

# 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

Very Rev. Robert B. Adamo, V. F., 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*

July 12, 2020  
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



### 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.

**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**July 12, 2020**

**Matthew 13: 1-23 “A sower went out to sow.”**



Today we begin chapter 13 of Matthew's gospel, sometimes referred to as the chapter on parables, for Matthew has Jesus teach seven parables in this chapter. The word "parable" reflects the Hebrew word *māshāl*, which in turn means wisdom saying or proverb.

Matthew says that Jesus sat by the shore, but when the crowds grew too large he moved to a boat where he sat as well. Jesus was not practicing social distancing, unlike ourselves. The meaning of Jesus "sat down" is an indication of a true teacher, one who sits to dispense wisdom.

The parable of the sower is rooted in antiquity with the image of scattering seed on the ground, which would have preceded plowing. Today even gardeners often sow seed by plowing first, planting the seed, and then covering the seed with soil. But that is not the way those in the ancient world performed the task. It's for this reason that many seeds may be eaten by the birds or may fall on rocky soil. Not all the seed that is scattered takes root and bears fruit. Indeed, if those in the ancient world planted seeds the way a modern gardener does, it's highly unlikely that Jesus would have used this same parable! Instead, we might have a parable about the care with which the sower sows seed. But such is not the world of antiquity.

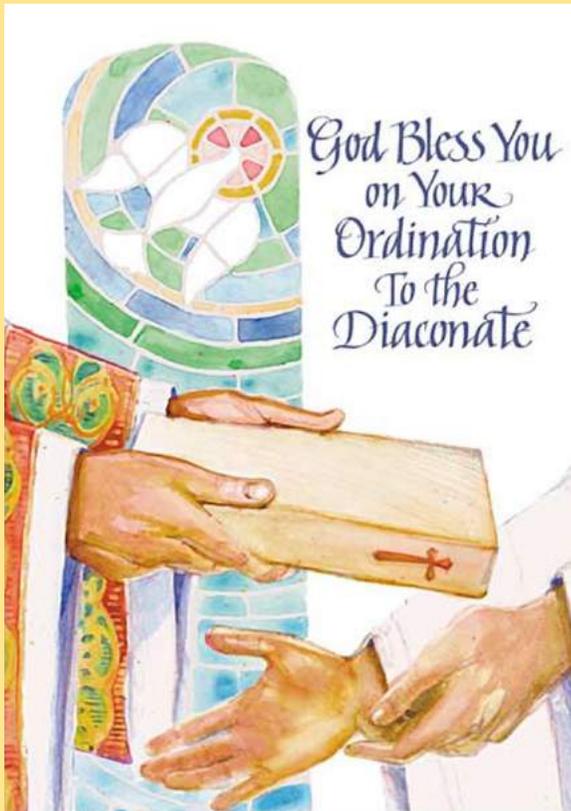
Jesus ends this simple symbolic tale with a command: *"Whoever has ears ought to hear."*

Today's parable may cause us to stop and consider several questions. What kind of seed are we? Were we scattered on rocky soil or fertile? Will we bear fruit? If so, how much – thirty, sixty, one hundred fold? Being viewed as seed scattered on the ground does not seem to leave much room for free will. The seed scattered on rocks can scarcely move itself to the fertile soil. Is it the fault of the seed for landing in an inhospitable environment? Then again, what about the seed that finds itself in fertile soil? Is there a responsibility to grow and produce fruit? That can hardly happen if it's eaten by a bird. Again, the question of free will seems to be outside the realm of this parable.

In these last few months as things changed for all of us, perhaps the seed planted in us grew. We cooked new recipes, we sewed masks, prayed more, and learned something new. We can say that it has produced much fruit from our experience. Today, we might pray for the grace to grow where we find ourselves and to produce as much fruit as possible. One day there will be a harvest and we shall experience new life. Such is the paschal mystery.

It was great to welcome many of you back home last Sunday. I understand that some may not be able to come to church at this time. We will continue to livestream Mass from our website. I look forward to when we can all gather together as a parish family around the table of the Lord.

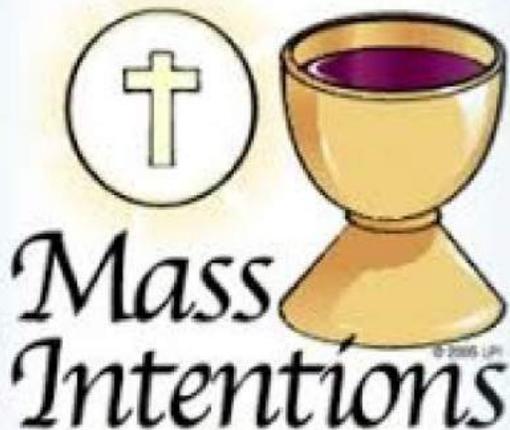
In the Good Shepherd,



**Elvin Torres**  
to be Ordained a Deacon  
July 11, 2020  
St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral  
Live Streamed on NET-TV



