \$1,900.00

**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            | May 26, 2020   |
|------------------|----------------|
| Parish Goal      | \$1.25 Million |
| Number of Donors | 237            |
| Amount Pledged   | \$1,353,057.00 |
| Paid to Date     | \$512,930.64   |
| Percent of Goal  | 108%           |

**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       | 123          |
| Amount Pledged         | \$72,655.00  |
| Paid to Date           | \$51,722.00  |

**You!**