Mass of Thanksgiving for Deacon Elvin Torres  
Sunday, July 12, 2020 at 10:00 AM



**Mass Intentions**  
for  
**July 1, 2020**  
to  
**December 31, 2020**  
Are available.

Mass Intention request to: [stephremrectory@aol.com](mailto:stephremrectory@aol.com)

or

Calling the Rectory Office

Monday to Thursday 9:00 AM to 12 Noon and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Friday's 9:00 AM to 12 Noon

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

## GUIDELINES FOR REOPENING THE CHURCHES FOR LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

**Stage 2:** Limited Capacity of 25% for Daily 8:45 AM Mass ONLY - **MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2020.** **Reservations to attend is necessary through our parish website (Mass Times Tab) or by calling the Rectory Office.** **Church will remain open for Personal and Private Prayer Monday through Saturday until 2:00 PM.**

**Stage 3:** Limited Capacity of 25% for Sunday Mass SATURDAY VIGIL AT 5:00 PM & SUNDAY 10:00 AM ONLY - **SATURDAY EVENING, JULY 4, 2020 AND SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2020.** **Reservations to attend is necessary through our parish website (Mass Times Tab) or by calling the Rectory Office.** **Church will remain open for Personal and Private Prayer on Sunday's until 12 Noon.**

*“I give you a new commandment: Love one Another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples; if you love one another.”*  
John 13:34-35

### **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. There are no missals or worship aids available.
9. Please refrain from touching any statues and devotional objects.
10. And, please adhere to all directives by ushers/volunteers/staff.
11. There will be a single offering basket by the Baptismal Font, in which you can place your offering.
12. There will be no entrance or recessional processions.

### **HOLY COMMUNION:**

**It is strongly recommended that the faithful receive Holy Communion in the hand. This is for the safety of those receiving Holy Communion and of the minister of Holy Communion.**

Please open the palm of your hand so that the Host will be allowed to “fall” (reverently) into your hands to avoid any physical contact. Please disinfect hands before receiving Holy Communion. The communicant should come before the Minister of Communion with the mask on for the dialogue (“*The Body of Christ, Amen.*”) and then, moving to the side, lower the mask and consume the Eucharist and replace the mask.

### **CONFESSIONS:**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is 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).

### **Stage 4: CELEBRATIONS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATIONS**

*These celebrations will take place in Stage 4. They will be celebrated at an appropriate time following all the guidelines that will be issued later for these celebrations.*

**Mass will continue to be Live-Streamed through our website: [www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org](http://www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org)**

**On March 13th Bishop DiMarzio dispensed the faithful of the Diocese of Brooklyn from Sunday/Holy Day Mass obligation until further notice.**



## Mass Intentions for the week of July 12, 2020

**Stage 2: On Monday, June 29, 2020 of Reopening for Daily 8:45 AM Mass ONLYLY begins. Limited Capacity of 25% . Reservation to attend is necessary through our parish website (Mass Times Tab) or by calling the Rectory Office.**

**Stage 3: On Saturday, July 4th, Vigil 5:00 PM Mass and Sunday, July 5th, 10:00 AM Mass ONLYLY begins. Limited Capacity of 25%. Reservation to attend is necessary through our parish website or by calling the Rectory Office.**

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

### Saturday, July 11, 2020

#### **Saint Benedict, Abbot**

For the People of St. Ephrem Parish

#### Vigil Mass 5:00 PM

#### **Saint Benedict, Abbot**

Mario Mignone

### Sunday, July 12, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Benedetto (Benny) Monticciolo

Anthony Saggese

For the People of St. Ephrem Parish

### Monday, July 13, 2020

William Wall

### Tuesday, July 14, 2020

For the People of St. Ephrem Parish

### Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Irene Santise

### Thursday, July 16, 2020

Maria & Joseph Mazzone

### Friday, July 17, 2020

For the People of St. Ephrem Parish

### Saturday, July 18, 2020

For the People of St. Ephrem Parish

#### Vigil Mass 5:00 PM

For the People of St. Ephrem Parish

### Sunday, July 19, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Rocco Steo

Benedetto (Benny) Monticciolo

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.**

*About the author: Archdiocese of New York*



### Faith Formation Classes Registration 2020-2021

Coming soon through our parish website you will be able to register for Faith Formation Classes.

By registering it will help us to prepare the materials that are needed in the coming year for the children of our parish.

# Sower and the Seed Word Search

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

- CROP
- EXPLAIN
- FARMER
- FRUIT
- GARDEN
- GROW
- HEARS
- LEARN
- LESSON
- PARABLE
- PLANT
- PRAY
- ROCKS
- ROOTS
- SEEDS
- SOIL
- SOWER
- THORNS
- UNDERSTANDS
- WATER
- YIELD



## The Parable of the Sower



**The Happy Farmer**

*“A sower went out to sow”*

Matthew 13: 1-23



July 5, 2020      64 Envelopes    \$2,460.00

We Share (Online Giving)    31 Families    \$1,310.00

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	June 25, 2020
Parish Goal	\$1.25 Million
Number of Donors	237
Amount Pledged	\$1,353,057.00
Paid to Date	\$527,415.64
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 You!**

St. Ephrem Parish Goal	\$109,682.00
Number of Donors	130
Amount Pledged	\$74,455.00
Paid to Date	\$58,123.00

**WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER**